



Division of Child Care Services South Dakota Department of Social Services

Medicaid Workgroup
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Presentation Overview

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Mission of the Division of Child Care Services

- To increase the availability, accessibility and quality of child care in South Dakota;
- To assist low-income families with their child care costs;
- To provide leadership and financial assistance for quality child care; and
- To work closely with the general public in the implementation of the Child Care Services' state plan.

Child Care Services website: <http://dss.sd.gov/childcare>

Child Care Services

- The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) along with State matching funds provides the majority of funding for the Division of Child Care to administer the licensing, subsidy and quality improvement components of the program.
- A state plan is required every three years and serves as the application for CCDF funds. This is plan can be accessed on-line at:
<http://dss.sd.gov/childcare/stateplan.asp>

Child Care Services

Services Provided:

1. Licensing and registration of child care programs
2. Professional development and training opportunities for child care providers
3. Assistance to families with their child care costs

Child Care Services

Service Delivery

- 10 regional Child Care licensing specialists located in 6 communities register and license: 518 family day care homes, 55 group family day care homes, 218 day care centers, and 148 before and after school programs.
- 5 centralized child care assistance caseworkers that determine eligibility.
- Contracts with service providers – 5 Regional Early Childhood Enrichment & After School programs offer training and support to child care programs.

Child Care Services

Child Care Assistance

Provides assistance to eligible families who need help with child care costs while they work and/or attend school.

- Child must be under 13 (under 19 if incapable of self-care), U.S. Citizen, cared for by Qualified Child Care Provider
- Assistance is based on household size and income.
- Parent(s) working or in school a minimum 80 hours per month, earning at least federal minimum wage,
- Reside in South Dakota
- Parent(s) open and maintain an active enforcement case with DCS for all children in the household who do not reside with both parents.

Child Care Services

Child Care Assistance Cont.

- 12-month eligibility period
- 90 days job search allowable if job loss occurs during the 12 month eligibility period.
- Unlimited maternity leave allowable if a birth occurs during the 12-month eligibility period.
- Continuous eligibility, no action taken on temporary changes that could negatively impact assistance during the 12-month eligibility period.
- Permanent changes (job loss without another job lined up, graduation, TANF sanction, no longer participating in TANF activity) must be reported within 10 days and can impact eligibility after allowable job search time.

Child Care Services

Income Guidelines:

Employed and earning at least federal minimum wage.

- Sliding fee scale - no one under 100% of FPL has a co pay; but may need to cover costs above what CCA pays.
- Maximum is 175% FPL. Family of 4 = \$3,661 maximum amount earned monthly.
- TANF families, CCS accepts TANF activities to meet work requirements. They are working or in eligible activity approximately 20 hours a week.

Child Care Services

Work/School Requirement

- Parent(s) working and/or in school a minimum 80 hours per month earning and must receive a salary equivalent to the federal minimum wage
- In college, university, or technical school 12 credit hours if working toward degree
- Parent(s) enrolled/participating in a High School or GED program are exempt from the minimum hours requirement.

Child Care Services

Child Support Requirement:

- CCS requires that within 6 months of initial eligibility recipients of CCA open and maintain an active enforcement case with the division of Child Support for all children in the household who do not reside with both parents. Failure to comply will result in ineligibility for CCA.
- Proposed rule change moves requirement up front to the time of initial eligibility, eliminates grace period.

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Payment Guidelines:

- Payment made to the provider directly on behalf of families.
- Providers bill every two weeks. Direct deposit or Way To Go Card.
- TANF MOU or contracts

Child Care Services

Qualified Child Care Providers

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Be a licensed or registered program; and in-home or informal provider (caring only for the recipients children); or a relative provider (an aunt or uncle, grandparent or great-grandparent, non-resident sibling) and caring for only the recipients children.
- All providers, except relative providers, meet health and safety standards, complete orientation training, complete a background check and an annual inspection of the home used for care is conducted by CCS.

Child Care Services

Applying For Assistance

- An application is submitted via mail, fax, email, or dropped off at any one of the 63 Department of Social Services offices.
- Submit two of the most recent paystubs and/or an official school schedule.
- Submit verification of any additional countable income sources.

Child Care Services

Countable income sources:

- Earned income - Income in cash or in-kind, before deductions, earned through the receipt of wages, salary, commissions, tips, bonuses, or fees; or for a self-employed individual, that income remaining after deducting allowable business expenses.
- Unearned income - Money received for which a person does not perform a service. Including TANF, pensions, VA benefits, alimony, retirement, child support, back child support, Social Security (SSA), interest income, insurance settlements, lease income, worker's compensation, lottery winnings, inheritance, investment earnings.

Types of income that are not counted:

- Student financial aid (grants, loans, scholarships) GI Bill, Utility allowance, Foster care payments, SSI disability, VA disability, Earned Income Tax Credits, and IRS tax refunds.

Child Care Services

Child Care Assistance Statistics

- SFY17 - 1,960 average monthly families served
- *SFY17 – 3,504 average monthly children served (unduplicated)*
- 60.96% of caseload is at 100% or the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) or below



South Dakota Department of Social Services

Thank you!