

441—170.3 (237A,239B) Application and determination of eligibility.**170.3(1) *Application process.***

a. Application for child care assistance may be made at any local office of the department on:

- (1) Form 470-3624 or 470-3624(S), Child Care Assistance Application,
- (2) Form 470-0462 or 470-0462(S), Health and Financial Support Application, or
- (3) Form 470-4377 or 470-4377(S), Child Care Assistance Review, when returned after the end of the certification period.

b. The application may be filed by the applicant, by the applicant's authorized representative or, when the applicant is incompetent or incapacitated, by a responsible person acting on behalf of the applicant.

c. The date of application is the date a signed application form containing a legible name and address is received in the department office. An electronic or paper application delivered to a closed office is considered to be received on the first day following the day the office was last open that is not a weekend or state holiday.

d. Families who are determined eligible for child care assistance shall be approved for a certification period of at least 12 months. Families who fail to complete the review and redetermination process as described at subrule 170.3(5) will lose eligibility at the end of the certification period.

170.3(2) *Exceptions to application requirement.* An application is not required for:

- a.* A person who is participating in activities approved under the PROMISE JOBS program.
- b.* Recipients of the family investment program or those whose earned income was taken into account in determining the needs of family investment program recipients. The date of application is the date the family requests child care assistance from the department.
- c.* Children with protective needs.
- d.* Child care services provided under a court order.
- e.* Families whose application has been denied for failure to provide requested information who have provided all necessary information to determine eligibility within 14 days of the denial of the application, or by the next working day if the fourteenth day falls on a weekend or state holiday.

170.3(3) *Application processing.* The department shall approve or deny an application as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days following the date the application was received. This time limit shall apply except in unusual circumstances, such as when the department and the applicant have made every reasonable effort to secure necessary information that has not been supplied by the date the time limit expires, or because of emergency situations, such as fire, flood or other conditions beyond the administrative control of the department.

a. The department worker or PROMISE JOBS worker shall determine the number of units of service authorized for each eligible family and shall:

- (1) Inform the family through the notice of decision; and
- (2) Inform the family's provider through the notice of decision or through Form 470-4444, Certificate of Enrollment.

b. The department shall issue a written notice of decision to the applicant by the next working day following a determination of eligibility.

c. The effective date of assistance shall be the date of application or the date the need for service began, whichever is later. When an application is not required as described under subrule 170.3(2), the effective date shall be as follows:

- (1) For a person participating in activities under the PROMISE JOBS program, the effective date of child care assistance shall be the date the person becomes a PROMISE JOBS participant as defined in rule 441—93.1(239B) or the date the person has a need for child care assistance to participate in an approved PROMISE JOBS activity as described in 441—Chapter 93, whichever is later.

(2) For a family receiving family investment program benefits, the effective date of child care assistance shall be no earlier than the effective date of family investment program benefits, or 30 days before the date of application for child care assistance, or the date the need for service began, whichever is the latest.

(3) For a family with protective service needs, the effective date of assistance shall be the date the family signs Form 470-0615 or 470-0615(S), Application for All Social Services.

(4) When child care services are provided under a court order, the effective date of assistance shall be the date specified in the court order or the date of the court order if no date is specified.

(5) For a family whose application was denied for failure to provide requested information but who provides all information necessary to determine eligibility, including verification of all changes in circumstances, within 14 days of the denial, the effective date of assistance shall be the date that all information required to establish eligibility is provided. If the fourteenth calendar day falls on a weekend or state holiday, the family shall have until the next business day to provide the information.

170.3(4) *Waiting lists for child care services.* When the department has determined that there may be insufficient funding, applications for child care assistance shall be taken only for the priority groups for which funds have been determined available according to subrule 170.2(3).

a. The department shall maintain a log of families applying for child care services that meet the requirements within the priority groups for which funds may be available.

(1) Each family shall be entered on the logs according to their eligibility priority group and in sequence of their date of application.

(2) If more than one application is received on the same day for the same priority group, families shall be entered on the log based on the day of the month of the birthday of the oldest eligible child. The lowest numbered day shall be first on the log. Any subsequent tie shall be decided by the month of birth, January being month one and the lowest number.

b. When the department determines that there is adequate funding, the department shall notify the public regarding the availability of funds.

170.3(5) *Review and redetermination.* The department shall redetermine a family's financial and general eligibility for child care assistance at least every 12 months. EXCEPTION: The department shall redetermine only general eligibility for recipients of the family investment program (FIP), persons whose earned income was taken into account in determining the needs of FIP recipients, and parents who have children with protective needs, because these families are deemed financially eligible so long as the FIP eligibility or need for protective services continues.

a. If FIP or protective services eligibility ends, the department shall redetermine financial and general eligibility for child care assistance according to the requirements in rule 441—170.2(237A,239B). The redetermination of eligibility shall be completed within 30 days.

b. The department shall use information gathered on Form 470-4377 or 470-4377(S), Child Care Assistance Review, to redetermine eligibility, except when the family is not required to complete a review form as provided in paragraph 170.3(5) "c."

(1) The department shall issue a notice of expiration for the child care assistance certification period on Form 470-4377 or 470-4377(S).

(2) If the family does not return a complete review form to the department by the end of the certification period, the family must reapply for benefits, except as provided in paragraph 170.3(6) "b." A complete review form is Form 470-4377 or 470-4377(S) with all items answered that is signed and dated by the applicant and is accompanied by all verification needed to determine continued eligibility.

c. Families who have children with protective needs and families who are receiving child care assistance because the parent is participating in activities under the PROMISE JOBS program are not required to complete Form 470-4377 or 470-4377(S).

(1) The department shall issue a notice of expiration for the child care assistance certification period on the notice of decision when the department approves the family's certification period.

(2) The department shall gather information needed to redetermine general eligibility. If the department needs information from the family, the department will send a written request to the family. If the family does not return the requested information by the due date, the family must reapply for child care assistance, except as provided in paragraph 170.3(6) "b."

d. Families who apply for child care assistance because the parent is seeking employment are not subject to review requirements because eligibility is limited to 30 consecutive calendar days. This waiver of the review requirement applies only when the parent who is seeking employment does not have another need for service.

170.3(6) *Reinstatement.*

a. Assistance shall be reinstated without a new application when all necessary information is provided before the effective date of cancellation and eligibility can be reestablished. If there is a change in circumstances, the change must be verified before the case will be reinstated.

b. Assistance shall be reinstated without a new application when the case was canceled for failure to provide requested information but all information necessary to determine eligibility, including verification of all changes in circumstances, is provided within 14 days of the effective date of cancellation and eligibility can be reestablished. If the fourteenth calendar day falls on a weekend or state holiday, the family shall have until the next business day to provide the information. The effective date of child care assistance shall be the date that all information required to establish eligibility is provided.

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