

**How does tuition assistance work?**

The Town of Breckenridge's Tuition Assistance Program works on the premise that families should not spend more than 13%-16% of their gross income on child care. For families who qualify for tuition assistance we calculate a families annual child care expenses at a local child care center and when that exceeds 13%-16% of their income our program provides assistance through a daily co-pay. The daily co-pay assures that a family can afford to pay for their child care throughout the year and that their expense will not exceed 13%-16% of their gross income.

**We live in Frisco but my spouse works in Breckenridge do we qualify for your program?**

You would indeed qualify as long as one household member works for an employer based in the Upper Blue Valley at least 30 hours per week. (From Hoosier Pass to Farmer's Corner) Families must live and or work in the Upper Blue Basin. Families that live in the Town of Breckenridge will be eligible for a higher level of tuition assistance than families who live outside Town limits. ).

**I work but my spouse stays home with our infant. Do we qualify for your program?**

This is a workforce program and both parents must be employed and at least one of them must work a minimum average of 30 hours per week annually. However, in order to qualify for tuition assistance for full time child care (4 or 5 days per week) both parents MUST work a minimum of 30 hours on average per week.

**We are expecting a baby after the annual enrollment deadline, can we still apply?**

First, congratulations on your pregnancy or adoption plans! To apply for tuition assistance during the annual enrollment period, the baby's due date (or expected adoption date) must be written on the original application along with an expected start date at one of the participating Breckenridge child care programs for the child. You may begin receiving an award for tuition assistance once your child begins care at one of the 4 participating centers. Please make sure to contact the Child Care Program Administrator by the 15th of the month before you expect your child to start attending child care to confirm that your paperwork is complete.

**We utilize care from one of the participating Breckenridge child care programs as well as a licensed child care program that is not part of the Breckenridge Tuition assistance program. Will all of our child care costs be considered?**

Yes, we will look at your overall licensed child care costs for children ages birth through 5 years old when determining your out-of-pocket child care expenses. If you qualify for tuition assistance, the assistance will be paid directly to the participating center(s).

**We split custody of our child. How should we apply?**

There are 2 options:

- Option #1: A parent may apply individually if they include their custody agreement in their application. The assistance will be for the days the applicant works and the child is in their custody.
- Option #2: Parents can apply together and we will consider both incomes. We will consider all the days the child is in child care regardless of what day either parent has custody. Family size will reflect two parents.

**I'm afraid my W2s, paystubs, and taxes don't accurately reflect my income, what can I do?**

Feel free to include a letter of explanation with your application that will help us better understand your current situation.

**Why does the Town of Breckenridge use gross income for their calculations?**

To keep the playing field fair for all families in any employment situation we use gross income. To use your net income or even your taxable gross income could provide some families with an additional benefit since they have other programs like 401Ks or insurance reducing their annual taxable income.

**We have been awarded tuition assistance, but need to make a change to our child care schedule. How will that impact our tuition assistance?**

Changes to schedules are strongly discouraged as they impact the Center operations and staffing and they impact your amount of tuition assistance; however, recognizing that some changes are inevitable, families are asked to notify the Child Care Center and the Child Care Program Administrator by the 15th of the previous month in order for tuition assistance adjustments to be calculated based on your new schedule.

**We were given our family's daily co-pay amount, but what will our monthly cost will be?**

Your Tuition Assistance is given as a discounted daily co-pay to emphasize that every family receiving assistance is paying a portion of the cost every day their child is enrolled in care. To calculate a monthly rate that aligns with the monthly tuition billing from the centers, please use the following formula:

$\text{number of days per week} \times \text{family's daily copay} \times 52 \div 12 = \text{your monthly cost toward tuition}$