

Program Contact:

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For more information about Working Connections Child Care,

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WCCC wait list

Average number of households on wait list per month:

- October 2011: 0
- September 2011: 1,455
- August 2011: 4,186
- July 2011: 4,461
- June 2011: 3,593
- May 2011: 3,014
- April 2011: 3,007
- March 2011: 1,603

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.

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

Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) staff help families apply for WCCC, determine eligibility and consumer copayments, authorize child care, and pay providers.

The WCCC wait list

On March 1, 2011, WCCC enrollment was capped for the first time in nearly 20 years, to help balance the program budget for state fiscal year 2011. The cap at that time was set at 35,200 families per month. Any families above the cap were placed on a wait list. On July 1, 2011, WCCC enrollment was further capped at 33,200 families per month due to ongoing budget issues.

When a wait list is in effect for WCCC, the following families receive priority access without being placed on the wait list:

- TANF recipient families, including families who are working to cure their WorkFirst sanction and child-only TANF cases;
- Income-eligible non-TANF families with a special needs child; and
- Teen parents living independently from their parent or guardian, attending high school full-time, and who enroll their child in on-site child care at their high school.

All other income-eligible families above the enrollment cap are placed on the wait list and served on a first-come, first-serve basis until the program is at capacity.

DSHS sends families on the waiting list a letter when space is available. The family must contact DSHS within 10 days to complete the application process.

Managing the WCCC wait list

When there is a wait list, DEL staff do a daily review of active enrollment using the DSHS Working Connections Assistance Program (WCAP) system. DEL staff check the DSHS Social Service Payment System (SSPS) each month to compare the number of child care authorizations to the authorizations actually used by parents, billed for by providers, and paid for by the state. Additionally, DEL staff conduct bi-monthly expenditures check using the Office of Financial Management's Agency Financial Reporting System (AFRS).