



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE

## TAFDC Child Care Services

October 2012

Many families that receive Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) from the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) are eligible for child care. Eligibility for child care depends on the composition of the TAFDC household, the age of the child(ren), and whether the parent is working or participating in an approved job-readiness activity.

When the DTA case manager determines a family is eligible for child care, they are given a Child Care Referral to contact a Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agency for a child care slot. CCR&Rs are agencies that provide child care services and keep information on all licensed child care centers, family child care providers, preschools and out of school time programs.

### **Eligibility**

Case managers give TAFDC applicants and clients information about child care to help them when they go to work, participate in an Employment Services Program (ESP) activity or participate in an approved non-ESP funded activity. TAFDC clients may get child care as long as they meet the activity participation requirements.

Child care can be for a child who lives in the home and is:

- an infant through age 12;
- 13 years of age through age 16 if the child has a special need;
- a child under court supervision;
- an SSI child in the home; and/or
- a child subject to the Family Cap rule.

Eligible activities include:

- employment;
- actively seeking employment; and/or
- participating in employment-related activities (e.g., education/school, enrollment in an employment services program, community service).

### **Accessing child care**

DTA case managers provide TAFDC applicants or clients with a Child Care Fact Sheet. This fact sheet explains how a family may be able to get help paying for child care if they get TAFDC or their TAFDC case closed within the last 12 months. DTA will give them a Child Care Referral form to contact their local CCR&R, if they are determined to be eligible for child care.

Once DTA provides the TAFDC client with a Child Care Referral, the client must contact the CCR&R by telephone or in person to receive a child care voucher. The client meets with a CCR&R counselor who will assist them with finding an appropriate child care setting for the child(ren), determine a schedule of care, and authorize a child care voucher to pay for the child care. When these steps have been completed, the client must contact the child care provider directly to finalize the child care arrangements.



## **Continuing to get child care when the TAFDC case closes**

A client whose TAFDC case closes may continue to get child care to finish an education or training activity they started before their TAFDC case closed. The child care can continue until the activity is finished or for six months after the TAFDC case closed, whichever is sooner.

## **Transitional Child Care**

A parent who is no longer getting TAFDC, but who is working may be eligible for Transitional Child Care (TCC), provided he or she requests child care within the first twelve months after the TAFDC case closed. He or she may request TCC at any time within the 12 months after the TAFDC case closed.

For example, a client is working and their income makes them ineligible for TAFDC. Their TAFDC case closes in January. At anytime during the next 12 months, as long as they continue to work, the (former) client is eligible for TCC until December 31<sup>st</sup>. The TCC window will expire on December 31<sup>st</sup>. However, even though the TAFDC case closed in January, if the former client does not request child care until March, if eligible, they will only receive TCC until the end of the TCC period, December 31<sup>st</sup>.

At the time of the request for TCC, the former client will be asked for proof of current earned income. When the current earned income is provided, DTA will issue a TCC referral for child care services. The former client must then contact the CCR&R for a child care voucher.

## ***Parent co-payment fee for Transitional Child Care***

A former TAFDC client that gets TCC must be employed, and may be required by the CCR&R to pay a parent co-payment fee for child care. A parent co-payment fee is based on the family's current earnings, any other household income and the family's household size, according to EEC's household rules. If a parent co-payment fee is required, the CCR&R counselor will explain to the former client how the co-payment fee is determined and inform him or her of the fee amount.

## **Post-transitional child care**

After the Transitional Child Care period with DTA ends, families may continue to get help paying for child care for an additional year from the Department of Early Education and Care. The family may be eligible for income-eligible child care assistance. The CCR&R counselor will work with the family to determine the family's eligibility for continuing to get child care.