

FAMILY TAX CREDITS



State Child and Dependent Care Tax Provisions, Tax Year 2012

Child and dependent care expenses can take a huge bite out of families' budgets. With few increases in state or federal funding, direct child care assistance is not available to every family that needs help paying for child and dependent care.

The federal **Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit** and similar state tax provisions can help eligible families

offset their child care expenses. These tax provisions can lower the income taxes that families must pay and, in some cases, give cash refunds to families whose incomes are too low to owe taxes.

Twenty-eight states (including the District of Columbia) have child and dependent care tax provisions. Twelve of those states offer refundable credits (listed in bold).

State Tax Provisions ¹	Maximum Value
Arkansas Child Care Tax Credit	\$420
Arkansas Early Childhood Program Tax Credit²	\$420
California Tax Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses	\$1,050
Colorado Child Care Tax Credit³	\$1,050
Delaware Child Care Tax Credit ⁴	\$1,050
The District of Columbia Tax Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses	\$672
Georgia Tax Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses	\$630
Hawaii Tax Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses	\$1,200
Idaho Tax Deduction for Child and Dependent Care Expenses	\$468
Iowa Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit⁵	\$1,575
Kansas Tax Credit for Child & Dependent Care Expenses	\$525
Kentucky Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit	\$420
Louisiana Child Care Tax Credit⁶	\$1,050
Louisiana Child Care Expense Tax Credit⁷	\$2,100
Louisiana Tax Credit for Certain Disabled Dependents	\$2,100
Maine Child Care Tax Credit⁸	\$1,050
Maryland Tax Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses ⁹	\$683
Maryland Tax Deduction for Child and Dependent Care Expenses	\$330
Massachusetts Tax Deduction for Child and Dependent Care Expenses	\$509
Minnesota Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit	\$1,440
Montana Child and Dependent Care Expense Tax Deduction ¹⁰	\$192

State Tax Provisions ¹	Maximum Value
Nebraska Tax Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses	\$2,100
New Mexico Child Day Care Tax Credit¹¹	\$960 for two, \$1,200 for three or more children or dependents
New York State Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit	\$2,310
North Carolina Tax Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses	\$780
Ohio Tax Credit for Child and Dependent Care Services	\$2,100
Oklahoma Child Care Tax Credit ¹²	\$420
Oregon Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit ¹³	\$1,800
Oregon Working Family Child Care Tax Credit⁹	40% of eligible expenses
Rhode Island Tax Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses	\$525
South Carolina Tax Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses	\$420
Vermont Tax Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses ¹⁴	\$504
Vermont Low-Income Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit¹⁵	\$1,050
Virginia Tax Deduction for Child and Dependent Care Expenses	\$345



For more information about state child and dependent care tax provisions, see NWLC’s report, Making Care Less Taxing, available at http://www.nwlc.org/our-resources/reports_toolkits/making-care-less-taxing. If you are interested in introducing or improving a child and dependent care tax credit in your state, please contact Amy Matsui at amatsui@nwlc.org.

If you are interested in conducting outreach activities to inform families in your state about these and other valuable tax credits for which they may be eligible, please visit NWLC’s tax credits outreach campaign webpage at www.nwlc.org/loweryourtaxes.

- 1 Refundable or partially refundable credits are listed in bold.
- 2 In order for a tax filer to claim the refundable portion of this credit, the care expenses must be incurred for children age 5 and under in an approved early childhood program.
- 3 Only child care expenses may be claimed for this credit.
- 4 Child and dependent care expenses may be claimed for this tax credit.
- 5 Eligible tax filers may claim the higher of the child and dependent care tax provision or the state’s Early Childhood Development Tax Credit, which is worth up to \$250 per eligible child, but not both.
- 6 Eligible filers can claim all three of the Louisiana credits.
- 7 Only care expenses for children aged 5 and under enrolled in child care programs rated two stars or higher on Louisiana’s Quality Start rating system may be claimed for this credit.
- 8 In order for a tax filer to claim the maximum value of this credit, the expenses must be incurred at nationally accredited child care sites approved by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services.
- 9 Eligible tax filers may claim both of this state’s child and dependent care tax provisions.
- 10 Only care expenses for children under age 15 may be claimed for this credit.
- 11 Only care expenses for children under age 15 may be claimed for this credit.
- 12 Eligible tax filers may claim the higher of the child and dependent care tax provision or a credit worth 5% of the federal child tax credit, but not both.
- 13 Only care expenses for children under age 13 or disabled children of any age may be claimed for this credit.
- 14 Eligible tax filers may claim either the Vermont Tax Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses or the Vermont Low-Income Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, but not both.
- 15 Only expenses incurred in child care facilities that are either nationally accredited or rated three or more stars on Vermont’s STARS quality rating system may be claimed for this credit.