

Child Care Connections

ND Early Childhood Section and Child Care Assistance Program



HHS continues to roll out enhancements to the state's child care assistance program, benefiting both parents and child care providers

NORTH Dakota | Health & Human Services **Individual Worksheet for Calculating Copay**
In partnership with

*Calculations provided are an estimate and not an official determination of eligibility. Final copay may vary and official copays are determined by eligibility staff.

Enter your total monthly income before taxes are taken out:	Enter number of household family members:
<input type="text" value="\$0"/> <input type="text" value="\$6,500"/>	<input type="text" value="5"/>

Before July 1, 2024, your "old" copay for child care would have been:	After July 1, 2024, your "new" copay for child care is:
\$465	\$257

100% of the monthly State Median Income for your household size is:	Your income is ___% of the State Median	Before July 1, 2024 Your co-pay as a % of your income:	After July 1, 2024 Your co-pay as a % of your income:
\$11,069	58.7%	7%	4%

Recent enhancements to the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) began this month. These enhancements include:

- A reduced co-pay amount for most parents
- An increase in the maximum amount that CCAP will pay a child care provider for services
- A new bonus for child care providers who care for infants and toddlers enrolled in CCAP

In addition to the program enhancements, HHS has also launched a new tool for parents to easily calculate their co-pay amount. Parents can access the calculator [here](#).

[Read more here](#)

Child Care Workforce Benefit demonstrates significant impact and value

More than 200 child care workers are getting help paying for their child care costs through the Child Care Workforce Benefit.

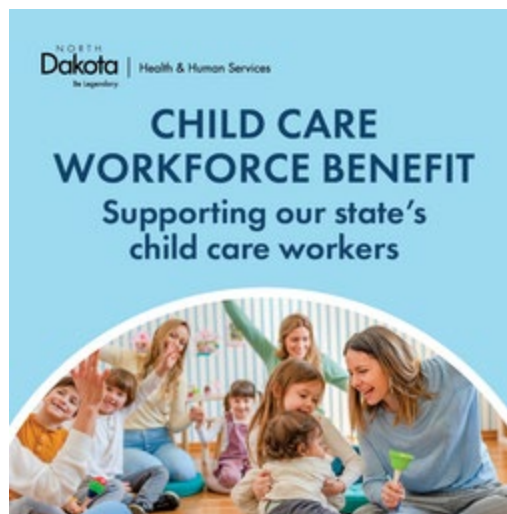
The benefit, which began on June 1, pays for the cost of child care (up to the CCAP state maximum rate) with no required co-pay for child care workers who work 25 or more hours a week. Eligible employees, regardless of their income can use this benefit for child care costs for children up to 12 years of age whether their child(ren) attends the program where the parent works or if they are enrolled at another program. Additionally, these children will count in any additional state CCAP bonuses a program receives such as the infant/toddler bonus payment and tiered quality bonus payments.

The Child Care Workforce Benefit is a valuable tool providers can use to attract and retain staff.

To apply, employees of HHS licensed child care programs need to provide a completed Child Care Workforce Benefit Verification (SFN 354) from their employer and household income information for the current and prior month. Although the benefit is available to all household incomes, income information is required to process applications.

For more details, visit the [CCAP webpage](#). For questions not answered on the webpage, email ccap@nd.gov.

Stay informed and take advantage of this beneficial program for your child care staff today!



Calling all CDA Professional Development Specialists™- Incentives are now available!

If you enjoy mentoring, coaching, meeting new people and observing educational environments, becoming a Child Development Associate® (CDA) professional development (PD) specialist™ may be for you. PD specialists use early childhood expertise to assess CDA candidates' competencies and facilitate reflective conversations with the candidates.



All qualified individuals should consider this important role, the CDA assessment system rests, in large part, on CDA endorsed PD specialists. Information on becoming a CDA endorsed PD specialist™ can be found [here](#).

The HHS Early Childhood is now offering CDA PD specialist incentives for endorsed CDA PD specialists™. CDA PD specialist™ is a valued role in North Dakota. If you are currently endorsed as a PD specialist™ with the National Council for Professional Recognition and successfully completing verification visits you could qualify for an incentive of \$400 per visit.

[Learn more](#)

Expansion of training opportunities

The ND Early Childhood Workforce Registry has been working with training sponsors (entities that provide training) to expand training being offered to early childhood providers across the state.

Training expansion includes training offered in languages other than English. The best way to find trainings that meet your needs is to use the [online training calendar](#).

From a computer: On the left-hand side of the training calendar, you can “filter training”. Filtering training gives you many options including the “training language” that the course is being offered in.

From a phone: Click on the three lines on the right-hand side of the calendar located just above the “sort by” option. This will open the “filter training” menu allowing you to see all the filter options, including “training language”.

If you have questions or need guidance reach out to one of our Professional Development and Provider Help Center staff at (800) 997-8516, press 1.

