

RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Title of Rule: Child Care Assistance Program Rules and Regulations (218-RICR-20-00-4)

Rule Identifier: 218-RICR-20-00-4

Rulemaking Action: Proposed Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: March 23, 2026

End of Public Comment: April 22, 2026

Rulemaking Authority:

RIGL 42-12-23

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

This amendment includes an update to the attendance policy to comply with the 2024 Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Final Rule (45 C.F.R. § 98.45(m)(2)(i)), effective April 30, 2024. This update is part of the state's waiver, which requires payment to child care providers based on enrollment rather than attendance. Also included in this draft is language addressing the implementation of RISES, the State's integrated early childhood data and information system.

The changes are as follows:

Changed all references to the absence policy for two (2) weeks to four (4) weeks

§4.2(A)(26)-Updated definition of financial unit for clarity

§4.2(A)(47)-Added definition of RISES

§4.8.1(E)(1)-Added language enrolling a child through Provider Portal and payment based on enrollment

§4.8.1(E)(4)-Added "during the first (1st) week of care"

§4.8.1(E)(6)-Added "licensed", Added "including"

§4.8.1(E)(7)-Added language regarding providers charging additional fees

§4.11.2-Updated language to add references to RISES for licensed providers and remove language regarding paper applications

§4.11.2-Removed "Category Specific" section title

§4.11.2(A)(3)-Updated language to reference Comprehensive Background Check

§4.11.2 (B)- Added language specifying the process for License Exempt providers to become CCAP provider and added Comprehensive Background Check as a requirement for License Exempt

§4.11.3(A)- Removed "form", removed "date stamped"

§4.11.3(C)(2)-Added "through RISES"

§4.11.5(C)-Changed "licensed" to "CCAP approved"

§4.11.5(F)(1)-Updated language regarding reassessing enrollment hours

§4.11.5(F)(2)-Removed language

§4.11.6(D)(2)-Added language

§4.11.6(D)(4)-Added language

Additional Information and Public Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed amendment until April 22, 2026 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

Tara Borges

Department of Human Services

Office of Policy Development, Department of Human Services
Hazard Building, 41 West Road, Bldg. 74
Cranston, RI 02920
DHS.PolicyFeedBack@dhs.ri.gov

In accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.8, an oral hearing will be granted if requested by twenty-five (25) persons, by a governmental agency or by an association having at least twenty-five (25) members. A request for an oral hearing must be made within ten (10) days of the publication of this notice.

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

The Child Care Assistance Program is designed to improve child welfare and provide low-income children access to care in a time where they need it most. This amendment will allow more Rhode Island families to be eligible for the CCAP program, therefore providing safe and affordable child care to working families and families that are involved in an approved education or training program.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.