



## **Everything school/childcare for your foster child**

Foster children automatically qualify for childcare benefits regardless of family income if there is need. DHHS defines “need” as both foster parents working, attending school, or job training. Sometimes graduate programs and certain job trainings do not qualify. It is best to double check with your licensing worker to make sure.

Applying for childcare benefits can be confusing especially if you have never had to apply for benefits before. Check out this link that gives a helpful step by step guide on applying for childcare benefits:

[http://136.181.3.34/CBT/CDC for Children in Foster Care Walkthrough/presentation html5.html](http://136.181.3.34/CBT/CDC%20for%20Children%20in%20Foster%20Care%20Walkthrough/presentation%20html5.html)

To apply for benefits, access an online application through MiBridges:

[https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71547\\_73804---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71547_73804---,00.html)

One tip navigators would encourage you to do when applying to help move the process along is to indicate the application is for a foster child and even documenting in the notes section that says *"We automatically qualify for childcare because the application is for a foster child and qualification is not based on income but on need."*

Payments to the childcare provider are retro-active. It is best to apply for childcare as soon as you have a child placed with you, so they are able to approve it ASAP. DHHS has up to 30 days to respond to your application once it is completed and submitted. Once approved, payments will be paid directly to your childcare provider (this includes any back payments).

You will also need to submit a provider verification in order for the provider to receive payments.

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dhs/DHS-4025\\_297108\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dhs/DHS-4025_297108_7.pdf)

If you need help in finding a childcare provider you can check out: <https://www.greatstarttoquality.org/>

Your navigator would also be happy to help you find quality childcare and assist you with your application.

Make sure when selecting a daycare that you discuss any costs with the childcare provider up front. The higher the provider is rated the more DHHS will pay out. Most likely you will still have a co pay that you will be required to pay out of pocket on a weekly or monthly basis. Some providers will work with you until payments kick in and others will ask you to pay the full amount up front.

### **Other helpful resources:**

<https://www.childadvocates.net/8-ways-help-foster-children-school/>

<https://plummeryouthpromise.org/helping-your-foster-child-make-the-grade-in-a-new-school/>

<https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/special-services/ieps/navigating-iep-meetings>

**If you don't currently have a navigator and are interested in services please call 1-855-MICKIDS(642-4543)**