

Beginning 6/1/2020, the Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship (BBCCS) has policy changes that will affect families eligible for the scholarship, children receiving the scholarship, and child care providers providing care for these children. Questions and answers below are intended to be an outline of policy changes.

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## **Once a family is eligible for the Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship, how can a parent choose child care that meets the needs of their child?**

- A parent can determine how many child care hours are needed per week to meet the needs of the child.
- If you need assistance determining your child's need for care, contact your Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agency.

## **What are the limitations when determining my child's need for care?**

- A child cannot be authorized for more than 20 hours per day and 50 hours per week. This applies to each child even if the parent chooses more than one provider.

## **Once I determine my child's need for care, what happens next?**

- Your CCR&R agency will process an Authorization Plan. The Authorization Plan outlines the monthly authorized child care hours for each child.
- You, as the parent, and provider will determine how the child care is used during the month.

## **How has the monthly invoice process changed?**

- On the monthly invoice, a child care provider's billing claims must accurately reflect the child's time in and time out as indicated on the child care provider's sign-in/sign-out records.
- Actual time in and time out must be used. Attended hours are no longer rounded.
- A child care provider will list a child's absences when the facility is open.

## **How has the monthly payment process changed?**

- A half-time day rate is now five or less hours of care in a day, and a full-time day rate is over five hours and less than 12 hours in a day.
- Payments for children receiving the scholarship will be affected by their actual attendance compared to the authorized child care on the Authorization Plan.
- If a child attends less than 85% of the authorized time on the Authorization Plan, the payment will only be for actual attendance.
- If a child attends at least 85% of the authorized time on the Authorization Plan, the payment will be the entire monthly amount listed on the Authorization Plan.
- Paid Absent Days are no longer accrued by children receiving the scholarship.

## **How is non-traditional time paid?**

- Non-traditional time is when care is provided between 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Monday through Friday or after 6 p.m. Friday to 6 a.m. Monday.
- An additional percentage will be paid when at least one hour during non-traditional time is provided.

## How have monthly copayments changed?

- A monthly copayment is an eligibility requirement of the scholarship. In order to be eligible at initial application or annual re-determination, you must be current on all copayments.

## Website Information

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### **Early Childhood Services Bureau**

<http://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/childcare>

### **Child Care Policy Manual**

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/childcare/childcarepolicymanual>

### **Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies**

<http://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/ChildCare/ChildCareResourceandReferral>