
Care 4 Kids Program



Program Operations TRANSMITTAL

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To: Sherri Sutera, Program Director
Care 4 Kids Program

From: Harriet Feldlaufer, Director of Early Care and Education
Office of Early Childhood

CC: Distribution List

Subject: **Unlicensed Home-Based Provider's Eligibility**



Program Issue: The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 has made changes to improve the health, safety, and quality of care for children in child care settings.

Background: The CCDBG Act of 2014, defines health and safety standards including monitoring for all subsidy providers Pub. L. 113-186 and the regulations, 45 CFR Part § 98.41 (a). The law exempts relatives from being monitored for these new health and safety standards.

Connecticut's current rules governing eligibility of unlicensed home-based child care providers, as contained in section 17b-749-12 of the Regulations of Connecticut, are inconsistent with the new requirements of the federal law; as such, they are considered null and void because of the inconsistency. The regulations require: that unlicensed providers shall be 18 years old or older; an unlicensed child care arrangement shall not be approved if care is provided by an in-home child care provider or a relative who provides child care services to more than six children during substantially the same hours. Up to three children under the age of two may receive child care services together at a time, as long as they are the only children in the provider's care. No more than two infants may receive care at any one time if the provider cares for any other preschool or school age children during the same hours; and relative is defined to mean a person of any of the degrees of kinship and informal child care arrangements as specified in subdivision (b)(4) of section 19a-77 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

In order to comply with the new federal changes, the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) is changing the eligibility requirements for unlicensed home-based Care 4 Kids providers. The only eligible unlicensed home-based providers and settings are:

- Relatives who are related to the child by blood, marriage, or adoption and are at least 20 years or older. Relative is defined in Pub L. 113-186 and regulation, 45 CFR Part § 98.41 (a) as grandmother/grandfather, great grandmother/grandfather, aunt/ uncle, and sibling.
- In regard to siblings, based on Care 4 Kids regulation, Sec. 17b-749-12 (a) (4) (D), only siblings living outside of the child's home would considered eligible.
- Finally, the total capacity for unlicensed relative providers, including the provider's children, is three children, with no more than two children under the age of two years old.

Directives:

Any new certificate for unlicensed home based care for care effective on or after October 1, 2016 will need to meet the new eligibility requirements: minimum age, definition of relative, and capacity.

Minimum Age Requirement Implementation:

Any new certificate for unlicensed home based care for care effective on or after October 1, 2016 will require the provider to meet the new age eligibility requirement of 20 years or older.

Any active certificates issued before October 1, 2016 with an unlicensed home based provider under age 20 will remain in effect until the certificate expires.

Any certificates that are terminated prior to the expiration date due to an interim change can be reissued to the existing provider up until the end of the eligibility period.

Definition of Relative Implementation:

Any new certificate for unlicensed home based care for care effective on or after October 1, 2016 will require the provider to meet the new definition of eligible relative.

Any active certificates issued before October 1, 2016 with an unlicensed home based provider that does not meet the new definition of eligible relative will remain in effect until the certificate expires.

Any certificates that are terminated prior to the expiration date due to an interim change can be reissued to the existing provider up until the end of the eligibility period.

Unlicensed Provider Capacity Changes:

Any new certificate for unlicensed home based care for care effective on or after October 1, 2016 will require the provider to meet the new defined capacity requirements.

Any active certificates issued before October 1, 2016 with an unlicensed home based provider that does not meet the new defined capacity requirements will remain in effect until March 30, 2017.

Any certificates that are terminated prior to the expiration date due to an interim change can be reissued to the existing provider up to March 30, 2017.

Effective April 1, 2017, all unlicensed home based providers must meet the new capacity requirements of three children, with no more than two children under the age of two years old during the same hours.

Care 4 Kids is instructed to modify forms, notices, procedures and training materials as appropriate.

Questions concerning this transmittal can be referred to the Office of Early Childhood at 860-500-4421.

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