Rhode Island Department of Human Services

Name of Regulation: Child Care Assistance Program Rules and Regulations
Full RICR Citation: 218-RICR-20-00-4
Posted for Public Comment on: May 30, 2025
Comment Period Ended on: June 29, 2025
Summary Response to Comments:

	Nature of the Comments	DHS Response
	Summary of comment received	DHS response, if applicable
1.	"We are encouraged to see the proposed shift to a 24-month eligibilty period. This change will significantly reduce administrative burdens on both families and providers, easing the challenges associated with frequent recertification. In our exprerience, most families remain eligible for CCAP for extended periods, and unnecessary re-verification creates disruption rather than meaningful oversight. More importantly, stable, uninterrupted child care supports better developmental outcomes for children. We applaud DHS for recognizing the importance of continuity and stability in child care and for proposing this thoughtful and practical improvement to CCAP eligibity."	Thank you for supporting the change from a twelve (12) month certification period to a twnety-four (24) month certification period.
2.	"Rhode Island KIDS COUNT strongly supports the proposed change to provide 24-month continuous eligibility for the Child Care Assistance Program. This exceeds the federal minimum standard and will help families, children, and programs. Continuity of care is an important element to ensure children can maintain relationships with their teachers and caregivers and have access to high-quality learning environments."	Thank you for supporting the change from a twelve (12) month certification period to a twnety-four (24) month certification period.
3.	"We also support the removal of the requirement that parents must be enrolled in a specific degree program at a Rhode Island public institution of higher education to access a child care subsidy. As more parents pursue certificates and job training at CCRI, RIC, or URI, it is important to provide the flexibility they need to access a child care subsidy."	Thank you for supporting the removal of the requirement of Associate's degree and Bachelor's degree for CCAP for College.
4.	"Lastly, we support the change to the minimum age for a child to qualify for Child Care Assistance from 1 week to 6 weeks to align with licensing standards, simplification of the asset requirement, and clarification that child care providers are paid based on enrollment and must participate in the BrightStars Quality Rating and Improvement System to maintain their status as a DHS CCAP approved provider."	Thank you for supporting the change to the minimum age for a child to qualify for CCAP from one (1) week to six (6) weeks to align with licensing standards.