

# North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Pat McCrory Governor Richard O. Brajer Secretary

Tamara Barnes, Interim Director Child Development and Early Education

# SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER #08-15

TO:

Directors County Departments of Social Services
Directors of Other Local Purchasing Agencies

SUBJECT:

Changes to Policies Regarding:

1. Homelessness

2. Tracking of Federal Land Trust Residents

3. Assets Declaration

4. DCDEE Form - Application for Child Care Services (DCDEE-0456)

5. Utilization of New Category Codes6. Certification Period End Date

7. Redetermination Notification

Return of Vouchers
 Expired Vouchers

ATTENTION:

Child Care Coordinators

Other DSS Personnel who work with the Subsidized Child Care Assistance Program

ISSUE DATE:

December 22, 2015

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 

January 4, 2016

The purpose of this Administrative Letter is to communicate changes to the Subsidized Child Care Assistance Program policies regarding Homelessness, Tracking of Federal Land Trust residents, New Category Need Codes for Homelessness and Federal Land Trust residents, the DCDEE Form-0456 Application for Child Care Services, Declaration of Assets, Certification Period End Dates, Return of Vouchers, Redetermination Notification, and Expired Vouchers.

## Homelessness:

## 1. General Information

The Child Care and Development Fund Act of 2014 states:

Section 658E. Application and Plan. Section 3B Child Care Services and related activities (i) In General - The State shall use amounts provided to the State for each fiscal year under this subchapter for child care services. Activities that improve the quality or availability of such services of homeless children while required documentation is obtained, training and technical assistance on identifying and serving homeless children and their families.

SECTION 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act defines Homeless as:

(2) The term homeless children and youths' —

(A) Means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 103(a) (1)); and



An Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer

Administrative Letter #08-15 Issue Date: December 22, 2015 Page 2 of 8

# (B) Includes -

(i) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
(ii) children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not

(II) children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (within the meaning of section 103(a)(2)(C));

(iii) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

(iv) migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

#### 1. Policies:

Families who reside in temporary living arrangements will be asked the type of temporary living arrangement and if this living arrangement is due to economic hardship.

## 2. Procedures:

When families apply for child care services, the child care worker will ask the parent or responsible adult if their current address is a temporary living arrangement. When the answer is "yes", several options will be available from which to select. Additionally, economic hardship will be identified. Please note that families may be identified as homeless **only** if the living arrangement is temporary.

Changes to the DCDEE-0456, Application for Child Care Services related to homelessness will be detailed later in this letter.

## **Tracking of Federal Land Trust Residents**

#### 1. General Information

General Assembly of North Carolina Session Law 2014-100:

**SECTION 12C.3.** (b) Beginning October 1, 2014, or upon federal approval, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians may begin assuming the responsibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). When the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians assumes responsibility for SNAP, then any State statutes, portions of statutes, or rules relating to the provision of social services regarding SNAP services by a county department of social services for members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians shall no longer apply to the Tribe, and the functions, administration, and funding requirements relating to those social services are thereby delegated to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

No later than October 1, 2015, and with the exception of services related to special assistance, child care, and adult care homes, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians may assume responsibility for other programs as described under G.S. 108A-25(e), enacted in subsection (c) 3of this section. When the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians assumes responsibility for any of those other programs, then any State statutes, portions of statutes, or rules relating to the 40 provision of services for those programs by a county department of social services for members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians shall no longer apply to the Tribe, and the functions, administration, and funding requirements relating to those programs are thereby delegated to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Page 3 of 8

# 2. Policies:

Families may now be referred by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians for subsidized child care assistance to support Child Protective Services (CPS), Child Welfare Services (CWS) and Foster Care.

#### 3. Procedures:

The application will be made in the family's county of residence with the appropriate referral. Care to support the needs of foster parents will remain coded to Category Code Foster Care - 020. Care to support CPS and CWS for Federal Land Trust Residents will be coded as Tribal 040 and Non-tribal 041.

