



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Family
and Community Services
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Department of Health
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May 31, 2024

Dear Valued Alaskans,

The Department of Family and Community Services (DFCS) and Department of Health (DOH) would like to extend our sincere thanks for your commitment to serving children who are in the custody of the Office of Children's Services (OCS). Your role as a foster parent truly makes a difference every day in supporting the health and safety of young Alaskans.

The Child Care Program Office (CCPO) has determined that foster children are automatically eligible for a child care subsidy at the maximum state rate. Prior to the pandemic, if a child care provider charged more than the state child care rate, foster families had to pay any additional costs to the child care provider. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Alaska received federal relief dollars to help pay for child care needs. Some of these funds were used to pay child care providers the full cost of care and foster families did not pay any additional costs for child care. However, the federal funding that was used to cover the additional costs of child care is scheduled to end on June 30, 2024.

What does this mean for Alaska's foster families?

Both DFCS and DOH acknowledge the importance of caring for Alaska's children and are reprioritizing resources to ensure that foster families do not need to pay for additional child care costs through June 30, 2025.

- CCPO and OCS will continue their partnership to provide child care subsidies for children in foster care.
- CCPO will continue to pay child care providers based on the full rates they are charging for children in OCS custody.
- Over the coming year, DOH and DFCS will continue to work to find solutions to reduce child care cost burdens on foster families. We will inform families and child care providers as updates are available.

You may still see obligations to your childcare provider for costs related to late pick up, early drop off, transportation or lunch fees. Families will still be responsible for any other child care charges that are not covered by the Child Care Assistance Program. Once again, we give our heartfelt thanks for all that you do for Alaska's children.

If you have any questions, please contact the OCS Childcare Team at 907-465-5648 or ocschildcare@alaska.gov

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kim Kovol in blue ink.

Kim Kovol
Commissioner, DFCS

Handwritten signature of Heidi Hedberg in black ink.

Heidi Hedberg
Commissioner, DOH