

UPCOMING CHANGES TO FAMILY FEE SCHEDULE

Learn about potential new child care rate changes at your child's program

As a family with a child enrolled in a child care space that is partially funded by the CT Office of Early Childhood (OEC), your child care provider is able to charge you less than their full rate. **OEC has updated the fees that providers must charge families in these child care spaces.** Starting this year, your child care provider is required to charge these new fees.

WHY IS OEC CHANGING FEES?

- Historically, the fee schedule was updated annually, but due to interruptions caused by COVID, it was last revised in 2019. The adjustments in this fee schedule (released September 1, 2022) reflect the OEC's commitment to making family fees more equitable and responsive to Connecticut's changing economy.
 - Right now, families with lower incomes pay a much larger portion of their income for child care than families with higher incomes.
 - With the new changes, families will now pay a percentage of their income, so their fees will increase or decrease as their income increases or decreases.

WHO WILL BE IMPACTED?

- Families with children in Child Day Care, School Readiness or Smart Start programs, who only pay part of the cost of the program.

WHAT WILL THESE CHANGES MEAN FOR ME?

- Your fees may change at some point in the next year. Any changes to fees will go into effect thirty (30) days after the date you are notified, or at your next income determination; whichever comes first.
- Your provider will look at how your family's income compares to the State Median Income (SMI). Based on that, your provider will determine what percent of your annual income your fee should be.
 - To get an estimate of what your fee will be, you can use this [online fee calculator tool](#).
 - Note: This is an estimate. Your child care provider will determine your official fee.
- You will continue to give your provider the same documentation you've given them in the past, like:
 - Verification of annual income (Ex. pay stubs; letter from employer)
 - Verification of family size (Ex. tax returns)
 - Birth Certificate
 - Proof of Residency
- You will continue to pay your fees to your provider the same way that you did before.

ARE THERE WAYS TO GET HELP PAYING FOR CHILD CARE?

- Families who earn below 60% of the SMI may qualify for additional child care assistance through Care 4 Kids. OEC encourages eligible families in subsidized spaces to apply for Care 4 Kids, as this is an additional resource for both families and providers.
 - You can find more information [here](#).

FAMILY SIZE	1-3 kids	4 kids	5 kids	6 kids
60% SMI	\$64,231	\$76,466	\$88,700	\$100,935

WHAT IF I HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS?

- Reach out to your provider for more specific information on the amount of your new fees, and when they will start.
- For additional information, please visit the State-Funded Early Care and Education Programs webpage at: <https://www.ctoec.org/state-funded-early-care-and-education-programs/>

We appreciate your understanding as we work towards creating a fee system that is responsive to the needs of children and families statewide.