#### **Assets Declaration:**

# 1. General Information

The Child Care and Development Fund Act of 2014 states:

SEC. 658P. DEFINITIONS

- (4) Eligible child. The term 'eligible child' means an individual-
- (A) Who is less than 13 years of age;
- (B) Whose family income does not exceed 85 percent of the State median income for a family of the same size, and whose family assets do not exceed \$1,000,000 (as certified by a member of such family.)

### 2. Policies:

Families declaring assets in excess of \$1,000,000 are ineligible for Subsidized Child Care Assistance.

# 3. Procedures:

At the time of application and redetermination, families will be asked to declare if they have assets in excess of \$1,000,000.

# DCDEE- 0456 Form – Subsidized Child Care Assistance Application

This form has been revised to address temporary living arrangements to identify homeless families and a question has been added related to the declaration of assets.

Living arrangements include:

- 1. Adult Relative
- 2. Homeless or Emergency Homeless Shelter
- 3. Hotel or Motel
- 4. Lacks Fixed Nighttime Address
- 5. Non Relative
- 6. Place not designated for sleeping
- 7. Shelter for Battered Women and Children
- 8. Supervised Shelter
- 9. Hospital for 30 days or under
- 10. Psychiatric Hospital for 30 days or under
- 11. Unknown

A new question has been added to reflect declaration of assets.

Administrative Letter #08-15 Issue Date: December 22, 2015 Page 4 of 8

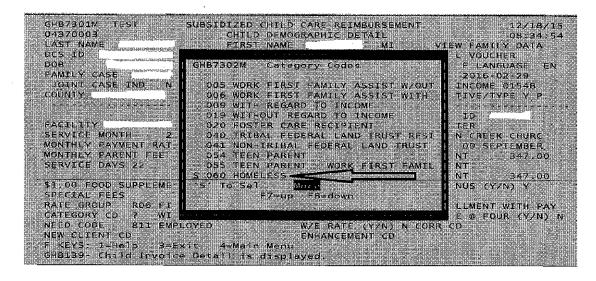
# Utilization of New Category Codes in the Subsidized Child Care Reimbursement System (SCCRS)

#### 1. Homeless:

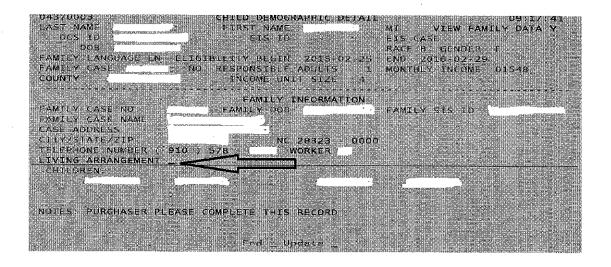
When the LPA identifies a family as homeless, new Category Code 060 must be entered in SCCRS in the Category Code field on the Child Demographic Detail screen GHB7302M.

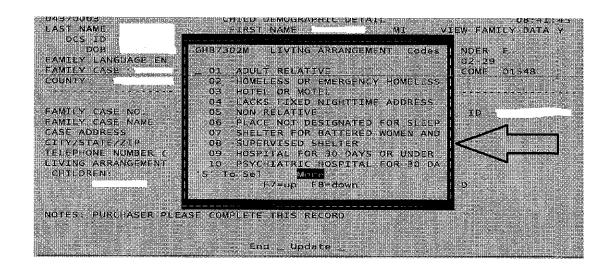
When entering a ? in the Category Code field, new code 060 will be available for selection. When 060 Homeless is selected followed by F10 to confirm, the user is automatically taken to Family Information section of the Child Demographic Detail screen with the cursor on the new field "Living Arrangement". At this point enter ? to bring up the menu for various types of temporary living arrangements, from which one is selected. The options are:

