I. Provider Rates

1. Intent

The limits established in the rate tables are intended to reflect the rates charged by most providers in the community. DHS uses a market price survey based on the rates providers report throughout the state. Parents receiving DHS child care assistance should have access to the same types and quality of care that is available to the majority of other parents in the community who use child care. The rate structure is intended to facilitate this access.

DHS provider rates are also structured to improve the quality of care available to DHS clients by offering an incentive to providers to obtain additional training. Providers who meet established training requirements can be paid at a higher rate and have access to billing options that more accurately reflect the market practices of the professional provider community.

2. Standard, enhanced and licensed

There are three levels of rate limits: standard rate, enhanced rate and licensed rate. Providers who are not registered or certified by the Office of Child Care (OCC) or do not meet the qualifications for the enhanced rate qualify for the standard rate. Providers can qualify for the enhanced rate by meeting established training requirements. Providers can qualify for the licensed rate by becoming registered or certified by the OCC. The differences between the three rate limits are:

- The enhanced and licensed rate definition of full-time care is 136 hours or more in the month. There is also an additional billing option of a part-time monthly rate;
- The standard rate definition of full-time care is 158 hours or more in the month. The part-time monthly billing option is not available for providers who qualify for the standard rate.

3. Qualifying for the enhanced rate

OCC-certified centers, registered and certified families automatically qualify for the licensed rate because registration and certification training requirements meet or exceed the DHS enhanced rate requirements.

Family and in-home providers and staff of centers exempt from certification rules will qualify for the enhanced rate by working with the Oregon Registry. This program is part
of the Oregon Center for Career Development in Childhood Care and Education located at Portland State University. To qualify, the provider or staff person must:

- Have completed at least two hours of training on child abuse and neglect issues;
- Be currently certified in first aid;
- Be currently certified in infant and child CPR;
- Have a current food handlers permit; and
- Agree to complete a minimum of eight hours of additional training related to child care every two years.

For family providers to be paid up to the enhanced rate, the Oregon Child Care Resource and Referral Network notifies the Oregon Registry office when the trainings have been completed. The Oregon Registry office notifies DHS when the provider qualifies, and future billing forms are coded to allow the enhanced rate.

Family providers who apply for OCC registration, do not need to make a separate application to the Oregon Registry office. Once registration is approved, OCC notifies the Oregon Registry office and DHS.

Exempt centers must have at least one staff member who meets these standards for every 20 children in care to receive the enhanced rate.

**Child Care Eligibility Standard, Payment Rates, and Copayments Rule**

461-155-0150 — Child Care Eligibility Standard, Payment Rates, and Copayments

4. **Hourly, part-time monthly and full-time monthly rates**

Providers eligible only for the standard rate will be paid at either the hourly or full-time monthly rate:

- The hourly rate limit applies when children are in care less than 158 hours per month or when a provider is not designated as the primary provider for the case;
- The full-time monthly rate limit applies when children are in care 158 hours or more per month and the provider is designated as the primary provider for the case.

Providers eligible for the enhanced or licensed rate will be paid at the hourly, part-time monthly or full-time monthly rates:

- The hourly rate applies when children are in care less than 136 hours per month, unless the provider has an established part-time monthly rate, charges all families
part-time rate for part-time care and is designated as the primary provider for the case;

- The part-time monthly rate applies if the provider has an established part-time monthly rate, children are in care between 63 and 135 hours per month and the provider is designated as the primary provider for the case. For these providers, the hourly rate applies when children are in care less than 63 hours a month;

- The full-time monthly rate applies when children are in care 136 or more hours per month and when the provider is designated as the primary provider for the case.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Care Eligibility Standard, Payment Rates, and Copayments Rule</th>
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5. Age and special needs categories

The maximum allowable rate is determined in part by age or special needs of the children in care. The age categories on the provider rates charts are as follows:

- Infant: A child age:
  - Newborn to 1 year (12 months) for nonlicensed care; or
  - Newborn to 2 years (24 months) for licensed care, registered or certified.

- Toddler: A child age:
  - 1 year (12 months) to 3 years for nonlicensed care; or
  - 2 years to 3 years for licensed care, registered or certified.

- Preschool: A child age 3 years to 6 years;

- School-age: A child age 6 years and older;

- Special Needs: A child who requires a higher level of care than what is usually required for their age due to a physical, behavioral or mental disability.

✅ See Child Care Need; older children and children with special needs (CC-e.3) in this section.
6. Types of child care providers

Allowable rates vary depending on the type of child care provided. The following describes the types of care listed in the child care rates charts.

