



Montana Child Care Retention and Recruitment Child Care Assistance for Child Care Workers

Are you a parent or guardian working in child care and need assistance paying for your own child/children's care?

A one-time only child care assistance program is available for eligible childcare employees through the Montana Bright Futures Birth to Five Grant (BF B-5). Applications can be submitted beginning September 15, 2023, through your local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency, <https://dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/ChildCare/ChildCareResourceandReferral> Funding is limited and applications are processed on a first come first serve basis.

Am I an eligible child care worker?

- At least one parent/ guardian in the household must be a staff member working at a child care facility. Additionally, the staff member must:
 - Work directly with children in care,
 - Work at the child care facility for sixty hours per month, and
 - Meet health and safety requirements to work at the child care facility.

What are the other requirements for this program?

- Family must live in Montana.
- Family income at or below 250% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) receive priority funding,
- Children must be a U.S. citizen or qualified alien.
- Children must be under 12 years old to be eligible for paid child care.
- Parents with children under 18 must comply with child support if there is an absent parent.
- Child care must be provided by a child care provider licensed/registered by the State of Montana. A child cannot attend a child care facility owned by a parent.

What are the benefits of this program?

- A family will only have up to \$100 monthly copayment.
- A family is eligible for 12 months.
- A child care provider will be paid the monthly authorized amount if a child attends at least one day each month. This ensures a child will have a child care slot with the provider.

To apply or for more information:

- Go to <https://dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/childcare/montanaearlychildhoodsystem>
- **Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies**
<https://dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/ChildCare/ChildCareResourceandReferral>