

Pierce County Child Care Financial Assistance Program:

What is the Pierce County Child Care Financial Assistance Program?

Pierce County has allocated \$1.5 Million of its federal [CARES Act](#) funding to supporting Pierce County families with the cost of their child care. Eligible families will receive a voucher to pay for their child care at eligible providers (see below for criteria) for up to three (3) months. [Child Care Resources](#) and [Child Care Aware of Washington](#) are administering the program in partnership with the County.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible for the Pierce County Child Care Financial Assistance program, families must:

- Live in Pierce County;
- Have children needing child care between the ages of 0-12;
- Fall below 100% Area Median Income for Pierce County

<i>Income Guidelines:</i>	
<i>Household Size</i>	<i>Gross Monthly Income</i>
2	\$0-\$5,767
3	\$0-\$6,492
4	\$0-\$7,208
5	\$0-\$7,792
6	\$0-\$8,367
7	\$0-\$8,942
8	\$0-\$9,517

- Answer “yes” to one of the following questions:
 - Has your work schedule, income or access to child care been negatively impacted by COVID 19?; OR
 - Are you an essential worker (as defined by [Governor Inslee’s List](#))?
- **NOTE:** We can support families with Working Connections Co-Pays
- **NOTE:** Families do NOT need to be currently employed to qualify for this voucher.

How do I apply?

Step One: Call or text the **Child Care Aware of Washington Family Center** at **1-800-446-1114** and complete an application with one of our specialists; then

Step Two: Email verification of your eligibility to pierceccr@childcare.org (pictures of verification documents are fine)

- **Income:**
 - Please provide two most recent paystubs and/or other proof of income **for all adults in the family/household** (i.e child support, unemployment insurance, SSI/SSD, etc).

- We determine an applicant’s family/household size as follows:
 - For a single parent, including a minor parent living independently, we count the applicant and the applicant’s children;
 - For unmarried parents who have at least one mutual child, we count both parents and all of their children living in the household;
 - Unmarried parents who have no mutual children are counted as separate “households,” the unmarried parents and their respective children living in the household;
 - For married parents, we count both parents and all of their children living in the household;
 - We do not usually count other adults living in the household in calculating family size- if you have questions regarding this, please ask program staff.
 - Feel free to black-out any personally identifying information (SSN, bank account info etc.) other than full name, employer, employee home address, payment amount and date of statement.
 - *If you have any concerns about verifying your income, please just let us know.*
 - **Residency:** *If your home address is listed on the paystub, no additional proof of residency is required;* otherwise, families will need to submit the following to demonstrate residence in Pierce County. If you are experiencing homelessness or otherwise unable to verify your home address, please let us know and we will provide alternative means of verification.
 - Submit **ONE** from this list:
 - Utility Bill (Gas, Water/Garbage, Light/Electrical, Cable, Landline phone)Home/Renter’s Insurance
 - Mortgage Document
- OR
- **TWO** from this list from different sources:
 - Insurance document (health, car, etc.)
 - Benefits document (DSHS, SSI, paystub, etc.)
 - Financial document (Bank Statement, retirement, credit card statement)
 - Other bills
 - Driver’s License
 - Lease or Housing Agency letter

Where can I use my child care voucher?

To be eligible to receive the Pierce County Child Care Financial Assistance voucher, child care providers must meet the following criteria:

- For providers serving children ages 0-6, they must be
 - Licensed, in good standing with the State of Washington; and
 - Participating in the [Early Achievers Program](#) and not yet rated OR already rated at a level three (3) or higher.
- For providers serving school-age only children, they must be [operating legally](#).

What does the voucher pay?

The voucher is a flat \$1500 per month of enrollment regardless of the age of the child. Any amount due in excess of \$1500, will be the responsibility of the family. If a family enrolls mid-month the rate will be prorated the first month and the balance will extend into the fourth month. For example- Child enrolls June 15th (June = \$750, July=\$1500, Aug=\$1500, Sept = \$750). If the child was already enrolled when the family applies, we will backdate the authorization to the first of the month in which they applied. The provider will be asked to either reimburse or credit tuition already paid by the family. We can also cover three months of a family's Working Connection co-payment. **We will pay the childcare provider for the committed amount of the voucher, as long as the child attends at least one day during the month they are enrolled.**

If approved, how does billing for the childcare voucher work?

Once you have been approved for the childcare financial assistance, a ***Payment Authorization*** will be sent to you to fill out, date, and sign. Your chosen and approved childcare provider will also have to fill out their portion on this form. This serves as a contract between Child Care Resources and your childcare provider. Child Care Resources sends childcare providers enrolled in our subsidy programs a ***Payment Request*** at the end of the month of care, typically the last week of the month. The voucher amount will be paid directly to your childcare provider, within two weeks after they have returned the ***Payment Request*** to the Child Care Resources Billing Specialist.