



OFFICES IN BOZEMAN AND HELENA
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PROMOTING QUALITY CHILD CARE

CCCMONTANA.ORG

February 10th, 2022

Greetings,

We're excited to share information about the Temporary Child Care Assistance for Certain Healthcare Workers offered through the Best Beginnings Scholarship Program (BBS). This is a Montana Department of Health and Human Services (MT DPHHS) program that helps families pay for child care. The program was recently extended to help support certain health care workers. We're hoping that you will share this opportunity with your staff.

In Montana, the average cost of full-time child care is around \$9,000 annually. With the pandemic and inflation, this is simply too much for many families. At Child Care Connections (CCC), we administer the BBS for MT DPHHS to help families afford licensed child care in Gallatin, Park, Meagher, Lewis & Clark, Jefferson, and Broadwater counties.

Enclosed here you'll find information to help connect your employees with important information including:

- The Temporary Child Care Assistance for Certain Health Care Workers
 - List of qualifying job titles
- The Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship (best for employees who do not hold a qualifying title for the Health Care specific support)
- Ways to find quality child care

Safe quality child care directly impacts our whole community. It allows parents to stay in the workforce today, and it offers many long-term economic and academic benefits to the children who will lead your community tomorrow. CCC offers a variety of services to help you meet your employees' child care needs.

We'd love the opportunity to talk with you more about our other services including family friendly business practices, employer supported child care, and family engagement support and will look forward to following up with you in the coming months.

Please feel free to reach us for more information or print materials like brochures by contacting me, at samantha@cccmontana.org or (406) 548-3670.

Sincerely,

Samantha Talsma

Samantha Talsma
Outreach Coordinator

P.S. Interested in sharing coloring sheets for our Annual Coloring Contest to raise awareness of early childhood in your community? Contact me for details!

TEMPORARY CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN HEALTH CARE WORKERS

Governor Gianforte and the Health Advisory Commission approved \$5.5 Million in one-time only child care assistance for certain healthcare employees through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Funding is limited and applications are processed on a first come first serve basis, with prioritization for employees who work in facilities reliant on Medicaid funding.

Am I an eligible healthcare worker?

- **At least one parent in the household must provide direct care services to patients or clients in one of the following health care sector categories:**
- **Health care,**
- **Behavioral health,**
- **Disability services, or**
- **Long-term care settings to include home and community-based services, assisted living, skilled nursing, or home health.**

What are other requirements for this program?

- **Family must live in Montana.**
- **Family income at or below 250% Federal Poverty Level (FPL).**
- **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.**

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 full authorized amount, regardless of attendance. This ensures a child will have a child care slot with the provider.**

Download Application: cccmontana.org/family-resources

**Download
Application**



Need More Information?

**ARPA Contact Center: 844-406-ARPA (2772)
Email the ARPA Contact Center at arpa.mt.gov
Hours of Operation:
Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm**



This project is funded (in part) under a contract with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The statements herein do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Department.

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Temporary Child Care Assistance for Certain Health Care Worker Qualifying Occupations

1. Acupuncturists and Healthcare Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners, All Other
2. Anesthesiologists
3. Assisted Living Center Workers
4. Athletic Trainers
5. Audiologists
6. Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians
7. Certified Nursing Assistants
8. Chiropractors
9. Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians
10. Dental Assistants
11. Dental Hygienists
12. Dentists, All Other Specialists
13. Dentists, General
14. Diagnostic Medical Sonographers
15. Dietetic Technicians
16. Dietitians and Nutritionists
17. Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics
18. Exercise Physiologists
19. Family Medicine Physicians
20. General Internal Medicine Physicians
21. Genetic Counselors
22. Health Info Technologists, Medical Registrars, Surgical Assistants, & Practitioners
23. Healthcare Support Workers, All Other
24. Hearing Aid Specialists
25. Home Health and Personal Care Aides
26. Licensed Addiction Counselor
27. Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor
28. Licensed Clinical Social Workers
29. Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists
30. Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
31. Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists
32. Massage Therapists
33. Medical Assistants
34. Medical Dosimetrists, Records Specialists, and Health Technologists and Technicians
35. Medical Equipment Preparers
36. Medical Transcriptionists
37. Naturopathic physicians, assistants, and all other related
38. Nuclear Medicine Technologists
39. Nurse Anesthetists
40. Nurse Midwives
41. Nurse Practitioners

42. Nursing Assistants
43. Obstetricians and Gynecologists
44. Occupational Therapists
45. Occupational Therapy Aides
46. Occupational Therapy Assistants
47. Ophthalmic Medical Technicians
48. Opticians, Dispensing
49. Optometrists
50. Orderlies
51. Orthodontists
52. Orthotists and Prosthetists
53. Paramedics
54. Pediatricians, General
55. Pharmacists
56. Pharmacy Aides
57. Pharmacy Technicians
58. Phlebotomists
59. Physical Therapist Aides
60. Physical Therapist Assistants
61. Physical Therapists
62. Physician Assistants
63. Physicians, All Other; and Ophthalmologists, Except Pediatric
64. Podiatrists
65. Psychiatric Aides
66. Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner
67. Psychiatric Technicians
68. Psychiatrists
69. Radiation Therapists
70. Radiologic Technologists
71. Recreational Therapists
72. Registered Nurses
73. Respiratory Therapists
74. Speech-Language Pathologists
75. Surgeons, Except Ophthalmologists
76. Surgical Technologists
77. Therapists, All Other



CHOOSING QUALITY CHILD CARE

A checklist to help you identify a safe, high-quality child care and learning environment for your child



CHILD CARE DATE

LEGALLY OPERATING

- The facility is licensed through Montana DPHHS, or legally operating under MT State law.
- Contact Child Care Connections with questions.



