

# What is the Child Care Assistance Program?

The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) helps pay for child care so caregivers can work, look for a job, go to school, support mental health needs, and/or engage in activities in their Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) employment plan.



## Applying for CCAP

- Apply online at [mnbenefits.mn.gov](https://mnbenefits.mn.gov).
- Contact your county human services office or local contracted agency for more information about applying.

An agency has 30 calendar days, or 45 days if needed, to process an application.

## Eligibility

Parents, stepparents, legal guardians, and other eligible caregivers can receive child care assistance if they meet eligibility requirements and household income falls below the program income limit.

## Eligibility requirements

To be eligible for child care assistance, you must:

- Submit an application and all required documents
- Be working, going to school, searching for a job, doing activities in an employment plan, or need support for your mental health
- Have children needing care who are 12 or younger, or 13 or 14 years old with special needs
- Have children who meet citizenship and immigration requirements
- Cooperate with child support enforcement for all children in your family with a non-custodial parent
- Meet the program's income limits
- Have assets equal to or less than \$1 million

Families experiencing homelessness have three months after they apply to submit documents and be in an activity such as work, school, or employment plan activities.

## Income limit

If your annual income is below these amounts based on your household size, you may be eligible. These income limits took effect on Oct. 13, 2025.

Household Size	Annual income before taxes
2	\$46,022
3	\$56,850
4	\$67,679
5	\$78,508
6	\$89,336
7	\$91,367
8	\$93,397
9	\$95,427
10	\$97,458

# Minnesota's Child Care Assistance Program

## What types of child care providers can you choose?

You can choose any legal provider who registers with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families. This includes:

- Child care centers licensed by Minnesota, a Minnesota Tribe, or another state
- Family child care providers licensed by Minnesota, a Minnesota Tribe, or another state
- License exempt child care centers that are certified by the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families
- A legal nonlicensed provider, who could be a family, friend or neighbor who cares for only related children or the children from up to one unrelated family. Talk to your worker if you want a legal nonlicensed provider to care for your child.

## Don't have a child care provider yet?

Parent Aware offers free resources to help families find quality child care and early education programs.

Learn more at [Parent Aware](https://parentaware.org) (parentaware.org) or by calling 888-291-9811.

## What other resources can help pay for child care?

- Early Learning Scholarships
- Head Start and Early Head Start
- Post-Secondary Child Care Grant Program for students
- Child care programs for military families

Learn more about these options by visiting [Paying for Care - Parent Aware](https://parentaware.org/families/paying-for-care/) (parentaware.org/families/paying-for-care/) or calling 888-291-9811

## How does CCAP work?

Once a family is determined eligible for CCAP, they will be notified through mail. Once care is used, the child care provider will bill the program. The family's local agency processes the bill.

Payments are made directly to the child care provider. Most families have to pay a portion of the child care cost directly to the provider. This is called a copayment. Families will be informed of their copay in their Notice of Decision.

The family will also be responsible for any costs above what CCAP pays.

## Questions?

Contact your [county human services office or local contracted agency](#).

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