- Adult relative
- 2. Homeless or emergency homeless
- 3. Hotel or motel
- Lacks fixed nighttime address
- 5. Non relative
- Place not designated for sleep
- Shelter for battered women and
- 8. Supervised shelter
- 9. Hospital for 30 days or under
- 10. Psychiatric hospital for 30 days
- 11. Unknown



Page 5 of 8





### Please Note

Allowable Fund Source(s) 15, 25, 55, 71, 72, and 73

This category code 060 can only be used with the following need codes:

- NEEDCD1 = 8, 4
- NEEDCD2 = 0, 1, A, 2, C, 3, B, 4, 5, D, and 7
- NEEDCD3 = 1, 2, 3

Parent Fees are allowed for new category code 060. CPS & CWS cases have no parent fee and need code 2 rules apply.

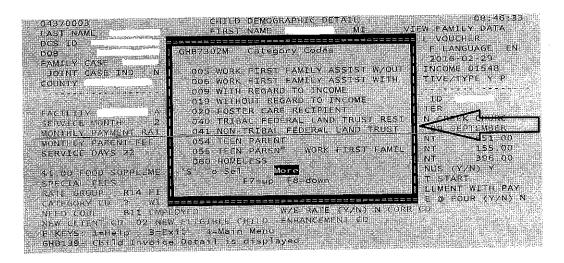
Homeless status supersedes other category codes however, parental fees will be assessed as appropriate based upon other case information.

#### 2. Tribal Families:

When the LPA identifies families who meet requirements for coding as Federal Land Trust Residents, new category codes must be used. The codes are:

- 040 Tribal Federal Land Trust Resident
- 041 Non-Tribal Federal Land Trust Resident

Page 6 of 8



## Please Note:

Allowable Fund Source(s) 15, 25, 55.

Category codes 040 and 041 can only be used with the following need codes:

- NEEDCD1 = 8, 4
- NEEDCD2 = 2, C, 5, D
- NEEDCD3 = 1.2,3

Parent Fees are not allowed for the new category codes - 040 and 041.

### Certification End Date:

### 1. General Information

As a result of the work done during the Work Support Strategies Grant regarding streamlining of program policies and the upcoming implementation of NC FAST, Subsidized Child Care Assistance policy changes are being made. Food and Nutrition Services and Medical Assistance programs have ending certification dates on the last day of month. Current policy in Chapter 4. III. C. (1) states that once eligibility is established certification begins on the day of eligibility through the twelve month certification period. (i.e. June 27, 2015 – June 26, 2016).

# 2. Policies:

New policy requires the certification period to end on the last day of the last month of the certification period. (i.e. June 27, 2015 – June 30, 2016).

### 3. Procedures:

When new recipients are determined eligible, the certification period end date will be the last day of the last month of eligibility. This is also true at redetermination. All ending certification dates must be the end of the month, regardless of weekends and holidays.

In SCCRS, ending certification dates will be programmatically updated to the last day of the last month of the certification period for all cases active in the system on December 31, 2015.

Workers must issue Child Care Action Notices (CCANs) to parents and providers notifying them of the extension of the certification periods until the last day of the last month of eligibility. CCANS must be completed for January 2016 certification end dates immediately. All CCANs to extend certification periods to the last day of the last month of eligibility in 2016 must be completed no later than April 29, 2016.

Page **7** of **8** 

# Redetermination

#### 1. General Information

Current policy in Chapter 11. V. E. 1 states that when a recipient does not reapply by the expiration date or does not provide the necessary documentation within the thirty days the service terminates on the last day of the twelve month eligibility period. A ten (10) work day notice is not provided to the recipient when this occurs. Currently LPAs are able to utilize an appointment letter or a Child Care Action Notice for notification of redetermination. Current policy in Chapter 11, V. A., states that at least 30 days prior to certification expiration date, the child care worker must make written contact with recipient to notify of impending expiration date. A notice may also be sent to providers. In order for individuals to continue to remain eligible, eligibility must be determined annually or when changes occur. In addition, a CCAN must be completed once the eligibility review is completed.

