

REVENUE ENHANCEMENT

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program (TANF) and Emergency Assistance (EA)

16-5

TANF Services

To submit a claim for a service under the TANF program, the service must:

- be reasonably calculated to accomplish one of the four TANF purposes described below; or
- have been covered under the state's former Emergency Assistance (EA) program.

Out-of-Home Services

All out-of-home services are eligible under TANF unless the child fails to meet the specified relative test, *i.e.*, the child did not live with a relative within six months of being placed in foster or residential care.

Out-of-home services shall be covered for one year from the date of the EA/TANF application signed by the REU worker.

In-Home Services

All in-home services are eligible under TANF if provided to a needy family. A needy family is a family with income below 75% of the State Median Income (SMI).

If the family is eligible for Medicaid, HUSKY, food stamps, Temporary Financial Assistance or childcare assistance, DCF shall assume that the family is needy. If this information is not available, DCF shall determine if the family's income is below 75% of the SMI.

TANF Purposes

The purposes of TANF are to:

- provide assistance to needy families so that a child may be cared for in his or her own home or in the home of a relative;
- end dependence of needy families by promoting job preparation, work and marriage;
- prevent and reduce out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and
- encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Since the state's EA plan included services for children at risk of abuse and neglect, DCF can claim for out-of-home placements (foster care and residential treatment) that would not otherwise qualify under any of the purposes.

Background

The Title IV-A Emergency Assistance to Families with Children (EA) is a federal program that provides assistance and services to help children and families who are in crisis situations. Its intentions include:

- help avoid destitution of a child; or
 - provide a child with living arrangements in a home.
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Emergency Assistance Protective Services

DCF shall participate in Connecticut's EA program by providing protective services that are:

- needed because of abuse, neglect, or abandonment or the risk thereof; and
- furnished pursuant to either a judicial determination of dependency or a voluntary placement agreement.

The EA plan provides a broad coverage of protective services including, but not limited to:

- case management;
- referral assistance;
- shelter care;
- family foster care;
- group home care;
- residential treatment services; and
- other protective services intended to address the emergency situation.

Emergency assistance coverage for protective services may be extended up to 12 months.

Presumptive Eligibility

All child welfare clients shall be deemed presumptively eligible for EA/TANF services and DCF shall begin the provision of EA/TANF services immediately without completing the final eligibility determination.

The provision of services shall not be delayed pending the eligibility determination that shall be completed when the IV-E eligibility determination is performed.

DCF shall submit claims for EA/TANF eligible services for twelve months from the date of the TANF application, but only after the final eligibility determination is completed.

Eligibility

The eligibility criteria for emergency assistance protective services are:

- an emergency exists that requires protective services due to an allegation or risk of abuse, neglect or abandonment or a judicial determination of dependency;
 - the emergency did not arise because the principal parent refused employment;
 - at least one child in the family is under age 21 and is a U.S. citizen or a legally documented U.S. resident;
 - the child receiving assistance lives with, or at some time during the past six months lived with, a specified relative;
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Eligibility (continued)

- the child's parents do not have the financial resources immediately available to pay for all of the child's costs of care (a child with the financial resources to pay for some of the cost of their care is eligible for EA, but the cost of care billed to EA is reduced by the amount paid on behalf of the child); and
- the child has not had other EA services authorized within the past 12 months.

EA/TANF Application for Out-of- Home Services

DCF shall use the DCF-550, "Title IV-E/XIX/EA/TANF Application," to apply for EA/TANF benefits on behalf of a child.

DCF shall be empowered to apply for EA/TANF benefits on behalf of the child instead of the family if the child is:

- at risk of abuse or neglect, or
- is being abused or neglected.

Authorization of Services

Only those services authorized in one 30-day consecutive period shall be eligible for claims under TANF. Since it is not possible to determine all of the services needed to reduce the risk of abuse and neglect during the ensuing 12 months, the family and child shall be authorized to receive any services necessary to alleviate the emergency causing the child to be at risk of abuse and neglect or to be abused and neglected.

For children deemed presumptively eligible for EA/TANF services, all services shall be authorized effective on the date of the EA/TANF application.

EA/TANF Eligibility Determination

The REO shall use the Title IV-E Eligibility Determination Worksheet to determine whether a family is eligible for EA/TANF.

Foster care and residential treatment services are TANF eligible if:

- the child is eligible; and
- the costs are not included in other federal reimbursements.

Duration of Services

DCF will claim EA/TANF services for 12 months from the date of the initial EA/TANF application. Therefore, all out-of-home case management services and EA foster care provided during the 12 consecutive month period following removal of the child from his or her home may be claimed under EA/TANF.

If the child is returned to his or her home after the initial 12-month period and is subsequently removed from his or her home again, DCF shall not begin a second 12-month emergency period.
