

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Title of Rule: Child Care Assistance Program Rules and Regulations (218-RICR-20-00-4)

Rule Identifier: 218-RICR-20-00-4

Rulemaking Action: Direct Final Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: 07/15/2019

End of Public Comment: 08/14/2019

Authority for this Rulemaking:

RIGL 42-12-23

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

2019 FPL application to the CCAP Income Guidelines per the federal mandate. In keeping in line with the Federal Re-authorization requirements, the following additional changes have been made: redefined school hours to be from 9:30a-1:30p, instead of 9a-2p; increased the grace period for job loss from 21 days to 3 months and clarified that it will be applied if the loss in status of employment, education or training occurs when there is less than 3 months of the 12-month certification period remaining; removed of RIW payments as countable income; added RIW payments to the Excluded Income definition; implemented the requirement that License exempt providers are to care for relatives only; clarified that RIW recipients receiving CCAP are to have zero co-pays, unless the RIW is for an LP who is not part of the RIW unit; implemented a zero co-pay for homeless families applying for CCAP; implemented that CCAP Providers may enroll a homeless child prior to receipt of the immunization record and/or completion of other health and safety requirements; implemented that DHS will pay for up to 90 days of child care service provided while an application for a homeless family is pending, even if the application is ultimately denied for lack of verification or eligibility; implement that CCAP Providers will dis-enroll a homeless child when the requirement to provide the immunization record and/or the completion of other health and safety requirements have not been met by day 90 of the enrollment; changed the limit of days for which DHS will issue payment for an absent eligible child from two weeks in a 12 month period to 5 days per month; updated the renewal period for Licensed Providers in 4.12.5-C.1 five years to two years to align with Licensing Regulation. Also, removed the CCAP Maximum Weekly Reimbursement Rates chart in 4.13 and replaced it with a link. DHS does not set provider reimbursement rates, but simply applies them. As such, reimbursement rates are not dictated by the CCAP Policy.

Additional Information and Comments:

If no formal objection is received on or before August 14, 2019, Department of Human Services will file the Amendment without opportunity for public comment..

Objections should be addressed to:

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Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

These changes will further facility the continuity of Child Care for eligible families/children, as well as promote high-quality child care services amongst Child Care Providers. The changes will also allow for a grace period, during which a homeless family can utilize benefits prior to submitting all required documents. In addition, the grace period allows for provider to enroll a child prior to the family submitting all required enrollment documentation and guarantees payment for the services provided during the grace period. Finally, families experiencing non-temporary loss of employment are given an increased grace period to seek employment.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation see agency contact person above.