



**Program Contact:**

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For more information about Working Connections Child Care,

visit [www.del.wa.gov](http://www.del.wa.gov)

and

[www.workfirst.wa.gov](http://www.workfirst.wa.gov)

**WCCC State Fiscal Year 2011**

Averages per month:

- 34,998 families
- 60,261 children

**What is Working Connections Child Care?**

Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) is a subsidy program that helps families with low incomes pay for child care while they work or meet WorkFirst participation requirements. The state pays part of the cost of child care. The family is responsible to make a copayment to the child care provider.

DEL, as the lead agency for the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), sets child care subsidy policy and provides program oversight for child care licensing and early learning services.

Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) helps families apply for WCCC, determines eligibility and consumer copayments, authorizes child care, and pays providers.

**Who is eligible for Working Connections Child Care?**

Families that may be eligible:

- Live in Washington, and have one or more children who are U.S. citizens or legal residents; and,
- Meet income eligibility requirements and work in legal, income-generating taxable activities, or meet WorkFirst requirements.

**What child care options do families have?**

Eligible families choose licensed or certified child care centers or family child care homes, or license exempt in-home or relative providers.

**Recent WCCC eligibility and copayment changes**

Eligibility limits have been lowered and copayments raised to help address the WorkFirst program budget shortfall and increased caseloads:

**Prior to October 1, 2010:** Eligible families could have countable income of up to 200% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG).

**October 1, 2010:** Countable income was reduced to 175% FPG. The change affected about 2,500 families when they applied or re-applied for benefits.

**January 1, 2011:** Anyone with countable income above 175% FPG was no longer eligible to receive WCCC, affecting an additional 1,112 families.

**February 1, 2011:** Child care co-payments increased \$10 per month for families who pay \$50 or more a month.

**March 1, 2011:** WCCC enrollment capped at 35,200 families per month except for specific prioritized groups: families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits, and income-eligible families with a special needs child. All other families placed on a waiting list. Child care co-payments increased \$5 per month for families who pay \$60 or more a month.

**July 1, 2011:** WCCC enrollment capped at 33,200 families per month. Families that apply for or receive child care subsidies are required to cooperate with DSHS Division of Child Support unless they have "good cause" to not do so; child support is passed to the custodial parent or guardian. Teen parents who live independently from a parent or guardian, attend high school full-time, and enroll their child in on-site child care at the high school have WCCC priority.