

**Market Rate Survey  
Frequently Asked Questions**

#	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1	What is the purpose of the Market Rate Survey?	A Market Rate Survey measures the consumers' child care payment amounts in a specific geographic area
2	What is a rate? Is this the same or different from my costs?	A rate is not the same as your costs. For the purpose of this survey, the rates are the amounts that your customers pay for child care.
3	Why does the market rate survey ask for the weekly full day rate?	The Department uses the term weekly full day rate to mean Monday through Friday for five days. The Department will take the weekly rate that the provider enters in response to the survey and divide by 5 to get a daily rate.
4	Why are you asking for the February 2008 rate?	We will be comparing the amount with the July 2007 rate to look at the trends for any changes to date.
5	What do I enter if no private pay children were enrolled in a specific age group in February 2008?	If there are no private fee payments for a particular age level during the month (i.e. February 2008) enter the published rate. See the Definitions & Examples Sheet for more information.
6	If a program has other sources of income that help pay for scholarships, and the published rates are higher than what private pay parents actually pay, what information should be submitted?	According to the National Child Care Information Center (NCCIC), <i>Conducting Market Rate Surveys and Establishing Rate Policies</i> , "Market Rate Surveys can only capture data on the price of child care, not on the cost of child care in a given market. The actual per-child cost of the program for providing child care services may be paid by public or private grants, gifts, in-kind donations, as well as fees collected from consumers." You will not be reporting an amount on the Market Rate Survey that is higher than what private parents actually pay. However, it is important that providers with a discount and/or scholarship policy submit this information along with their published rates when completing the survey. We will use this information to determine if exceptions need to be made on a case by case basis.
7	There is a question on the survey about the blended rate. What does that mean?	The Department knows that some child care facilities offer full day care during the school year for school age children and charge a higher rate than the traditional before and after school rate. These same facilities will often offer full day care for school age children during the summer and have a higher rate than what they charge for before and after school age care. When the Department calculates the rate for the full day care offered during the school year for school age children, it blends the summer full day rate and the school year part day rate for a blended rate.
8	What is the purpose of requesting the summer part day rate for school age children, how will it be used, and could it change the blended rate?	The summer part day rate is used to calculate <i>year-round</i> subsidy payment rates – including the blended rate.
9	What is the plan to ensure that providers not serving subsidy clients will respond to the survey?	The Child Care Information Services (CCIS) agencies send the Market Rate Survey to all providers and conduct follow-up with providers that do not respond.

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10	What is a part day care?	The term part day means that the child attends for a part of the day as defined by the provider.
11	What is a full day care?	The term full day means that a child attends for a full day as defined by the provider.
12	How does OCDEL define part and full day care?	OCDEL defines part day care when a child attends for 4 hours and 59 minutes or less each day and full day care when a child attends 5 hours or more each day.
13	Does the Department expect rates to be lowered as a result of this Market Rate Survey?	The Department does not intend to lower county Maximum Child Care Allowances (MCCA). If providers report rates significantly different from the previous Market Rate Survey, we will examine the data and evaluate next steps as needed.
14	Will there be an add-on to the subsidy payment rates for Keystone STARS providers?	There will continue to be an add-on to subsidy payment rates for STARS 2, 3 and 4 providers only. This subsidy payment rate (including the add-on where applicable) may exceed the county MCCA.
15	What happens if I do not respond to the Market Rate Survey?	If you do not respond, the rates you previously reported will be used for your program.
16	What rate do I use if there is one private fee family for a particular age level?	If there is one private fee family with a child attending during the month, the majority is that family's payment amount.
17	Why are you asking for a majority of parents rather than what our published rate may be?	The Department realizes that the published rate may not reflect that actual charge to parents. The purpose of a MRS is to measure the cost a parent pays. By using the term "majority" this helps the Department capture the fee providers are charging for most of their families since providers have a variety of full and part day rates.
18	What rate do I use if there are no private fee families for a particular age level?	If there are no private fee families for a particular age level during the month, enter your published rate.
19	What rate do I use if there are no private fee families attending full day, five days per week for a particular age level?	If there are no private fee families attending five days per week (Monday through Friday) for a particular age level during the month, enter your published rate.
20	What happens if I do not submit a copy of my July 2008 published rates?	Please know that the Department believes it is important to view published rates for all providers. It helps answer possible questions when entering the Market Rate Survey. If you do not send a copy of your published rates, your information will not be included in the MRS nor will your new rates for 2008-09 be entered in Pelican Child Care Works.
21	What rate do I use if my Governing Board has not met to determine my 2008-09 rates?	If you do not yet know your 2008-09 rates, submit your best estimate of what you anticipate those rates to be. If your final rates are different from the rates you anticipated, contact your CCIS immediately.

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