# 2. Policies:

New policy requires child care workers to send a letter as a reminder of redetermination. This will be the first and only notice sent for redetermination.

### 3. Procedure

There will be no CCAN issued to provide a 10 day notice prior to the end of the certification period. Child Care workers may utilize the sample letter from the Subsidized Child Services Manual or a county-developed form letter.

# Return of Vouchers:

### 1. General Information

Chapter 9, III. D., allows for 30 calendar days to return vouchers, but gives local purchasing agencies (LPAs) the option to decrease the number of days, but not less than ten (10) calendar days that vouchers must be returned to child care worker.

# 2. Policies:

Counties and LPAs no longer have local options regarding return of vouchers. Vouchers must be returned within 30 calendar days of issuance.

### 3. Procedures:

The parent/responsible adult and provider must sign the voucher within 30 calendar days. If the voucher is not signed by both the parent/responsible adult and the provider by the 30th calendar day, the voucher is cancelled. After the voucher is cancelled, the parent/responsible adult may request a new voucher. If the voucher is reissued within 60 calendar days of the initial voucher issuance date, the new voucher will have the same start date as the initial voucher, unless the child(ren) started care at a later date. The voucher period includes the initial issuance of the voucher and the reissuance of the voucher and is limited to 60 calendar days. The voucher must be signed by the parent/responsible adult and provider and the provider must be enrolled during the 60 calendar day timeframe. The reissued voucher return date cannot go beyond 60 calendar days of the initial voucher issuance. If the new voucher is not signed by the parent/responsible adult and the provider by the 60th calendar day, the voucher is cancelled. For any voucher requested after the 60th calendar day of the initial voucher issuance, the begin date is the date of the request.

When parent/responsible adult's choice of provider is not enrolled in subsidy, the caseworker will be required to contact the parent/responsible adult and the provider to inform them that the provider must enroll within 30 calendar days or the voucher will be cancelled. Also, the voucher must be signed by the parent/responsible adult and the provider. After the parent/responsible adult signs the voucher, it cannot be sent to the provider for signature until the provider enrolls. If the

Administrative Letter #08-15 Issue Date: December 22, 2015 Page 8 of 8

provider does not enroll within 30 calendar days, the voucher is cancelled. If the provider enrolls after 60 calendar days, the voucher start date will be the date that the parent requests the new voucher.

# **Expired Vouchers**

# 1. General Information

Current policy in chapter 9. III. D., states that the voucher must be returned no later than 30 calendar days from the date of issuance. Chapter 22. V. B., gives counties the option of requesting that providers return the voucher in less than 30 days, but not less than ten (10) calendar days from the date of issuance. LPAs that wish to use a return date of less than 30 days must notify the Division of Child Development and Early Education in writing of their decision to do so for approval in their local policies.

### 2. Policies:

Current policy in chapter 9, D 1 and 2 states that if the voucher is returned to the LPA ten (10) working days or less beyond the expiration date, the LPA may process the voucher; or if the voucher is returned more than ten (10) working days beyond the voucher's expiration date, it must be voided and a new voucher must be issued before payment can be authorized. The new voucher indicates the same certification period as the original, but has a new issuance date.

If the provider is enrolled and the voucher (DCD-0446) is returned within the allowable time period and is complete and accurate, the child care worker can approve placement of the child in that arrangement.

If the Child Care Voucher (DCD-0446) is returned and it is determined that the provider is not enrolled, the provider enrollment forms must be completed before the provider can be approved to participate in the Subsidized Child Care Assistance Program.

### 3. Procedures:

Provider has 30 calendar days to return vouchers in order to be paid for services. There is no grace period for the return of vouchers.

# NOTE 1: The Child Care Provider Agreement DCDEE-0452

The Provider Agreement DCDEE-0452 includes voucher procedures in item number 6. The changes to Return of Vouchers and Expired Vouchers do not affect the Provider Agreement.

