DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Statutory Authority: 31 Delaware Code, Section 512 (31 **Del.C.** §512) 16 **DE Admin. Code** 11002

PROPOSED

PUBLIC NOTICE

Child Care Subsidy Program Terms

In compliance with the State's Administrative Procedures Act (APA - Title 29, Chapter 101 of the Delaware Code), 42 CFR §447.205, and under the authority of Title 31 of the Delaware Code, Chapter 5, Section 512, Delaware Health and Social Services (DHSS) / Division of Social Services (DSS) is proposing to amend the Division of Social Services Manual regarding Child Care, specifically, to update term definitions.

Any person who wishes to make written suggestions, compilations of data, testimony, briefs or other written materials concerning the proposed new regulations must submit same to, Planning, Policy and Quality Unit, Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance, 1901 North DuPont Highway, P.O. Box 906, New Castle, Delaware 19720-0906, by email to Nicole.M.Cunningham@delaware.gov, or by fax to 302-255-4413 by 4:30 p.m. on January 31, 2020. Please identify in the subject line: Child Care Subsidy Program Terms.

The action concerning the determination of whether to adopt the proposed regulation will be based upon the results of Department and Division staff analysis and the consideration of the comments and written materials filed by other interested persons.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that Delaware Health and Social Services/Division of Social Services (DHSS/DSS) is proposing to amend the Division of Social Services Manual regarding Child Care, specifically, to update term definitions.

Statutory Authority

- 45 CFR 98.2
- 45 CFR 98.40

Background

DSS is revising the terms and definitions for the Child Care Subsidy Program based on the reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act, which mandated new eligibility requirements for child care assistance. DSS has changed the formatting of the policy so that the policy is clear, concise, and easy to understand.

Summary of Proposal

Purpose

The proposed rule defines Child Care Subsidy Program terms.

Summary of Proposed Changes

Effective for services provided on and after March 11, 2020 Delaware Health and Social Services/Division of Social Services proposes to amend section 11002.9 of the Division of Social Services Manual regarding Child Care, specifically, to update term definitions.

Public Notice

In accordance with the *federal* public notice requirements established at Section 1902(a)(13)(A) of the Social Security Act and 42 CFR 447.205 and the state public notice requirements of Title 29, Chapter 101 of the Delaware Code, Delaware Health and Social Services/Division of Social Services (DHSS/DSS) gives public notice and provides an open comment period for thirty (30) days to allow all stakeholders an opportunity to provide input on the proposed regulation. Comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on January 31, 2020.

Fiscal Impact

DSS amended DSSM 11002.9 to clarify the text and formatting of the existing policy, including adding new program terms and removing program terms that are no longer applicable. This policy is currently in place and there are no financial responsibilities associated with the Child Care Subsidy Program Terms policy.

POLICY - AMENDMENT

Delaware Department of Health and Social Services Division of Social Services Policy and Program Development Unit

11002.9 Definitions and Explanation of Defining Child Care Subsidy Program Terms 45 CFR 98.2

The following words and terms, when used in the context of these policies will, unless clearly indicated otherwise, have the following meanings.

This policy contains terms and definitions for the Child Care Subsidy Program.

"Application for Social Services and Internet Screening Tool" or "ASSIST"
"ASSIST Worker Web" or "AWW"

Authorization

"Authorization"

Caregiver/Provider

Caretaker

"Caretaker"

means an online self-service portal that allows individuals to apply for health and social service benefits in Delaware.

means the system that DSS uses to screen and determine benefit eligibility.

Form 618d or 626 is the parents/caretakers authority to receive subsidized child care services and is the provider's authority to provide subsidized child care services to eligible parents/caretakers. The authorization informs providers how much care a parent is authorized to receive, what DSS will pay the provider, and what parents/caretakers must pay as part of their fee.

means a child is approved for child care services. The authorization specifies the approved amount of care a child is eligible to receive.

