



Alternative Payment Program

Children learning, parents earning, communities growing!

May 10th, 2023

Fiscal Year 2022-23 Program Update #11- Notification of the Expiration of COVID-19 Policies

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has provided guidance to Alternative Payment Programs to resume pre-COVID-19 policies effective July 1, 2023.

This notice is to inform child care providers and parents that the temporary COVID-19 policies that have been in effect since March 2020 are set to **expire June 30, 2023**.

Policies Expiring June 30, 2023

Reimbursement Based on Maximum Certified Need Regardless of Attendance

Reimbursement based on maximum certified need regardless of attendance expires June 30, 2023. This means those families who are authorized:

- A **variable child care schedule** will resume having their child care reimbursed based on actual care used. Only the time that a child is in child care can be reimbursed and absences may not be reimbursed for children with variable schedules.
- With a **license-exempt** family, friend, or Neighbor (FFN) provider or a **licensed child care provider** who does not have contractual terms on file with CDA requiring reimbursement for absences will resume having their child care reimbursed based on actual care used. Only the time that a child is in child care can be reimbursed and absences may not be reimbursed.

16 Additional Paid Non-operational Days for COVID-19 Related Closures

The 16 additional paid non-operational days for COVID-19 related closures expire June 30, 2023. This means effective July 1, 2023 child care providers will no longer be eligible to be reimbursed for non-operational days for COVID-19 related closures.

Providers are still eligible for 10 paid non-operational days when they have contractual terms on file with CDA that require payment from non-subsidized families for non-operational days. Non-operational days are days the provider is closed due to holiday, vacation or other reason, and requires payment from non-subsidized and subsidized children.

Family Fee Waivers

Family Fee Waivers will expire June 30, 2023. This means effective July 1, 2023, families who have been assessed a family fee are required to begin paying their family fee to their child care provider on the first of each month.



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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why are these policies expiring?

The laws that allowed for these policies were in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and written to end June 30, 2023. At this time, while some new legislation is being considered, it is not final and CDSS has instructed Alternative Payment Programs to notify parents and child care providers the COVID-19 waivers are expiring to allow families and providers ample notice. If any new laws are enacted that impact family fees or how child care providers are reimbursed, CDA will issue a new notification.

What does it mean to reimburse actual care only?

Reimbursing for actual care means CDA can only pay for the time a child is in care and any absences cannot be considered for reimbursement. This could result in a reduced reimbursement amount to a provider and/or a larger co-payment for a parent. If your schedule has changed or you feel that your schedule is now set, please contact your Child Care Eligibility Specialist (CES) to voluntarily request a schedule change.

Who is impacted by the actual care only policy?

Reimbursing for actual care impacts all families with a variable child care schedule. In addition, license-exempt family, friend, or neighbor (FFN) providers and licensed providers who do not have contractual terms on file with CDA that required payment of absences for non-subsidized children will be reimbursed for actual care only effective July 1, 2023.

Who can I contact about extending the family fee waivers?

CDA does not have the authority to extend the family fee waivers. Family fee waivers were determined by California State Legislators. If you wish to speak to someone about extending the family fee waivers, you may consider contacting your elected official. Visit this [link](#), to find your elected official.

How do I know how much my family fee is?

Your current family fee can be found on your most recent Notice of Action (NOA) and Certificate for Child Care Services (Addendum to Parent's Notice of Action) and will be printed on the Attendance Record beginning with July 2023. If you feel that there has been a change in your income resulting in a change in family fee, please contact your Child Care Eligibility Specialist (CES) to voluntarily request an update to your income and family fee assessment.