

West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources
**Tiered Reimbursement Application for
Family Child Care Facilities**



A Tiered Reimbursement System offers higher subsidy payments to programs that demonstrate they meet higher standards of care. Programs may apply for Tier II or Tier III reimbursement rates if specific 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. Programs that meet Tier II standards receive \$3.00 extra daily and programs that are accredited receive \$6.00 extra daily per full day per child. Part days are converted to full days before the supplement is calculated. The amount is added for actual days of care only. The following table shows the difference in payment rates:

| Rate Type | Infant (0-24 Months) Day | Toddler (25-36 Months) Day | Pre-School (37-59 Months) Day | School-Age (60 Months and Up) Day |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Tier I | \$31 | \$30 | \$30 | \$30 |
| Tier II | \$34 | \$33 | \$33 | \$33 |
| Tier III – National Accreditation | \$37 | \$36 | \$36 | \$36 |

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 attached additional standards. Your program must have a regular 2-year operating license (not a provisional or initial license) and must enroll children who receive subsidies for care. Programs must have been in operation for a minimum of one year. 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.

Application submission does not guarantee approval of Tier II.

Tier II Application Instructions

- Providers may submit the documentation material in one of two formats:
 1. You may create a compact disc (CD) or flash drive with documentation material for each standard. Each item of documentation should be saved on the CD or flash drive 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 “Administration and Management #1.”
 2. You may also create a validation notebook using a three-ring binder divided into the seven sections of tiered standards (same as categories on CD or flash drive) 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 “Administration and 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.
- All documentation must be current and dated.

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- 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 the WV Family Child Care Facility Licensing Requirements §78-18-14, §78-18-15).
- Tier II training requirements must be met with training that is registered with WV STARS or approved by your regulatory specialist. Applicable Early Childhood Education courses completed at accredited colleges or universities are also acceptable.
- Programs that have been approved for Tier II Reimbursement will be required to submit validation materials 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 West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (Department), Division of Early Care and Education 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 from the date your application is received to approve or deny your application. 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, 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
<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: Elizabeth Teel
350 Capitol Street, Room B-18
Charleston, WV 25301

Email: Elizabeth.D.Teel@wv.gov Phone: (304) 352-4557



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APPLICATION FOR WEST VIRGINIA TIERED REIMBURSEMENT
FAMILY CHILD CARE FACILITIES

I. PROGRAM INFORMATION

1. Program Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email 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: _____ Email 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. Administration and Management:

- 1. Business Plan for your child care program, which should include, at a minimum the following separately labeled sections:
- Mission statement
- Goals and objectives
- Management operations

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- Marketing information
- Financial information (i.e., program budget and bookkeeping information)

Section II. Health, Safety and Nutrition:

2. Emergency Preparedness Plan for your facility.
3. Two 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 as defined by NAEYC or Caring for Our Children.
5. Daily schedule showing designated times for brushing teeth every day.
6. Provide evidence of your program's safe sleep policy.

Section III. Child Growth and Development:

7. Lesson plans for each age group in your program, including individualized plans for children 0-36 months, showing activities that support each area of development as defined by the WV Early Learning Standards Framework. Lesson plans should be current and dated.

Section IV. Environment and Curriculum:

8. The name of the approved curricula or curriculum framework(s) selected for your program for each age group, and a written narrative of how the selected curriculum links to WV Early Learning Standards Framework.
9. Five 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 examples of materials used in each learning center.
11. A copy of your program's written rules in simple language, which are posted for children to see.

Section V. Child Observation and Assessment:

12. An example of at least one completed, informal child assessment for each age group used by teachers in your program.
13. An example of how lesson plans were adapted to meet the needs of a child based on the assessment.

Section VI. Family and Community Relationships:

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

Section VII. Professionalism and Leadership:

17. 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) regardless of how many hours they work per week. If academic transcripts are submitted, highlight courses for consideration of approval.
18. A copy of CPR and First Aid certifications/cards for ALL qualified staff members in your program.
19. Evidence of completion for training in Environmental Rating Scales (ERS) self-assessments for the program director, **and** a completed self-assessment by the director for your program.
20. The program director's professional development plan showing work toward at least a level III on the WV STARS Career Pathway. Professional development plans should include core area, goals and timeline.
21. 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.

VIII. Certifications:

1. Access to Monitor Documentation File. The child care provider shall fully cooperate and assist the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (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.



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- 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 extra \$3.00 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 2-year operating license (not a provisional or initial license) and must enroll children who receive subsidies for care. Programs must have been in operation for a minimum of one year.
- 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 is included in the attached Tier II application.
- Tier II training requirements must be met with training that is registered with WV STARS or approved by your regulatory specialist. 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 WV Family Child Care Facility Licensing Requirements §78-18-14, §78-18-15).
- If you need further information, contact Elizabeth Teel by email at Elizabeth.D.Teel@wv.gov or by phone at (304) 352-4557.

TIER II QUALITY STANDARDS FAMILY CHILD CARE FACILITIES

SECTION I. ADMINISTRATION AND 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 program 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 followed and 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 program practices safe sleep procedures as recommended by Caring for Our Children.

14. The program uses sunscreen to protect the children from sunlight.

SECTION III. CHILD GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

15. The program supports all areas of development, as defined by the WV Early Learning Standards Framework.

SECTION IV. ENVIRONMENT AND CURRICULUM

16. The program has selected an approved curricula or curriculum framework(s) for each age group.

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

18. 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.

19. At least **three** 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)

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

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

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

SECTION V. CHILD OBSERVATION AND ASSESSMENT

23. Qualified staff persons receive a minimum of two 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.

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SECTION VI. FAMILY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

25. The program has at least two 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.

SECTION VII. PROFESSIONALISM AND LEADERSHIP

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

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

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

31. The owner/operator of the program attends a minimum of two professional development hours in ERS and completes a self-assessment.

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

33. The owner/operator of the program has completed at least two professional development hours in and is using the WV Early Learning Standards Framework for children birth to 3 or 3-5 years of age.

34. All qualified staff in the program has completed one of the following: 1 semester of ACDS, FCC modules, Mind in the Making, WVIT, 3-hour college course in early childhood.

35. All qualified staff persons in the program have completed a minimum of two hours training on each of the following: Safe Sleep, Child Abuse and Neglect, and Medication Administration (in addition to the self-study guide received upon registration).

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