

Illinois CCAP Co-Payment Changes from 2014 to 2021 by Family Size and Family Income

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The Illinois Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) assists families experiencing low incomes with securing affordable child care. Responsibility for paying providers the CCAP payment rate, sometimes referred to as the reimbursement rate, is shared between the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) and the CCAP-receiving family. All CCAP families are assessed a “co-payment,” based on a family’s gross monthly income and family size. The amount of the co-payment is deducted from the total charges paid to a provider up to the maximum child care rate authorized by the State. In the even that a co-payment is assessed to be higher than the amount that a child care provider charges for care, the parent is responsible for the lesser amount and the state does not make a payment to the provider. For families with more than one subsidized provider, only one provider collects a co-payment from a family.

The payment rate and the co-payment rate have fluctuated historically due to legislative actions and executive order. Since [July 1, 2021](#), however, co-payment rates have been permanently capped at 7% of family income, and families with incomes at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Limit (FPL) pay only \$1 per month. In this memo, we provide a detailed historical table and summarize trends in the Illinois co-payment rates for CCAP by family size (2, 3, & 4 members) and income (50%, 100%, 150%, and 185/200% FPL) between 2014 and 2021 (see **Table 1**). This analysis shows how much and when co-payment rates have changed during this seven-year period and for which years and which families the co-payment responsibility might have been most significant. The analysis also provides the overall percentage point change—from 2014-2021—for each group.ⁱⁱ

Overall, all co-payment rates exhibit negative trends from 2014 to 2021, indicating a reduced financial child care burden for families on CCAP. The most significant fluctuations are observed among economically better off CCAP families, specifically those at 185/200% of FPL. Across all family sizes at 185/200% FPL, the co-payment rate decreased by 3.22 percentage points, declining from 10.40% of family income in 2014 to 7.18% in 2018. Notably, in 2021, these rates become lower than the rates for families with incomes at only 150% of the FPL.

For the three higher income groups at 100%, 150%, and 185/200% of the FPL, there is a consistent pattern of co-payment rates for families with all sizes decreasing from 2014 to 2015, followed by an increase in 2016. Subsequently, from 2016 to 2019, these rates remain relatively stable. Then, from 2020, the rates decrease, with the highest income group experiencing the most substantial decline.

Co-payment rates for families with an income at 50% of the FPL exhibit relatively stable trends with minor fluctuations compared to those for families with higher incomes. The Box Insert offers a detailed summary of the trends for this group as an illustrative guide to interpreting Table 1.

Box Insert: Co-Payment Rate Trends (2014-2021) for Families with Income at 50% of the FPL

For a family of 2, the co-payment rate at 50% of FPL reached its highest point at 0.58% of family income in 2014, representing the peak for this specific family size during the observation period. Subsequently, the rate consistently decreased, reaching 0.52% of family income in 2021, reflecting an overall decline of 0.06 percentage points from 2014 to 2021.

For a family of 3, the co-payment rate at 50% of FPL peaked at 0.46% of family income in 2014, remaining stable until 2017. It then experienced a decline in 2018 to 0.39% of family income, followed by an increase to 0.43% in 2019, ultimately dropping by 0.01 percentage points in the subsequent two years. The rate in 2021 stands at 0.41% of family income, reflecting an overall decline of 0.05 percentage points from 2014 to 2021.

For a family of 4, the co-payment rate at 50% of FPL was 0.38% in 2014. Similar to the trend observed for a family of 3, the rate declined in 2018 and increased again in 2019, followed by another decrease to 0.34% in 2021, reflecting an overall decline of 0.05 percentage points from 2014 to 2021.

TABLE 1 Percent of monthly income that a family of 2, 3, and 4 pay at 50%, 100%, 150%, and 185-200% Federal Poverty Line (FPL)									
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Percentage Point Change 2014-21
FPL for Family of 2									
50%	0.58%	0.57%	0.56%	0.56%	0.55%	0.55%	0.53%	0.52%	-0.06
100%	4.40%	3.90%	4.40%	4.41%	4.43%	4.45%	4.33%	4.25%	-0.15
150%	8.10%	7.00%	8.10%	8.07%	8.07%	8.06%	7.85%	7.25%	-0.85
185/200%	10.40%	9.20%	10.50%	10.44%	10.42%	10.45%	9.22%	7.18%	-3.22
FPL for Family of 3									
50%	0.46%	0.45%	0.45%	0.45%	0.39%	0.43%	0.42%	0.41%	-0.05
100%	4.40%	3.90%	4.40%	4.43%	4.20%	4.36%	4.31%	4.29%	-0.11
150%	8.10%	7.10%	8.10%	8.07%	7.78%	7.91%	7.83%	7.26%	-0.84
185/200%	10.40%	9.30%	10.40%	10.45%	10.30%	10.26%	9.23%	7.18%	-3.22
FPL for Family of 4									
50%	0.38%	0.38%	0.37%	0.37%	0.33%	0.36%	0.35%	0.34%	-0.04
100%	4.40%	3.90%	4.40%	4.39%	4.16%	4.30%	4.29%	4.27%	-0.13
150%	8.00%	7.10%	8.10%	8.04%	7.77%	7.88%	7.85%	7.26%	-0.74
185/200%	10.40%	9.20%	10.40%	10.45%	10.29%	10.22%	9.24%	7.18%	-3.22
<p>Table Notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The rates are calculated at the low end of the range. These percentages therefore reflect the highest possible percentage of income paid (i.e., the maximum co-payment burden) within each FPL category. - For 2018 data, only October fiscal year is available. - From 2020, the rates are observed for family income of 200% FPL instead of 185%. - During the Covid Pandemic period, families sometimes faced exceptions to these co-payment rate obligations. The reported rates do not reflect these temporary and variable changes. 									

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ⁱⁱ Since 2021, IDHS has made other important changes to child care and early education programs including raising the CCAP income eligibility limit and launching several new child care grant initiatives for providers who serve CCAP families.