



Provider Newsletter

DECEMBER 2009

Market Rate Survey & Proposed Child Care Assistance Rates

The Alaska Department of Health & Social Service, Division of Public Assistance has published the 2009 Child Care Market Rate Survey. You can view the survey at the state of Alaska, Division of Public Assistance, Child Care Program Office website: <http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dpa/programs/ccare/>

The family support act of 1988 stipulated that state child care assistance rates be driven by market rates, (i.e. by the price of child care services in the market.) Moreover, the passage of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA) in 1996 required states to survey their child care markets at least once every two years. Based on the 2007 Alaska Market Rate Survey, the Child Care Program Office raised state subsidy rates for Child Care Assistance to the 50th percentile for licensed child care, effective September 1, 2008.

In accordance with the PRWORA federal regula-

tions, the Alaska Department of Health & Social Services, Division of Public Assistance conducted its most recent market rate survey during the months of December 2008 and January 2009.

These findings will be used in evaluating the state subsidy rate for Child Care Assistance.

Response rates in Juneau and Southeast Alaska for the 2009 Child Care Market Rate Survey were: Juneau, out of the 45 licensed child care providers, 29 or 64% responded to the market rate survey. Southeast, out of the 47 licensed child care providers, 38 or 81% responded to the market rate survey. Thanks to everyone that participated in this very important survey!

After reviewing the findings of the 2009 Market Rate Survey, the Child Care

Program Office has proposed a child care assistance rate increase effective February 1, 2010! The proposed rate schedule is attached to this newsletter for your reference.

Based upon the results of the survey and to promote access to infant and toddler care, the Department proposes to increase rates for infant and toddler

care to the 75th percentile. Additionally, subsidy rates for preschool and school age care if not reflected by the survey as being at the 50th percentile was brought to the 50th percentile to align with the September 2008 rate increase.

Not every category for every area experienced an increase. If when the formula was applied to reflect the 50th or the 75th percentile based on the age group and region, the outcome remained the same or a decrease resulted, the rate remains at the previ-



Child Care Assistance Program

Call us: 907-463-6184
Or toll-free:
1-800-505-6124
We are here to help!

Points of Interest:

- ☺ Market Rate Survey
- ☺ Proposed Child Care Assistance Rates
- ☺ Child Care Grant Program
- ☺ Electronic Payment Inquiry



Please share this article with your Child Care Assistance Program clients!

Flip the page to read the remainder of this story ➡

Market Rate Survey & Proposed Child Care Assistance Rates Continued...

ously published rate.

You may comment on the proposed regulation changes, including the potential costs to private persons of complying with the proposed changes, by submitting written comments to:

Laurel Young, Division of Public Assistance, Child Care Program Office
619 E. Ship Creek Avenue, Suite 230
Anchorage, AK 99501-1677

Email: laurel.young@alaska.gov

Comments must be received **no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 28, 2009.**

If you are a person with a disability who needs a special accommodation in

order to participate in this process, please contact Laurel Young at the address above or by phone at (907) 269-4669 or toll-free 1-888-268-4632 no later than December 21, 2009 to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

For a copy of the proposed regulation changes, contact Laurel Young at the address above or go to the Department of Health and Social Services public notice website at:

<http://www.hss.state.ak.us/apps/publicnotice/>

You can also provide your comments online at the above listed website. In the status box select: Out for Public

Comment. In the division box select: Public Assistance. In the project box you can type in child care assistance rates. After the page refreshes, follow the [details](#) link to provide your comments.

After the public comment period ends, the Department of Health and Social Services will either adopt these or other provisions dealing with the same subject, without further notice, or decide to take no action on them. The language of the final regulations may be different from that of the proposed regulations. Please comment during the time allowed if your interests could be affected. .

Child Care Grant Program

Did you know there are grant funds available to providers who possess a license to operate a child care facility in the state of Alaska issued by the Department of Health & Social Services? The purpose of the child care grant is to enhance the quality of child care in Alaska by supporting licensed child care providers with monthly cash grants to supplement their program. Grant funds may only

be spent on items or in areas that are intended to increase the quality of

child care. These include:

- Staff salaries, wages & benefits
- Costs for substitute care providers
- Facility upgrades
- Health & safety related items
- Supplies, equipment and activities for the children in care
- Education and training related to child development

Providers must also participate as an eligible provider in the child care assistance program to be eligible for the grant.

If you are a licensed provider or facility and are interested in the Child Care Grant Program, please contact the child care program office: 1-888-268-4632 or via email at ccpo@alaska.gov .

Grant funds may only be spent on items or in areas that are intended to increase the quality of child care

Electronic Payment Inquiry

Many providers have signed up to have their child care assistance (CCA) payments directly deposited into their bank accounts. You can view CCA and other state of Alaska direct deposit payments (such as Child Care Grant and Food Program payments) by visiting this web address:

<http://fin.admin.state.ak.us/aapvis/index.jsp> After you get to the website,

click on the Enter Payment Inquiry button. A new page will open where you can enter your AK-SAS Vendor Number (or PVN.) Once you've entered your PVN click the view payments button. A list of payment dates and amounts will appear.



Click on the payment date to find out your warrant and reference information (it's that easy!)

If you do not know your PVN, please contact the child care assistance program and we will give the number to you. .