- 1. DSS will enter the authorization for care after the child care case is confirmed and opened.
- 2. DSS will send notification of the child care authorization to the parent or caretaker by a notice generated from AWW or by DSS Form 626 "Subsidized Child Care Client Agreement".
- 3. The authorization provides the parent or caretaker the ability to receive subsidized child care services.
- 4. The authorization gives the child care provider the authority to provide subsidized child care services.
- 5. The authorization also informs the child care provider of:
 - The amount of care the child is authorized to receive;
 - The DSS payment amount to the provider; and
 - The parent or caretaker copayment amount to the provider.

The person(s), other than the parent/caretaker, whom DSS approves to provide child care services or the approved place where care is provided.

The adult responsible for the primary support and guardianship of the child. As used here, this adult is someone other than the child's parent who acts in place of the parent. If a caretaker is unrelated to the child and has not been awarded custody by Family Court or guardianship, the caretaker is referred to the Division of Family Services to make a determination to either approve the non-relative placement or remove the child.

means the non-parent adult who is responsible for the primary support and guardianship of a child.

- 1. The caretaker acts in the place of the parent.
- If custody or guardianship has not been legally granted to the caretaker, DSS must make a referral to the Division of Family Services (DFS).

CCDRG

Child Care and Development Block Grant. 45 CFR Parts 98 and 99 created by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 to provide federal funds without state match to:

- 1. Provide child care to low income families
- 2. Enhance the quality and increase the supply of child care
- 3. Provide parents the ability to choose their provider
- 4. Increase the availability of early childhood programs and before and after school services. Under the Division's DCIS II Child Care Sub system, CCDBG is part of Categories 31 and 41

Code of Federal Regulations. These are the rules the Federal Government writes to implement federal legislation. Once written and approved, they have the force of law.

Child Care Management Information System, the name used to describe the Division's payment system for child care.

A person under the age of 13, or children 13 through 18 years of age if they are physically or mentally incapable of caring for themselves or are in need of protective services.

means a person who is eligible for the Child Care Subsidy Program based on age or special need. To be determined eligible for child care services, the child must be:

- Under the age of 13 years old; or
- Between the ages of 13 and 19 years old and physically or mentally incapable of self-care or in need of protective services.

means the block grant that supplies federal funding for the Child Care Subsidy Program. CCDBG is also known as the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). The CCDBG provides:

- Child care to low income families;
- The ability for parents and caretakers to choose their child care providers;
- Continuity of care for children; and
- Health and safety requirements for child care providers.

The DCIS II Child Care Sub system code for the child care funding source. Case Managers choose category codes based on the parents/caretaker's technical eligibility for service. The codes are:

- 11 Participants receiving TANF and not working, but participating in TANF E&T
- 12 Participants receiving TANF and working
- 21 Participants receiving Food Stamps Benefits who are mandatory or voluntary participants in E&T and not receiving TANE
- 31 SSBG, CCDBG, and State funds: Income eligible participants. Participants who receive FS and are not E&T mandatory or voluntary
- 41 A participant who is a qualified alien or U.S. citizen is coded as a category 41 when his or her eligibility allows a non U.S. citizen or non-qualified alien to receive child care services. (Example: One child is a citizen and one is not. The citizen child is a 41.)
- 51 A participant is coded category 51 when s/he is not a U.S. citizen or legal alien but receives Child Care services due to a family member in category 41

means the code for the child care funding source or the family's technical eligibility for services. The child care category codes are as follows:

CFR

CCMIS

Child

"Child"

"Child Care and Development Block Grant " or "CCDBG"

Child Care Category

"Child Care Category"

- 11: Participants receiving TANF and not working, but participating in the TANF Employment and Training program.
- 12: Participants receiving TANF and working.
- 21: Participants receiving food benefits who are mandatory or voluntary participants in the Food Benefit Employment and Training program and not receiving TANF.
- 31: SSBG, CCDBG, and state funds income eligible participants. Participants who receive food benefits and are not mandatory or voluntary for the Food Benefit Employment and Training program.
- 41: A participant who is a qualified alien or U.S. citizen whose eligibility allows a non-U.S. citizen or non-qualified alien to receive child care services. Example: The participant has one child who is a citizen and one child who is not a citizen in need of child care services.
- <u>51: A participant who is not a U.S. citizen or legal alien, but receives child care services due to a family member in category 41.</u>

A place where licensed or license-exempt child care is provided on a regular basis for periods of less than 24 hours a day to 13 or more children, who are unattended by a parent or guardian.

means a licensed child care facility that provides child care services. A child care center is open less than 24 hours per day and provides services to twelve or more children.

