

Stretching the dollar: State changes to childcare subsidy eligibility disadvantage families ^[1]

Author: Ford, Jodi

Source: Mountain Xpress

Format: Article

Publication Date: 24 Feb 2015

AVAILABILITY

[Read Online](#) ^[2]

EXCERPTS

For working parents and their children, the child care subsidy program at Children First/CIS promotes and provides opportunities for success.

The program provides a voucher to help with the costs of early childcare, preschool and after-school learning programs for income-eligible parents who either work or attend school. This helps lower-wage parents stay in the workforce and simultaneously provides high-quality, dependable care and learning environments for their kids.

Recently, the North Carolina legislature changed the way the state determines eligibility for childcare subsidies, and thousands of low-income families across N.C., especially those with school-age children, are having to make difficult choices. The funding for nearly 12,000 school-age children will be removed, according to the N.C. General Assembly's Fiscal Research Division.

Under the old system, parents with children under 13 qualified for assistance if they earned less than 75 percent of the state median income - about \$50,244 for a family of four. The new program is now tied to the federal poverty level, so now a family of four, with children under the age of 6, can't make more than \$47,700.

And it's even stricter for children ages 6 to 12. The income for a family of four can't exceed \$31,721, which breaks down to about \$2,643 a month before taxes. The state budget also increased the copay families need to contribute to receive the subsidy to 10 percent of their monthly income.

Local nonprofit Children First/CIS created a video highlighting these changes to the childcare subsidy program, and how it has affected one working mother, Kim Akbar, who spoke at the YWCA as part of Just Economics VOICES for Economic Justice. To find out how you can advocate for low-income working families, go to www.childrenfirstcisbc.org ^[3] or click here for more information on child care subsidies.

Region: United States ^[4]

Tags: [subsidy](#) ^[5]

[funding](#) ^[6]

Source URL (modified on 27 Jan 2022): <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/child-care-news/15/02/stretching-dollar-state-changes-childcare-subsidy-eligibility>

Links

[1] <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/child-care-news/15/02/stretching-dollar-state-changes-childcare-subsidy-eligibility> ^[2]

<https://mountainx.com/opinion/stretching-the-dollar-state-changes-to-child-care-subsidy-programs-disadvantage-low-income-families/> ^[3]

<http://www.childrenfirstcisbc.org> ^[4] <https://childcarecanada.org/taxonomy/term/7865> ^[5] <https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/subsidy> ^[6]

<https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/funding>