Premium Assistance for Employees of Licensed Child Care Facilities - Early Program Highlights

In 2021, the Legislature directed the Washington Health Benefit Exchange to implement a new premium assistance program for employees of licensed child care facilities who have an annual income under 300% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and do not qualify for Washington Apple Health (Medicaid).

This program provides $0 premium coverage for silver Cascade Care plans through Washington Healthplanfinder.

Over 30% (12,500) of the nearly 40,000 child care employees in Washington are connected to health coverage through Washington Healthplanfinder.

- 10,500 are covered by Apple Health.
- 2,000 are covered by a Qualified Health Plan (QHP)
- Including 400 in the new child care premium assistance program (under 300% FPL, not Apple Health eligible).
More than 2,300 employees of licensed child care facilities have newly gained health coverage through Washington Healthplanfinder.

- 1,300 in Apple Health.
- 1,000 in a QHP.
- 82% (280) of those in the child care premium assistance program are new.

Since the program launch, the Exchange has partnered with the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), lead Navigator organization Yakima Neighborhood Health Services, local Navigators and Brokers, child care business owners, and advocacy coalitions to conduct outreach and provide enrollment assistance to employees statewide, resulting in steady program growth.

The child care program serves a diverse population of customers from across Washington.

- 30 of 39 Washington counties represented in enrollees.
- 22% of enrollees indicated a language preference other than English, compared to 6% of overall QHP enrollees.
- 59% of enrollees are between the ages of 18 and 34, compared to 25% of overall QHP enrollees.

“This program came at a much-needed time. It allows me to not only have medical insurance, but to stay in a job I love.”
- Leah Zickler, child care worker