

The Colorado Child Care Assistance Program

Helping Families Pay for Child Care

Overview



The Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) provides financial assistance to low-income families who are working, searching for employment or in training, and families that are enrolled in the Colorado Works Program and need child care services to support their efforts toward self-sufficiency. The child care assistance program is administered through county departments of human services.

Between July 1, 1997 and June 30, 2008, the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program served

- 48,084 children
- 26,342 families

Of those families, 92.1% were single parent households, 51% had incomes below the poverty level.

Colorado's subsidized child care programs are considered a model for other states. In 1997, Colorado made an innovative move when it allocated child care funds to counties and allowed counties flexibility in setting child care eligibility levels and reimbursement rates.



Eligibility

Eligibility levels vary from county to county. The highest eligibility levels are at 225% of the Federal Poverty Level, and are shown on the table below.

Family Size	Monthly Income
2	\$2758.00
3	\$3474.00
4	\$4191.00
5	\$4907.00

Contact your local county department of human services for the eligibility levels for that county.

How to Apply

To apply for child care assistance, parents should contact the county department of human services for the county that they live in. Everyone must fill out an application and provide information about their income and work or school program.

When applying for Low-Income child care assistance, the county child care worker may contact employers by phone to verify work hours and wages. Applicants have 30 days to supply written verification of employment or their education program.

Choosing a Child Care Provider

Parents pick a child care provider for their children. They can select a licensed child care center or family day care home. They will have to decide the type of care that will be best for their children and meets the family's needs. Regardless of the child care provider selected, parents should look for signs that their child will be safe, developmentally stimulated, and encouraged to grow and learn.

For a referral list of Child Care in your area, please contact **Early Childhood Network** at (970)928-7111 or visit us on the web at www.earlychildhoodnet.org

Paying Parental Fees

Parents are required to pay a portion of their child care costs, called the parental fee. This amount is set based on family income and the number of people in the household. The fee is paid directly to the provider each month.

To apply for child care assistance, contact your local county department of human services.

Eagle – Department of Health and Human Services

Phone: (970) 328-8840

Fax: (970) 328-8829

Rachel Oys, Director

P.O. Box 660

551 Broadway

Eagle, CO 81631

Garfield – Department of Human Services

Phone: (970) 945-9191

Fax: (970) 928-0465

After Hours: 911

Mary Baydarian, Director

108 8th Street, Suite 300

Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

Or in Rifle at:

Phone: (970)625-5282 Ext. 3116 or Ext. 3251

195 W. 14th Street

Rifle, CO 81650

Pitkin – Department of Health and Human Services

Phone: (970) 920-5209

Fax: (970) 544-1850

Nan Sundeen, Director

0405 Castle Creek Road, Suite 8

Aspen, CO 81611