



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

**PHILIP D. MURPHY**  
*Governor*

**SHEILA Y. OLIVER**  
*Lt. Governor*

**SARAH ADELMAN**  
*Acting Commissioner*

**NATASHA JOHNSON**  
*Assistant Commissioner*

November 16, 2021

Dear Family Child Care Providers, Approved Homes and Family Friend and Neighbor Providers:

You recently received a notice from the Department of Human Services regarding rate increases for child care centers and copayments. This notice was NOT intended to announce a rate increase for Family Child Care Providers, Approved Homes and Family Friend and Neighbor Providers, and we apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

Because of the confusion around the notice, we would like to explain a little more about the information that was contained in that notice and the attached updated maximum child care payment rate chart (including the temporary COVID-19 Family Differential Payments).

Most importantly, we want to make sure you all understand that the rates depicted in the updated maximum child care payment rate chart do NOT reflect any changes to your current rate schedule. In fact, they reflect those rates that each of you are currently receiving, inclusive of the temporary COVID-19 Family Differential Payments that you have been receiving since September 2020. By way of example, a Registered Family Child Care Home reflects of a monthly payment for infants of \$970.28. This payment represents the sum of the applicable subsidy rate (670.28) plus the temporary COVID-19 Family Differential Payment (\$300). So as to avoid any confusion going forward, we are providing you with an updated rate sheet showing the applicable child care rates with and without the COVID-19 Family Differential Payment so that that you can see your current rate and your rate with current temporary COVID-19 Family Differential Payment.

The notice also included information about the waiving of copayments or copays for parents. The waiving of copays went into effect on November 1, 2021. What that means for you is that until October 2023, you no longer need to collect copays from the parents you have contracts with, rather the Department of Human Services will include your parents' copays in your bi-weekly payment. In other words, the entire rate will be paid by the Department of Human Services – you will NOT be losing any money.

As you know, the Department of Human Services is currently in active negotiations with the Child Care Workers Union, who is negotiating a new contract on your behalf. When those negotiations are completed, the resulting Memorandum of Understanding, including any negotiated rate changes, will be provided to you by the Child Care Workers Union, along with any other tentative agreements reached between the parties.

We hope this additional information clears up any confusion relating to the prior Notice. If you have additional questions, please reach out your Child Care Resource and Referral Agency.