

## ECI's Family Cost Share responsibilities include:

- explaining Family Cost Share and answering your questions,
- informing you about your family's rights,
- working with your family to determine your Family Cost Share,
- billing for services as agreed upon in the Family Cost Share Agreement,
- meeting with you when you request to review any changes in your family circumstances that might affect your Family Cost Share.

## Your Family Cost Share responsibilities include:

- asking questions if you do not understand something about the Family Cost Share,
- providing information about income, family size, and insurance,
- working with ECI to determine your Family Cost Share,
- signing a Family Cost Share Agreement prior to the start of services,
- making payments in a timely manner,
- asking for a review and adjustment if you believe you have an inability to pay.



ECI Services are provided by the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). DARS contracts with local ECI programs to provide services in every Texas county.

For more Information regarding ECI Family Cost Share, or to obtain a sliding fee scale, contact your local program or visit the ECI website at: [www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis](http://www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis)

Or contact the DARS Inquiries Line at 1-800-628-5115 or the TDD/TTY Line at 1-866-581-9328.

Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services  
Division for Early Childhood Intervention Services  
4900 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas 78751



# early childhood intervention eci Family Cost Share



Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services  
Division for Early Childhood Intervention Services

Texas Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) programs serve families with children birth to 36 months with developmental delays or disabilities. ECI provides family support and specialized services to strengthen the family's ability to access resources and improve their child's development through daily activities.

You do not have to pay to have your child evaluated and to find out about ECI services that will help your child and family.

## ECI Family Cost Share

Family Cost Share is a fee families pay for Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) services. The fee is adjusted based on the family's ability to pay.

Family Cost Share is designed so families with the ability to pay will share in the cost of services. Payments are made directly to local ECI programs, to help fund services.

ECI staff will work with your family to determine your cost share amount. The cost share amount is the maximum you will pay per month no matter how many services your family receives or how many children your family has enrolled in ECI.

## ECI provides many services free of charge

To help families access initial ECI services, the following services are provided at no cost to families:

- Evaluation and assessment
- Development of an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)
- Case management
- Translation and interpreter services, including sign language, if needed
- Services for children with auditory and visual impairments who are eligible for services from ECI and their local school district

These initial services help families understand their child's condition, needs and available resources. Families will not have to pay anything for these services, however they may be asked for permission to bill their insurance.

## When a family cannot afford to pay for services

The cost share will be \$0 if a family's adjusted income is at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Income Level or if their child is enrolled in:

- Medicaid, or Medicaid with private insurance
- SSI - Supplemental Security Income
- Foster care
- WIC – Women, Infants and Children
- CHIP – Children's Health Insurance Program
- SKIP – State Kids Insurance Program
- PHC – Primary Health Care Services Program
- CSHCN- Children with Special Health Care Needs
- CIHCP – County Indigent Health Care Program
- TANF – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- SNAP – formerly Food Stamp Program

## Determining your Family Cost Share

The amount your family will pay each month is based on your family's income and the size of your family. ECI will work with your family, using a sliding fee scale, to calculate the cost share. Families with more than one child enrolled in services will only pay one cost share each month.

ECI will ask you to sign a form attesting to your family's size and income. Allowable expenses may be deducted from your family's gross income upon request.

After your cost share is determined, you will be asked to sign a Family Cost Share Agreement. Services subject to cost share will begin after your family signs the Family Cost Share Agreement.

### \*Examples of the cost share different families may pay:

- A family of four with an income of \$50,000 would not have to pay a cost share.
- A family of four with an income of \$60,000 would have a cost share of \$20 per month.
- A family of four with an income of \$110,000 would have a cost share of \$75 per month.

\*Based on Federal Poverty Level Guidelines

### Allowable expenses that may be deducted from Gross Income:

- Medical or dental expenses that are not reimbursed by insurance
- Debt payments for medical or dental expenses
- Some child care and respite expenses
- Adoption expenses
- Some child support payments

## Questions & Answers

### How does insurance affect my Family Cost Share?

Some of the services in your Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) may be covered by your insurance. ECI will ask your permission to bill your insurance for these services. If a family's insurance reimburses for any service provided during a month, there will be a cost share of \$0 for that month. If a family's insurance completely denies reimbursement, the family will be responsible for paying their cost share amount according to the scale.

### What if I don't want to share information about my family's income and expenses?

If you choose not to provide information about your family income, you will pay the highest cost share reflected on the sliding fee scale.

### What if I share custody of my child?

In families where there is shared physical custody or financial responsibility for a child, the income of the parent(s) who financially supports the child will be considered.

### Can my cost share amount be changed?

Your cost share will be reviewed at the time of your complete IFSP reviews. You may also request a review at any time.

### What happens if I do not pay the bill for my Family Cost Share?

If you do not pay your cost share for over 90 days, services subject to cost share will be suspended.

When services are suspended due to non-payment, services that are provided at no cost (like assessments and case management) will continue. When your cost share account is brought into good standing after a suspension, ECI cannot guarantee that services will be restored on the same schedule or with the same individual provider.

You have the right to ask your ECI program for a review of your Family Cost Share any time your circumstances change. During the review, you have the right to have your last signed IFSP and Family Cost Share Agreement remain in effect.