



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES



Enrolling and Maintaining Children and Families in Child Care

January 2015





U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Administration for Children & Families

Office of Child Care



Why is Continuity Important?

Supports the dual-purpose of the CCDF program:

- Better educational and developmental outcomes for young children
- Decreases distress and negative behavior in young children
- Supports family financial stability



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12-month Re-determination

Law establishes 12-month eligibility re-determination period.

- CCDF families remain eligible during the 12-month period, regardless of changes in income (as long as income remains at or below 85% SMI) or temporary changes in work, training, education status.



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12-month Re-determination

If a parent loses their job or ceases to participate in a job training or educational program, ACF strongly encourages a State to continue assistance through the end of the eligibility period.

Alternately, the law provides the option to terminate assistance prior to re-determination if a parent loses employment or if he or she stops attending a job training or education. However, **the State must provide a period of job search of at least 3 months to allow parents to engage in job search, resume work, or to attend an education or training program as soon as possible.**



Making the Program Family-Friendly

Graduated Phaseout: States must provide for a graduated phase-out of assistance for families whose income has increased, but remains below the federal threshold (85% SMI).

Irregular Fluctuations in Earnings: New law requires States to account for irregular fluctuations in income that may occur at eligibility determination or re-determination.



Making the Program Family-Friendly (cont.)

Avoiding Undue Disruptions: Eligibility re-determination should not require parents to unduly disrupt their employment.

Family contributions (co-pay): New language says that, while a State must establish a sliding fee scale, a family's co-pay will not be a barrier to CCDF families.



FAQs

- What is the new requirement for a graduated phase-out?
- What are examples of policies that take into account irregular fluctuations in earnings?
- What are examples of policies that ensure that redetermination does not unduly disrupt employment?



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The CCDF Plan

- What is the CCDF Plan?
- Eight sections in the Plan



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Provide Stable Child Care Financial Assistance to Families

- Protections of Working Parents (Section 3.3)
 - Twelve Month Eligibility
 - Job Search
 - Fluctuations in Earnings
 - Prevent Disruption of Work
 - Graduated Phase-Out of Assistance



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Implementation Plan

- Current Status/Justification
- Goals/Objectives
- Specific steps/activities
- Timeline for implementation
- Responsible entity/agency

Example Implementation Plan – [Describe the status of the State’s establishment of a 12-month eligibility redetermination - Section 3.3.1]

a) Overall Goal/ Objective	b) Overall Status/ Justification	c) Overall Target Completion Date	d) Steps/ Activities	e) Activity Start Date	f) Activity End Date	g) Responsible Agency
Goal tied to requirement (e.g., implement policies, develop website, etc)	For example, not yet started In progress	Date for overall goal	List each step out	Identify start date for each step	Identify end date for each step	Identify agency responsible for each step
			Step 1			
			Step 2			
			Step 3			



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Completion of the Implementation Plan

- Submission of an amendment
- Completion date not to exceed requirement date.



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Federal Register Posting

- Emergency clearance process
- 30 day public comment period
- Comments sent directly to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

Office of Management and Budget

Paperwork Reduction Project

Fax: (202) 395-7285

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Attn: Desk Officer for the Administration for Children and Families



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Discussion: Key Issue Areas

- Twelve-month redetermination (incl. the period before termination/job search, continued eligibility despite temporary changes, taking fluctuations in earnings into consideration)
- Graduated phaseout
- Undue disruptions in a parent's employment
- Alignment with other benefit programs
- Family contributions to payment (copays)



General Discussion Questions

- What additional clarification (policy or otherwise) is needed?
- What additional TA supports would be useful for implementation?