

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

June 5, 2020

M E M O R A N D U M

What's Inside:
Increase in
Child Care
Subsidy
eligibility
limits and
changes to
Transitional
Child Care

TO: ALL REGIONAL AND COUNTY CD AND FSD STAFF

FROM: REGINALD MCELHANNON, DIRECTOR CHILDREN'S DIVISION
KIM EVANS, DIRECTOR, FAMILY SUPPORT DIVISION

SUBJECT: INCREASE IN CHILD CARE INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES
AND ADJUSTMENTS TO TRANSITIONAL CHILD CARE

Effective May 1, 2020, Child Care Subsidy income guidelines increase based on the Federal Poverty guidelines issued by the Federal Government. Maximum income limits have increased for households receiving Child Care Subsidy.

Section 210.045.00 Income Eligibility Guidelines of the Child Care Subsidy manual has been updated to include updated policy for Transitional Child Care. Transitional Child Care has been adjusted to two levels effective May 1, 2020. Households with income that exceeds traditional child care (CC) may be eligible for Transitional Child Care Level A at 80% of the traditional child care benefit or Transitional Child Care Level B at 60% of the traditional child care benefit, if all other eligibility requirements are met. Households will be eligible for TCCA if the adjusted gross income is between 139% and 175% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and TCCB if the adjusted gross income is between 176% and 215% of the FPL. Household eligible for TCCA or TCCB are required to pay sliding fees of \$5.00 for a full day, \$3.25 for half day and \$2.25 for part day care for each child, unless the child has a designated special need.

TCCA and TCCB is not time limited and does not require any additional reporting to remain eligible. Households are still required to reapply for benefits annually and are subject to the same change reporting requirements as all other child care households.

Active and reapplying households may qualify for traditional CC, TCCA, or TCCB. New applicants and applicants whose child care eligibility lapsed will have eligibility for child care benefits evaluated only at the traditional CC eligibility level.

Active household with TCC2 and TCC3 will be re-evaluated to determine eligibility for TCCA using the TCCA income standard and TCCB using the TCCB income standard.

When an active household reapplies for benefits before the end of the current eligibility period, FAMIS will first evaluate the income using the traditional CC income standard. If the household's income exceeds the traditional CC standard, FAMIS will evaluate eligibility at the TCCA standard. If the household's income exceeds the TCCA standard, FAMIS will evaluate eligibility at the TCCB standard. If the household's income exceeds the TCCB standard, FAMIS will recommend rejecting the application due to excessive income (action REJC, reason MAX). If the household's income is greater than the traditional CC standard, but less than the TCCA standard, FAMIS will recommend approving the application at the TCCA level (action APPR). If the household's income is greater than the TCCA standard but less than the TCCB standard, FAMIS will recommend approving the application at the TCCB level (action APPR).

The TCC flag in FAMIS will now appear as N, A, or B, depending on the household's eligibility. The TCC flag appears on the following screens:

EUSUMM (FM0J)
Action Authorization (FM3H)
CCBUDSUM (FM3T)
CCATTEND (FM5P)

A TCC flag of A or B will also appear on the provider's paper invoices and online invoices for each child receiving transitional child care benefits.

When a family is eligible for TCCA, benefits are paid at 80% of the state maximum rate (or 80% of the provider's rate, whichever is lower). When a family is eligible for TCCB, benefits are paid at 60% of the state maximum rate (or 60% of the provider's rate, whichever is lower). As rates are based on several factors specific to the provider and child (child's age, time of day care is provided, provider's geographic location, provider's legal status, eligibility for rate differentials, etc.) notices generated to the family and to the provider will reflect each child's daily rate, as opposed to each child's sliding fee. Notices will also notify the family and provider whether the family is eligible for TCC level A or B. Rates will take into account a sliding fee of \$5.00/\$3.25/\$2.25 for each child, unless the child is designated as special needs.

Child Care (CC) Worker Initiated Budget Calculation Area (WIBCA – FMXH)

The WIBCA process for TCC has not changed (please refer to memo CD09-06/OEC09-02 (<http://dss.mo.gov/cd/info/memos/2009/cd0906.pdf>)). When a WIBCA is needed to determine continuous eligibility for TCC, FAMIS will determine TCCA or TCCB on the WIBCA, based on income and other information entered.

NECESSARY ACTION

1. Review this memorandum with all Children's Division and Family Support Division staff.
2. Review revised Child Care Subsidy sections as indicated below.
3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to:

PDS/MAS II CONTACT Sharon Barsby 573-751-2037 Sharon.Barsby@dss.mo.gov	PROGRAM MANAGER Marianne A Dawson 573-751-6793 Marianne.A.Dawson@dss.mo.gov
CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM MANUAL REVISIONS https://dssmanuals.mo.gov/child-care-manual/2010-045-00/ Income Eligibility Guidelines. https://dssmanuals.mo.gov/child-care-manual/2010-045-05/ Budgeting Process	
FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS N/A	
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES	
RELATED STATUTE N/A	