

PARENT FEE PROGRAM: DD, TA, and SED Waivers

"Since the Fall of 2002 when the Parent Fee Program began, hundreds of parents have been promptly paying their monthly Parent Fees, and SRS thanks these parents sincerely. These payments are needed to help other children and families like your own obtain services that may not have been available otherwise. . . I trust that you will find the HCBS services beneficial for your child and family, and I thank you in advance for sharing in the cost for these services through the Parent Fee Program."

--from an Open Letter to parents from SRS Acting Secretary Gary J. Daniels in August 2005



What Is the Parent Fee Program?

In the Spring of 2002, the Kansas Legislature directed the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) to start charging and collecting fees from parents to pay for a portion of services provided to their children. In the Summer of 2002, SRS convened a group, including parents of children with a disability and non-SRS staff whose agencies provide Home and Community Based Services (HCBS), which helped establish rules for the Parent Fee Program and a sliding fee scale. To keep the program simple and adaptable for family needs, the paperwork required of parents is brief and infrequent, the rules are relatively straightforward, and the fees set on the sliding fee scale have been lowered to account for many circumstances that create expenses for families who have a child with a disability.

Who Is Included?

The parent fee program includes parents of children participating in the **DD Waiver** for Children with Mental Retardation or a Developmental Disability, the **TA Waiver** Technical Assistance for Children who depend on technology for life, and the **SED Waiver** for Children with a Severe Emotional Disturbance. These waivers determine a child's eligibility without considering parental resources or income. The Parent Fee Program was created for these waivers to increase fairness and shared responsibility by charging families who have the means a portion of the cost of services provided to their minor children. The fee assessed the family is based on the parents' income according to a sliding scale. Persons

caring for a child with a disability who do not have to pay a fee include:

- Grandparents and other relatives
- Adoptive parents and foster parents
- Biological parents with incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level
- Biological parents experiencing a verifiable hardship, e.g., homelessness, loss of job, a change of income that drops the family's income below 200% of the FPL.

In certain circumstances (i.e., the loss of income or an increase in family size), SRS may waive or reduce a family's parent fee. Parents must complete a Request for a Fee Variance (RFV) form to receive this waiver or reduction of fees.

Note: Parents with 2 children on HCBS are charged a fee for one child only.

Can I Estimate What My Fee Will Be?

For a detailed estimation, see the Parent Fee Schedule on the Family Fee page of the SRS website.

www.srskansas.org/hcp/mo/MOParentalFeeInfo.htm

The following table should give most families a rough estimation of their fee. Fees are based on the number of exemptions (size of family) and the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) claimed on the families most recent federal income tax return.

		# of exemptions on your tax return (size of family)			
		2	3	4	5+
Estimated Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$30,000	\$20-25	\$10-15	\$0	\$0
	\$40,000	\$41-49	\$26-33	\$15-20	\$0-10
	\$50,000	\$79-90	\$41-49	\$26-33	\$15-20
	\$60,000	\$115-129	\$68-79	\$41-49	\$26-33
	\$70,000	\$174+	\$102-115	\$58-68	\$41-49

How Will SRS Bill Me?

SRS receives from each family with a child on the qualifying waivers the Information Disclosure Form (IDF), which provides them the necessary information to calculate individually a family's fee. The SRS billing system then automatically mails the family a statement around the 15th of each month with the fee for the previous month's services. The money is due around the 8th of the following month and should be sent with the bottom portion of the bill back to SRS.

When Will the Fee End?

Families participate in the Family Fee Program until the month following the last issuance of the Medical Card that accompanies HCBS services or until the month following the child's 18th birthday. With payment of their final bill, parents are asked to note on the statement the date the child is discontinuing HCBS services or the date on which your child turns age 18.

Please note:

If a parent does not pay their fee, SRS will not terminate HCBS services to their child, **But** SRS is authorized to pursue collection, including legal action, if necessary. Parents who fall behind on their payments are encouraged to contact Jo Ann Mrstik in SRS - Health Care Policy Management Operations at (785) 296-3536 to work out an acceptable payment agreement plan that will pay off the debt in a reasonable period of time.

SRS WEBSITE FOR FORMS, ETC.

Complete guidelines for the Parent Fee Program including a fee estimation tool, the IDF, and the RFV are on the SRS Health Care Policy website at

www.srskansas.org/hcp/MOMain.htm

QUESTIONS:

Questions may be directed to staff of the SRS Parent Fee Program in Topeka at:

Phone: (785) 296-3536

Fax: (785) 368-6228

E-Mail: JAZM@srskansas.org

Mailing Address: SRS, Health Care Policy - Parent Fee Program
Management Operations - Collections Unit
915 SW Harrison, DSOB 10th Floor
Topeka, Kansas 66612



K A N S A S

GARY J. DANIELS, ACTING SECRETARY

SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

August 2005

Re: An Open Letter to Parents Affected by the Legislatively Established Parent Fee Program

Dear Parents:

SRS introduced a new initiative in 2002 referred to as the Parent Fee Program. If your child recently started HCBS Waiver services, you just now may be hearing about the Parent Fee Program. This letter and other information available to you, will explain this initiative and its importance.

In May 2002 the Kansas Legislature passed a Proviso that authorized the SRS Secretary to collect fees from parents to pay for a portion of the services provided to their children. Affected by this Proviso are parents of children whose eligibility for the Home and Community Based Services Waiver (HCBS) was determined without considering parental resources or income.

In the Parent Fee Program, parents share in the financial responsibility of providing HCBS services for their child by paying a portion of the cost. A Sliding Fee Scale was developed by SRS in conjunction with a working group that included representatives of stakeholder agencies and family members. Parents pay a set fee each month based on their family size and income, although families with incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level pay nothing. While SRS will take steps to collect delinquent fees, SRS will not deny services to a child whose parents fail to pay their fee.

