

# Parents getting day care funds increasingly poor



[David Riley](#), Staff writer 12:22 p.m. EDT May 11, 2015



(Photo: Amy Walters, Getty Images/iStockphoto)

## Story Highlights

- As of 2013, Monroe County provided day care subsidies to about 22 percent of eligible families
- From 2003 to 2013, more local families receiving subsidies chose to send their children to day care centers or licensed home-based facilities, rather than to pay family members or friends to watch their kids
- The number of subsidies provided in Monroe County dropped 17 percent from 2007 to 2013

Working Monroe County parents who get public subsidies to help pay for child care are increasingly poor, according to a [study released Monday](#).

The report from the Center for Governmental Research updates an earlier study [released last year](#).

The first report highlighted [a growing number of suburban families](#) who qualify for child care subsidies. While the county announced last month that it was [accepting new applications](#), the number of subsidies [has generally tightened in recent years](#) and has become a major concern for child care advocates.

The [latest report](#) shows that a growing number of parents receiving subsidies made less than the federal poverty line.

From 2011 to 2013, the number of these families who got subsidies increased 19 percent. For a family of four, that means making less than \$24,250 a year.

Families with incomes between 100 percent and 150 percent of the poverty line increased 6 percent; those making over 150 percent dropped by 11 percent. To qualify for the main type of funding for day care subsidies, working Monroe County families typically can make no more than 165 percent of the poverty line.

[Check our map for a day care near you](#)

As of last year, the average cost of sending a child to a day care center in Monroe County was \$242 a week, or more than \$12,000 a year.

The report notes several other trends in local child care subsidies:

- As of 2013, Monroe County provided day care subsidies to about 22 percent of eligible families — more than most counties in the state.
- From 2003 to 2013, more local families receiving subsidies chose to send their children to day care centers or licensed home-based facilities, rather than to pay family members or friends to watch their kids.
- The number of subsidies provided in Monroe County dropped 17 percent from 2007 to 2013.

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