

Eligibility Requirements for State Child Care Subsidy, Waitlist Reduction Initiative Subsidy, and Smart Start of Mecklenburg County

- State Child Care Subsidy serves children ages birth through 12
- Mecklenburg County Waitlist Reduction Initiative Subsidy and Smart Start of Mecklenburg County Subsidy serve children ages birth through pre-kindergarten 5

To be determined eligible for child care subsidy, the child's parent/responsible adult must have current documentation that they are:

- A resident of Mecklenburg County
- Employed an average of 30+ hours per week AND have current check stubs to document employment and income; OR
- In school 20 hours per week AND have a school schedule that documents this; OR
- Working and in school a combination of at least 30 hours per week AND have current check stubs to document employment, income, and school schedule; AND
- For families with children ages birth to 5, family income cannot exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- For families with children ages 5 through 12, family income cannot exceed 133% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- Families remain income eligible for these subsidy programs until their income exceeds 85% of the State Median Income.

Please see the next page for initial income eligibility limits.

If you don't meet the above guidelines, you may be eligible for the Expanded Eligibility for Working Families (EEWF) Subsidy Program.

Initial Income Eligibility Limits
State, Smart Start of Mecklenburg County &
Mecklenburg County Waitlist Reduction Initiative Child Care Subsidy

Maximum Gross Monthly Income Eligibility Limits and Fee Percentages for Subsidized Child Care Service
Effective July 1, 2025

200% Federal Poverty Level
(Children ages 0-5 and children ages 6-12 with documented special needs)

Parent Co-Payment	10%											
Family Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Maximum Gross Monthly Income	\$2,608	\$3,525	\$4,442	\$5,358	\$6,275	\$7,192	\$8,108	\$9,025	\$9,927	\$10,858	\$11,775	\$12,692

133% Federal Poverty Level
(Children ages 6-12)

Parent Co-Payment	10%											
Family Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Maximum Gross Monthly Income	\$1,735	\$2,344	\$2,954	\$3,563	\$4,173	\$4,782	\$5,392	\$6,002	\$6,601	\$7,221	\$7,830	\$8,440

To compute eligibility, multiply the gross family income by the following:

4.3 if paid weekly
2.15 if paid bi-weekly
2 if paid twice per month

Families currently enrolled in any of these programs whose income increases to 85% of State Median Income are eligible for the EEWf Subsidy Program until their income reaches 300% of the Federal Poverty Level.