



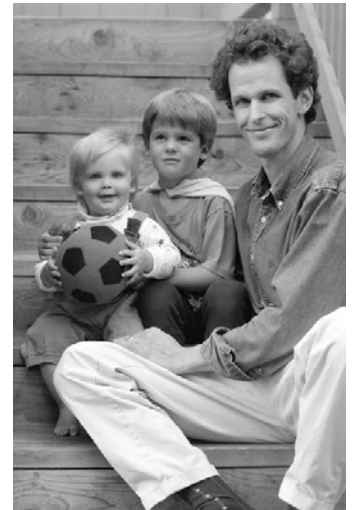
**WHAT IS A  
LEGALLY CERTIFIED PROVIDER (LCP)  
OR  
LEGALLY CERTIFIED IN-HOME PROVIDER (LCI)  
OF CHILD CARE?**

Federal regulations guarantee the right of parental choice in selecting child care. As a result, parents may choose a friend or family member to provide child care and receive state payment. These individuals are known as Legally Certified Providers. There are two situations in which a Legally Certified Provider can participate in the State of Montana Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship (child care assistance program).

**In the Provider's home (LCP)** - The provider cares for the children in the provider's home for two or fewer children from different families or all the children of one family. The provider receives the child care assistance payment from the State after the invoice is submitted to the Child Care Resource & Referral agency.

**In the Child's home (LCI)** - The provider cares for the children of one family, in the Child's home. The parent receives the child care assistance payment from the State after the invoice is submitted to the Child Care Resource & Referral agency. The parent must pay their provider in accordance with applicable labor laws.

**WHO CAN BE  
A LEGALLY CERTIFIED PROVIDER  
OR  
LEGALLY CERTIFIED IN-HOME  
PROVIDER?**



1. A person who is at least 18 years old.
2. A person who is mentally and physically capable of providing child care that meets safety, health and other basic child care requirements and standards.
3. A friend or relative who does not live with the child.
4. A grandparent, great-grandparent, aunt or uncle who lives with the child and is not part of the TANF or Child Care household. Relation is verified through birth certificate records. The CCR&R can access birth certificates for those persons born in Montana. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide birth certificates if born in any other state or country.

**PLEASE NOTE:** All Legally Certified Providers and Legally Certified In-Home Providers must attend a basic child care orientation within sixty days of approval. The orientation covers basic health and safety precautions; as well as, pertinent child development information and ideas for appropriate activities and discipline.