- The *Standard Family Rate* applies to child care provided in the provider’s own home or in the home of the child when the provider does not qualify for the enhanced or licensed rate described in this chapter;

- The *Standard Center Rate* applies to child care provided in a facility that is not located in a residential dwelling, is exempt from OCC certification rules and whose staff do not meet the requirements for the enhanced rate;

- The *Enhanced Family Rate* applies to child care provided in the provider’s own home or in the home of the child, and the provider qualifies for the enhanced rate;

- The *Enhanced Center Rate* applies to child care provided in an exempt center whose staff meets the enhanced rate training requirements at a ratio of one staff person per 20 children in care;

- The *Licensed Registered Family Rate* applies to child care provided in a residential dwelling that is registered by the OCC as a *Registered Family provider*. The facility must be inspected, and both provider and facility are required to meet certain standards;

- The *Licensed Certified Family Rate* applies to child care provided in a residential dwelling that is certified by the OCC as a *Certified Family Home*. To earn this designation, the facility must be inspected, and both provider and facility are required to meet certain standards not required of a registered family provider;

- The *Licensed Certified Center Rate* applies to child care provided in a facility that is certified by the OCC as a *Certified Child Care Center*. To earn this designation, the facility must be inspected, and both staff and facility are required to meet certain standards not required of other provider types.

| ✔ See provider rate limits; qualifying for the enhanced rate ([CC-1.3](#)) for more information. |

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Child Care Eligibility Standard, Payment Rates, and Copayments Rule

461-155-0150 — Child Care Eligibility Standard, Payment Rates, and Copayments
7. **Child care rate charts**

The following are the child care rate charts. Because the market price survey found that rates providers charged were higher in some areas of the state than in others, the state was divided into three areas, with a separate chart for each area. The zip code of the provider determines which chart to use. Click on the link below to access the most recent DHs Child Care Maximum Rates.

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8. **Child Care Provider Spark Incentive Payments**

Effective April 1, 2016, child care providers who have been awarded a Spark star rating may be eligible to receive a payment in addition to the DHS maximum rate. The additional monthly amount the provider could receive is based upon the provider’s QRIS star rating.

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<tr>
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<th>Incentive Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Star</td>
<td>$54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Star</td>
<td>$72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Star</td>
<td>$90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In order to qualify for the incentive payment, the provider must meet the following requirements:

- Be a DHS approved provider;
- Achieved and maintained a 3, 4 or 5 star Spark rating;
- Have been paid for full time care (136 hours or more) for an ERDC child;
- Not be a contracted child care provider.

Provider incentive payments can be made for each full time ERDC child per month. Changes in the provider’s star rating are effective the following month and may affect the incentive amount the provider receives. Providers can choose not to receive the incentive amount.
Eligible providers will only receive incentive payments for children currently on ERDC. Providers caring for children on JOBS and TANF subsidy will not receive incentive payments for those children.

**Example:** A Registered Family (RFM) provider is providing care in region A. The provider has achieved a Spark rating of 3 stars. The provider cares for an infant aged child full time and the family has a copay of $200.00. With the incentive payment, the provider’s pay may look like:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Pay} &= \text{Full time DHS rate} - \text{family’s copay} + \text{incentive amount} \\
 &= \$670 - \$200 + \$54 \\
&= \$524
\end{align*}
\]

**Example:** A Certified Center (CNT) provider is providing care in region B. The center has achieved a Spark rating of 5 stars. The provider cares for an infant and a toddler full time, the family has a $250 copay.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Pay} &= \text{Infant full time DHS rate} + \text{Toddler full time DHS rate} - \text{family’s copay} + \text{incentive amount for two full time children} \\
&= \$728 + \$715 - \$250 + \$180 \\
&= \$1373
\end{align*}
\]

9. **Child care need; billing for absent days**

DHS can pay for up to five days when a child is absent from care under the following circumstances:

- The provider bills for the time the child was scheduled to be in care on the absent day;
- It is the provider’s policy to bill all families for absent days.

DHS will not pay for more than five consecutive absent days of scheduled care even if it extends from one month to the next.

**Example:** A child was scheduled to be in care the last three days of October and the first three days of November. The parent stopped bringing the child and did not give the provider notice. The provider would be able to bill for the last three days of October and the first two days of November. They would not be able to bill for more than five consecutive absent days. The third of November would be the sixth consecutive absent day.
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