MISSOURI CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE

The Department of Social Services (DSS) provides financial assistance for Child Care services through the payment of full or partial child care costs for eligible families based on a sliding scale fee system. The primary purpose of the Child Care program is to enable families to obtain and retain employment, or the skills necessary to obtain employment, with the ultimate goal being to break the cycle of poverty.

Need for Child Care Assistance must be determined before eligibility can be established. Need may be one or more of the following:

- Employment
- GED or Adult Education and Literacy
- Elementary, Junior High or High School
- Post-Secondary Education – Class Time and Study Time Allowed (up to one hour of study time per credit hour).
  - Once a participant has received an associate or bachelor’s degree they can no longer receive child care for an educational need
- Job Training / Job Skills Training
- Evaluation for Training/Employability – limited to two weeks
- Vocational Rehabilitation, Job Corps, Workforce Investment Act participation
- Work Experience – must be administered by a federally funded program
- Job Search – limited to 12 weeks per year
- Incapacitation of Parent or Parent of a Child with Special needs – must be verified by physician

Sliding Fee Amounts

Based on family size and income
The lowest sliding fee is $1.00 per year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Size</th>
<th>Maximum Income Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$1212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$1584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$2333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$2704</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As the Child Care Assistance program is operated on a sliding fee basis families will have child care fees to pay out-of-pocket to the provider that are in addition to the fees the state pays. Child Care providers may also charge additional co-pays on top of the sliding fee and the state payments. Details on co-pay amounts are available directly from the provider.

Child Care – Units of Care Calculations

Daytime hours: 6am – 7pm Monday-Friday
- Evening/Weekend hours = 7pm-6am Daily, Saturday and Sunday
- Full Time = 5 or more hours
- Half-Time = 3 – 5 hours
- Part Time = ½ -3 hours

Hours of care based on the scheduled hours of need for each child. For example, if the need is because the parent is in school the hours will be based on the semester class schedule. Typically a half-hour is added to the start and end of the scheduled hours to allow for transportation time as needed. An example of a full time student’s schedule and hours of need follow:

Psychology: Mon/Wed 2:00-3:15
- History: Mon/Wed 3:30-4:45
- Algebra: The/Thur 8:00-9:15
- English: 9:30-10:45

Transportation time allowed is ½ hours at start and end of each day.

Mondays - Thursday she has 2.5 hours in the classroom + 1 hour of transportation = 3.5 hours daily total.

This student can also add study time to her schedule of child care hours up to 12 hours per week as she is enrolled in 12 credit hours. She therefore adds 1.5 hours to her Monday – Thursday schedule and uses the remaining 6 hours of study time on Fridays allowing her to be eligible for -

Full time child care as her scheduled need is 5 hours each day.
Transitional Child Care Benefits

Families who currently receive Child Care Assistance may be eligible for continued benefits when their income increases and becomes greater than the regular income eligibility. The Transitional Child Care Benefits is at a reduced rate of the regular child care benefit, which means families have an increased responsibility for their child care cost. This program allows families a chance to “transition” into paying the full cost of child care while increasing their financial stability. The family remains responsible for the sliding scale fee and the co-pay.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Size</th>
<th>Monthly Income Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$1525 - $1669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$1886 - $2063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$2245 - $2456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$2602 - $2847</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Application Information

Applications can be submitted by mail or in person (see below).

The following verification is typically required when applying for Child Care Assistance:

- Identification
- Household income such as wages, child support, social security/SSI, veteran’s benefits, or any other source of income. If your income varies an average will be used. Providing two months of income verification is often sufficient
- For college students – proof of your financial aid package including grants, loans, scholarships, work-study, etc. (NOTE: financial aid funds should not impact your food stamp budget, though verification is required.)
- Proof of need such as work or school schedule
- Relationship verification to child(ren) such as birth certificate (not needed if child born in Missouri)
- Proof of deductions for health, vision or dental insurance as these expenses are allowable on the Child Care budget.

Local Family Support Division Offices

**St. Louis County**

- Main St. Louis County Office
  - 9900 Page Ave
  - St. Louis, MO 63132
  - (314) 493-6800
- North County Service Center
  - 4040 Seven Hills Dr.
  - Florissant MO 63033
  - (314) 475-7880

- Jennings Service Center
  - 8501 Lucas & Hunt
  - St. Louis, MO 63136
  - (314) 877-2470

**St. Louis City**

- Prince Hall Family Support Ctr
  - 4411 N Newstead Ave 3rd Floor
  - St. Louis, MO 63115
  - (314) 877-2400
- Chouteau
  - 3101 Chouteau
  - St. Louis, MO 63103
  - (314) 256-7000

- South Service Center
  - 7545 S Lindbergh Suite 110
  - St. Louis, MO 63125
  - (314) 416-2700