



Current subsidy rates and activities

Subsidy rates

On September 1, 2013, the state child care subsidy full-day and half-day maximum rates for licensed providers and the hourly rate for license exempt providers increased by 2 percent, per the 2013-15 operating budget. The previous rate increase was in 2008.

Also effective September 1, 2013, licensed providers enrolled in Early Achievers (our state's voluntary quality rating and improvement system) became eligible to receive an additional 2 percent quality bonus. The bonus is calculated based on the amount billed for full- and half-day care. This bonus is paid on an invoice for child care services in the month that follows the care being provided. In order to maintain the quality bonus, providers must complete level 2 and advance to level 3 within 30 months.

Child care subsidy rates for licensed family homes and license-exempt family, friends and neighbors (FFN)

Family Homes	Infant	Enhanced Toddler	Toddler	Pre-School	School Age
	0-11 months	12-17 months	18 - 29 months	30 months - 5 years	5-11 years
Full Day	Base Rate	Base Rate	Base Rate	Base Rate	Base Rate
Region 1	\$24.78	\$24.78	\$21.54	\$21.54	\$19.16
Spokane County	\$25.34	\$25.34	\$22.03	\$22.03	\$19.59
Region 2	\$26.16	\$26.16	\$22.75	\$20.35	\$20.35
Region 3	\$34.71	\$34.71	\$29.92	\$26.33	\$23.93
Region 4	\$40.84	\$40.84	\$35.51	\$29.92	\$28.72
Region 5	\$27.53	\$27.53	\$23.93	\$22.75	\$20.35
Region 6	\$27.53	\$27.53	\$23.93	\$23.93	\$22.75

Family Homes	Infant	Enhanced Toddler	Toddler	Pre-School	School Age
	0-11 months	12-17 months	18 - 29 months	30 months - 5 years	5-11 years
Half Day	Base Rate	Base Rate	Base Rate	Base Rate	Base Rate
Region 1	\$12.38	\$12.38	\$10.77	\$10.77	\$9.58
Spokane County	\$12.67	\$12.67	\$11.02	\$11.02	\$9.79
Region 2	\$13.08	\$13.08	\$11.37	\$10.17	\$10.17
Region 3	\$17.36	\$17.36	\$14.96	\$13.17	\$11.97
Region 4	\$20.43	\$20.43	\$17.77	\$14.96	\$14.36
Region 5	\$13.77	\$13.77	\$11.97	\$11.37	\$10.17
Region 6	\$13.77	\$13.77	\$11.97	\$11.97	\$11.37

Exempt Care Hourly Rate	Base Rate
First Child	\$ 2.24
Additional children from same family	\$ 2.21

Licensed providers participating in Early Achievers Level 2 or higher receive an additional quality bonus equal to 2 percent of their monthly subsidy payment amount. This bonus is 2 percent of the full-day and half-day subsidy amount billed by the provider (it does not include registration fees, field trip fees, non-standard hour bonuses, special needs increases, or other increases or bonuses).

*Pre-school rate for 5 year old child who has not entered kindergarten

**School age rate for 5 year old child who has entered kindergarten

Child care subsidy rates for licensed child care centers

Centers Full Day	Infant 1-11 months	Toddler 12 - 29 months	Pre-School 30 months - 5 years	School Age 5-11 years
	Base Rate	Base Rate	Base Rate	Base Rate
Region 1	\$29.10	\$24.47	\$23.12	\$21.77
Spokane County	\$29.76	\$25.03	\$23.65	\$22.27
Region 2	\$29.39	\$24.53	\$22.75	\$20.12
Region 3	\$38.89	\$32.43	\$28.01	\$27.20
Region 4	\$45.27	\$37.80	\$31.71	\$28.56
Region 5	\$33.19	\$28.56	\$25.14	\$22.32
Region 6	\$32.63	\$28.01	\$24.47	\$23.93

Centers Half Day	Infant 1-11 months	Toddler 12 - 29 months	Pre-School 30 months - 5 years	School Age 5-11 years
	Base Rate	Base Rate	Base Rate	Base Rate
Region 1	\$14.57	\$12.24	\$11.57	\$10.88
Spokane County	\$14.90	\$12.53	\$11.84	\$11.13
Region 2	\$14.70	\$12.27	\$11.37	\$10.08
Region 3	\$19.45	\$16.21	\$14.00	\$13.61
Region 4	\$23.08	\$18.91	\$15.86	\$14.28
Region 5	\$16.59	\$14.28	\$12.57	\$11.17
Region 6	\$16.33	\$14.00	\$12.24	\$11.97

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*Pre-school rate for 5 year old child who has not entered kindergarten

**School age rate for 5 year old child who has entered kindergarten

Centers in Clark County paid Region 3 rates

Centers in Benton, Walla Walla & Whitman Counties paid Region 6 rates

Cost of quality

To determine the actual cost of different levels of quality care, DEL is working with a national expert to examine the costs associated with running a licensed child care facility. Using the results of this study, Washington will consider possible tiered subsidy rate increases. The expected completion date of the study is November 2013.

Subsidy improvements

A joint action plan was developed in December 2012 between DEL and DSHS around subsidy system improvements. The action plan outlined 14 specific policy and process improvements. The first of these improvements, a jointly developed and jointly delivered focused training session for DSHS eligibility workers, was completed in May 2013. All action plan items are expected to be completed in March 2014, using a lean approach.

In addition to these improvements, DEL also organized a separate, short-term subsidy improvement group of internal and external stakeholders to comment on the recommendations and to advise the department.

Some examples of subsidy eligibility system improvements include:

- Separating program eligibility from benefit calculation
- Change reporting process improvement
- Re-introducing the 110-hour rule for authorizations
- Clarifying worker practice around work schedules and simplifying verifications
- Mass mailing school year change of circumstance forms to streamline the seasonal changes
- In progress – eligibility services being delivered by Workfirst Program staff, streamlining establishing child care eligibility at “first touch” rather than handing the client off to an eligibility worker
- Increasing worker accessibility
- Modifying DSHS internal staff auditing procedures