

**FAMILY COST PARTICIPATION PROGRAM
POLICY STATEMENT FOR EARLY START
6-30-2008**

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will implement the Family Cost Participation Program (FCPP) on October 1, 2008, in accordance with Section 4783 of the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC). The FCPP requires financially able families to participate in sharing the cost of three regional center services (respite, day care, and camping) provided to their child. The FCPP will not apply to services provided by the California Department of Education (CDE)

The FCPP, as described in WIC Section 4783, has been expanded to include Early Start for the purpose of assessing cost participation to parents who have an infant or toddler and to whom all of the following applies:

1. The child is eligible for services under the California Early Intervention Services Act.
2. The child is from birth through two years of age (inclusive).
3. The child lives in the parents' home.
4. The child receives services and supports purchased through the regional center.
5. The child is not eligible for Medi-Cal.

California Early Start serves young children who are at risk or have a developmental delay or an established risk condition, including those children with solely low incidence (SLI) disabilities. Regional centers serve all eligible children except those with SLI disabilities, who are served by the CDE through the Special Education Local Plan Areas (SLEPA) and/or local education agencies (LEA). LEAs and SELPAs serve approximately 2,990 infants and toddlers with SLI disabilities. Only 134 of those children receive respite services. None receive camp or child care services.

DDS, through its contracted regional centers, already has a system in place for implementing the FCPP for children three through seventeen years of age while CDE does not. It is cost prohibitive to require CDE to establish a separate system for implementing the FCPP.

The assessment of cost participation for families, whose current annual gross income is 400 percent of the federal poverty guideline, is based on a sliding scale and adjusted for family size.

1. Families who have multiple children receiving early intervention services will receive an adjustment of the rate used to calculate the parental share of cost.
2. Foster families receiving AFDC/FC benefits are exempt from participation in FCPP.
3. Adoption Assistance benefits will not be used to calculate a family's gross income.

4. Failure to provide documentation of income will result in the parent paying full cost of services.
5. The executive director of the regional center may grant a cost participation adjustment for parents who incur an unavoidable and uninsured catastrophic loss with direct economic impact on the family or who substantiate, with receipts, significant unreimbursed medical costs associated with the care of a child who is eligible for regional center services.
6. A redetermination of the cost participation adjustment shall be made at least annually.
7. Parents have the right to appeal the amount of the cost participation according to the Early Start mediation and due process procedures set forth in Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations, Sections 52170 to 52174 (inclusive).