

SERVING THE FAMILY
CHILD CARE 6 - 4
Co-payment Requirements

Supersedes: Child Care 6-4 (7/7/2018)

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

Each family receiving a Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship pays part of the cost of child care. Each family is obligated to pay a co-payment to their child care provider by the end of the service month. The co-payment is based on their family size and gross income as illustrated on the Montana Child Care Sliding Fee Scale as outlined in Section 1-5.

The required co-payment is considered the initial down payment for the child care scholarship each month. There is no co-payment obligation when the reason for care is based on a referral from Child and Family Services [CFSD].

Cost of Care is Less than the Co-payment

If the month's cost of child care is less than the monthly co-payment obligation, the family is obligated to pay only the cost of care, not the full co-payment indicated on the child care authorization and corresponding authorization plan.

More Than One Provider

There are times when a parent may need to use two or more child care providers. In these circumstances, the family's co-payment is attached to the provider providing the majority of the care. If the child, for some reason, does not attend the primary facility during a month, then the parent will pay the co-payment to the secondary provider.

Co-payments

The child care provider indicates the amount of co-payment received on the monthly invoice. A family is required to be current on all co-payments at initial application or annual redetermination. A parent cannot lose eligibility during a 12-month eligibility period for an unpaid co-payment.

For the purposes of determining a family's eligibility for a Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship, the first payment(s) made to the provider will be counted toward satisfying the parent's co-payment obligation. Any other unpaid fees (over-and-above rates, late charges, etc.) are not considered for the purpose of maintaining the parent's eligibility for the Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship and are solely the responsibility of the parent and the provider.

Satisfactory Arrangements In Lieu Of Cash Co-payment

A parent may compensate a child care provider with goods or services in lieu of paying the co-payment in cash. The child care provider indicates their satisfaction with the arrangement by marking the co-payment as paid-in-full on the monthly invoice.