# NOTE 2: Parental Fees Administrative Letter #05-15

As mentioned in Administrative Letter #05-15, parental fee messages described will be implemented.

If you have questions about the information in this letter, or other Subsidized Child Care Assistance questions, please contact <a href="mailto:dcdee.subsidy.policy.help@dhhs.nc.gov">dcdee.subsidy.policy.help@dhhs.nc.gov</a> to reach technical assistance and policy consultation.

Sincerely, Tamara Barnes D. Fain

Tamara Barnes, Interim Director

TB/KM

Applicant's Name:	Telephone	Telephone No. :( ) Language Pref. of Parent/R/					arent/R/A		
Case Name (if different from Applicant's Name) _		Case No.:							_
Address:									
. Is your current address a temporary living are This may include: □Adult Relative □ Homeless of Battered Women and Children □ Supervised She	r Emergency Homeless	Shelter 🗆 H	lotel or M		cks Fixed	Nighttime Address □ N	Ion Relativ	e □ Place not	designated for sleeping   Shelter fo
. If yes, is this temporary living arrangement du	ie to loss of housing oi	economic l	hardship	? Yes	No				
. Do you reside on a Federal Land Trust for Tri	ibal Families? Yes	No	If yes, a	re you a T	Tribal men	nber Yes No		•	
I. Have you ever been disqualified from the Sul II. Reason Child Care Services are needed:  *These reasons require determination of incom III. U.S. Citizenship Status: Select all that apply.  □ Child (ren) is not a U.S. Citizen but meets Sn □ Child (ren) is not a U.S. Citizen, but needs ca IV. Is the family served by the following progra NOTE: Social Security number is for "child only"	Employment*   Employment*   Employment is a U.S.   Employment is a U	ducation/Tran Foster Car Citizen   Citizen    Citizen	aining* e or Child Child (ren es, foster Pre-K	☐ Dev d Protectiv l) is a U.S. ☐ care and/d ☐ Hea	velopment ve Service . Citizen Applica or develo	al Needs*   CPS es (CPS).  Int or child (ren) is a leg	□ CWS		ns.) iding in the U.S. legally)
V. Members of Income Unit: Check (√) to indicate which child needs services.	Relationship to	Date of Birth	Age	Race (I,A,B,P,W)		Ethnicity (N.H.C.H.M.P.)	Special Needs (Y)		Parent Fee/Effective Date
	Applicant		,			(N,U,C,H,M,P)			
	1								
VI. Income Unit: Designate Income Unit Size	•		VII.	Do you ha	ave asset:	s that exceed one (1) m	illion dolla	ırs? 🗆 Ye	es 🗀 No
VIII. Type of Income (Must list all sources of inc				Gross Monthly Amount de documentation in case record.)			Method of Verification		
					Include o	locumentation in case	record.)		
						- 40			
				1 "					
Child Support Paid Out:					<b>`\$</b>	,	·	•	
Total Countable Monthly Income:				-	Ψ				
IX. Child Care Benefit: Do you receive an employ	er benefit for child ca	re? □ No		□ Yes \$	\$	_ per month			
X. Certification of Applicant/Authorized Rephas explained the information on the back	resentative: I certify the of this form, and that	hat I have r the informa	ead or ha ation pro	ad read to vided, as	me the A reflected	Applicant's Statement on this form, is accura	on the bac ate and cor	k of this for uplete to the	m, that my child care social worker best of my knowledge.
Signature of Applicant/Author	ized Representative					Date			Signature of Witness
XI. Approval:				to				□ Not App	proved
Comments:									
									•••
Signature of Child Care Case V	Worker of Local Purcl	nasing Agen	юу			Title			Date of Decision
White Original: Local Purchasing Agency		v Copy: Par		ponsible A	Adult				DCDEE-(

			-
•			
	, i		



This form is being sent to notify you of action taken regarding the request/receipt of child care services for those designated on the front of this form. The action taken is outlined in **Section X** of this form.

