

**SERVING THE FAMILY**  
**CHILD CARE 6 - 6**  
**Continuity of Care**

**Supersedes:** Child Care 6-6 (7/7/18)

**References:** Sections 52-2-701-704, 52-2-711-713, 53-4-610 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

**General Rule**

After the child care authorization of services and corresponding authorization plan is issued, a family’s schedule may vary. While a family’s child care authorization of services and corresponding authorization plan may be modified or terminated at any time, the following policies are useful in avoiding temporary gaps in eligibility and services to children.

While all of these policies benefit the family, some are focused on the needs of their child care providers who would not be available without adequate compensation. The relationship of the child with their provider depends on the stability of the Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship. The Child Care Resource and Referral [CCR&R] agency, the family, and the provider all have an interest in maintaining continuity of care during transition periods.

Continuity of Care Policies	Description & Requirements
<b>Grace Period – Maintain Parent’s Eligibility</b>	<p>When a parent loses employment, eligibility for the Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship is jeopardized. The purpose of the Grace Period is to support the parent’s effort to look for work other activities that meet the requirements while maintaining continuity of care for the child[ren] and to stabilize the relationship with the child care provider. The Grace Period allows the current Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship to continue for 90 calendar days following the job loss or cessation of school or training, based on the date the employment change occurred [not the date reported to the CCR&amp;R].</p> <p>If the parent reports the job loss or cessation of school or training to the Child Care Resource &amp; Referral, the parent is given a grace period.</p> <p>All of the following restrictions apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The parent must report the job loss or cessation of school or training, to the CCR&amp;R.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The CCR&amp;R will continue child care eligibility period during the Grace Period.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Only one grace period may be granted per job loss or cessation of school or training; grace periods may not be granted consecutively.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> There is no explicit limit to the number of times a parent may use the grace period.</li> </ul>

<b>Continuity of Care Policies</b>	<b>Description &amp; Requirements</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Grace Period can be used during Graduated Eligibility.