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**State of Wisconsin
Governor Tony Evers**

**TO: Child Care Eligibility and Authorization Workers
and Supervisors
Income Maintenance Supervisors
Income Maintenance Staff
Training Staff
Child Care Coordinators**

DECE/BELP OPERATIONS MEMO

No: 19-08

DATE: 02/05/2019

Wisconsin Shares Child Care

**FROM: Kath McGurk, Director
Bureau of Early Learning and Policy
Division of Early Care and Education
Department of Children and Families**

**SUBJECT: 2019 Federal Poverty Level Changes for the Wisconsin Shares Child
Care Subsidy Program**

CROSS REFERENCE: [Wisconsin Shares Child Care Policy and Process Handbook](#) 1.4.1.1
Maximum Gross Income for Initial Eligibility, 1.4.1.2 Maximum Gross
Income for Ongoing Cases; 2019 HHS poverty guidelines at
<https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 1, 2019

PURPOSE: This memo introduces the 2019 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and State Median Income (SMI) that is used in determining financial eligibility for the Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy program.

BACKGROUND: Each year, the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) updates the FPL guidelines based on the Consumer Price Index. Poverty guidelines are used to determine financial eligibility for Community Services Block Grant programs and several other publicly funded programs, including the Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy program.

The State Median Income (SMI) is based on the American Community Survey and published by the United States Census Bureau. The Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) – which partially funds the Wisconsin Shares program – instructs agencies to use the SMI to determine ongoing financial eligibility for child care subsidy.

POLICY: Beginning February 1, 2019, new applicant eligibility will be determined using the

2019 FPL limits. The 2019 FPL limits will be applied to April eligibility for ongoing cases.

The 2019 FPL table for financial eligibility in the Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy program is as follows:

Group Size	Annual 185% FPL	Monthly 185% FPL	Annual 85% SMI	Monthly 85% SMI
2	\$31,284	\$2,607	\$50,908	\$4,242
3	\$39,461	\$3,288	\$62,886	\$5,241
4	\$47,638	\$3,970	\$74,865	\$6,239
5	\$55,815	\$4,651	\$86,843	\$7,237
6	\$63,992	\$5,333	\$98,821	\$8,235
7	\$72,169	\$6,014	\$101,067	\$8,422
8	\$80,346	\$6,695	\$103,313	\$8,609
9	\$88,523	\$7,377	\$105,559	\$8,797
10	\$96,700	\$8,058	\$107,805	\$8,984
Each Additional Person Add	\$8,177	\$681		

Wisconsin Shares Financial Eligibility: The financial eligibility limit for new Wisconsin Shares applicants, including cases in which Wisconsin Shares eligibility has been closed for more than a calendar month, is 185% FPL. Once financial eligibility has been met, financial eligibility may continue until the income reaches 85% of the State Median Income (SMI).

Financial eligibility for foster parents, subsidized guardians, interim caretakers, and relatives with court-ordered placement who receive a Kinship Care payment (and relatives of children in tribal placement homes under a substantially similar Wisconsin tribal law) is based upon the child's biological or adoptive parents' income tested at 200% FPL at the time the child was removed from the home.

CARES/CSAW: The CARES mainframe income limit table, TCCS (Childcare Need Standard), which is used to determine Wisconsin Shares eligibility, has been updated with an effective date of February 1, 2019. All new applications for Wisconsin Shares beginning on February 1 will use the updated information. A CARES mass change will run the weekend of February 23, 2019 that will select all ongoing Wisconsin Shares cases and apply the 2019 FPL amounts for April eligibility. Because the income thresholds are increasing, this process will not have a negative eligibility impact for Wisconsin Shares cases.

Wisconsin Shares Copayments: The Wisconsin Shares copayment schedule will also change as a result of the change in the FPL. This change is planned for April 1, 2019. A separate Operations Memo will be issued for the copayment schedule change.

CONTACTS:

For Wisconsin Shares Child Care policy questions outside of Milwaukee County contact your Bureau of Regional Operations (BRO), Child Care Coordinators at BROCCPolicyHelpDesk@wisconsin.gov.

For Child Care CARES/CWW and CSAW Processing Questions statewide, and policy questions in Milwaukee County, contact the Child Care Subsidy and Technical Assistance line at: childcare@wisconsin.gov or (608) 422-7200.

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