

## Child Care Assistance Program

The following programs and services are administered by Children & Youth Partnership for Dare County and operated out of the Dare County Department of Social Services.

**Child Care Assistance Program** - offers financial assistance for families who need day care services, so that parents/responsible caretakers can work, seek employment, participate in employment training, or attend school.

Using State and Federal funds, the Dare County Department of Social Services provides financial assistance for child care to those families who qualify.

### Child Care Q & A

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#### **Q. How Do I Qualify?**

**A.** You may receive child day care assistance if you are income eligible AND:

1. You are employed; or
2. You are attending school, college, or a job training program; or
3. You are receiving Work First services.

#### **Q. Do I pay a fee for the child care?**

**A.** Yes. You are required to pay a percentage of the child care based upon your gross countable monthly income. Countable monthly income includes gross wages, direct and indirect child support, social security benefits, dividends or interest on savings or bonds, income from estates including rental properties, worker's compensation and unemployment benefits.

#### **Q. Can I choose the day care provider for my child?**

**A.** Yes, but the provider must be an *approved* child care provider. Parents may choose from a variety of types of providers including licensed centers, licensed day care homes, religious sponsored programs, and informal arrangements such as care by a relative. In cases where the arrangement is informal, the provider must enroll with the Department of Social Services as an unlicensed provider and meet certain requirements. In all situations, the provider must be operating legally. Federal regulations require that most providers meet certain health and safety standards and agree to the conditions in order to receive public funds.

For a listing of child care centers and day care homes in Dare County and for a guide to choosing quality day care for your child call Dare County Resource and Referral at 252-441-0614

#### **Q. How do I apply for Child Care Assistance?**

**A.** If you are in need of assistance, contact the Dare County Department of Social Services at (252) 475-5500. When you call, be able to tell the social worker your gross countable monthly income, as described above. All income must be verified.

## Is Child Care Subsidy an Option for My Family?

To qualify for the child care subsidy program, a family needs to meet both the situational and financial criteria.

### Situational Criteria

You may be eligible to receive child care assistance if one or more of the following situations apply to your family:

- You are working or are attempting to find work
- You are in school or in a job training program
- Your child is receiving [child protective services](#)
- Your child needs care to support [child welfare services](#) or if your family is experiencing a crisis
- Your child has developmental needs

### Financial Criteria

Most families, including those receiving [Work First Family Assistance](#), are required to pay a percentage of their child care costs based upon their gross monthly income. The parent fee percentages are 10%, 9%, and 8% and are based on family size. Using the table below, you can determine whether you may meet the financial criteria to receive child care subsidy. If you meet the financial criteria, you can estimate your child care subsidy costs.

### For Example

Using the table below, a family size of 3 earning \$3,568 per month would be expected to pay 10% of their monthly income for child care. The family's total fee would be \$357 for full-time care regardless of the number of children in care. The family would pay the \$357 to the child care provider and the local purchasing agency would pay the remaining cost of the care to the child care provider.

Family Size	Maximum Gross Monthly Income	Parental Fee Percentage
1	\$2,209	10%
2	\$2,889	
3	\$3,568	
4	\$4,248	10%
5	\$4,928	
6	\$5,607	10%
7	\$5,735	
8	\$5,862	
9	\$5,990	
10	\$6,117	
11	\$6,244	
12	\$6,372	