



## Revisions to Child Care Assistance Program Administrative Rules

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On November 9, 2015, Governor Rauner agreed to make changes to the harmful emergency rules made to the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) on July 1, 2015. These revisions became effective immediately and signified a positive step forward for working families by allowing greater access to the CCAP program.

**What are the revisions:** The most significant revision restored income eligibility for CCAP from 50% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 162% of FPL for **new applicants beginning November 9th**.

Still in effect from the July 1, 2016 rule changes is an intake freeze for all new applicants unless they fall into one of three priority populations. These families will be allowed access to CCAP at 185% of the Federal Poverty Level. These priority populations include:

- Families that receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Teen parents enrolled full-time in elementary, high school or GED classes to obtain a high school degree or its equivalent
- Families with special needs children

Additional key changes include:

- Families will no longer have to meet child support requirements
- Relative caregivers will no longer have to undergo a background check

The Increased parent co-payment scale, which was put into place on July 1, 2015, will remain in place. Families that were already in the CCAP program **before** July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 can remain in the program at 185% of the federal poverty level.

**Who is still left out:** While the revisions to CCAP will help most families, some are still left with no support for child care. Specifically, **full-time students** pursuing their undergraduate degree who are not working are still not eligible for CCAP support. Illinois Action for Children estimates that this likely affects around **5,000 children**.

Also left out under this new rule are the **10,000 children from families with incomes between 162% and 185% FPL**. These families are the closest to economic stability, and with their high copays, have the lowest costs to the state.

**Governor's Promise to Restore CCAP:** As part of the compromise, Governor Rauner made a public statement to return the income eligibility back to 185% of the federal poverty level once a state budget is passed. We will have to work together to keep the Governor accountable to his promise with the families and children of Illinois.

**For more information, please contact:**

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### **What this means for families**

Under these new rules, a family of three is eligible for CCAP if they earn under \$2,713 a month. This table shows what families could earn under each income eligibility standard:

	<b>Before July 1<sup>st</sup></b> 185% of FPL	<b>July 1<sup>st</sup> – Nov. 8<sup>th</sup></b> 50% of FPL	<b>Effective Nov. 9<sup>th</sup></b> 162% of FPL
<b>Family of Two</b>	\$2,456/month	\$664/month	\$2,151/month
<b>Family of Three</b>	\$3,098/month	\$838/month	\$2,713/month
<b>Family of Four</b>	\$3,739/month	\$1,011/month	\$3,274/month

A minimum wage worker in Illinois (\$8.25/hour) now qualifies for assistance under the changes to the CCAP emergency rules because they make less than 162% of FPL.

Visit [www.actforchildren.org](http://www.actforchildren.org) for updates

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