



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

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Nicholas A. Toumpas
Commissioner

Maggie Bishop
Director

August 28, 2009

Dear NH Early Childhood Community Member,

Due to a significant increase in the Child Care Scholarship caseload, the Department of Health and Human Services has identified a funding shortage for the Child Care Scholarship Program. The Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) has considered all of the options for resolving the deficit and has determined that a wait list for child care scholarship is necessary.

The NH DCYF Child Development Bureau will begin a Child Care Scholarship Wait List effective October 1, 2009.

Here are important details regarding the wait list:

1. All families who are currently eligible for and receiving child care scholarship will not be placed on the wait list as long as they continue to be eligible.
2. Any non-FANF family currently receiving child care scholarship who fails to maintain eligibility (e.g. not providing verifications for redetermination) will:
 - Have child care scholarship closed;
 - Have to reapply for child care scholarship; and
 - Be placed on the wait list unless they receiving FANF cash assistance or preventive/protective child care.
3. Families receiving FANF cash assistance and families receiving preventive/protective child care are exempt from the wait list.
4. Families not receiving or applying for FANF cash assistance will be notified at their application interview that there is a child care wait list.
5. The eligibility letter sent to families not receiving FANF cash assistance will inform them that they have been placed on the wait list.
6. Families will be placed on the wait list into one of two categories:
 - The Priority category is for families whose income is at or less than 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (Step 1), and for children whose siblings are already receiving child care scholarship; and
 - The second category is for families eligible at Steps 2-7.
7. Children will be placed on the wait list based on the application date for child care scholarship.
8. Children will be released from the wait list, based on the application date, when funding becomes available.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: How long will children be on the wait list?

A: We aren't certain, but it will likely be for several months.

Q: Will there be any exceptions to the 'first come, first served' process on the wait list? What about families facing emergencies?

A: All families who are placed on the wait list will be facing significant challenges. All families will be placed on the wait list based on the priorities listed above and all will be released based on their date of application. This is the most equitable way to manage the wait list.

Q: What will happen if a family's child care scholarship closes due to a DHHS error?

A: If it is a Department error, the family's child care scholarship will be reopened and the family will not be placed on the wait list.

Q: How will families eligible for child care scholarship be able to continue working if they can't afford child care?

A: Families placed on the wait list will be referred to their local Child Care Resource and Referral agency. The CCR&R will assist families to find child care that they can afford while they are on the wait list.

You will receive additional information before the wait list begins on October 1, 2009.

Sincerely,

Ellen C. Wheatley, Ph.D., Administrator
Child Development Bureau