

**Testimony
Economic Impact Committee
Senator Dave Oehlke, Chairman
November 18, 2013**

Chairman Oehlke, and members of the Economic Impact Committee, I am Carol Cartledge, Director of Economic Assistance Policy Division of the Department of Human Services (DHS). I am here today to provide you an update regarding changes in child care assistance eligibility requirements as a result of 2013 House Bill 1422.

Beginning July 1, 2013, the income eligibility level changed from 50 percent of the state median income to 85 percent of the state median income.

- A family of three can now have a gross income up to \$4,915 per month to qualify. Previously the limit was \$3,074.

In addition, the family co-payments were reduced.

- A co-payment is the amount a family is required to pay towards child care costs.
- A co-payment is determined using a sliding fee chart based on income and family size.
 - Co-payments range from 1 percent to 6 percent of gross monthly income.
 - 1 percent for families with the lowest incomes and 6 percent for families with the highest income.

[Calculation of Child Care Assistance Payment \(CCAP\)](#)

Payment rates are based on a child's age, the amount of time a child is in care, and the type of child care provider.

Example: For an infant who is at a child care center, CCAP program will pay \$663 per month for full-time care.

Maximum rate for an infant in a center in full-time care	\$663
Family co-payment for a family of three with monthly gross income of \$1,500	<u>\$ 35</u>

Maximum monthly amount the CCAP will pay	\$628
--	-------

The following is a table that shows the increase in the use of the program.

Month	# of Families	# of Children
June 2013	1,176	1,917
*July 2013	1,185	1,990
August 2013	1,329	2,253
September 2013	1,532	2,491
October 2013	1,687	2,549
Increase from June to October in caseload	511	632

*Implemented change July 1, 2013

This concludes my testimony, and I would be happy to answer any questions.