A form issued to a parent/caretaker which allows a parent/caretaker to choose a child care provider who does not have a contract with DSS. A certificate is not an authorization for child care, but parents who wish to select a non-contracted provider of their choice cannot get care unless the provider completes one.

means a form issued to a parent or caretaker that permits the parent or caretaker to choose a child care provider who has a contract with DSS.

- 1. The certificate allows the parent or caretaker to select the DSS contracted provider of their choice.
- 2. The certificate is not an authorization for child care services.

The amount the parent/caretaker must pay toward the cost of child care. The fee is based on the income of the parent(s) and children, or the child if the child lives with a caretaker, family size and a percentage of the cost of care based on type of care requested.

Those activities that assist eligible families in the arrangement of child care for their children.

means the activities that assist eligible families in the arrangement of child care for their children.

means the program that provides financial support to eligible Delaware families who need assistance paying for child care. The program also assists families who are having difficulty locating care for their children, including children who need care during non-traditional hours, children who are English language learners, and children who have special needs.

Child Care Centers

"Child Care Center"

Child Care Certificate

"Child Care Certificate"

Child Care Parent Fee

Child Care Services

"Child Care Services"

"Child Care Subsidy Program"

Child Care Type

Refers to the setting or place where child care is provided. The four types of care are:

- 1. Center based (under DCIS II Child Care Sub system Site #17 or 18)
- 2. Large Family Home (under DCIS II Child Care Sub system Site #16)
- 3. Family Home (under DCIS II Child Care Sub system Site #15)
- 4. In-Home (under DCIS II Child Care Sub system Site #19)

"Child Care Type" means the setting or place where child care is provided.

- 1. DSS categorizes child care types and assigns a site number to all new providers.
 - Family Child Care Providers have site numbers that begin with 15.
 - Large Family Child Care Providers have site numbers that begin with 16.
 - Child Care Center Providers have site numbers that begin with 17.
 - Summer Camps have site numbers that begin with 18.
 - Relative Child Care Providers have site numbers that begin with 19.

Children From Low Income Families

Children in families whose income is less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Limit (FPL).

"Code of Federal Regulations" or "CFR"

means the codification of the rules published by the federal government to implement federal legislation. The rules have the force of law once they become effective.

Delaware Client Information System, the automated client eligibility system for the Department of Health and Social Services.

Educational Program - A program of instruction to achieve:

- 1. A basic literacy level of 8.9;
- 2. Instruction in English as a second language;
- 3. A GED, Adult Basic Education (ABE), or High School Diploma;
- 4. Completion of approved special training or certificate courses;
- 5. A post-secondary degree where the degree is part of an approved DSS Employment and Training program.

The above definition excludes the pursuit of a graduate degree or second four year college degree. A second associate's degree may be attained if it leads to a bachelor's degree. The completion of a second-associate's degree can be authorized only if it has a significant chance of leading to employment.

Educational Program

DCIS-II

means a program of instruction to achieve at least one of the following:

- A basic literacy level of 8.9;
- Completion of a course in English as a second language;
- A GED, Adult Basic Education (ABE), or high school diploma;
- Completion of a special training or certificate course approved by a DSS employment and training program;
- A post-secondary degree approved by a DSS employment and training program; or
- A second associate's degree approved by a DSS employment and training program if it leads to a bachelor's degree and employment is obtained upon completion.

