

Morrow County Job & Family Services may be able to help residents afford quality child care.

Morrow County Job & Family Services currently offers a program in which residents may qualify for assistance in paying child care costs. The program works much the way health insurance works for physician visits. The Agency will calculate a family's gross monthly income, and then a monthly copayment will be established if the family is eligible. The eligible family will then be responsible only for the monthly copayment, while the provider will bill the Agency for the remainder.

To be eligible, a family must have need for child care services. Parents are required to be employed, attend school or a combination of both. Parents will be required to provide proof of all income and if applicable a current school schedule.

Income guidelines for child care assistance have increased beginning July 1, 2008. For example, a family of four can earn a maximum of \$3,354.00 per month to become eligible for this program.

The monthly copayment was also adjusted beginning July 1, 2008. A family of four with a gross monthly income of \$2,500.00 would be responsible for a monthly copayment of about \$224.00. With child care centers in Morrow County charging a minimum of \$100.00 per full time week for each child, this could amount to a monthly savings of \$576.00 for this family of four.

Morrow County Job & Family Services currently contracts with many different providers, not just in Morrow County, but in surrounding areas as well. Currently, MCJFS contracts with 33 Type B Child Care Providers and 4 child care centers in Morrow County alone.

Type B Child Care Providers complete a rigorous application process with Morrow County Job and Family Services. This application process includes a background check for the provider and all adults residing in the home, training, references, a medical physical as well as a home inspection by Agency staff.

Child care centers must be licensed through the State of Ohio. Licensed child care centers must also have background checks, fire inspections, specialized training as well as numerous inspections completed by the State.

If you are interested in receiving help in paying for quality child care, please contact the Morrow County Job and Family Services at 419-947-9111 or you can visit us on the web at morrowjfs.com.