

\$1.00 Child Care Co-Payments for Low Income Families: Fact Sheet for HB0141

Illinois families are experiencing unprecedented financial vulnerability. Sponsored by State Representative La Shawn K Ford, the drive behind HB0141 is to get Illinois families back to work and their children back into high quality early childhood educational programs. It is the hope that all State Representatives will support the proposed \$1 Co-Pay & Sliding Payment Scale for Families Participating in the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).¹

Synopsis As Introduced (Per Amendment No. 2:) *Amends the Illinois Public Aid Code. Provides that, beginning July 1, 2023, a family eligible for child care services whose income is at or below 185% of the most recent United States Department of Health and Human Services Federal Poverty Guidelines for the applicable family size shall pay a \$1 monthly fee as a co-payment for child care services. For other families the The Illinois Department shall establish, by rule, a co-payment scale that provides for cost sharing by families that receive child care services, including parents whose only income is from assistance under this Code. The co-payment shall be based on family income and family size and may be based on other factors as appropriate. Co-payments may be waived for families whose incomes are at or below the federal poverty level.*

Guaranteeing child care subsidies/certificates for low families to provide quality early care and education for their young children, and for before and after school and summer care for children through age 12.

HB0141 ensures that no low income family pays more than 7 percent of their pay for child care.

- *Subsidies would be based on a sliding scale that takes into account income, geography, the age of children, family size, type of care and the number of children in care.*
- *Families living at or below 100% FPL would be fully subsidized.*
- *Families over 100% FPL would pay no more than 5 percent of their income*

What does HB0141 do?

Supports Families by

- Supporting our most vulnerable children by removing financial barriers for their parents to keep them enrolled in quality programs. This in turn supports:
 - Continuity of enrollment of children
 - Access to the USDA food program for families experiencing food insecurity
 - Ensures children are in a safe environment while parents are working,
- Increasing the opportunity for families to maintain self-sufficiency by providing them the opportunity to go to work without worry of unaffordable large co-pays,
- Promoting parent choice by allowing options and opportunities for low-income parents to choose a program based on cultural and linguistic fit, work schedules and quality of program instead of settling for free.
- Alleviating the existing financial burden currently at 9% of income level rates for already low income families in Illinois,
- Increasing socio-economic diversity in programs
- Ensuring equity in access for programs
- Promoting portable schooling options for families, allowing them to follow where the work is.
- Allowing the working poor to retain more take home pay to meet their mounting financial obligations

Supports Small Businesses by

- Improving student attendance and operating stability,
- Increasing the maintenance of quality care by ensuring a stable operating budget,
- Ensuring salary obligations are met and teachers in child care settings are paid timely,
- Eliminating the burden from providers who need to choose between terminating services for non-payment or the financial stability of the program.
- Putting providers on a level playing field with district schools moving the system towards equity,

¹ [Child Care Advocates United. What is the Child Care Assistance Program \(CCAP\)?](#)



- Maintains a more financially healthy early childhood industry, which is the bedrock of our economy.

Supports the State of Illinois by

- Aligning with Governor Pritzker's commitment to early childhood education,
- Improving the likelihood of Illinois families going back to work, thus improving the economy
- Recirculating the extremely modest generated revenue into other industries,
- Supporting the restoration of Illinois' economy through the strengthening of access to early childhood education for working families
- Increasing tax revenue in the state's coffers.

Act Now to Support Illinois' Children, Families, and Businesses!

- **Sign on as a co-sponsor of HB0141!**
- **Commit to a YES vote on the bill!**

To become a co-sponsor, please contact State Representative LaShawn K. Ford's Springfield Office (217) 782-5962.

Fact sheet provided by Child Care Advocates United. For more information, please contact Bria Carter at (773) 234-3579 or ccaullinois@gmail.com.