



**West Virginia Department of
Health and Human Resources**



**Tiered Reimbursement Application for
Family Child Care Facilities**

New Tier Level

The Division of Early Care and Education within the Bureau for Children and Families announces the availability of a new tiered reimbursement rate for the child care subsidy program. A tiered reimbursement system offers higher subsidy payments to programs that demonstrate they meet higher standards of care. Programs are now able to apply for Tier II reimbursement rates if higher quality standards are met. A facility may receive one of three tiered rates based on the age of the children in care and the program’s tier level. The following table shows the difference in payment rates:

RATE TYPE	INFANT (0-24 Months) Day/Month	TODDLER (25-36 Months) Day/Month	PRE-SCHOOL (37-59 Months) Day/Month	SCHOOL-AGE (60 Months & Up) Day/ Month
Tier I	\$25 / \$500	\$20 / \$400	\$20 / \$400	\$18 / \$360
Tier II	\$27 / \$540	\$22 / \$440	\$22 / \$440	\$20 / \$400
Tier III – National Accreditation	\$29 / \$580	\$24 / \$480	\$24 / \$480	\$22 / \$440

Tier I Rates

If you are licensed as a facility, you are a Tier I provider and receive Tier I rates through the child care subsidy program.

Tier II Rates

To be eligible for Tier II, you must document that you meet the additional standards which are attached. Your program must have a regular operating license (not a provisional or initial license) and must enroll children who receive subsidies for care. A Tiered Reimbursement application form is attached that must be completed and submitted with the required documentation in order to be eligible to receive the Tier II rates.

Tier II Application Instructions

- Providers may submit the documentation material in one of two formats:
 1. You may create a compact disc (CD) with documentation material for each standard. Each item of documentation should be saved on the CD as the category name followed by the documentation number to which it applies. For example, the business plan for your program will be saved on the CD as “Program Management #1.”
 2. You may also create a validation notebook using a three-ring binder divided into the eight sections of tiered standards (same as categories on CD) with all documentation in the appropriate section. Each item of documentation should be labeled in red in the upper right hand corner with the corresponding number. For example, a copy of your program’s business plan will be labeled with a red “1” on the upper right hand corner, under the “Program Management” section.
- Please label the front of your documentation CD or notebook with your name and/or the name of your program.
- The required documentation must accompany this form, and will be used to validate Tier II Reimbursement status.
- Qualified staff refers to staff members who have a high school diploma or GED and meet the requirements for the position of director, assistant director, lead teacher, teacher, assistant teacher or teaching assistant (as defined in Licensing Regulations).

- Tier II training requirements must be met with training that is registered with WV STARS or approved by your licensing agent. Applicable courses completed at accredited colleges or universities are also acceptable.
- Programs that have been approved for Tier II Reimbursement will be required to submit a validation notebook annually, with accurate and updated documentation materials.
- Keep a copy of this application and supporting documentation for your records. Material that is submitted to the Division will not be retained after review. Any Department employee may come to your program to check your validation material at any time.
- The Division of Early Care and Education has 60 days to approve your application once submitted. You will receive a written notification of the action taken on your application. Once an application is approved, the new rate becomes effective the first day of the following month.

Tier III

To be eligible for Tier III, you must be nationally accredited. At present, facilities may be accredited by either the National Association for the Education of Young Children or the National Association for Family Child Care. For more information on these accrediting bodies, you may contact:

National Association for the Education of Young Children
 1313 L Street, N.W. Suite 500
 Washington, D.C. 10005
 Phone: 202-232-8777 or 1-800-424-2460
<http://www.naeyc.org>

National Association for Family Child Care
 Attention: Accreditation
 5202 Piedmont Drive
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84123
 Phone: 1-800-359-3817 Fax: (801) 268-9507
 Website: <http://www.nafcc.org>

Tier III Application Instructions

Family child care facilities that are accredited and not already receiving Tier III reimbursement rates must submit the attached application form and a copy of the certification of accreditation from one of the above accrediting bodies. However, no further documentation is needed beyond the certificate. Just submit the application form and your certificate of accreditation to the address below. If you lose your accreditation status, you must immediately notify the Division of Early Care and Education in writing either by e-mail or regular mail, as you will no longer be eligible for the increased payment rates.

