



*Connecticut Department of Social Services
Information Brief*

Care 4 Kids Program

Updated May 15, 2009

The budget deficit crisis has required state government to review its programs and services across all service systems, including child care services provided by the Care 4 Kids program. This information brief describes changes that will affect Care 4 Kids as of May 13, 2009.

First, we emphasize that the program is not “shutting down.” For example:

- Care 4 Kids currently serves 14,000 families and 21,000 children. These families and children ***will continue to receive*** child care assistance as long as they continue to meet the eligibility requirements of the program.
- New applications – the Care 4 Kids program ***will continue*** to provide child care assistance to ***new applicants*** who receive Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) who work or are in approved training; working parents who received TFA within 5 years of when they apply for child care assistance; and teenage parents under the age of 20 who need child care to complete high or equivalent program.
- Also, current recipients whose income is ***already*** between 50% and 75% of the state median income (SMI) as of May 12, 2009, will remain eligible until their income reaches or exceeds 75% of the state median income, as normally happens in the program.

However, there are two changes effective with the close of business on May 12, 2009:

1. **New applications will go on a waiting list when filed by working parents who have not received Temporary Family Assistance.**
 - Note: applications for any parents earning **50% or more** of the state median income level are not accepted for the waiting list – they are over the income eligibility level that’s been in effect for the program for many years for new applicants. (Currently, 50% of SMI is \$39,404 for a family of three).
2. **Current recipients whose income was *below 50% of the state median income level as of May 12, 2009*, will go off the Care 4 Kids program when their income reaches or exceeds 50% of SMI.**

To sum up, here is the bottom line of the two changes:

- ❖ Waiting list implemented for new applications from working parents who have not received Temporary Family Assistance.
- ❖ Eligibility ends for current Care 4 Kids recipients whose income was at or below 50% of the state median income level on May 12, 2009 -- when their income later reaches or exceeds 50% of SMI.