


Care 4 Kids Program
Policy Transmittal
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Connecticut Office
of Early Childhood

To: Sherri Sutera, Program Director
Care 4 Kids Program

From: Julie Giaccone, CCDF Administrator
Office of Early Childhood 

CC: Distribution List

Subject: Grace Period for Children Eligible for Protective Services

Background: The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 Pub. L. 113-186 and 45 CFR § 98 requires lead agencies to establish a grace period that allows children experiencing homelessness a reasonable time to take any necessary action to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements, and to obtain required Care 4 Kids documents necessary for program eligibility.

To comply with the CCDBG law, the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC) will provide a 90-day grace period for all families and children eligible for protective services defined in General Statutes §17b-749. These families can be determined eligible, and a certificate issued without the necessary required documents as defined in the Care 4 Kids regulations 17b-749. This transmittal will supersede and replace Care 4 Kids Policy Transmittals C4K-POL-18-04 and C4K-POL-19-04

Effective July 1, 2023, Section 347 of House Bill No. 6941 amends subsection (a) of 17b-749 of the general statutes providing “the Commissioner of Early Childhood may institute a protective service class in which the commissioner may waive eligibility requirements for at-risk populations that meet the guidelines prescribed by the commissioner, and subject to review by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management. Such at-risk populations are children placed in a foster home by the Department of Children and Families and for whom the parent or legal guardian received foster care payments, adopted children for one year from the date of adoption and homeless children and youths, as defined in 42 USC 11434a, as amended from time to time.”

42 USC § 11434a(2) provides “The term ‘homeless children and youths’— (A) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 11302(a)(1) of this title); and (B) includes— (i) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in

hospitals; (ii) children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (within the meaning of section 11302(a)(2)(C) of this title); (iii) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and (iv) migratory children (as such term is defined in section 6399 of title 20) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this part because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).”

Policy Directives: Effective December 1, 2023, all children eligible for protective services as defined in C.G.S §17b-749 will be granted a 90-day grace period to take any necessary action to comply with immunizations and other health and safety requirements, and to obtain required Care 4 Kids documents necessary for program eligibility. The 90-day grace period will begin the date the application is processed by Care 4 Kids and is not a rolling deadline. At the end of the 90-day grace period all documents must be received by Care 4 Kids to continue program eligibility.

JG:kd