Since the Fall of 2002 when the Parent Fee Program began, hundreds of parents have been promptly paying their monthly Parent Fees, and SRS thanks these parents sincerely. These payments are needed to help other children and families like your own obtain services that may not have been available otherwise.

I encourage you to review the information about the Parent Fee Program, including the Proviso, a list of Frequently Asked Questions and the Sliding Fee Scale. Information is available on the SRS website at www.srskansas.org/hcp/mo/MOParentalFeeInfo.htm or you can contact SRS Management Operations staff at (785) 296-3536. I trust that you will find the HCBS services beneficial for your child and family and I thank you in advance for sharing in the cost for these services through the Parent Fee Program.

Sincerely,

Gary J. Daniels
Acting Secretary

DOCKING STATE OFFICE BUILDING, 915 SW HARRISON ST., 10th FLOOR, TOPEKA, KS 66612-1570

Voice 785-296-3536 Fax 785-368-6228 www.srskansas.org

PARENT FEE SCHEDULE

(Also Referred to as the "Sliding Fee Scale")

Schedule was reformatted in
September 2003

Federal Poverty Level (FPL)	Monthly Parent Fee	Family of Two Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)		Family of Three AGI		Family of Four AGI		Family of Five or More AGI	
		Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly
100%	\$0	\$11,610	\$968	\$14,630	\$1,219	\$17,650	\$1,471	\$20,670	\$1,723
151%	\$0	\$17,531	\$1,461	\$22,091	\$1,841	\$26,652	\$2,221	\$31,212	\$2,601
178%	\$0	\$20,434	\$1,703	\$25,749	\$2,146	\$31,064	\$2,589	\$36,379	\$3,032
201%	\$10	\$23,336	\$1,945	\$29,406	\$2,451	\$35,476	\$2,956	\$41,547	\$3,462
226%	\$15	\$26,239	\$2,187	\$33,064	\$2,755	\$39,889	\$3,324	\$46,714	\$3,893
251%	\$20	\$29,141	\$2,428	\$36,721	\$3,060	\$44,301	\$3,692	\$51,882	\$4,324
276%	\$26	\$32,044	\$2,670	\$40,379	\$3,365	\$48,714	\$4,060	\$57,049	\$4,754
301%	\$33	\$34,946	\$2,912	\$44,036	\$3,670	\$53,127	\$4,427	\$62,217	\$5,185
326%	\$41	\$37,849	\$3,154	\$47,694	\$3,975	\$57,539	\$4,795	\$67,384	\$5,615
351%	\$49	\$40,751	\$3,396	\$51,351	\$4,279	\$61,952	\$5,163	\$72,552	\$6,046
376%	\$58	\$43,654	\$3,638	\$55,009	\$4,584	\$66,364	\$5,530	\$77,719	\$6,477
401%	\$68	\$46,556	\$3,880	\$58,666	\$4,889	\$70,777	\$5,898	\$82,887	\$6,907
426%	\$79	\$49,459	\$4,122	\$62,324	\$5,194	\$75,189	\$6,266	\$88,054	\$7,338
451%	\$90	\$52,361	\$4,363	\$65,981	\$5,498	\$79,602	\$6,634	\$93,222	\$7,769
476%	\$102	\$55,264	\$4,605	\$69,639	\$5,803	\$84,014	\$7,001	\$98,389	\$8,199
501%	\$115	\$58,166	\$4,847	\$73,296	\$6,108	\$88,427	\$7,369	\$103,557	\$8,630
526%	\$129	\$61,069	\$5,089	\$76,954	\$6,413	\$92,839	\$7,737	\$108,724	\$9,060
551%	\$143	\$63,971	\$5,331	\$80,611	\$6,718	\$97,252	\$8,104	\$113,892	\$9,491
576%	\$159	\$66,874	\$5,573	\$84,269	\$7,022	\$101,664	\$8,472	\$119,059	\$9,922
601%	\$174	\$69,776	\$5,815	\$87,926	\$7,327	\$106,077	\$8,840	\$124,227	\$10,352

Calculating the Parent Fee - You will need the "number of exemptions" you claimed and your "Adjusted Gross Income" (AGI) from your most recent federal income tax return. Then follow the steps under A or B below, depending upon the size of your AGI.

A. For Incomes Below 601% of the FPL:

- Find the column for your family size (# of exemptions on your federal tax return)
- Read down the column until you find the 2 AGI figures your own AGI falls between.
- From the smaller of those 2 AGIs, read horizontally back to the left column titled "Monthly Parent Fee" and that figure is your estimated Monthly Fee.

EXAMPLES

- (a) For family of two, with an AGI of \$35,000; this AGI falls between \$34,946 and \$37,849. From the smaller AGI of \$34,946 read horizontally back to the left to the column "Monthly Parent Fee" and the fee is \$33/mo.
- (b) For family of five, with an AGI of \$70,000; this AGI falls between \$67,384 and \$72,552. From the smaller AGI of \$67,384 read horizontally back to the left to the column "Monthly Parent Fee" and the fee is \$41/mo.

B. For Incomes Above 601% of the FPL:

- The fee is set at 3% of the income for a family size of 2 at the corresponding FPL.

EXAMPLE

For a family of 4 with an Adjusted Gross Income of \$225,000:

Steps:

- \$225,000 is 1275% above the FPL of \$17,650 (250,000 divided by 17,650 = 12.75 or 1275%)
- 1275% above the FPL of \$17,650 for a family of 2 is \$148,027 (11,610 x 1275% = 148,027)
- \$148,027 multiplied by 3% is \$4441 divided by 12 months = \$370 (number rounded)