

Eligibility for Child Care Assistance

You may be eligible for child care assistance if:

- ✓ You are working at least 80 hours per month and are within Child Care Assistance's income guidelines.
- ✓ You receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and are in an approved work activity or in school.
- ✓ You are a college or vocational student enrolled in 12 credit hours, or your class hours and/or work equal a minimum of 80 hours per month.
- ✓ You are a high school or GED student.
- ✓ You are a foster care family who works or attends school.

NOTE: Child Care Assistance will not pay for child care for anyone pursuing education beyond a bachelor's degree.



Searching for Child Care

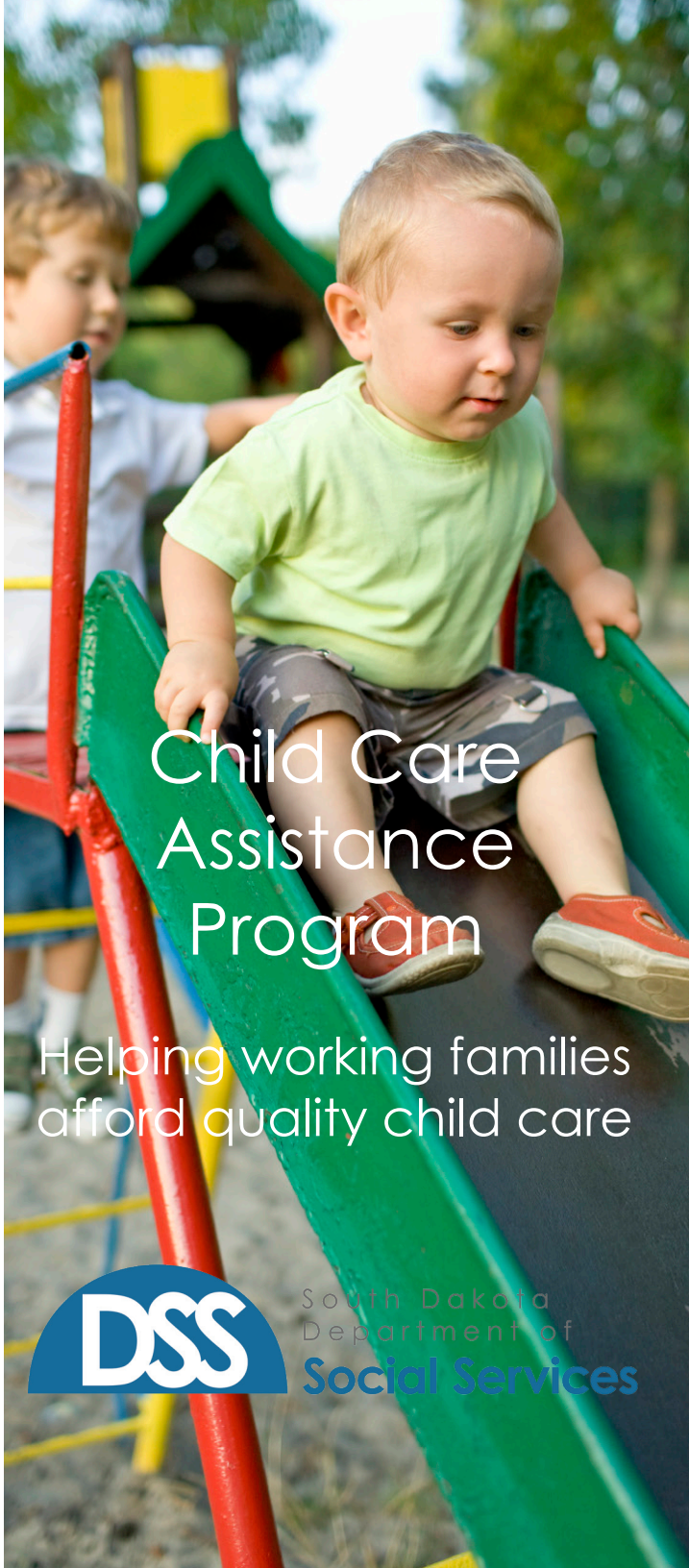
Visit olapublic.sd.gov/child-care-provider-search/ to search for registered and licensed child care providers by type, name, city, and zip code.

Examples of provider information that is available through the provider search:

- Ages of Children Served
- Current Child Care Openings
  *This is updated by the Providers
- Months of Operation
- Inspection Reports

South Dakota Department of Social Services

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Child Care Assistance Program

Helping working families afford quality child care

South Dakota Department of Social Services

Child Care Assistance

Depending on your income, you may be eligible for assistance from the Department of Social Services (DSS) Child Care Assistance program to help pay child care costs while you work or go to school. If eligible, you can receive child care assistance for children under age 13, up to age 18 if your child has a special need or age 19 if your child has a special need and is enrolled in school. Quality child care that is affordable and accessible, is one of the most important elements of balancing work and family. If your child care arrangement is unstable, your child may be at risk and your ability to work or attend school may be affected.

Eligibility

The amount of child care assistance you can receive is determined using a formula based on household size and gross income (before taxes). This amount is paid directly to your provider. DSS offers a higher reimbursement rate to providers who care for children with special needs.



Copay

Depending on your family income, you may be responsible for a copay. This copay is to be paid directly to your child care provider and will remain the same regardless of your child's attendance or the amount your provider charges.

Additional Expenses

Families are responsible for paying additional fees not covered by CCA including but not limited to; registration fees, transportation fees, as well as any tuition not covered by your CCA payments.

Child Care Hours

The amount of child care covered each month is calculated based on your work and/or school schedules and your child care need. A notice is issued for the total coverage per month your child(ren) are eligible to receive. You are responsible for additional child care costs after you reach the maximum child care assistance benefit.

Selecting a Provider

If you receive child care assistance, you must select a provider who is at least 18 years old and meets certain criteria. Several types of providers are allowed under Child Care Assistance guidelines. You can use more than one type of provider, but each must meet the basic requirements listed below.

- ✓ Regulated Providers are licensed or registered with the Office of Licensing and Accreditation. They include family day cares, day care centers, and out-of school time programs.
- ✓ In-Process Providers are in the process of becoming licensed or registered.
- ✓ Relatives must be an aunt/uncle, grandparent or great-grandparent and can reside in the child's home. A sibling of the child may also provide care, but must maintain a separate residence.
- ✓ In-Home Providers come into your home and provide care for only your children.
- ✓ Informal Care is a family friend or neighbor who provides care for only your children.

If your child care provider would like to become licensed or registered with the Department of Social Services Office of Licensing and Accreditation, have them contact their local office or call 800.227.3020.

Applying for Assistance

To apply for child care assistance, you must submit a completed and signed application to Department of Social Services.

If you are determined eligible for Child Care Assistance, a notice will be sent to both you and your selected child care provider. The notice will include the benefit amount you have been determined eligible for, as well as the benefits start and end date.
Child Care Assistance applicants are required to reapply annually to reevaluate if all CCA eligibility requirements are still being met.