This form also serves as your record of the information provided by you and used in determining eligibility for child care services.

Your signature in **Section IX** of the form certifies that you have been made aware of and agree to the rights and responsibilities contained in the following statement. Do not return this letter, keep it for your records.

#### APPLICANT'S STATEMENT

I understand that I am responsible for providing my child care social worker of the local purchasing agency with certain information necessary to determine eligibility for the services requested. Also, I understand that if I am disqualified from the subsidy program due to fraudulent acts (see Child Care Fraud in next section) that I may not be eligible for child care subsidy in any county. The information provided by me is reflected on this form and represents a true and complete statement of facts according to my best knowledge I also understand that the information provided by me may be subject to verification and that I may be asked, at this time or at a later date, to provide documentation which supports the information I provide to my child care social worker. I agree to notify my child care social worker of the local purchasing agency within five (5) workdays of any change in address, employment, income, school/employment training schedule (if applicable), living arrangements, or family size of those for whom the services are requested. Also, I will provide a copy of my grades to my child care social worker, if applicable.

I understand that the information I provide to my child care social worker will be held in strict confidence and will not be revealed to anyone without my written consent, except for information necessary to establish eligibility and information that may be revealed in the course of agency audits and monitoring. I hereby authorize the release of any information, reports, and any information by the Social Security Administration to my child care social worker that is needed to determine my eligibility for child care subsidy services.

I understand that I may be asked to pay a fee for child care services based on my gross family income.

I understand that I have a right to request and obtain a fair hearing if the local purchasing agency does not act upon my request with reasonable promptness (i.e., within thirty (30) days of the date services are requested) and/or if I disagree with the local purchasing agency's action in response to my request. I understand that the agency's decision in no way affects Medicaid, WFFA, Food Stamps or any other service assistance or income. If eligible, I understand that services will be provided or arranged within fifteen (15) days of notification, if such service is available.

### CHILD CARE FRAUD

Fraud is a criminal offense. I understand that it is against the law for me to make false statements or to withhold information affecting eligibility and that I am subject to prosecution if I do make false statements or withhold information. The North Carolina General Statute 110-107 states that a recipient of child care subsidies commits the offense of fraudulent misrepresentation when that person, with the intent to deceive, makes a false statement or representation regarding a material fact, or fails to disclose a material fact, and as a result obtains, attempts to obtain, or continues to receive child care subsidy. If it is determined that there is a first incident of fraudulent misrepresentation, you must repay the amount of child care subsidy for which you were not eligible to receive and may not be eligible to receive subsidized child care services for 12 months. Also, if there is a second incident of fraudulent misrepresentation determined you must repay the amount of child care subsidy for which you were not eligible and you may permanently be ineligible to receive child care services.

### HOW TO GET A FAIR HEARING

If you wish to request a fair hearing, you must contact the child care supervisor/coordinator of the local purchasing agency within sixty (60) days after this letter was mailed. A hearing will be scheduled for you with an official of the county department of social services. If you are dissatisfied with the decision made at that hearing, you may have a hearing with an official from the NC Department of Health and Human Services.

At either of these hearings, you may have someone such as a relative or friend represent you. You may have an attorney represent you, but you must pay for his services yourself, unless free legal services are available in your community. If you are interested in free legal services, contact your child care social worker.

If your request for child care services was denied and you wish to request a fair hearing, you must contact the child care supervisor/coordinator of the local purchasing agency within sixty (60) days after this letter was sent.

If you have any questions or want further information, please contact your child care social worker as soon as possible.

# TYPES OF INCOME TO REPORT ON FRONT OF FORM

Wages or salary; adjusted gross income from self-employment; social security; dividends, interest, income from estates, trusts, or royalties; adjusted gross rental income; public assistance or welfare payments; pensions; annuities; retirement benefits; unemployment compensation or strike benefits; workmen's compensation; alimony; child support; veterans benefits; OTJ training benefits; Armed Forces pay; Work Supplemental programs; child care subsidies.