

Service Chapter: Child Care Assistance Program 400-28

Effective Date: September 1, 2025

Overview

Effective September 1, 2025, policy changes for the QRIS Bonus amounts providers are eligible to receive.

Description of Changes

1. Basis for Allowable Child Care Rate of Payments 400-28-100-30- Change

Updating the QRIS Bonus amounts providers will receive.

Policy Section Updates

1. Basis for Allowable Child Care Rate of Payments 400-28-100-30 - Change

The allowable amount of child care is based on:

- Type of provider
- Household income
- Household size
- [Level of Care](#)
- Child's Age
 - Infant care - birth through the month they turn 18 months
 - Toddler - 18 months to 2 years through the month of their third birthday
 - Preschool - 3-5 years through the month of their sixth birthday
 - School age - 6 to 13 years through the month of their thirteenth birthday
 - Youth ages 13-19 years of age who are special needs children or court order child care.
- A child who meets the definition of [disability](#) and who is attending a provider with a [Quality Rating Improvement System \(QRIS\)](#) rating of a step 2 or higher will be eligible to receive an additional 10% of the [state max rate \(SMR\)](#).
 - Written verification is required and should state the nature of the special needs and if for a child age thirteen (13) under age
 - A qualified health professional, a physician, physician's assistant, advanced registered nurse practitioner, qualified mental health professional as defined by KRS 600.020 (48) or registered nurse defined by KRS 314.011(5).
 - A court order or similar documentation indicating the child is under court supervision.
 - An Individual Education Program (IEP) provided by the school.
Note: A child that is receiving SSI would still need the written verification explained above.
 - Verification is not mandatory and is only required to receive the additional 10% of the state max rate.
- Providers with a current QRIS rating of a step 2 or higher are eligible to receive an additional payment at a tiered rate. These payments are separate from the service month payments issued for a child's child care costs, and are not intended to be used for a child's billed amount. QRIS

payments will be issued on the 5th of the month for all payments processed prior to the 5th. If the 5th does not fall on a business day, the batch will run the next available business day.

- An additional ~~5~~2% of the SMR will be paid to providers with a current step 2 Quality Rating.
- An additional ~~40~~5% of the SMR will be paid to providers with a current step 3 Quality Rating.
- An additional ~~45~~10% of the SMR will be paid to providers with a current step 4 Quality Rating.

Example:

Provider ABC Kids has a QRIS rating of 2 for the month of December. ABC Kids received 4 CCAP payments for the service month of December for 1 infant, 1 toddler, and 2 preschool age children on December 1st. On December 5th, the QRIS payments will calculate, and ABC Kids will receive ~~40~~2% of the SMR for each of these payments.

- North Dakota Licensed, tribally licensed or military licensed providers who are caring for CCAP infants and toddlers are eligible to receive an additional payment. These payments are separate from the service month payments issued for a child's child care costs, and are not intended to be used for a child's billed amount. The infant/toddler payments will be issued on the 5th of the month for all payments processed prior to the 5th. If the 5th does not fall on a business day, the batch will run the next available business day.