
Care 4 Kids Program

POLICY TRANSMITTAL



DIVISION OF FAMILY SERVICES-CHILD CARE TEAM

Transmittal Number: C4K-POL-02-02

Date: August 13, 2002

To: Nancy Wiggett, Program Director
Care 4 Kids

From: Rita M. Pacheco, Deputy Commissioner of Programs
Department of Social Services

cc: Policy Distribution List

Subject: Priority Groups

Program Issue: New regulations for the Department of Social Services child care assistance program, also known as Care 4 Kids, became effective January 1, 2002. This transmittal provides clarification to the prioritization groups for child care funding.

Policy Directive: Within available funding, the program will authorize payments based on the following order of priorities per section 17b-749-08 of the regulations:

- 1.a. Parents receiving state cash assistance benefits from the Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) program who are employed,
- 1.b. Parents receiving state cash assistance benefits from the TFA program who are participating in an approved Jobs First Employment Services Activity,
- 1.c. Parents receiving state cash assistance benefits from the TFA program who are employed and participating in an approved Jobs First Employment Services Activity,
- 1.d. Parents who are employed and completing an approved Jobs First Employment Services Activity that began before benefits from the TFA program were discontinued, for up to one year after TFA has ended as long as there has been no break from the activity schedule,
2. Parents who are employed and whose state cash assistance benefits from the TFA program were discontinued within six calendar months prior to the date of application for child care assistance,
3. Parents who are under the age of twenty who attend high school,
4. Parents who are employed and have gross countable family income below 50% of state median income (SMI),

5. Parents who are employed and have gross countable family income equal to or greater than 50% and less than 75% of SMI who are requesting assistance for a child who was adopted from the CT Department of Children and Families,
6. All other parents who are employed and have gross countable family income equal to or greater than 50% and less than 75% of SMI.

NOTE: Section 17b-749-05 of the regulations establishes a gross countable income limit of less than 50% of SMI by family size. The regulations also permit the Commissioner to increase the income limit to less than 75% of SMI for recipients or for both applicants and recipients.

Implementation Requirements:

1. **Recipients** - Effective January 1, 2002, the Commissioner increased the income limit for recipients to less than 75% of SMI. Therefore, recipients may remain eligible until their income reaches 75% of SMI, assuming all other eligibility factors are met.
2. **Applicants** - Effective January 1, 2002, the Commissioner maintained the income limit for applicants at less than 50% of SMI. Therefore, Care 4 Kids is unable to grant applications for families who are determined for Priority Groups 5 or 6.

RMP:eph