

Parental Portion

Extra Care for Children with Disabilities, the childcare service on the Aged and Disabled (AD) Waiver, provides the specialized care needed for waiver participants ages 17 years and under.

The parent(s) or guardian is responsible for paying routine childcare costs directly to the provider as their parental portion of the fees. The AD Waiver does not provide routine childcare but does cover the additional cost of care for the participant's physical, medical, or personal care needs due to their disability.

Routine childcare rates are determined based on the Nebraska Child Care Subsidy Program and the results of the Nebraska Child Care Market Rate Survey.

The Nebraska Child Care Market Rate Survey is available on the Nebraska DHHS website:
<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Market-Rate-Survey.aspx>.

Key Points

- Parents are responsible for the cost of routine childcare.
- The AD Waiver pays for needed extra care.
- The routine childcare rate is determined from the current Nebraska Childcare Market Rate Survey.

Parental Portion Rates – Effective 7/1/2026

	Infant		Toddler		Preschool		School Age	
	Hourly Rate	Daily Rate* (5+ hours)	Hourly Rate	Daily Rate* (5+ hours)	Hourly Rate	Daily Rate* (5+ hours)	Hourly Rate	Daily Rate* (5+ hours)
All Counties								
Licensed Family Child Care Homes I and II	\$6.88	\$40.43	\$6.83	\$38.33	\$6.82	\$38.33	\$6.83	\$36.23
Licensed Child Care Centers	\$10.45	\$58.75	\$8.84	\$53.33	\$8.40	\$49.35	\$7.70	\$44.38
License Exempt Family Child Care Homes	\$9.35	\$15.70	\$9.35	\$15.70	\$9.35	\$15.70	\$9.35	\$15.70
All Counties Group Rate – 2 Children								
License Exempt Family Child Care Homes	\$4.68	\$7.85	\$4.68	\$7.85	\$4.68	\$7.85	\$4.68	\$7.85
All Counties Group Rate – 3 Children								
License Exempt Family Child Care Homes	\$1.54	\$2.59	\$1.54	\$2.59	\$1.54	\$2.59	\$1.54	\$2.59
All Counties								
License Exempt Family In-Home Provider	\$3.38	N/A**	\$3.38	N/A**	\$3.38	N/A**	\$3.38	N/A**

*Daily rate is 5+ hours per day, which is an update from previous years and aligns with Child Care Subsidy daily rates.

**In-Home is billed by the hour only.

Child's Age

Infant	Birth to 18 months
Toddler	18 to 36 months
Preschool	36 months to Kindergarten
School Age	Kindergarten to age 12 years
Teenager	13 – 17 years: <i>No parental portion; childcare for ages 13 years and over is not routine.</i>

Provider Type

Independent Provider	Licensed Exempt Family Child Care Home rate.
Licensed Provider	Rate based on type of license.
Agency Provider	Licensed Child Care Center rate.

In Nebraska, anyone who provides childcare to four or more children from different families must be licensed as a childcare provider.

The routine childcare rates, or parental portion are set at the 75th percentile of the current Market Rate Survey through June 30, 2025, as outlined in Legislative Bill (LB) 1011. Rates cannot exceed the 75th percentile, per Nebraska Revised State Statute § 43-536.

Nebraska Child Care Market Rate Survey

This survey gathers data from all licensed childcare providers in Nebraska to determine private pay childcare rates for children with or without medical and behavioral needs.

The 2025 survey met the required state and federal benchmarks: (a) includes the priced child care market; (b) provides complete and current data; (c) represents geographic variations; (d) uses rigorous data collection procedures; and (e) analyzes data in a manner that captures market differences as a function of age group, provider type, and geographic location.

Applicable Statutes and Regulations

Title 480 of the Nebraska Administrative Code 4-003.05(A)

Rates for Extra Child Care for Children with Disabilities are set by the Department. The parent or primary caregiver of the child is responsible for the cost of routine child care. That amount is determined by the provider rates published by the Child Care Subsidy Program in Title 392 for care provided in the provider's home or a center. For care provided in the child's home, the license-exempt family child care home rate chart applies to individual providers and the child care center chart applies to agency providers. The Department is responsible for payment of the approved cost of the service above the basic cost of routine child care.

Nebraska Revised Statute §43-536

In determining the rate of reimbursement for child care, the Department of Health and Human Services shall assess the market rates and costs for provision of services of the child care providers in the state. The department shall adjust the reimbursement rate for child care every odd-numbered year at a rate not less than the seventy-fifth percentile of the current market rate.

45 Code of Federal Regulations §98.45(a)

The Lead Agency shall certify that the payment rates for the provision of child care services under this part are sufficient to ensure equal access, for eligible families in the area served by the Lead Agency, to child care services comparable to those provided to families not eligible to receive Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) assistance or child care assistance under any other Federal, State, or tribal programs.