"Educational Program"

Employment

<u>"Employment"</u>

Family Child Care Home

"Family Child Care Home"

Family Size

"Family Size"

Food Benefit Employment and Training

"Food Benefit Employment & Training"

"Good Cause"

"Graduated Phase-Out"

Income

"Income"

Employment - Either part-time or full time work for which the parent/caretaker receives wages equal to minimum wage or an equivalent. It also includes periods of up to three months of continued child care services when parents/caretakers lose one job and need to search for another, or when one job ends and another job has yet to start.

means part-time or full-time work for which the parent or caretaker receives wages equal to or greater than the federal minimum wage.

A private residence other than the child's residence, where licensed care is provided for one to six children who are not related to the caregiver.

means a licensed child care provider who cares for one to six children in the provider's private residence. The children receiving subsidized child care may not be related to the provider or live at the same residence as the provider.

The total number of persons whose needs and income are considered together. This will always include the parent(s) (natural, legal, adoptive, step, and unmarried partners with a child in common) and all their dependent children under 18 living in the home.

means the total number of individuals whose needs and incomes are considered together for determining child care assistance.

- 1. A family size will always include the parent(s) and all of the dependent children under the age of 18 years old who are living in the home.
- Parents are defined as the natural, legal, adoptive, or stepmother and father.

The program by which certain unemployed mandatory and/or voluntary Food Benefit recipients participate in activities to gain skills or receive training to obtain regular, paid employment. Persons can receive child care if they need care to participate. This is referred to as Food Benefit Employment & Training. Under the Division's DCIS II Child Care Sub system, this is Category 21.

means the DSS program that supports food benefit recipients by providing skill development, training, and work experience opportunities that can lead to self-sustaining employment. This program is also known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training program.

means an adequate or substantial reason why a client has not taken an action.

- 1. If a parent or caretaker claims good cause, DSS may request the parent or caretaker to provide evidence to verify the claim.
- 2. DSS will determine good cause on a case-by-case basis.
- 3. DSS will not take adverse action on a case if good cause exists.

means a 12-month transition out of the Child Care Subsidy Program that supports long-term financial stability and promotes self-sufficiency. Graduated Phase-Out is only initiated at redetermination of the Child Care Subsidy Program when a family's gross income exceeds program income guidelines.

Any type of money payment that is of gain or benefit to a family. Examples of income include wages, social security pensions, public assistance payments, child support, etc.

means any type of earned or unearned money payment that is of gain or benefit to a family. Examples of income include wages, Social Security pensions, public assistance payments, and child support.

Income Eligible

"Income Eligible"

"Income Entry Limit"

"Income Exit Limit"

Income Limit

In-Home Care

Job Training/Training

Large Family Child Care Home

"Large Family Child Care Home"

Legal Care

"Low Income Family"

"Non-Temporary Care"

Parent

<u>"Parent"</u>

"Parent Copayment"

A family is financially eligible to receive child care services based on the family's gross income. It also refers to child care programs under Category 31.

means a family is financially eligible to receive child care services based on the family's gross income.

means the maximum allowable amount of gross income a family can have to be financially eligible for the Child Care Subsidy Program.

means the maximum allowable amount of gross income a family can have before the family is determined no longer financially eligible for the Child Care Subsidy Program at redetermination.

The maximum amount of gross income a family can receive to remain financially eligible for child care services. Current income limit is 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Care provided for a child in the child's own home by either a relative or non-relative, other than the parent/caretaker, where such care is exempt from licensing requirements. Care is limited to the child(ren) residing in the household. It also refers to situations where care is provided by a relative in the relative's own home. This care is also exempt from licensing requirements and is also limited to the children of one household.

A program which either establishes or enhances a person's job skills. Such training either leads to employment or allows a person to maintain employment already obtained. Such training includes, but is not limited to: Food Benefit Employment & Training (FB E&T) contracted programs; WIA sponsored training programs, recognized school vocational programs, and on the job training programs.

