



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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Carole Johnson, Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Human Services
Division of Family Development
P.O. Box 716
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0716

Dear Commissioner Johnson:

The Office of Child Care has completed its review of the proposed amendments to New Jersey's conditionally approved Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan for 2019-2021, submitted on June 1, 2020 and September 24, 2020.

This letter is to inform you that the following plan amendments related to COVID-19 were approved:

- **Section 1.8.2 Statewide Disaster Plan (Continuation of Subsidies and Services)** – Amended to reflect changes to the Statewide Disaster Plan due to the state declared emergency for COVID-19.
- **Section 1.8.3 Statewide Disaster Plan (Coordination of Post-Disaster Recovery)** -- Amended to reflect changes to the Statewide Disaster Plan due to the state declared emergency for COVID-19.
- **Section 3.1.2(d) Eligible Children and Families (Protective Services)** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 children of essential workers may be classified under protective services, and families' income eligibility requirements may be waived on a case-by-case basis (using CARES Act funding).
- **Section 3.1.3 Eligibility Criteria Based on Income** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 children of essential workers have been added to New Jersey's priority group to access emergency child care without regard to income eligibility requirements (using CARES Act funding).
- **Section 3.1.5 Additional Eligibility Conditions or Priority Rules** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 children of essential workers have been added to New Jersey's priority group to access emergency child care without regard to income eligibility requirements (using CARES Act funding).

- **Section 3.1.10 Timeliness of Eligibility Determinations** -- Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 children of essential workers are considered a priority population and their applications are prioritized and expedited.
- **Section 3.2.3 Increasing Access for Vulnerable Children and Families - Other Priority Groups** -- Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 children of essential workers are considered a priority group.
- **Section 3.2.4 Increasing Access for Vulnerable Children and Families – Prioritizing Services for Other Priority Groups** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 children of essential workers are prioritized through a number of mechanisms, including: priority admission; expedited screening and application processing; extended grace period to obtain and submit eligibility documentation; and a waiver of the co-payment on a case-by-case basis.
- **Section 3.3.1 Twelve Month Eligibility** -- Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 eligibility for all families and essential worker families is extended to fifteen months and eligibility for all families participating in the Child Care subsidy program is extended beyond fifteen months.
- **Section 3.3.2 Twelve Month Eligibility – Option to Discontinue Eligibility Due to Non-Temporary Change** -- Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 eligibility for children of essential workers is extended to fifteen months.
- **Section 3.4.1 Family Contribution to Payments** -- Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 copayments for essential workers are reduced.
- **Section 3.4.3 Family Contribution to Payments – Factors Used to Determine Copayments** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 copayments for essential workers are reduced.
- **Section 3.4.4 Family Contribution to Payments – Waiving Copayments** -- Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 essential workers are not required to pay a copayment.
- **Section 4.5.1 Payment Practices** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 child care providers will be paid based on the enrollment status of the child regardless of attendance or program closures.
- **Section 7.2.1 Use of Quality Funds** -- Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 quality funds are being used to support impacted providers.

- **Section 7.11.2 Other Quality Improvement Activities** -- Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 quality funds are being used to support impacted providers.

The effective dates of March 13, March 30, and September 25, 2020 for these amendments to the New Jersey CCDF Plan are noted on the amendments log within the ACF-118 electronic submission site.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please feel free to contact Shonda Laurel, Regional Program Manager - Office of Child Care Region 2 at (646) 905-8157 or email at shonda.laurel@acf.hhs.gov

We appreciate your efforts to meet the child care needs of eligible families in the State of New Jersey and look forward to our continued partnership in the administration of your Child Care and Development Fund Program.

Sincerely,

Ellen C. Wheatley, Ph.D.
Deputy Director
Office of Child Care

cc: Natasha Johnson, Director of Division of Family Development
Margaret Milliner, Assistant Director Office of Child Care Operations
Shonda Laurel, OCC Regional Program Manager, Region I
Francesca Longo, Regional Liaison, Office of Child Care