

CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE – FOR PARTICIPANTS



Montana families are paying just over \$9,000 a year to have an infant attend a full-time care center. For low-income, working single parents this could mean nearly 44% of their income is spent on child care.

I need child care, but can't afford it. What do I do? HRDC offers the State of Montana's Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship for Big Horn, Carbon, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure and Yellowstone Counties. You can download the application at www.hrdc7.org, pick it up at the HRDC office in Billings or Hardin or call either location and request an application be mailed to you.

Who is eligible? Recipients of the scholarship are based on income eligibility guidelines and must be either working low-income families, working care takers, TANF recipients, disabled parents, foster or guardianship families, or parents in high school, college or pursuing a GED in order to apply for the Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship.

How many hours must I work in order to qualify as working low-income? Parents or guardians must be participating in the following eligible activities:

- Two parent families must work at least 120 hours per month;
- Single parent families must work at least 60 hours per month;
- Single parent families do not have to work while they attend school/training full time.
- Single parent families who are attending school/training part-time must work 40 hours;
- Teen parents must be attending high school or a high school equivalency program.

Does the work requirement pertain to foster or guardianship families? Yes. We recommend contacting your Child Protection Specialist at the state offices of Children and Family Services to qualify your need and request child care services.

What portion will I pay? Families are solely responsible for making co-payments to their child care provider plus any fees or charges that may exceed the district child care provider rates.

Are there restrictions on where I take my child for care? Children on the Best Beginnings Scholarship must attend a licensed child care center, registered group or family child care home, or legally certified child care provider.



I'm not sure if the child care provider I've selected qualifies for the program. Who can I ask? HRDC's Child Care Resource & Referral is the local expert in connecting needs and resources. From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. M-F, you can call us at (406) 247-4700 to get information.

I need help finding a child care provider. Who can I contact? All child care referrals for the state of Montana are conducted by a centralized agency, Family Connections Montana. For help finding child care, please visit www.familyconnectionsmt.org, or call toll free, 1.855.406.CARE (2273) for referrals.

For more information

Web: www.hrdc7.org
Phone: 406-247-4700 or 800-433-1411 (Billings)
406-665-2523 (Hardin)
Email: info@hrdc7.org

This project is funded in whole or in part under a Contract with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The statements herein do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Department.



District 7 HRDC is a private nonprofit Community Action Agency dedicated to the promotion of self-sufficiency and alleviation of poverty. HRDC offers many resources for you, for your family, and for your home, all in the name of helping people move forward. To learn more, visit www.hrdc7.org or call 406-247-4732 for more information about how we can help you.

District 7 Human Resources Development Council
Big Horn, Carbon, Stillwater, Sweet Grass and Yellowstone Counties of Montana

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