LEARNING

- Toys and books are age-appropriate and easily accessible.
- The program has daily structured and unstructured playtime.
- Children are read and sang to during the day.
- Screens are turned off during the day.*

PROGRAM ENRICHMENT

- The program is enrolled in Montana's Best Beginnings STARS to Quality.*
- The program is accredited by a national organization.*
- The program participates in the Federal food program (Child and Adult Care Food Program).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Teachers have credentials or an early childhood-related degree.
- Teacher(s) have continued training on children's development and experience caring for children
- The director and teachers receive early childhood-related training or education.

COMMUNICATION

- Parents are always welcome and given a copy of the program's policies.
- There is regular communication with parents.

HEALTH & SAFETY

- Teachers follow standards for health and safety, including proper handwashing, diapering, and toileting.
- Staff is up to date on pediatric (infant/child) CPR and pediatric first aid training.
- There is an emergency plan in place.
- Children go outside every day unless unsafe.
- The playground is safe.
- The child care program supports breastfeeding.
- Infants are held by adults during feeding.
- The child care program serves meals.

SUPERVISION

- Children are supervised at all times.
- Teachers are warm, welcoming, and engaging with each child.
- Safety rules are clear and simple.
- Guidance from teachers is positive, clear, consistent, and fair.
- There are enough staff members to supervise all children. Caregiver-to-child ratios can be found at cccmontana.org.

HELP AFFORDING CARE & MORE
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*National guidelines recommend children less than 2 years old have no screen time. For children 2 years and over the total screen time is less than thirty minutes each week, for educational or physical activity use only. This includes home and child care settings.
 *The Best Beginnings STARS to Quality Program is a voluntary quality rating improvement system that aligns quality indicators with support and incentives for early childhood programs and early childhood professionals.
 *Accreditation indicates the program has been recognized by a leading national organization for providing excellent care.





CHILD CARE CONNECTIONS

CHILD CARE RATIOS

BELOW ARE THE NUMBER OF CAREGIVERS TO CHILDREN REQUIRED IN LICENSED CHILD CARE IN MONTANA.

Drop-in, preschool, and before and after-school programs are not required by the State to be licensed.

*When ages are mixed the ratio for the youngest child must be maintained.
For more details and scenarios visit: dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/childcare/childcarelicensing.*



Child Care Centers

Care for 16 or more children with the following caregiver-to-child ratios:

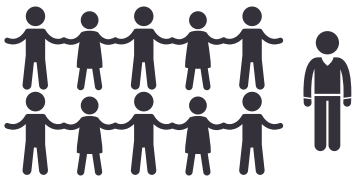
Children 0-23 months: 4 children per caregiver (4:1) for up to 12 children



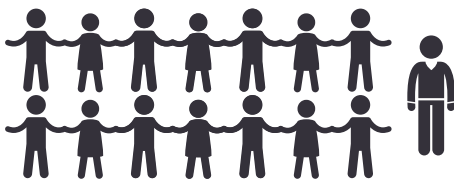
Children 2-3 years: 8 children per caregiver (8:1) for up to 16 children



Children 4 years: 10 children per caregiver (10:1) for up to 24 children



Children 5 years + : 14 children per caregiver (14:1) for up to 32 children



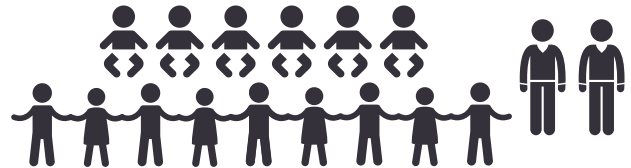
Family Home Child Care

Care is offered in a home setting for three to eight children, with three or less under two years (8:1):



Group Home Child Care

Two caregivers offer care for nine to 15 children, with six or less under two years (15:2):



Family, Friend & Neighbor (FFN)


In this informal type of care, parents and legal guardians select an individual, often a family member, friend, or neighbor to care for all children in one family or up to four unrelated children.




For more information on or to become a licensed child care provider, visit: dphhs.mt.gov

FIND QUALITY CHILD CARE

 Contact CCC for a child care referral by phone (406) 587-7786 or online at cccmontana.org/child-care-finder.

 Join [Child Care Share- Gallatin, Park, Meagher](#) or [Child Care Share- Helena Area](#). CCC administers these groups which allows families and licensed child care providers to easily network, and share child care needs and resources.

 Contact CCC to learn more about the Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship, and how to identify the best quality child care for your family.



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