

SERVING THE FAMILY

CHILD CARE 6 - 3

Issuing the Authorization of Services and Authorization Plan

Supersedes: Child Care 6-3 (7/7/18)

References: Sections 52-2-701-704, 52-2-711-713, 53-4-610 MCA;
Sections 37.80.101-103, 37.80.201-202, 37.80.205-206, 37.80.301-302,
37.80.305 -306, 37.80.315-316, 37.80.501 ARM
45 CFR Part 98

General Rule

Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarships are issued through a child care Authorization of services and corresponding authorization plan which authorizes care for up to twelve months.

An applicant can determine how many child care hours are needed per week to meet the needs of the child. The authorized child care hours do not need to follow the parent's work, training, or educational schedule. A child cannot be authorized for more than 20 hours per day and 50 hours per week without approval from the Early Childhood Services Bureau. The goal is to use a reasonable approach that supports the child's developmental and learning needs.

The Authorization Plan outlines the monthly authorized child care hours for each child. The parent and provider will determine how the child care is used during the month.

Non-traditional Work Support

The hours child care is needed may not always coincide with the work hours of the parent. For example, a parent who works third shift needs to rest during the day; therefore, child care may be approved during the day to help support the family. A parent may choose to have to have child care during the work hours or during the rest time. The parent cannot, however, choose to have child care during both work and rest time.

Private & Home School

Any licensed or registered child care provider is not eligible for child care assistance for children who fall within the age groups traditionally serviced by the public-school system. The department will not pay for child care during normal school hours when a child is home schooled or enrolled in public or private school. The age for which a child would be enrolled in public school is determined by Montana's Office of Public Instruction.