



**Basic Facts:**  
**Working Connections – Child Care Co-pays**

**Co-pays increased:**

Between 2002 and 2003 the Governor's office increased the cost of co-pays for low-income parents on the Working Connections Child Care program.

- From \$10 to \$15 for parents with incomes below 82% of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL.)
- From \$20 to \$50 for parents with incomes between 82% and 137.5% FPL.
- From \$20 to plus 44% of all wages earned above 137.5% FPL to \$50 plus 44% of all wages earned above 137.5% FPL for families between 137.5 % of FPL and 200% of FPL
- After 2003 subsidies were eliminated for families with incomes over 200% FPL

**Co-pays represent a significant hardship for many low-income parents. For a single parent with two children:**

At 82% of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL) would have an income of \$1070.78 a month would have a co-pay of \$15 a month.

At 137% of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL) would have an income of \$1788.98 a month would have a co-pay of \$50 a month.

At 175% of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL) would have an income of \$2, 285.20 a month.

**Co-pay:** \$265.46  
**Percentage of income:** 11.6%

At 185% of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL) would have an income of \$2, 415.78 a month.

**Co-pay:** \$322.92  
**Percentage of income:** 13.4%

**Many parents must make decisions between paying co-pays and paying for food, transportation and other important expenses for their children:**

**Example:**

Ashley is a single mom with a 2 ½ year old son named Elijah. She works for minimum wage at a coffee shop. This summer she increased her work hours, which increased her earnings by about \$25 per month. The extra money that she earned put her into a higher co-pay category, and as a result her co-pay went from \$15/month to \$50/month. Essentially, her co-pay increased \$35/month because her earnings increased \$25/month. At this time she struggled financially and had to decide between paying her rent, her car payment, her daycare bill, and buying formula.