



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 887

January Session, 2013



AN ACT CONCERNING THE CARE 4 KIDS PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. Section 17b-749 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):
- 3 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall establish and operate
4 a child care subsidy program to increase the availability, affordability
5 and quality of child care services for families with a parent or caretaker
6 who is working, attending high school or who receives cash assistance
7 under the temporary family assistance program from the Department
8 of Social Services and is participating in an approved education,
9 training, or other job preparation activity. Services available under the
10 child care program shall include the provision of child care subsidies
11 for children under the age of thirteen or children under the age of
12 nineteen with special needs. The department shall open and maintain
13 enrollment for the child care subsidy program and shall administer
14 such program within the existing budgetary resources available. The
15 department shall issue a notice on the department's Internet web site
16 and shall provide written notice to recipients of program benefits and
17 to service providers any time the department closes the program to
18 new applications, changes eligibility requirements, changes program
19 benefits or makes any other change to the program's status or terms,
20 provided the department shall not be required to issue such notice

21 when the department expands program eligibility. Any change in the
22 department's acceptance of new applications, eligibility requirements,
23 program benefits or any other change to the program's status or terms
24 for which the department is required to give notice pursuant to this
25 subsection, shall not be effective until thirty days after the department
26 issues such notice.

27 (b) The commissioner shall establish income standards for
28 applicants and recipients at a level to include a family with gross
29 income up to fifty per cent of the state-wide median income, except the
30 commissioner (1) may increase the income level to up to seventy-five
31 per cent of the state-wide median income, (2) upon the request of the
32 Commissioner of Children and Families, may waive the income
33 standards for adoptive families so that children adopted on or after
34 October 1, 1999, from the Department of Children and Families are
35 eligible for the child care subsidy program, and (3) on and after March
36 1, 2003, shall reduce the income eligibility level to up to fifty-five per
37 cent of the state-wide median income for applicants and recipients
38 who qualify based on their loss of eligibility for temporary family
39 assistance. The commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance
40 with chapter 54 to establish income criteria and durational
41 requirements for such waiver of income standards.

42 (c) The commissioner shall establish eligibility and program
43 standards including, but not limited to: (1) A priority intake and
44 eligibility system with preference given to serving recipients of
45 temporary family assistance who are employed or engaged in
46 employment activities under the department's "Jobs First" program,
47 working families whose temporary family assistance was discontinued
48 not more than five years prior to the date of application for the child
49 care subsidy program, teen parents, low-income working families,
50 adoptive families of children who were adopted from the Department
51 of Children and Families and who are granted a waiver of income
52 standards under subdivision (2) of subsection (b), and working
53 families who are at risk of welfare dependency; (2) health and safety

54 standards for child care providers not required to be licensed; (3) a
55 reimbursement system for child care services which account for
56 differences in the age of the child, number of children in the family, the
57 geographic region and type of care provided by licensed and
58 unlicensed caregivers, the cost and type of services provided by
59 licensed and unlicensed caregivers, successful completion of fifteen
60 hours of annual in-service training or credentialing of child care
61 directors and administrators, and program accreditation; (4)
62 supplemental payment for special needs of the child and extended
63 nontraditional hours; (5) an annual rate review process for providers
64 which assures that reimbursement rates are maintained at levels which
65 permit equal access to a variety of child care settings; (6) a sliding
66 reimbursement scale for participating families; (7) an administrative
67 appeals process; (8) an administrative hearing process to adjudicate
68 cases of alleged fraud and abuse and to impose sanctions and recover
69 overpayments; (9) an extended period of program and payment
70 eligibility when a parent who is receiving a child care subsidy
71 experiences a temporary interruption in employment or other
72 approved activity; and (10) a waiting list for the child care subsidy
73 program that reflects the priority and eligibility system set forth in
74 subdivision (1) of this subsection, which is reviewed periodically, with
75 the inclusion of this information in the annual report required to be
76 issued annually by the Department of Social Services to the Governor
77 and the General Assembly in accordance with subdivision (10) of
78 section 17b-733. Such action will include, but not be limited to, family
79 income, age of child, region of state and length of time on such waiting
80 list.

81 (d) Not later than January 1, 2011, an applicant determined to be
82 eligible for program benefits shall remain eligible for such benefits for
83 a period of not less than eight months from the date that such
84 applicant is determined to be eligible, provided the commissioner has
85 not determined, during such eight-month period, that the applicant's
86 circumstances have changed so as to render the applicant ineligible for
87 program benefits. The commissioner shall not make an eligibility

88 determination for a recipient of program benefits more than one time
89 per eight-month period, except as provided in subsection [(e)] (f) of
90 this section.

91 (e) Within available appropriations, a recipient of program benefits
92 who takes unpaid leave from such recipient's employment due to the
93 birth or impending birth of a child shall be granted not more than six
94 weeks of payment eligibility during the leave if: (1) The recipient
95 intends to return to work at the end of the unpaid leave; (2) the
96 recipient verifies that eligibility is needed to prevent the loss of a slot
97 in a school-based program or licensed child care setting; and (3) the
98 child receiving child care services under the program continues to
99 attend the program during the recipient's leave.

100 [(e)] (f) Not later than October 15, 2011, the commissioner shall
101 submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to
102 the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
103 cognizance of matters relating to human services and appropriations
104 and the budgets of state agencies concerning eligibility
105 redeterminations made on an eight-month basis. Such report shall
106 include an analysis of overpayments of program benefits made by the
107 department and administrative costs incurred by the department as a
108 result of eligibility redeterminations made on an eight-month basis. On
109 and after October 15, 2011, the commissioner may make eligibility
110 redeterminations on a six-month basis if, after January 1, 2011, the
111 department's overpayments of program benefits have increased in
112 comparison with the period between January 1, 2010, and December
113 31, 2010, as a result of having an eight-month eligibility
114 redetermination period.

115 [(f)] (g) A provider under the child care subsidy program that
116 qualifies for eligibility and subsequently receives payment for child
117 care services for recipients under this section shall be reimbursed for
118 such services until informed by the Department of Social Services of
119 the recipient's ineligibility.

120 [(g)] (h) All licensed child care providers and those providers
121 exempt from licensing shall provide the Department of Social Services
122 with the following information in order to maintain eligibility for
123 reimbursement: (1) The name, address, appropriate identification,
124 Social Security number and telephone number of the provider and all
125 adults who work for or reside at the location where care is provided;
126 (2) the name and address of the child's doctor, primary care provider
127 and health insurance company; (3) whether the child is immunized
128 and has had health screens pursuant to the federal Early and Periodic
129 Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Services Program under 42 USC
130 1396d; and (4) the number of children cared for by the provider.

131 [(h)] (i) On or after January 1, 1998, the commissioner shall adopt
132 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
133 implement the provisions of this section.

134 [(i)] (j) The commissioner shall submit to the joint standing
135 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
136 relating to human services and appropriations and the budgets of state
137 agencies a copy of the Child Care and Development Fund Plan that the
138 commissioner submits to the Administration for Children and Families
139 pursuant to federal law. The copy of the plan shall be submitted to the
140 committees not later than thirty days after submission of the plan to
141 the Administration for Children and Families.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2013	17b-749

KID *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

HS *Joint Favorable*