

Policy Communiqué # 12-08: Processing a Case When Transitional Cash Assistance (TCA) Did Not Open

This is a message from the Division of Policy.

Title: Processing a Case When Transitional Cash Assistance (TCA) Did Not Open

Date: 5/16/2012

Priority: High

Category: Informational

Action Required: Yes, see "Next Steps" below

Response Required: No

Purpose:

The purpose of this communiqué is to provide Child Care Information Services (CCIS) agencies with clarification on the policy and procedures related to eligibility for child care subsidy for cases when a TCA benefit did not open correctly in the Client Information System (CIS) in Phase IV-B or non-Phase IV-B counties for an eligible household.

Background:

The TCA benefit is a temporary supplemental grant designed as an incentive for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients to move toward self-sufficiency and gain employment, while allowing Pennsylvania to continue to increase the number of families meeting the Work Participation Requirements (WPR). The TCA grant provides a temporary supplemental grant of \$100 per month, paid in two \$50 semi-monthly payments to certain families whose TANF cases closed due to employment. The TCA period is three consecutive months or six consecutive payments.

To be eligible for TCA, a TANF, Extended TANF or Time-Out family's cash assistance must have closed because of excess income and the adult(s) in the family is meeting the federal WPR at the time the family becomes ineligible for cash assistance. Currently, the County Assistance Office (CAO) cannot open some eligible TCA cases in CIS. A Problem Change Report (PCR) has been entered to address this issue and is prioritized for the September 2012 release.

Discussion:

Effective immediately, when the CCIS is notified by the CAO that a family is eligible for TCA even though the benefit did not open correctly in CIS, the CCIS must assess eligibility in Pennsylvania's Enterprise to Link Information for Children Across Networks (PELICAN) Child Care Works (CCW) under the Former TANF child care program. If the case is no longer meeting the work requirement, the case is ineligible under the Former TANF child care program and the family must be instructed to reapply for TANF benefits at their local CAO.

REMINDER: During the 183 days after TANF closed, the 20-hour minimum work requirement does not apply when TANF closed due to income from work in excess of the TANF income limits. However, parent(s) must be working some hours to be eligible for child care. (See Policy Communiqué #11-12 Former TANF Work-Hour Requirement).

Next Steps:

1. Share this information with appropriate staff.
2. Direct questions to your Subsidy Coordinator.