A licensed child care service provided for part of a twenty-four (24) hour day, offered by any person or entity including but not limited to an owner, association, agency or organization that advertises or holds himself, herself or itself out as conducting such a service. This person or entity has in custody or control seven (7) to a maximum of twelve (12) children preschool-age or older who live at and/or are present at the Large Family Child Care Home. In addition to the children preschool-age or younger, this person or entity may also have custody or control of one (1) to a maximum of two (2) school-age children who do not live at the Large Family Child Care Home but are present only for before and after school, and/or during school holidays, and/or during the summer. All of these children are provided care, education, protection, supervision or guidance in a private home or non-residential setting. This does not include a child care service provided exclusively to relatives as defined by these rules.

means a licensed child care service provided by any person or entity that is permitted to care for seven to twelve children in a private home or a non-residential setting.

Care which is either licensed or exempt from licensing requirements.

means a family whose income is less than the Income Entry Limit for the Child Care Subsidy Program.

means a limited period of 90 days of continued care for families who no longer have a need for child care services.

The child's natural mother, natural legal father, adoptive mother or father, or step-parent.

means the child's natural mother, natural legal father, adoptive mother or father, or stepparent.

means the financial amount the parent or caretaker must pay toward the cost of child care. This was previously called the "Child Care Parent Fee".

 The copayment will be determined from the gross income received by the family and the family's size.

- The gross income amount received by the family will be <u>2.</u> compared to the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
- A family will pay a percentage of their gross income for their 3. copayment amount.

The right of parents/caretakers to choose from a broad range of child care providers, the type and location of child care.

> means the right of parents and caretakers to choose from a broad range of child care providers including the type and location of the child care service.

> A dysfunctional condition which disrupts the child's normal development patterns during which the child cannot function without special care and supervision. Such condition must be verified by either a doctor or other professional with the competence to do so.

> means a condition impairing the child's normal development patterns in which the child cannot function safely without special care and supervision. A licensed doctor or other medical professional must verify the condition.

> The supervision/placement of a child by the Division of Family Services in order to monitor and prevent situations of abuse or neglect.

> means the supervision and placement of a child by the Division of Family Services (DFS) in order to monitor and prevent situations of abuse or neglect.

> means a Child Care Subsidy Program website where child care providers can update their program information, view attendance records, and submit payment information.

> means the name of Delaware's Child Care Subsidy Program that provides financial support to eligible Delaware families who need assistance paying for child care.

> Care option that allows providers to charge most DSS clients the difference between the DSS reimbursement rate up to the provider's private fee for service. The provider receives DSS rate, the DSS determined child care parent fee, if applicable, and any additional provider-determined co-pay.

> means a care option that allows providers to charge parents and caretakers participating in the Child Care Subsidy Program the difference between the DSS reimbursement rate and the provider's private fee for services. The provider receives the DSS rate, the DSS determined child care copayment (if applicable), and any additional provider determined copayments.

> The maximum dollar amount the State will pay for child care services. means the maximum dollar amount the State will pay for child care services.

> An adult who is by marriage, blood relationship, or court decree, the grandparent, great grandparent, sibling, aunt or uncle of the child receiving care.

> means an adult who is by marriage, blood relationship, or court decree the grandparent, great grandparent, sibling, aunt, or uncle of the child receiving care.

Living in the home of the parent or caretaker. means living in the home of the parent or caretaker.

To the extent permitted by applicable laws, a family is able to retain the same provider regardless of the source of funding, and providers are able to provide services to children regardless of the basis for the

family's eligibility for assistance or the source of payment.

Parental Choice

"Parental Choice"

Physical or Mental Incapacity

"Physical or Mental Impairment"

Protective Services

"Protective Service"

"Provider Self Service" or "PSS"

"Purchase of Care" or "POC"

Purchase of Care Plus (POC+)

"Purchase of Care Plus" or "POC+"

Reimbursement Rates "Reimbursement Rate"

Relative

"Relative"

Residing With "Residing With"

Seamless Services

"Seamless Service"

means a family is able to retain the same provider regardless of the source of funding, and providers are able to provide services to children regardless of a family's eligibility for assistance or the source of payment. This type of service, to the extent permitted by applicable laws, allows different funding streams to prevent interruption in child care services.

