



# PAYING FOR CHILD CARE

## Missouri State Child Care Assistance Program

The Missouri State Child Care Assistance Program helps eligible parents or guardians pay for child care. Payments are based on household size and income level. Further adjustments are made for families of children with special needs and children in foster care. You can view more information at [www.dss.mo.gov/cd/childcare](http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/childcare).

**Sliding Fee:** All families, except those of special needs children or children in foster care, must pay for part of their child care. This payment is called a sliding fee. It is based on the number of people in the household, the income level, and the number of hours per day a child is in care.

**Co-payment:** A program's child care cost is sometimes more than the amount the state pays and the family's sliding fee combined. This remaining balance is called a co-payment. The family is responsible for paying the co-payment to the child care program.



### Earned Income Tax Credit

Families who are working and eligible (based upon income) qualify for Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC). To receive EITC, a family must file a federal tax return. For more information, and to see if you are eligible, contact the Internal Revenue Service at 1-800-829-1040 or visit: [www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit](http://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit).

## Financial Assistance Offered by Some Child Care Programs



**Income-Based Payment:** Programs may offer income-based payments. This payment is based on a family's income and is determined by the child care program.

**Multi-Child Discount:** Some child care programs offer a discount if you have more than one child enrolled. Check with child care programs to see if they offer this discount.

**Scholarships:** Scholarship options may be available for families. Criteria varies by program.

**Military Assistance:** Financial options and programs are available to assist children and families of active duty members and veterans. For more information, please visit [www.usa.childcareaware.org/fee-assistancerespite/military-families](http://www.usa.childcareaware.org/fee-assistancerespite/military-families).

Contact us at 1-866-892-3228 OR email [referralcenter@mo.childcareaware.org](mailto:referralcenter@mo.childcareaware.org)  
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