Mailing Address and Contact Information

Submit Tiered Reimbursement application and documentations to:

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
 DIVISION OF EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION
 ATTN: JESSICA DIANELLOS
 350 CAPITOL STREET, ROOM B-18
 CHARLESTON, WV 25301

If you have questions or need further information, contact Jessica Dianellos by email at Jessica.L.Dianellos@wv.gov or by phone at (304) 558-6669.

**APPLICATION FOR WEST VIRGINIA TIERED REIMBURSEMENT
FAMILY CHILD CARE FACILITIES**

I. PROGRAM INFORMATION

1. Program Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ **E-mail Address:** _____

Physical Location Address:

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Mailing Address (if different):

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

2. Name of Program Director: _____

3. Name of Applicant/Owner (if different than Program Director): _____

Phone Number: _____ **E-mail Address:** _____

II. TIER FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING

TIER II - ATTACHED IS THE REQUIRED TIER II DOCUMENTATION

TIER III - ATTACHED IS A COPY OF MY CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION

Owner/Director Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

III. DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR TIER II REIMBURSEMENT

Section I. Program Management:

1. Business Plan for your child care program, which should include, at a Minimum:
 - Mission statement
 - Goals and objectives
 - Management operations
 - Marketing information
 - Financial information (i.e. program budget and bookkeeping info.)

For a helpful resource on child care business plans go to: <http://www.gvsu.edu/misbt/dc/images/BPWORKBK.pdf>

Section II. Health, Safety and Nutrition:

2. Emergency Preparedness Plan for your facility.
3. Two (2) examples of both indoor and outdoor play equipment used in your program.
4. Diaper changing policy **or** Diaper changing checklist posted in your program's diaper changing area.

5. Daily schedule showing designated times for brushing teeth every day.

Section III. Child Growth and Development:

6. Lesson plans for each age group in your program showing activities that support each area of development, including social-emotional, physical, cognitive, language/communication and creative expression.

Section IV. Positive Interactions and Relationships:

7. A copy of your program's written rules in simple language, which are posted for children to see.

Section V. Curriculum:

8. The name of the curricula or curriculum framework(s) selected for your program, and a narrative of how the selected curriculum links to WV Early Learning Standards Framework.
9. Five (5) examples of the various types of books available to children in your program for each age group served, including books for infants, toddlers, preschool and school-age children (where applicable).
10. A description of the learning centers used in the classrooms in your program, including five (5) examples of materials used in each learning center.

Section VI. Child Observation and Assessment:

11. An example of at least one (1) type of informal child assessment used by teachers in your program.

Section VII. Family and Community:

12. The Parent Handbook for your program, which should include:
 - Hours of operation
 - Supplies needed for care
 - Vacation policy
 - Parent communication policy
 - Written guidance policy
13. At least two (2) examples of daily communication with parents and family involvement (i.e. "My Day" daily notes, letters sent home to parents, parent survey or newsletter, items from parent bulletin board, etc.).
14. One (1) example of a community resource used in your program over the past year.

Section VIII. Professionalism:

15. A copy of WV STARS training transcripts and/or academic transcripts for ALL qualified staff members in your program showing completion of Tier II training requirements (see Tier II Standards).
16. A copy of CPR and First Aid certifications/cards for ALL qualified staff members in your program.
17. Evidence of completion for training in Environmental Rating Scales (ERS) self-assessments for the program director, **and** a completed self-assessment for your program.
18. The program director's professional development plan showing work toward at least a level III on the WV STARS Career Pathway.
19. Certificates of attendance for the program director and at least one staff member for an early childhood conference showing attendance by each in the past year.

