



Upcoming Changes in the Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program

Attention Parents who receive child care subsidy:

1. Change in Attendance Policy:

This is a notification to you about attendance policy changes in the Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy program. This new policy applies only to parents who have children in licensed family or group programs, or child care run by public schools and have **enrollment** based authorizations.

Change for Attendance Policy and Payment:

Effective March 4, 2007, the Wisconsin Shares child care program will not pay your provider for absences in child care when attendance is less than half the number of authorized hours per week for enrollment based authorizations.

If there is an approved reason for an absence (such as illness), your county/tribal child care worker may approve a full payment even if attendance is less than half. In these cases, you must contact your county/tribal child care worker as soon as possible to tell them about the absence and request full payment to be made. Your worker can tell you what absences can be approved and when they might require verification (like a doctor's excuse) for the absence.

Warning:

If the local authorization agency worker does not approve the reason as being valid, the provider will not be paid the full rate, you may be responsible to pay your provider for the cost of missed child care.

Example:

Johnny has an enrollment based authorization of 45 hours/week. During the week of March 4, 2007, Johnny attends only on Monday for nine hours and does not come to care for the rest of the week. The subsidy program will then pay nine hours on attendance based for the week of March 5, 2007, instead of the full weekly amount.

The next week Johnny attends 35 hours. Payment will be paid to the provider on enrollment basis (a full weekly amount) for this week because Johnny attended at least half of his authorized hours.

In Johnny's case above, if he attended on Monday but then became ill and could not attend the rest of the week, the parent must contact the local county/tribal child care worker to get approval for a full weekly amount to be paid. If no contact is made with the local county/tribal child care worker, the payment will be automatically reduced to only the hours that Johnny attended on Monday.

Exemptions:

Special needs children are exempt from this new policy and will be continued to be paid at their full negotiated weekly rate for enrollment based authorizations even if the attendance is less than 50%.

Changes in authorizations:

Notices for enrollment based authorizations will have hourly and weekly rates starting March 4, 2007. If the child attends less than half of the authorized hours, the hourly rate will be used to calculate the provider's payment.

2. Increase in Parent Co-Payments:

When calculating the subsidy amount, the system deducts a co-payment based on family income, number of subsidized children in care and the type of provider chosen. These co-payments will increase by 8% effective 3/11/07.

For further questions, please contact your county/tribal child care worker at the county or tribe.