

Child Care Assistance Program changes that would bring Minnesota into compliance with CCDBG federal law

Updating Maximum Rates

Update rates after each rate survey:

- Rates last updated in 2014 (tied to the 25th percentile of the 2011 survey results).
- Rate surveys conducted every two years. Updated survey results will be ready this summer.
- Updating rates would increase payments to many child care providers. It may also provide incentives for new child care businesses to open in the child care deserts across the state.
- Updating rates on a regular basis would make child care more affordable and accessible to families. It would also allow families better access to high quality child care.

Revise payment methods

- Consider how to change the current payment system to a payment system using part-time and full-time payment methods. Recommendations to change payments would likely result in a recommended statute change.

Program Improvements

Fully implement 12 month eligibility:

- Eliminate the 6 month limit on Portability Pool. This currently causes some families who move between counties to lose eligibility after 6 months.
- Allow families who receive MFIP for 1 out of the last 6 months to receive Transition Year child care. Currently some families lose eligibility when they stop getting MFIP cash assistance.
- Allowing children who reach the age limit (age 13 for most children, age 15 if the child has special needs) to continue receiving assistance until redetermination.

Create an expedited application process for homeless families:

- Process applications within 5 business days.
- Allow families up to 3 months to gather required verifications.

Expand due process rights for child care providers:

- Transfer appeal rights from families to providers when actions are taken against the provider.
- Provide due process for all adverse actions through a fair hearing, administrative review, or consolidated hearing with licensing.

Ensure federal health and safety requirements are met:

- Require specific training and a scheduled annual visit for legal nonlicensed providers caring for children not related to them. Training requirements replace current requirements.
- Require out-of-state providers to meet federal health and safety requirements to receive Child Care Assistance Program payments.
- Eliminate the option to pay legal nonlicensed providers before a background study is completed (option not currently used).