



# Three Month Child Care Subsidy for Job Search

OKLAHOMA Human Services

In an effort to serve children and families, Oklahoma Human Services (OKDHS) began offering 60 days of subsidized child care benefits on May 1, 2020 to Oklahomans who were job searching due to loss of employment during the COVID-19 pandemic. Beginning on October 1, 2021, the program has expanded to three months of subsidized child care and now supports Oklahomans who are job searching due to loss of employment for any reason.

## Traditional vs. Three Month Child Care Subsidy

Traditionally, the child care subsidy program has strict income limits for families. The three month child care subsidy for job search program has no income eligibility requirements to access services.

## How a Family Can Apply

In order for families to take advantage of the three month subsidy program, they must:

- Apply for child care benefits on [OKDHSLive.org](https://okdhs.org/live)
- Provide a final paystub

In two-parent households where both parents lost employment, both may be approved for the three month job search benefits while looking for a job. If one parent is still working, their income will not be considered for program eligibility. If eligible, families will be approved for full-time care for their children.

True North goals are a set of priorities developed by OKDHS to guide the work of the agency in order to focus resources and improve collaboration and communication with stakeholders. Each of OKDHS's divisions has approximately three to five focused True North goals in addition to nine agency-wide True North goals.

True North Child Care Services Goal 1: Improve the quality of, and access to, child care programs in the state.



The funding for this program, which began May 1, 2020, was made possible by a \$50 million block grant through the federal CARES Act.

## How to Access Benefits

Once approved, families must choose a child care provider who is licensed and contracted with OKDHS to accept subsidy payments. Available child care programs can be found using the Child Care Locator at <http://childcarefind.okdhs.org/childcarefind/>. When searching on the Child Care Locator, check the "Accept Subsidy" box to ensure only child care programs that accept subsidy payments are displayed. Only one change of provider will be allowed during the job search period, so it is important that families choose their provider with care.

## When Families Secure a Job

When a customer gets a job during their three month job search period, they should report their employment and provide verification to their worker, or call **405-522-5050**. If the family wants child care to continue past the three months, normal income eligibility guidelines apply for care following the job search period.