

Department Response to Legislative Council Comments

Payments under the Child Care Subsidy Program

Chapter DCF 201/CR17-033

All comments were accepted, except the following:

1. b. The department considers it necessary to effectuate the purpose of the statute to limit the use of subsidy dollars authorized for child care by an out-of-state provider to care by providers in Michigan, Illinois, Iowa, or Minnesota. The amount of a subsidy payment is based in part on hours authorized to allow a parent to travel from the site of the child care provider to the site of the parent's approved activity and back to the child care provider. The department interprets the statute to include an expectation that the department be good stewards of public funds and not authorize payment for a Wisconsin parent's daily travel to and from a child care provider in a distant state.
1. c. The phrase "person legally responsible under s. 49.90, Stats.," has been removed from DCF 201.039 (6) since these persons would already be included in the definition of parent in s. 49.155 (1) (c), Stats. The department does not agree that there is a statutory authority problem.
2. c. The department prefers a broad definition of "child care administrative agency." Section 49.155 (1) (ah), Stats., authorizes the department to contract with any agency to administer the child care subsidy program.
2. f. Chapter DCF 201 applies to the "child care subsidy program" as defined in s. DCF 201.02 (6m). Some child care funds under s. 49.155 (3m), Stats., are distributed through grants or contract and are not governed by ch. DCF 201.
2. n. The remaining paragraphs in s. DCF 201.04 (5) have titles in the existing rule.
4. b. The department has added a note to explain the need for the requirement.
5. f. The specified subdivision includes all licensed providers.