

**§3737. Payments to providers**

**1. No payments to recipients.** The department may not make cash payments to recipients for child care services provided under this chapter, except when those payments represent reimbursement for services already provided to the recipient.

[PL 1993, c. 158, §2 (NEW).]

**2. Maintenance of existing options.** The department shall ensure that child care funds are distributed through a range of mechanisms, including, but not limited to, vouchers to recipients and contracts to providers.

[PL 1993, c. 158, §2 (NEW).]

**3. Quality differential.** To the extent permitted by federal law, the department shall pay a differential rate for child care services that meet or that make substantial progress toward meeting nationally recognized quality standards, such as those standards required by the Head Start program or required for accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and shall do so from the Child Care Development Fund 25% Quality Set-aside funds or by other acceptable federal practices. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined by Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. The rules must establish a child care quality rating system with a minimum of 3 steps and must provide for graduated quality differential rates for steps that demonstrate that a child care provider meets or makes substantial progress toward meeting nationally recognized quality standards.

A. [PL 2013, c. 559, §1 (RP).]

B. [PL 2013, c. 559, §1 (RP).]

Nothing in this subsection requires the department to pay a quality differential rate for child care services provided through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant.

[PL 2021, c. 138, §1 (AMD).]

**4. Child care rates.** The department shall establish payment rates for child care services that are up to the 75th percentile of local market rates for the various categories of child care services. The payment rates for child care services for children with special needs may be higher than the 75th percentile of local market rates.

[PL 2017, c. 412, §1 (NEW).]

**5. Payments to providers within 15 days.** The department shall reimburse a provider of child care services provided under this chapter within 15 days after receiving a complete and accurate invoice if the provider has met all the required state procurement and payment requirements.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. VVV, §5 (NEW).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1993, c. 158, §2 (NEW). PL 2001, c. 394, §1 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 559, §1 (AMD). RR 2015, c. 1, §21 (COR). PL 2017, c. 412, §1 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 138, §1 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. VVV, §5 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the First Regular and First Special Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through November 1, 2023. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.