Data system updates

Did you know that the data system that powers Growing Futures, our Early Childhood Workforce Registry, quality initiatives such as Bright and Early ND, grant and incentive applications and more is now available in Spanish and Somali? Simply log in to your account and click on to the downward arrow next to the word English and select the language that you wish to have your account translated to, wait for a few seconds, and the site will automatically translate to the chosen language.



Meet our ND Early Childhood Workforce Registry team



Deanna Huseby – Registry Specialist

Deanna previously worked for a retail furniture company and a commercial lighting company. She joined Lakes and Prairies Community Action Partnership Inc. in 2011, just in time for the official launch of the Registry and has worked with the Registry through the present.

What Deanna loves about her current role: “I love interacting with the providers and making sure everything in the Registry is accurate.”

Fun Fact: Deanna has more than enough hobbies to keep her busy such as sewing, paper-crafting, baking, knitting, and gardening.

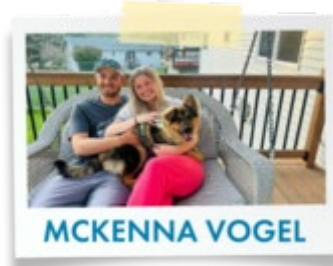


Cassie Beise – Provider Technical Assistant Specialist

Cassie worked for Child Care Aware® of North Dakota as a coach for 12 years prior to working for the HHS Early Childhood Section. Cassie enjoys helping providers plan their professional development and work through issues they may be having using the Registry.

What Cassie loves about her current role: “I enjoy helping providers solve problems and meet their professional development goals.”

Fun Fact: Cassie enjoys hiking and encouraging her children during their sporting events.



McKenna Vogel – Provider Technical Assistant Specialist

Prior to working for the HHS Early Childhood Section, McKenna pursued a degree in early childhood education from Mayville State University, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in December 2023. Throughout the time of pursuing her degree, McKenna was also working as a preschool teacher.

What McKenna loves about her current role: “I love that I get the opportunity to constantly learn and grow professionally. I appreciate that my team challenges me and pushes me to my highest potential. I am very excited to be helping providers on a daily basis and to build relationships with them.”

Fun Fact: McKenna recently bought her first home and she and her boyfriend Brett adopted a puppy named Frida from Furry Friends.

Mark your calendars! Learn and grow session



Oct. 10, 7-8 pm CT: Career Pathways: What do They Mean to Me?

Are you interested in making your training meaningful? Would you like to move along the Career Pathway? Join us in October to learn ways to advance in the Career Pathway.

The Career Pathways can be used to:

- Guide individuals in planning and preparing for careers in the field
- Assist employers to write job descriptions and hire well qualified employees
- Give direction to training and education organizations to help them design programs that support career preparation based on clearly identified core content

- Recognize individuals for their career qualifications and accomplishments

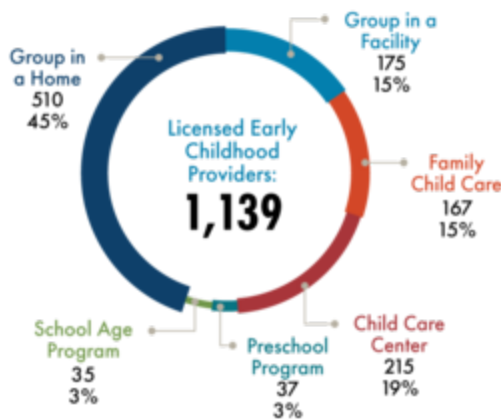
What Your Career Pathways placement means

You receive a Career Pathway placement when you become a Registry member. Your Career Pathway category identifies the verified preparation you currently have for early care and education. Your placement also helps you see how you can continue to grow in the profession and identifies your next steps for training and education. As you complete the requirements for each Career Pathway category, you'll be demonstrating to parents, employers and others that you are well prepared for the work you do.

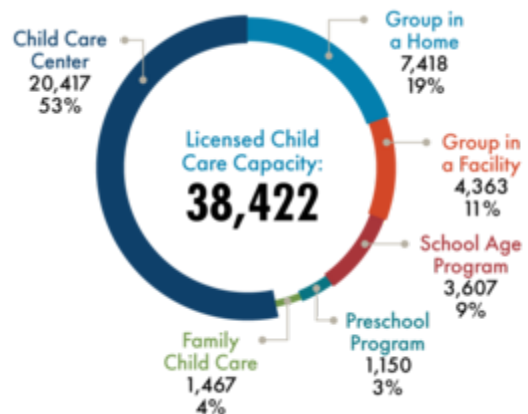
Quarterly provider snapshot

(As of July 23, 2024)

Number of Licenses by Provider Type



Number of Licensed Slots by Provider Type



[Learn More at HHS.ND.GOV](https://HHS.ND.GOV)