

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Child Care Subsidy for Coast Guard Families in Areas with High Cost of Living

Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Pub. L. No 115-141)

The U.S. Coast Guard is directed to increase the child care subsidy for Families whose child care services are rendered in areas with high cost of living.

ALCOAST 172/18

Effective 1 May 2018, Coast Guard active duty (AD), Coast Guard reservists on active duty orders and Public Health Service officers on Coast Guard active duty orders that live in the areas with high costs of living may receive up to an additional \$225 to their child care subsidy payment once per month until 30 September 2018. Under no circumstance will the Member's required portion of child care costs plus the High Cost Initiative exceed the total cost billed by the Provider. In these cases, the additional subsidy will be prorated and paid accordingly.

Access to Child Care Subsidy Application:

https://nfc.usda.gov/FSS/clientservices/Child_Care_Subsidy/subsidies/USCG/index.php

The hyperlink in the ALCOAST has caused issues. Please use the below for access to the CCSP application, Family Handbook, Provider Handbook, and Forms library.

<https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our...Work-Life.../Office-of-Work-Life-CG-111/>

The above web address will take you to the USCG Work-Life webpage. Scroll down until you find child-care and select. Under the drop down menu select subsidies.

How does my Provider apply this subsidy to my account?

There is no additional application or paperwork that needs to be submitted by the Child Care Provider. The supplemental subsidy will be included in the May 2018 through September 2018 invoice reimbursement and once received by the Provider, should be applied to the Family's account thereby reducing the Member portion/balanced due as applicable.

Does this subsidy apply to "Families" or "per child"?

The maximum additional subsidy up to \$225 dollar a month subsidy will be applied to each **child** enrolled in the CCSP. The High Cost Initiative subsidy plus the Member's portion shall not exceed the total cost of child care billed to the Family; therefore the Member may not be eligible to receive the maximum additional subsidy of \$225.00 each and every month.

Does the monthly invoice need to reflect the supplemental subsidy benefit?

No. There should be no changes to the monthly invoice submitted to USDA. The supplemental subsidy benefit will be applied at the time of payment. Invoices that have been altered in any way will not be accepted for payment by the USDA Child Care Subsidy Administration Program.

Are there additional requirements that need to be completed to receive this subsidy?

There are no additional requirements or paperwork that needs to be submitted to receive this subsidy. Invoices that are eligible to receive the supplemental subsidy will be processed and paid adding the applicable amount up to \$225 per invoice per child.

Will invoices submitted in May receive the subsidy?

Only childcare services provided in the months of May through September are eligible for this subsidy.

States that are identified as high cost of living in ALCOAST 172/18.

Alaska, California, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Oregon, Virginia, Washington, District of Columbia

Care being provided in a State listed above must be through a licensed/accredited Child Care Provider and approved by the USDA.

Is this subsidy scaled on Total Family Income?

This is a flat once a month supplemental subsidy. The High Cost of Living subsidy is in addition to the TFI subsidy already being provided based on application and Family TFI.

What if I live in a state not identified as high cost of living and my Child Care Provider does. Am I eligible to receive this subsidy?

The high cost of living subsidy is based on where (location) your Child Care Provider is located and the address of where care is being provided.

Will the high cost of living subsidy be pro-rated?

The supplemental subsidy will be pro-rated when the total subsidy benefit and the supplemental benefit combined exceed the total cost of care.

The USDA is not authorized to pay over what the Child Care Provider is charging on a monthly basis.

What if I change my Child Care Provider mid-month?

The supplemental subsidy benefit will be pro-rated by the number of days each Provider invoices for service. (If one Provider invoices for 10 days of service and one Provider invoices for 12 days of service, the supplemental subsidy of \$225 will be divided by 22 days and applied accordingly to each Provider).

Will the supplemental subsidy be applied if my invoices are submitted after May?

All invoices submitted to USDA within the '90 days of service' window will receive the supplemental subsidy for the following periods of service, 01 May 2018 through 30 September 2018

Does the supplemental subsidy impact the current CCSP guidelines and procedures?

No. All CCSP guidelines and procedures remain in place. For additional information on the CCSP subsidy program refer to the most current edition of the Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP) Member/Family Handbook which can be found on the USDA Child Care Subsidy Program Website.