

# Child Care Financial Assistance

## Understanding Payments

Child Care Financial Assistance eligibility is determined based on a family's income, household size, and reason for care. The portion the State will pay (**if any**) for an eligible family will depend on the family's application, the State rates, and the amount the family is obligated to pay (family share). Any payment from the State is paid directly to the family's child care provider(s).

### 1. What is a family share?

The family share is the weekly amount the Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) has determined the family pays to their child care provider based on their child care financial assistance application. You can find the family share amount owed to you (**if any**) on the family's certificate within the Child Development Division Information System (CDDIS). [See our guide on how to view certificates.](#)

**Please note:** The State will pay up to the state rate after subtracting the family share. If a family's share is more than the state rate, no payment from the State will be made.

### 2. What is a provider rate agreement?

The provider rate agreement (PRA) is what a child care provider submits to the State to indicate how much they charge for child care services and agrees to the CCFAP Provider Responsibilities. A new provider rate agreement is required every three years or whenever a provider changes rates. Two guides are available: [steps on submitting a new PRA](#) and [checking the status of a PRA](#).

### 3. What are the State rates?

The State rates are the amount the State will pay to a child care provider on behalf of a family receiving child care financial assistance. Effective December 17, 2023, **the State will no longer compare the Provider Rate Agreement and pay the lesser of the two rates.**

**Payment will be based on the state rate, regardless of the provider's established rates.**

### 4. How does the State determine CCFAP State rates?

The legislature established the current State rates in Act 76 based on an estimate of the cost of providing quality child care in Vermont.

### 5. If my rates are lower than the State rates, do I need to raise my rates?

You do not have to raise your rates to receive the maximum amount the State pays (see "Jane Smith" example on page 2).

Raising your rates is a business decision you will need to make. Please refer to the [tuition rates memo](#) for further information.

### 6. What if my rates are above the State's rates?

The State will pay based on the State rates (see "Honey Child Care" example on page 2). Any remaining amount due to you will be the family's responsibility.\*

*\*If a child is within protective services, please contact the [CIS Child Care Coordinator](#) in your region. You may be able to request the family's responsibility be covered.*

### 7. How do I see what the family share is and what the State will pay?

You can review the Child Care Financial Assistance certificate within your CDDIS account. [See our guide on how to view certificates.](#)

**Please note:** If your rate is above the State's rate, the remaining amount owed to you by the family will not show on the certificate.

## 8. Do I need to collect the family share?

You may choose to offer scholarships or specialized discounts at your program's discretion. It is important that you review the amount owed to you with the family.

Providers have discretion to waive or collect the family share amount listed on the CCFAP certificate(s).

## Examples

The following examples are based off the State rates effective December 17, 2023.

### “Jane Smith”

A provider whose rates are lower than the State's rate.

A Registered Family Child Home provider serves a family with an infant enrolled in their program full-time. The **provider has a weekly rate of \$200 for full-time infant care**. The **family has a weekly family share of \$50**.

Even though the provider rate is less than the **State's rate of \$304**, the State will pay the State rate after subtracting the family share of \$50. **The State will pay the provider \$254**.

Registered Home	State Rate
Full Time, infant	\$304
Part Time, infant	\$166
Extended Care, infant	\$413

### “Honey Child Care”

A Center Based Child Care Program serves a family with a toddler enrolled in their program a part-time weekly rate of \$260. The family has a weekly share of \$50.

Since the provider's rate is more than the **State's rate of \$243**, the State will pay up to the State's rate after subtracting the family share of \$50. **The State will pay the provider \$193. The remaining \$67 will be the responsibility of the family.**

Registered Home	State Rate
Full Time, toddler	\$443
Part Time, toddler	\$243
Extended Care, toddler	\$602