



QUICK FACTS  
Family Cost Share Pilot

We want to know what families think about a family cost share. This is for gathering information only.

All information gathered is ANONYMOUS

Out of concern over potential cuts to Early Supports and Services (ESS) funding and increased costs of providing quality ESS services, the Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) has created a sub-committee to look *at the possibility* of charging families a nominal fee for receiving ESS services.

The sustainability of ESS as it is now is in jeopardy. Most of the money to support ESS comes from state and federal funds but the current funding is not sufficient to maintain the quality program that there is today.

ESS is currently relying on additional funds from the Bureau of Developmental Services (BDS) to sustain it. There is concern that BDS will not be able to maintain this level of support.

Many other states have some sort of family cost share to support their state's ESS programs. NH has had a family cost share for ESS in the past and was able to do away with it; however, the time has come to take another look at having a family cost share as a possible funding source.

The proposed cost share plan will operate on a sliding fee scale based on a family's size and income. There will be no charge to a family until income levels are above 300% of the Federal Poverty Level. For a family of four, this amount would currently be \$70,650 with a cost share amount to the family of only \$30 per month.

A family will not be denied access to ESS due to their inability to pay.

There could be "Hardship Exemptions" available to families under certain circumstances. This would have to be self-identified by the family and would be looked at on an individual basis.

A third party entity would be responsible for billing and collecting the cost share amounts.

Families will need to fill out the Family Cost Share Financial Information Form and provide information about their family's finances. This information will be confidential.

The sub-committee is asking each region to "pilot" a proposed sliding fee scale with 5 families to see what works, what needs to be changed and to bring back feedback from families.

Families need to know that this pilot program is for informational purposes only. The program has not been finalized. **CURRENTLY FAMILIES WILL NOT BE CHARGED FOR ESS.**