

The Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship (BB) is supporting families and child care providers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The scholarship has made temporary changes to support continuity of care for children and families and assist child care providers in the continued stabilization of their businesses. These temporary policies are effective 6/1/2021 and will continue as funding allows.

How will the scholarship support families, children, and child care providers?

- The scholarship will pay for a child's monthly authorized amount regardless of a child's attendance during the month.
- All families with children receiving the scholarship will have a \$10 monthly copayment, regardless of income level.

Will the scholarship pay the monthly authorized amount if the child doesn't attend during the month? Yes, the scholarship may pay the monthly authorized amount for a child receiving the scholarship. A child receiving the scholarship must have attended at least once during the previous month at the child care facility.

Does a child care provider need to indicate attendance on an invoice? Yes, a child care provider must indicate a child's actual attendance on the invoice. A child's time in and time out must be listed daily. If the child is absent, the provider will state "Absent" in the comments on a day.

With reduced copayments, does a family still pay a child care provider? A family is responsible to pay the monthly \$10 copayment directly to the child care provider. The child care provider indicates on the monthly invoice if the monthly copayment has been received.

Website Information

Early Childhood Services Bureau

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/childcare>

Child Care Policy Manual

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/childcare/childcarepolicymanual>

Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/ChildCare/ChildCareResourceandReferral>

Provider Portal

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/CCUBS>