



901-2 Working Caretaker Relative Child Care

DATE: March 9, 2012

TO: All TANF Cash Assistance Policy Manual Holders

FROM: Del Bock, TANF Program Manager

SUBJECT: Bulletin TB- 69

TANF Manual: Place this bulletin in TANF 901-2

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SECTION: TANF 901-2 Eligibility and Benefits

SUBJECT: Working Caretaker Relative Child Care Program Updates

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2012

INTRODUCTION: Changes are being made to the Working Caretaker Relative Child Care program in efforts to extend the services to additional households.

Current policy requires households to pay a copayment of \$150 per month for children receiving this service. The policy also provides child care only for children age 11 and under. (Children age 12 or older are currently not eligible).

POLICY CHANGE: The monthly copayment for households receiving Working Caretaker Relative Child Care services will decrease to \$50 effective April 1, 2012. Child care under the Working Caretaker Relative program will now be available to children age 12 and under, unless they are special needs; in that instance they can receive service until they turn 19, provided they are otherwise eligible for the program.

REMINDER: When determining income eligibility for this program, TANF rules relating to whether or not income is countable or excluded will be followed. The amount of the child only TANF is NOT countable income for this program. The budgeting process is as follows:

1. The countable earned income of all household members is totaled together;
2. TANF earned income disregards are applied to the earned income for each individual who is employed;
3. Any countable unearned income is added to that total; and
4. The final total is compared to the income limits noted on the HCS-052 Referral Form.

	<p>The household members whose income must be used in the above determination include the children who are receiving TANF, the specified caretaker relative, his/her spouse and any minor children of the caretaker relative and/or spouse who are residing with the specified caretaker relative and spouse.</p> <p>NOTE: For this program, the income of the spouse of the caretaker relative counts in full, no deeming provision is required.</p> <p>UPDATED MANUAL MATERIAL WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. UNTIL THAT TIME, USE THIS BULLETIN AS A GUIDE. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL POLICY SPECIALIST</p>
Supersedes:	TANF 901-2 (10/1/09)
References:	45 CFR Part 98; P. L. 104-193; ARM 37.78.102, .103; .206; .207; ARM 37.80.201, .202; HOUSE BILL 676.
WORKING CARETAKER RELATIVE CHILD CARE PROGRAM	<p>The 2007 Montana Legislative session allocated funding for the Working Caretaker Relative Child Care program. This program is designed to assist specified caretaker relatives who are receiving child only TANF grants with child care costs associated with the minor child(ren) for whom they are receiving TANF cash assistance.</p> <p>The 2009 Montana Legislative session (HB676) requires households wanting to participate in the Working Caretaker Relative Childcare program to pass a net income limit of 250% of the current Federal Poverty Level (FPL). This change is effective October 1, 2009.</p> <p>NOTE: Those individuals who are currently receiving assistance will continue to receive services until their redetermination interview. Eligibility for the Working Caretaker Relative Child Care program must be re-evaluated during the annual redetermination of TANF eligibility using the criteria listed below.</p> <p>Beginning August 1, 2010 child care services will be provided to children ages 11 and under. Services will end effective July 31, 2010 for those children 12 and over.</p> <p>In order to qualify for the program, the specified caretaker relative must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be receiving child only TANF for a minor child or children; 2. Be employed a minimum of 60 hours per month (120 hours per month in a 2-parent household); 3. Complete the application packet for the program and submit it to the Resource and Referral agency; 4. Meet the income eligibility requirement of 250% of the current FPL. (This table can be found on the HCS 052 "Working Caretaker Relative Child Care Program" referral form); and

	<p>5. Pay a monthly \$150 co-payment to the child care provider.</p> <p>NOTE: Failure to pay the monthly \$150 co-payment will result in the loss of TANF child care assistance.</p>
START DATE OF BENEFITS	<p>Child care benefits under the Working Caretaker Relative Child Care Program may begin the date the HCS-052 electronic referral form is received by the R&R. The referral date should be the date of application for child only TANF; provided the specified caretaker relative met the eligibility criteria at the time of application.</p> <p>NOTE: The electronic referral to the R&R should not be delayed until the eligibility determination is made.</p> <p>For complete childcare assistance policy and procedure, refer to the Child Care Policy Manual, Section 3.1 (TANF) and Section 3.2 (Tribal TANF).</p>
CHANGES IN STATUS	<p>The OPA Social Service Specialist should notify the R&R of any change in status in the child only TANF cash assistance, for individuals who have been referred for services under the Working Caretaker Relative Child Care program. For instance, if the child only TANF cash assistance closes, the OPA Social Service Specialist must notify the specific contact at the R&R as soon as possible. If the case is later reverted to open, the OPA Social Service Specialist must notify the specific contact at the R&R as soon as possible in order for the Working Caretaker Relative Child Care to continue.</p>
REDETERMINATION	<p>Eligibility for the Working Caretaker Relative Child Care program must be re-evaluated during the annual redetermination of TANF eligibility. If the household remains eligible, a new HCS-052 referral form must be submitted electronically to the specific contact at the R&R. If the household is not eligible, the OPA Social Service Specialist must notify the R&R as soon as possible of the change in eligibility and send the A206 –WCR Child Care Denial notice.</p>
Date Revised	August 1, 2010