

TANF CHILD CARE ELIGIBILITY & COORDINATION

CHILD CARE 3 - 2

Tribal TANF Coordination

Supersedes: Child Care 3-1 (7/7/2018)

References: 52-2-701 – 704 & 52-2-711 – 713 MCA
Sections 37.80.101-103, 37.80.201-202, 37.80.205-206, 37.80.301-302,
37.80.305-306, 37.80.315-316, 37.80.501 ARM
45 CFR Part 98.20 – 47

General Rule

Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [TANF] families are dually eligible for Tribal Block Grant child care and the State CCDF Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship. CCR&Rs must verify that the family is not receiving Tribal Block Grant child care before determining eligibility for State CCDF Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship. Department of Public Health and Human Services [DPHHS] currently contracts with each Child Care Resource & Referral [CCR&R] agency to determine eligibility for families receiving TANF. If the Tribal TANF program exhausts child care funding or if Tribal Block Grant families find they are covered for additional activities under State Child Care and Development Fund [CCDF] child care rules, families may apply for a Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship.

A family participating in the Tribal TANF cash program completes the Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship application. During the application process the family is notified of their rights and responsibilities. Each Child Care Resource and Referral [CCR&R] must work with their local Tribal TANF programs, to determine how much child care assistance is required to complete Tribal Activity Plan (TAP) activities.

TANF families must use providers listed in 37.80.101(2). If the tribe runs their own child care licensing program and the state has an agreement to recognize that program, the Department would pay for care in that program.

Each family has a monthly copayment listed in ARM 37.80.202. An Eligibility Renewal Reminder Notification is sent to the TANF family 45 days from the end of the eligibility period.

TANF Families Require Affordable, Appropriate, Suitable Care Within a Reasonable Distance

CCR&Rs, in conjunction with the Pathways Case Manager, shall inform the families participating in the TANF Cash Assistance program that they are exempt from penalties for non-participation in required activities if they need child care and cannot find child care for children under age six that is appropriate, affordable, suitable, and within a reasonable distance.

See Section 1-3 for definitions of the following terms: Affordable Child Care, Appropriate Child Care, Reasonable Distance, and, Unsuitable Informal Care.