

# Presumptive Eligibility Policy in Montana

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Presumptive eligibility for child care subsidies through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) is a policy that allows families to receive temporary child care assistance while their eligibility for the program is being determined. This means that families can get almost immediate financial assistance to pay for child care services, even as their application is being processed and verified. During this provisional period, families are allowed time to submit outstanding documents while getting access to much-needed care. Families must complete the application process to receive ongoing subsidies. Presumptive eligibility policies vary by state or jurisdiction. Currently, only four states and one county have a presumptive eligibility policy in place, so most states have a tremendous opportunity to expedite access to care for families by implementing this policy. See below to learn more about presumptive eligibility in Montana.

<p><b>How do families apply for assistance through presumptive eligibility?</b></p>	<p>Families can apply online by providing the first five pages of the application, which includes basic family information like the ages of children, who works, who goes to school, etc. Applicants must also sign the rights and responsibilities page and attest that they meet the basic eligibility criteria.</p>
<p><b>How long are families granted presumptive eligibility?</b></p>	<p>Presumptive eligibility is granted for 30 days, although if the 30<sup>th</sup> day lands in the middle of the month, the eligibility continues until the end of the month.</p>
<p><b>How long are families given to submit an application and required documentation?</b></p>	<p>Families have 30 days to finish the application before a lapse in assistance. After the 30 days, families have an additional 30 days to finish the application, but they will not have access to child care assistance from the 30<sup>th</sup> to the 60<sup>th</sup> day. They have the extra 30 days to turn in any missing documents, but after 60 days, they would have to start the application process over again.</p>
<p><b>Are families required to have a child care provider selected to apply for presumptive eligibility?</b></p>	<p>Yes, families must have a provider selected so the state can authorize the child care subsidy and subsequent payment.</p>
<p><b>How does the state determine the level of support?</b></p>	<p>The level of support is based on reported income and household size to determine the copay and level of support. All families' copayments are currently \$10/month, thanks to Montana's use of COVID relief funds. However, that will eventually end once relief funding runs out.</p>
<p><b>What happens if families do not complete the verification process?</b></p>	<p>Families would receive a denial letter after the period ends. There is no transition period for families.</p>
<p><b>How are families and providers notified about the status of presumptive eligibility?</b></p>	<p>A denial letter goes to the family or head of household describing why they are not eligible. A closure notice goes to the provider, but it doesn't contain any information about why the family was denied.</p>