

Testimony
Economic Impact Committee
Senator Dave Oehlke, Chairman
September 29, 2014

Chairman Oehlke, and members of the Economic Impact Committee, I am Carol Cartledge, Director of Economic Assistance Policy Division for the Department of Human Services (DHS). I am here today to provide you an update regarding increasing eligibility for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) increase to 85% of state median income.

The number of children receiving assistance under the program was 1,645 in July 2013 and increased to 2,795 in June 2014. The average monthly CCAP payment for state fiscal year 2014 was \$331.32 per child per month. During this same time period, there was a 57% increase in the number of children receiving child care assistance in center based care.

[Attachment A](#) is a Child Care Assistance caseload chart. [Attachment B](#) is the increase in number of children in center based care.

DHS is in the process of developing a survey to collect information from child care providers about how the additional CCAP funding was used in their operations.

DHS is estimating to spend all CCAP grants appropriated in the 2013-2015 biennium and therefore did not further reduce co-payments on July 1, 2014, as authorized in 2013 HB 1422.

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