

Policy Transmittal Office of Self-Sufficiency Programs



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Manager, Child Care Policy

Authorized signature

Number: SS-PT-21-017
Issue date: 07/15/2021

Topic: Child Care

Due date: 07/15/2021

Transmitting (check the box that best applies):

- New policy
 Policy change
 Policy clarification
 Executive letter
 Administrative Rule
 Manual update
 Other:

Applies to (check all that apply):

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging: Type B | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aging and People with Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Self Sufficiency Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children’s Intensive In Home Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD program managers | <input type="checkbox"/> Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support Service Brokerage Directors | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): Direct Pay Unit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children’s Residential Services | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Welfare Programs | |

Policy/rule title:	ERDC policy changes including: expanded absent day policy, increased high needs rate, telephonic applications, provider prepayment, increased income limit ending, and changes to copays		
Policy/rule number(s):	OAR 461-135-0440 Temporary Policies for Child Care Benefit Eligibility and Payment (ERDC and TANF), OAR 461-155-0151 High Special Needs; Child Care OAR 461-155-0150 Child Care Eligibility Standard, Payment Rates, and Copayments, OAR 461-165-0160 Direct Provider Payments; General Information	Release number:	

Effective date:	07/01/2021	Expiration date:	N/A
References:			
Web address:	https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/caf/arm/A/461-135-0440.htm https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/caf/arm/B/461-155-0151.htm https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/caf/arm/B/461-155-0150.htm https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/caf/arm/B/461-165-0160.htm		

Discussion/interpretation:

ODHS put into place many temporary child care policies to help families and providers during the COVID-19 pandemic. This transmittal is being sent to provide policy updates as the state of emergency comes to an end.

1. Expanded Absent Day policy - effective 7/1/2021

ODHS expanded the absent day policy for approved child care providers. Effective July 1, 2021, the permanent policy change will allow providers to bill for unlimited absent days per month (up to 31). Providers can bill an absent day when a child was scheduled to be in care, and it is the provider's policy to bill all families for absent days. Previously, absent days were limited to five days a month.

2. High Needs Rate increase – effective 7/1/2021

ODHS has received additional funding which has been designated to increase the amount paid for providers caring for children with high needs and enrolled with Inclusive Partners.

Effective for care provided beginning July 1, 2021, the high needs maximum hourly rate increased to \$10.00 with a new maximum monthly rate of \$1680. This rate is determined by Inclusive Partners after an assessment of the child in care and varies depending on the number of hours of care provided. This doubles the previous high needs rate.

3. Telephonic Applications - made permanent 7/1/2021

Telephonic signatures for ERDC benefits were allowed under the temporary COVID-19 rule. This policy became permanent effective July 1, 2021, so that families can continue to apply for ERDC over the phone with a recorded signature through the ONE eligibility system.

4. Child Care Provider Prepayment - effective 8/1/2021

Beginning August 1, 2021, a provider caring for an eligible child in the TANF or ERDC programs may submit their billing form at the beginning of the month. Providers will be able to bill in advance for hours the child is scheduled to be in their care for the month.

ODHS is making this change to make it easier for families receiving child care assistance to find and keep child care as well as to help providers who typically charge for child care based on enrollment rather than attendance.

Beginning July 1, 2021, a parent signature is not required on child care billing forms.

5. Increased Income limits - ending 9/30/2021

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, effective March 1, 2020, ODHS had increased ERDC initial income limits up to the ongoing and exit limit amount (250 percent FPL or 85 percent SMI, whichever is higher). ERDC eligibility being allowed under the exit limit ends September 30, 2021. This means for benefits effective October 1, 2021, the ERDC initial income limits return to 185 percent FPL.

6. Changes to copays for benefits beginning 10/01/2021

As a reminder, \$0 copays for ERDC families will be ending September 30, 2021.

A new ERDC copay structure is planned to begin October 1, 2021. Copays will be more affordable for families. This means family copay amounts will not be going back to the high copays the ERDC program had prior to the pandemic.

Families applying or recertifying for October ERDC benefits will receive the new lower copay amounts. Families who are already receiving ERDC benefits and qualified for a \$0 copay will continue to receive the \$0 copay through the end of their certification. More information on the copay restructure will be released soon.

Implementation/transition instructions:

Staff should follow usual processes when authorizing ERDC for families in the ONE system.

- The ONE system will allow families a \$0 copay through their certification period when certifying or recertifying for ERDC benefits effective September 30, 2021, or earlier.
- The ONE system will assign families the new lower copayments under the copay restructure when families are recertifying or applying for benefits effective

October 1, 2021, or later. This means families whose benefits begin October 1 or later will be assigned a copay even if the action is taken in September.

Training/communication plan:

Guidance is being shared with partners, stakeholders, families and providers.

The ODHS Child Care Assistance website will be updated.

Providers and parents/caretakers may contact DPU with questions at 800-699-9074, or:

- For general questions, email Customerservice.dpu@dhsosha.state.or.us
- For submission of billing forms and Child Care Provider Listing forms, email DPU.childcarebilling@dhsosha.state.or.us

ODHS field staff should email policy-related questions to ChildCare.Policy@dhsosha.state.or.us.

Local/branch action required: N/A

Central office action required: These rules (OAR) were amended: [461-135-0440](#), [461-155-0150](#), [461-155-0151](#), [461-165-0160](#).

Field/stakeholder review: Yes No

If yes, reviewed by:

Filing instructions:

If you have any questions about this policy, contact:

Contact(s): Child Care Policy	
Phone:	Fax:
Email: ChildCare.Policy@dhsosha.state.or.us	