

**Reasons for Decision:**

**Order # AP1516-0462**

The appellant appealed the amount of child care subsidy the appellant is entitled to receive.

The appellant reported that the appellant is the parent of <reference removed> and the appellant has full custody of <reference removed>. The appellant received full child care subsidy for <reference removed> up to <date removed> when the appellant began working. The appellant's new family contribution is assessed at <amount removed> every four weeks, not including the non subsidized fee of \$2.00 per day.

The appellant stated that the appellant understands the program's income eligibility criteria, however the appellant has many other living expenses including, rent, utilities, car insurance, and child support of <reference removed> per month which the appellant pays out for <reference removed>. The appellant stated that the family contribution is too high and that the appellant cannot afford that amount based on all the other expenses.

The Department reported that the appellant was approved for subsidy in <date removed> with a zero family contribution as the appellant was in receipt of <reference removed> benefits. On <date removed> the program followed up on the status of the appellant's <reference removed> and was advised that the appellant was no longer in receipt of those benefits. On <date removed> the appellant applied for subsidy with the reason for care as employment. The appellant provided two consecutive paystubs along with verification that the appellant pays out <amount removed> a month for child support. The child support was included as an eligible deduction and the appellant's family contribution was assessed at <amount removed>. That amount was then revised to <amount removed> after including an employment disability plan deduction.

The Department indicated it cannot consider general household bills; however there is a cost of living calculation expense included in every family assessment for rent, food and utilities. The additional non subsidized fee is charged to every parent and cannot be included. The program considers expenses such as phone and car insurance as personal debts. The Department also advised that they verified if there were other exemptions for disabilities or uninsured medical costs. After carefully considering the written and verbal information, the Board has determined that the Department has properly administered the appellant's application for child care subsidy in accordance with the regulations and policies that govern the program. Eligibility was determined on the basis of the appellant's employment income and child support payment, then allowing the basic exemptions per family size. The program allowed for all reported and allowable income exemptions, therefore, the Board concurred with the Department's assessment and the appeal has been dismissed.

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