

Title: Foster Parent Income
Priority: High
Category: Informational
Action required: Read and use as required
Response Required: None

Purpose:

The purpose of this Communiqué is to advise CCIS agencies of when to enter foster parents' income into CCMIS.

Background:

We have recently been asked whether CCISs should enter foster parents' income into CCMIS. The answer to this question depends on which children in the foster family need care.

Care requested for foster children only

When a foster family requests care for only the foster children, the foster parents' income does not count. CCMIS is built to ignore the income of foster parents as long as the relationships show only foster children requesting care; however, we have found that entering the income has posed verification dilemmas for some CCISs.

In order to avoid confusion, the CCIS should enter \$0 as income and mark it verified. This avoids falling into the trap of collecting income information, needing to verify income and having the foster family fail eligibility if the income is not verified. Foster parents are not required to submit or verify income and the CCIS may not make the foster family ineligible for failing to provide verification of income. Foster parent must meet the work requirement to be eligible for subsidized child care. Foster parents pay a co-payment of \$5, no matter how many foster children reside with the family.

Care requested for children in addition to the foster children

The CCIS does count foster parent income when the foster family requests care for the foster child and/or biological/adopted child(ren). In this case the foster family's income is required along with verification of the income. The payment the family receives from the foster care placement agency is excluded when determining income. The foster family must meet all eligibility requirements, including financial eligibility. The co-payment is based on the foster family's income and family size.

The CCIS has an option regarding whether or not to include the foster child(ren) as part of the family or establish the foster child(ren) in a separate case. When determining whether to add the foster child(ren) into the family composition, the CCIS should consider the benefit to the family. Usually, the family benefits by adding the foster child(ren) into the family composition; however, in certain instances, such as school-age half co-payment, the family may benefit by

creating two separate families; one for the foster children and one for the other children in the foster family.

EXAMPLE: Foster family of 4 = Mom + Dad + Child + Foster Child

Co-payment for family of 4 = \$65 (with foster child included)

Co-payment for family of 3 = \$70 (not counting the foster child)

½ school-age co-payment for family of 3 = \$35

Co-payment for separate foster care case = \$5

In this case it benefits the foster family to establish two cases.

Co-payment = \$40 (\$35 + \$5) rather than \$65 for a family of 4 with 2 children

Next Steps:

- 1) Review this Communiqué with appropriate staff.
- 2) Print a copy of this Communiqué and file it with other Communiqué hard copies.
- 3) If you have any questions about this Communiqué please contact your subsidy coordinator.

Obsolete