
Care 4 Kids Program



Program Operations TRANSMITTAL

Transmittal Number: C4K-POL-20-04

Date: August 4, 2020

To: Sherri Sutera, Program Director
Care 4 Kids Program

From: Harriet Feldlaufer, Director **HF 8/4/20**
Office of Early Childhood

CC: Distribution List

Subject: **FY 2020-2021 State Median Income Standards**

Program Issue: The State Median Income (SMI) standards for optional use in federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 and mandatory use in federal FY 2021 were updated on May 29, 2020 (FY 2020-2021 SMI standards) and are available at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/liheap-im-2020-02-state-median-income-estimates-for-optional-use-fy2020-and-mandatory-use-fy2021>. This transmittal establishes the application of FY 2020-2021 SMI standards in the Care 4 Kids (C4K) program.

Background: C4K utilizes the SMI standards to determine income eligibility and parent fees for applicants and recipients of child care assistance. The Office of Early Childhood (OEC) is required to adjust the SMI standards annually. Regs., Conn. State Agencies § 17b-749-05 (a) (4). By regulation, the adjusted standards should take effect as follows: (a) For new applicants, beginning on or after July 1 of each year; and (2) for families receiving assistance on June 30 of each year, not later than the first redetermination completed after July 1 of each year. Regs., Conn. State Agencies § 17b-749-05 (a) (4). Because the SMI standards are typically published after June 30 of each year, the adjusted standards have been not been applied in accordance with the regulations but rather by reference to the federal FY, which runs from October 1 to September 30 of the following year. Accordingly, October 1 has been used as the effective date for application of the adjusted standards for new applications, redeterminations and interim change received on or after October 1.

Directives:

- A. Effective October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021, C4K shall apply the FY 2020-2021 SMI standards to determine income eligibility for (1) new applications received on or after October 1, 2020; (2) redeterminations with an eligibility start date on or after October 1, 2020; and (3) active recipients reporting interim changes on or after October 1, 2020.

*As parent fees are determined at the time of application and remain in effect until redetermination, unless an ongoing decrease in income occurs; Regs., Conn. State Agencies § 17b-74-13 (f) (6); parent fees determined prior to October 1, 2020, shall remain in effect until the next redetermination or until a decrease in family income causes the fee to be recalculated.

- B. C4K shall update the appropriate areas of its website, ImpaCT (including Family Fees as well as parameters for Priority Groups), and informational materials and brochures consistent with the directive set forth in subsection A.

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

HF:ct