
Care 4 Kids Program



Program Operations TRANSMITTAL

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To: Sherri Sutera, Program Director
Care 4 Kids Program

From: Harriet Feldlaufer, Director
Office of Early Childhood 

CC: Distribution List

Subject: FY 2019-2020 State Median Income Standards

Program Issue: The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has published the State Median Income (SMI) standards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020. This transmittal serves as notification of changes in the SMI standards and provides guidance for implementing the revised standards in the Care 4 Kids program.

Background: In Connecticut, the SMI standards are used to determine income eligibility and parent fees for applicants and recipients of the Care 4 Kids program. Rules pertaining to changes in the income standards are located in Section 17b-749-05 (a)(4) of the Child Care Assistance Program Regulations, and in accordance with Public Act 14-39. The regulation requires the OEC to update the SMI levels annually and specifies that the revised standards take effect beginning with applications received on or after July 1 of each year. Changes in the past years took effect beginning on or after July 1 of each year, and remain in effect until June 30 of the following year. However, because the SMI standards were not announced until August 7, 2019, the SMI standards published for FY 2018-2019 will remain in effect for applications received on or after July 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019. And, FY 2019-2020 SMI standards will be implemented by the Care 4 Kids Program starting on October 1, 2019 and will remain in effect through September 30, 2020.

Income Eligibility for:

New Applicants

The eligibility for families applying on or after July 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019, must be determined using the SMI standards that were in effect for FY 2018-2019, regardless of when the application is processed.

For applications received on or after October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020, the eligibility for families must be determined using the income standards for FY 2019-2020, as published by LIHEAP <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/liheap-im-2019-02-state-median-income-estimates-fy-2019>.

Active Recipients:

For active recipients, the regulation specifies that the updated SMI standards take effect no later than the first redetermination completed on or after July 1 of each calendar year. The Office of Early Childhood (OEC) has opted to implement the revised standards effective with the first eligibility determination completed on or after October 1st for both redeterminations and interim changes that require income eligibility to be reassessed.

Parent Fees

The requirements for implementing changes in parent fees are discussed in Section 17b-74-13 (f)(6) of the regulations. The regulations state that the parent fee is determined at the time of application and remains in effect until the next redetermination unless there is an ongoing decrease in family income. Accordingly, changes in the SMI tables do not require a mass modification of parent fees. Fees established prior to October 1, 2019 remain in effect until the next redetermination or until a decrease in family income causes the fee to be recalculated.

Implementation

The SMI reference table for ImpaCT (including Family Fees as well as parameters for Priority Groups) will be updated in accordance with the requirements described in this transmittal.

Informational materials and brochures that contain the fee schedule must be updated for future distribution, including the Care 4 Kids website.

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

HF:ct