Self-Arranged Care

Child care which either parents or caretakers arrange on their own between themselves and providers. In this instance, the parents/caretakers choose to use a child care certificate, but the provider does not accept the State reimbursement rate for child care services. DSS limits payment for self-arranged care to its regular provider rates. Parents/caretakers, in addition to any parent fee they pay, must also pay the difference between DSS' reimbursement rates and the providers' charge.

"Self-Arranged Care"

means child care services which are arranged between the parent or caretaker and the child care provider. In this type of arrangement, the provider does not accept the state reimbursement rate and the parent of caretaker will pay the provider their full rate. DSS will only reimburse the parent or caretaker the state reimbursement rate for care minus any applicable copayment.

Self-Initiated

Clients who enter an education or training program on their own. The education or training program must be comparable to a Food Benefit Employment & Training (FB E&T) - TANF education or training component. Self-initiated clients must receive child care services if there is a child care need.

"Social Services Block Grant" or "SSBG"

means a grant provided by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) that is a flexible funding source allowing states to fund different social service programs to meet the needs of citizens within their individual state.

Special Needs Child

A child under 19 years of age whose physical, emotional, or developmental needs require special care. Both the need and care must be verified by a doctor or other professional with the authority to do so.

"Special Needs Child Care"

means child care that is authorized due to a child under 19 years old or an adult who requires specialized care for physical, emotional, or developmental needs. A licensed doctor or other medical professional must verify the need and the required care.

Special Needs Parent/Caretaker

An adult, who because of a special need, is unable on his/her own to care for children. The need must be verified by a doctor or other professional with the authority to do so.

SSBG

Social Services Block Grant. Under the DCIS II Child Care Sub-system, this is Category 31 child care.

"State Median Income" or "SMI"

means the average income for each state reported yearly by the U.S. Census Bureau.

 At any time a family's income exceeds the federal income guideline of 85% of Delaware's SMI, the family is no longer eligible for the Child Care Subsidy Program and the family's child care case will close.

TANE

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, a program established by Title IV-A of the Social Security Act and authorized by Title 31 of the Delaware Code to provide benefits to needy children who are deprived of parental support and care. While on TANF, families are eligible for child care only as long as they are working or participating in a TANF Employment and Training activity (Categories 11 and 12).

TANF Child Care

The name of the child care program for TANF recipients who work or who are participating in a TANF Employment and Training program. Under the DCIS II Child Care Sub system, this is Category 11 and 12.

"TANF Child Care"

means the child care program for TANF applicants and recipients who work or who are participating in the TANF Employment and Training

program.

Technical Eligibility

Parents/caretakers meet requirements, other than financial, to receive

child care services based on need and category.

"Technical Eligibility"

means requirements based on need and category that families must meet to receive child care services.

"Temporary Assistance for Needy Families" or "TANF"

means a state and federally funded program established by Title IV-A of the Social Security Act and authorized by Title 31 of the Delaware Code to provide benefits to low-income families with dependent children.

1. While on TANF, families are eligible for child care as long as they are working or participating in a TANF Employment and Training activity.

"Temporary Care"

means child care will continue if a parent or caretaker has a temporary break in his or her need for child care services. The temporary break should not exceed 90 days.

<u>"Training"</u>

means a program that establishes or enhances a person's job skills. The training should lead to employment or assist a person in maintaining employment.

- 1. Recognized training programs include, but are not limited to:
 - DSS employment & training programs;
 - WIOA-sponsored training programs;
 - Recognized school vocational programs; and
- On-the-job training programs.

Verification

Written or oral documentation, demonstrating either need for service or sources of income.

"Verification"

means written or verbal documentation confirming a need for service, source of income, or the accuracy of statements or information.

Work Force Investment Act (WIA)

Federal Legislation that consolidates Employment and Training programs and funding streams. This legislation embodies the One Stop Employment and Training Service system under DOL.

"Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act" or "WIOA"

means federal legislation that coordinates workforce development programs and funding streams.

16 DE Reg. 78 (07/01/12) 16 DE Reg. 1276 (06/01/13)

17 DE Reg. 526 (11/01/13)

23 DE Reg. 539 (01/01/20) (Prop.)