

Working Connections Child Care

Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) helps families with low incomes pay for child care while they work or meet WorkFirst participation requirements.



What are the basic eligibility requirements for WCCC?

- The child must be an U.S. citizen or legal resident.
- The family must live in Washington State.
- Family income must be at or below 175% FPL.
- The parent must cooperate with child support enforcement services unless there is good cause not to do so.
- The parent must be employed or self-employed in legal, income-generating, taxable activities; or the parent must meet all TANF/WorkFirst requirements when taking part in that program.
- The parent must complete the WCCC application and verification process through DSHS.

How do families apply for WCCC?

Contact the DSHS Customer Service Call Center at 1.877.501.2233 or apply online at:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/f2esaapps/esaosa/intro.aspx>

Will I be on the WCCC Wait List?

Currently, there is a wait list to receive WCCC benefits unless your family meets a special priority status. Generally, applicants can expect 4-8 weeks on the wait list. The following groups receive priority access to WCCC without going on the wait list:

- Families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits. This includes families “curing a sanction” and child-only TANF cases.
- Income-eligible families who have a child with special needs.
- Teen parents who do not live with a parent or guardian and attend high school full-time. The high school must offer on-site child care.

All other eligible families will receive child care benefits on a "first come, first served" basis until the program reaches a set limit. DSHS keeps a waiting list of families who apply.

What do I do after I get a letter from DSHS telling me there is space available in WCCC?

The only way DSHS will contact you is by mail, so make sure to tell DSHS right away if your mailing address changes. Call them at: 1-877-501-2233. You must contact DSHS within 10 days from the date of the letter, or you will lose your spot on the wait list. If you lose your spot, you can re-apply for WCCC benefits. You will receive a new spot on the wait list in the order your new application was received.

What's the most important thing for me to remember?

If you currently receive WCCC benefits, you may be eligible to continue receiving benefits providing you do not have a break in your certification period.

This means that if you miss reapplication/reporting/verification deadlines, you will be terminated from the program. If you reapply, you must meet all eligibility requirements, including priority status.

Child Care Subsidy Programs: Child Support and “Good Cause” Not to Cooperate with the DSHS Division of Child Support.

The Washington State legislature passed a law requiring all applicants and consumers of child care subsidies administered under the Department of Early Learning to cooperate with the DSHS Division of Child Support, unless there was “good cause” not to cooperate. This law went into effect July 1, 2011. You can read the new law at www.leg.wa.gov under ESSB 5921.

What are the “good cause” reasons not to cooperate with child support enforcement?

For Working Connections Child Care (WCCC), Seasonal Child Care (SCC) and other DEL child care subsidy programs, good cause reasons may include when:

- The parent already established “good cause” for TANF/WorkFirst or medical assistance programs.
- The parent has a current court order showing the child support amount ordered on behalf of the child who will receive the child care subsidy benefits, and is receiving those payments.
- The parent already complies with child support enforcement services, either voluntarily or to meet other public assistance benefits requirements.
- Both parents live together in one household and the child needing care is their child in common.
- The applicant or consumer is a single-parent family when the other parent is deceased.
- The applicant or consumer is a single-parent family when the other parent is incarcerated for one year or longer.
- The applicants or consumers are both minor parents; or,
- The DSHS division of child support does not have jurisdiction over the child support case, such as for tribal child support cases or cases outside of the United States.

How will I know if I need to cooperate with child support enforcement services?

When you apply, DSHS will ask you a series of questions to determine if you need to cooperate or if you meet one of the good cause reasons listed above. They will mail you a child support enforcement application packet to complete and return within 30 days if you must cooperate with the child support requirement.

Do I need a child support order for every child in my home?

No. Only the child you want subsidized child care for must have a child support order.

What happens if I don’t cooperate and I don’t have good cause?

If you do not cooperate, or show good cause, you will not be eligible for child care subsidy benefits.

What if I cooperate and then something happens that would be good cause?

You have the right to claim good cause exemption at any time during your certification period. Contact DSHS at 1-877-501-2233 to change the status of your case if you believe you have good cause not to cooperate with child support enforcement services.