

**Subject** Expanding eligibility for child care assistance

**Authors** Boldon and others

**Analyst** Annie Mach

**Date** March 10, 2022

## Overview

The child care assistance program is a federal-state program under which low-income families can obtain subsidies to help with the cost of child care while parents work or participate in education or training activities. This bill expands eligibility for child care assistance by providing that, at application, families with income equal to or less than 85 percent of state median income (SMI), which is \$96,001 for a family of four, are eligible for assistance. Under current law, at application, a family must have income below 47 or 67 percent of SMI to be eligible for assistance (\$53,083 and \$75,671 for a family of four). The bill provides that the required co-payment for assistance for families with income between 67 and 85 percent of SMI is 14 percent of income.

## Summary

Section	Description
---------	-------------

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | <b>General eligibility requirements.</b><br>Amends § 119B.09, subdivision 1. Increases financial eligibility for child care assistance from 47 or 67 percent of state median income (SMI) to 85 percent of SMI, adjusted for family size.   |
| 2 | <b>Fee schedule.</b><br>Amends § 119B.12, subdivision 1. Adds a category to the family co-payment schedule for child care assistance to account for the increase in eligibility for the program, providing that for families with incomes between 67 and 85 percent of SMI, the co-payment is 14 percent of income. |

*Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.*