IV. CERTIFICATIONS

1. Access to Monitor Documentation File. The child care provider shall fully cooperate and assist the Department or its representative(s) with respect to the monitoring responsibilities and activities deemed necessary and appropriate by the Department at its sole discretion. The child care provider shall allow for the performance of onsite monitoring reviews by the Department or its representative(s), and agrees to provide any technical assistance, reports, records, documentation and to comply with all requests for information as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Department, at its sole discretion, to fulfill its monitoring responsibilities and objectives. The Department or its authorized representative(s) shall be given full and complete access to all information and personnel related to the performance of this agreement to ensure that program activities and cost are consistent with goals and objectives of the Department.

The Department and its Inspector General, State Auditors, program monitors, or any duly authorized representatives have the right of timely and unrestricted access to any books, documents, papers, or other records of the child care provider, in order to make audits, examinations, excerpts, transcripts and copies of such documents.

2. Self-Certifying Statements

The following are additional Tier II Standards not requiring documentation at this time, please sign below to certify compliance with these standards:

- I attest that all heavy furniture which is easily tipped, such as shelves and entertainment centers, are securely anchored to the wall in my family child care program.
- I attest that all play equipment used in my family child care program, such as climbing equipment and swings, are securely anchored into place to prevent injury from tipping.
- I attest that the toys chests or storage containers used for toys in my family child care program have either safety hinges and air holes, or no lid to prevent injury from suffocation.
- I attest that all food allergies for children in my family child care program are posted in the food preparation area.
- I attest that my family child care program uses safe sleeping practices for napping infants, including caregivers who are alert at all times to supervise infants during naps and visually check on the infants at a minimum of every 15 minutes.
- I attest that the outdoor play area for my family child care program utilizes a shade structure that provides protection from sunlight.
- I attest that my family child care program applies sunscreen on all children to protect them from sunlight.
- I attest that my family child care program provides individualized storage areas for all children in the program.

I, _____, hereby certify that my child care program meets the quality standards required for Tier II of the *Facility Based Tiered Reimbursement System*. I further certify that I will continue to meet the quality standards in addition to West Virginia Licensing Requirements. I understand that my program is subject to on-site inspection at any time, and that failure to maintain the quality standards or to maintain the required documentation on site will result in the loss of the \$2.00 extra per day per child provided as an incentive for meeting higher quality standards.

Provider Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Approved by: _____ **Date:** _____

INSTRUCTIONS FOR TIER II REIMBURSEMENT REQUIREMENTS

The following quality standards are the program requirements that family child care facilities in West Virginia must meet in order to obtain a Tier II reimbursement rate.

- To be eligible for Tier II Reimbursement, your program must have a regular operating license (not a provisional or initial license) and must enroll children who receive subsidies for care.
- Upon application for Tier II Reimbursement, it is mandatory that you document compliance with the required following standards to receive the Tier II Reimbursement Rate. A list of specific documentation materials are listed on the attached Tier II application.
- Tier II training requirements must be met with training that is registered with WV STARS or approved by your licensing agent. Applicable courses completed at accredited colleges or universities are also acceptable.
- For the purpose of Tier II standard requirements, qualified staff refers to staff members who have a high school diploma or GED and meet the requirements for the position of director, assistant director, lead teacher, teacher, assistant teacher or teaching assistant (as defined in Licensing Regulations).
- If you have questions or need further information, contact Jessica Dianellos by email at Jessica.L.Dianellos@wv.gov or by phone at (304) 558-6669.

