

REFERENCE TITLE: **child care assistance; rates**

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-fourth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2020

HB 2520

Introduced by
Representatives Lieberman: Blanc, Butler, Cano, Chávez, Jermaine, Longdon,
Powers Hannley, Senators Alston, Bradley

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 46-805, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 46-805, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 46-805. Child care assistance; rates; definitions

5 A. The department shall establish payment rates for child care
6 assistance. Payment rates shall provide for equal access for eligible
7 families to comparable child care services provided to families who are
8 not eligible to receive child care assistance.

9 B. Payment rates shall be identical in form for all child care
10 assistance.

11 C. The department may pay different levels of child care assistance
12 according to the category of child care provider, age of children,
13 geographic area, level of national accreditation or another state-approved
14 quality indicator, varying child care costs for children with special
15 needs or other circumstances to meet the child care needs of eligible
16 families.

17 D. Each federal fiscal year, the department shall pay at least
18 thirty-three percent of quality set-aside monies for tiered reimbursement
19 of child care providers that meet the quality standard.

20 E. THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022, IN ADDITION TO THE TIERED
21 REIMBURSEMENT PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION D OF THIS SECTION, THE REIMBURSEMENT
22 RATE IS INCREASED BY AN ADDITIONAL TWENTY PERCENT FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER
23 CARE PURSUANT TO TITLE 8, CHAPTER 4 WHO ARE SERVED BY A CHILD CARE
24 PROVIDER THAT HAS A QUALITY RATING AT A LEVEL OF THREE OR HIGHER FROM THE
25 ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH BOARD ESTABLISHED BY TITLE
26 8, CHAPTER 13, ARTICLE 5.

27 ~~F.~~ F. The department shall establish a sliding fee scale and
28 formula for determining child care assistance based on:

29 1. Income and earnings of the family.

30 2. Family size.

31 3. Number of children receiving child care assistance.

32 4. Child support to other minor dependent children of the parent
33 living outside the family unit.

34 5. Income and earnings of a family member who is at least eighteen
35 years of age and who is residing in the home with a parent who is
36 receiving child care assistance, if the family member claims any member of
37 a family unit applying for assistance as a dependent on a federal or state
38 income tax return.

39 6. Income and earnings of a nonfamily member who is at least
40 eighteen years of age and who is residing in the home of and cohabiting
41 with a parent who is receiving child care assistance if the cohabiting
42 nonfamily member claims any member of a family unit applying for
43 assistance as a dependent on a federal or state income tax return.

44 7. Other factors of a similar nature.

1 ~~F.~~ G. The department shall annually review and adjust the sliding
2 fee scale and formula for determining child care assistance pursuant to
3 subsection D of this section and section 46-803.

4 ~~G.~~ H. The department shall post on the department's website the
5 payment rates and the most current sliding fee scale and formula for
6 determining child care assistance established pursuant to this section.

7 ~~H.~~ I. All child care providers shall remain in good standing with
8 licensing and certification laws and adopted rules.

9 ~~I.~~ J. For the purposes of this section:

10 1. "Quality set-aside monies" means the total amount of federal
11 child care and development fund monies that must be used for activities
12 that do one or more of the following:

13 (a) Improve the quality of child care services.

14 (b) Increase parental options for and access to high quality child
15 care.

16 (c) Relate to the quality of care for infants and toddlers.

17 2. "Quality standard" means accreditation from a national
18 organization or a state-approved quality indicator that is recognized by
19 the department.

20 3. "Tiered reimbursement" means a child care assistance system that
21 is offered by the department and that provides higher payments for child
22 care services that meet higher quality standards.