

Seasonal Child Care

The Seasonal Child Care (SCC) subsidy program helps families pay for child care while they work in agricultural settings.

There are some changes to this program starting July 1, 2011.

What is the same?

- SCC is for eligible families working in seasonal farmwork like cultivating, harvesting or processing fruit trees and crops in Washington State.
- Eligible families must have income at or below 175 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). The eligibility chart is online at:

www.del.wa.gov/publications/subsidy/docs/Subsidy_Eligibility_Chart.pdf

- Eligible families must live in one of these counties: Adams, Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Kittitas, Okanogan, Skagit, Walla Walla, Whatcom or Yakima.
- Eligible families may not receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance.

What is different starting July 1, 2011?

- Families apply with the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), not through local community organizations.
- Families are not required to earn at least 50 percent of their income from seasonal agriculture work.
- Families can prove income eligibility by providing DSHS with:
 - Three months of paystubs; or,
 - Most current W-2 tax form showing gross wages; or
 - The DSHS Employment Verification Form.
- Children must be legal residents of the United States and Washington State.
- Eligible families must cooperate with the DSHS Division of Child Support as applicable unless there is “good cause” not to do so.
- Child care providers will receive child care authorizations directly from DSHS. Families do not receive a “child care plan.”



Important reminders!

- If you already receive Working Connections Child Care subsidies, do not apply for SCC.
- Only use child care benefits for the work hours approved by DSHS.
- Pay your copayment every month. A third party can pay this for you.
- Pay your child care provider for any child care you use that is not authorized by DSHS.

(continued)



Washington State Department of

Early Learning

Family rights

If your family gets child care subsidy benefits, then you have the right to:

- Be treated politely and fairly.
- Be told if you qualify for benefits within 30 days of applying.
- Ask a supervisor to review a decision about your benefits.
- Ask for an administrative hearing if you disagree with a decision about your benefits.
- Get free interpretation or translation services.
- Terminate child care at any time.
- Access your child at all times while he or she is in child care.
- Have the same level of care provided by your provider if you don't want your child to attend a field trip that costs more than the maximum state reimbursement.
- Not be charged the difference between your child care provider's private pay daily rate and the maximum state subsidy rate for child care services, registration fees, or field trip fees.
- Not be charged by your child care provider for:
 - Days when your child is absent.
 - Days when your provider is closed.
 - Handling fees to process payments or paperwork.
 - Fees for materials, supplies or equipment needed to meet licensing requirements.
 - Costs to cover billing disputes between your provider and the state.



Family responsibilities

If your family gets child care subsidy benefits, then you are responsible to:

- Give DSHS your current address, telephone number, family size, income, and information about where you work when you apply for benefits. Report changes to any of these items within 10 days to DSHS.
- Tell DSHS within five days if you change your child care provider.
- Complete the provider's attendance records.
- Pay your monthly co-payment to your provider directly, or make arrangements with a third party to pay your provider.
- Only use your child care benefits for DSHS-approved work activities.
- Pay your provider for child care you use for personal reasons.

Extra responsibilities with licensed care!

You must pay your provider the following fees if they have a written policy charging all parents for:

- Non-sufficient funds (NSF) fees
- Picking-up your child after operating hours
- Paying your child care copayment late

If you ask for these services and your provider has a written policy charging all families for these services, then you must pay for:

- Optional meal programs for your child
- Transportation to and from school or activities
- Optional programs such as music lessons, gymnastics, swimming
- Child care for personal reasons that is not authorized by DSHS
- Field trip costs in excess of \$20



Call 1-877-501-2233 to apply starting July 1, 2011

**If you have questions about your rights and responsibilities,
call the DSHS Answer Phone at 1.877.980.9220.**