

## **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.**

**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