
Care 4 Kids Program

POLICY TRANSMITTAL




DIVISION OF FAMILY SERVICES-CHILD CARE TEAM

Transmittal Number: C4K-POL-03-01

Date: March 21, 2003

To: Lou Gettis, Program Director
Care 4 Kids

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

cc: Policy Distribution List

Subject: **Public Act 03-02 - Income Eligibility Changes for Families
Qualifying for PG 1D and PG 2 Priority Categories**

Program Issue: Public Act 03-2 established a new maximum income limit of up to fifty-five percent of SMI for families who qualify for Care 4 Kids based on the loss of eligibility for Temporary Family Assistance. The new statutory limit is lower than the maximum limit permitted under by law for families assigned to other priority categories. This transmittal implements the provisions of PA 03-2 effective April 1, 2003.

Background: The income eligibility requirements for the Care 4 Kids program are contained in section 17b-749 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The statute establishes an income eligibility limit of up to fifty percent of SMI for all applicants and recipients and provides the Commissioner of DSS with discretion to increase the limit to up to seventy-five percent of SMI for applicants and recipients or recipients only. Currently, the Commissioner has exercised discretion to increase the income eligibility limit for recipients to up to seventy-five percent of SMI. The income limit for new applicants is set at fifty percent of SMI. Families with income below fifty percent of SMI who qualify for the program can remain eligible until the gross family income reaches seventy-five percent of SMI.

PA 03-2 amended the statute by establishing a maximum income limit of up to fifty-five percent of SMI for families who qualify based on the loss of eligibility for Temporary Family Assistance (TFA). The limit is lower than the maximum limit (75 percent of SMI) for families in the other priority categories. This change only affects recipients assigned to the following priority categories:

- PG 1D Post TFA Employment and Training Extension; and
- PG 2 Post TFA Employed

Public Act 03-2 did not remove discretion to increase the income limit to seventy-five percent of SMI for families in priority categories whose eligibility is *not* based on the loss of TFA benefits. Therefore, the income eligibility limit for new applicants remains at fifty percent of SMI and the limit for active recipients is seventy-five percent of SMI for families assigned to the following priority categories:

- PG 1A Active TFA Employed
- PG 1B Active TFA Training
- PG 1C Active TFA Employment and Training
- PG 3 Teen Parents Completing High School
- PG 5 DCF Adoption Cases with income of 50% to less than 75% of SMI
- PG 6 Employed Families with income of 50% to less than 75% of SMI

It should be noted that PA 03-2 did not change the status of Priority Group 4 – *Working Families with Income below fifty percent of SMI*. Priority Group 4 remains closed to new applicants due to current funding limitations.

Implementation: The Department plans to implement the provisions of PA 03-2 on April 1, 2003. Effective April 1, 2003, the income eligibility limit for active families assigned to the PG 1D and PG 2 priority categories shall be set at fifty-five percent of SMI. Families assigned to these priority categories shall become ineligible for the program once the gross countable income reaches fifty-five percent of SMI. PG 1D and PG families whose income equals or exceeds fifty-five percent of SMI prior to April 1, 2003 shall be discontinued from the program on April 1, 2003.

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