

# Child Care Assistance Co-payments Waived



The Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) is expanding its current commitment to **pay eligible families' child care assistance co-payments** to all families that qualify for child care assistance. Currently, families that make at or below 350% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) (\$97,125 a year for a family of four) qualify for child care assistance. Qualified families remain eligible up to 400% FPL (\$111,000 a year for a family of four).

**Beginning May 1, 2022, the New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) will waive child care assistance copayments for any family that qualifies for the program until June 30, 2023.**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services defines affordable child care as no more than 7% of a family's annual income. **Until June 30, 2023, eligible New Mexico families earning less than 350% FPL will pay 0% of their annual income for child care.** To date, no other state has enacted a child care support program that provides no cost care to such a broad economic demographic. Once a family is determined to be eligible for Child Care Assistance, that family remains eligible up to 400% FPL—so a modest increase in income won't mean losing Child Care Assistance.

Funds to pay for co-payment expansion will come from the federal American Rescue Plan Act - Supplemental 2021.

Visit [nmeccd.org](https://nmeccd.org) and click on **"Am I Eligible?"** or call **800-691-9067**.

Email [child.care@state.nm.us](mailto:child.care@state.nm.us) if you have questions or concerns about child care.

## Family of Four Monthly Income at Various FPL Levels:

- 200% = \$4,625
- 225% = \$5,203
- 250% = \$5,781
- 275% = \$6,359
- 300% = \$6,938
- 325% = \$7,516
- 350% = \$8,094
- 375% = \$8,672
- 400% = \$9,250

## Don't see your household here?

The following link will direct you to U.S. Federal Poverty Guidelines used to determine eligibility

- HHS Poverty Guidelines for 2022 <https://bit.ly/3LkoPC8>



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# Need Child Care?

## Your Local Providers Are Here to Help

The Child Care Assistance Program subsidizes the cost of child care for families at or below 350% of the federal poverty level that are working and/or in school. Once a family is determined to be eligible for Child Care Assistance, that family remains eligible up to 400% FPL—so a modest increase in income won't mean losing Child Care Assistance.

### Here's what you'll need to apply:

- Current proof of income
- Birth Verification for all applicant household children
- Verification of Educational Activity/School Schedule for adults (if applicable)
- Picture ID for Applicant
- Proof of New Mexico Residency (lease agreement, utility bill, mortgage)
- Contact info for selected child care provider (If you need help selecting a child care provider, please call Child Care Resource and Referral at the number below.)

### How to apply:

- Visit [nmececd.org](https://nmececd.org) and click on “Am I Eligible?”
- Or call 800-691-9067
- Email [child.care@state.nm.us](mailto:child.care@state.nm.us) if you have questions or concerns about child care.



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