

Assistance Fact Sheet

Federal Child Care and Development Block Grant funds help low-income families pay for the child care while they work, attend school, or both. Eligibility is based on the family's gross income and household size. The program helps pay for child care for children under age 13 (or up to age 18 for children with special needs) if the family's income is less than 175% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Eligible families receive a child care certificate showing the eligibility period and the amount of assistance the family is eligible to receive.

Families must use one of the following types of child care provider in order to receive assistance:

- A state licensed or registered child care provider
- An aunt or uncle
- Grandparent or Great-Grandparent
- Non-resident sibling
- A provider who comes into the home
- A family friend who provides care for the children of only one family and maintains a separate residence

All providers must be at least 18 years of age and meet other criteria established through the Division of Child Care Services.

An eligible family with an absent parent must open and maintain an active collection case with the [Division of Child Support](#) in order to be considered eligible for child care assistance. A case must be opened against the absent parent of every child within the family's household. For situations when cooperating with the Division of Child Support Enforcement is not in the best interest of the child or family, an exception can be made with appropriate documentation. You may contact CCS at 1-800-227-3020 for more information.

To apply for assistance, a family must complete an application available from any DSS [local office](#), [Department of Labor and Regulation local office](#), or from the Child Care Services office in Pierre. To request an application:

- Call 1.800.227.3020.
- Email CCS@state.sd.us.
- Visit the [How Do I Apply](#) web page to download an application or apply online.