TIER TWO QUALITY STANDARDS FAMILY CHILD CARE FACILITIES
SECTION I. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT
1. The program has a mission statement and program goals and objectives.
2. The program has an implemented business plan that includes the program’s mission and goals, management operations, marketing, and finance information.
SECTION II. HEALTH, SAFETY AND NUTRITION
3. The program has an emergency preparedness plan that includes what to do in the event of severe weather or hazardous conditions such as chemical leaks.
4. The equipment used both indoors and outdoors in the program is developmentally appropriate for the children who use it.
5. Heavy furniture which is easily tipped, such as shelves and entertainment centers, are anchored to the wall.
6. Climbing equipment, swings, etc. are securely anchored into place.
7. The program’s toy chests have either safety hinges and air holes, or no lid.
8. The program has children’s food allergies posted in the food preparation area.
9. The provider is alert to napping infants and visually checks on them at a minimum of every 15 minutes.
10. The program’s facility includes a shaded outdoor area.
11. For children in the program who cannot use the toilet consistently, diaper changing procedures from NAEYC or Caring For Our Children are posted in the diaper changing area, and the area has a hands-free disposal container.
12. Children in the program brush teeth daily.
13. The provider uses sunscreen to protect the children from sunlight.

SECTION III. CHILD GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

14. The program supports all areas of development, including social-emotional, physical, cognitive, language/communication and creative expression.

SECTION IV. POSITIVE INTERACTIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS

15. All qualified program staff have attended a minimum of two (2) hours of professional development in positive interactions and relationships with children.

16. The provider posts written rules in simple language that children can understand.

17. The program has a written positive guidance policy in addition to simple rules.

SECTION V. CURRICULUM

18. The program has selected an established curricula or curriculum framework(s).

19. The program's selected curricula are linked to the WV Early Learning Standards Framework.

20. Various types of books are available to children all day which can include: fantasy and factual information, stories about people, animals, and science, and books that reflect different cultures and abilities.

21. At least **three (3)** of the following learning centers are provided to children in the program:

- a. Art (drawing materials, paints, 3-D materials, collage, tools);
- b. Library;
- c. Building Blocks and accessories (unit blocks, homemade blocks, toy people, animals, vehicles, road signs);
- d. Dramatic/Pretend Play (housekeeping, different kinds of work, fantasy, leisure);
- e. Writing;
- f. Math/Numbers (counting, measuring, comparing, quantities, shapes, written numbers);
- g. Nature/Science (collections of natural objects, living things, nature/science books, games, toys, and activities);
- h. Technology (computers with filtered internet access, tape recorders, CDs, and cameras).

22. Children in the program have an individualized storage area.

SECTION VI. CHILD OBSERVATION AND ASSESSMENT

23. Qualified staff persons receive a minimum of two (2) hours professional development in child observation and assessment.

24. The program has implemented informal child assessment that aligns with the curriculum goals of the program.

SECTION VII. FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

25. The program has at least two (2) methods of family involvement such as a family bulletin board, family surveys, and/or family newsletters.

26. The program has a system in place for individual family communications: Daily communication for families with children under age 3 and weekly communication for those with children over age 3.

27. The program has developed a Parent Contract that includes hours of operation, supplies needed, vacation policy, and parent communication policy.

28. The program utilizes community resources such as: doctors, dentists, musicians, bakers, quilters, health consultants, behavior consultants, or the use of two community support services per quarter, such as TRAILS, CACFP, Libraries, or Community Health centers.

SECTION VIII. PROFESSIONALISM

29. All qualified staff persons in the program are registered with WV STARS Career Pathway.

30. All qualified staff persons in the program have current CPR and First Aid certifications.

31. The program director has 18 hours of professional development annually, and program staff members have 15 hours annually.

32. The owner/operator of the program attends ERS training and completes a self-assessment.

33. The owner/operator of the program has a professional development plan showing work toward at least Level III on the WV STARS Career Pathway.

34. The owner/operator of the program has completed training for and is using the WV Early Learning Standards Framework for children 3-5 years of age.

35. All qualified staff in the program have completed one of the following: 1 semester of ACDS, FCC modules, CQCE modules, WVIT, 3 hour college course in early childhood.

36. All qualified staff persons in the program have completed training on SIDS, Child Abuse and Neglect, and Medication Administration (This is in addition to the self-study guide received upon registration).

37. The program director and at least one staff member participate in an early childhood conference at least once a year.