



## STATE OF RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

**To: Interested Parties**

**From: DHS Office of Policy Development**

**Date: April 3, 2026**

**Subject: Proposed Amendment to Child Care Assistance Program Rules and Regulations**

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, the Department of Human Services is advertising the following proposed and amended DHS rules. This rule is being amended in compliance with state and federal law and good practice.

### **RICR Title 218 – Rhode Island Department of Human Services Chapter 20 – Individual and Family Support Programs Part 4 – Child Care Assistance Program Rules and Regulations**

The proposed amendments are as follows:

- Technical revisions as necessary
- Renumbered as necessary
- 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

These proposed rules are accessible on the DHS website (<http://www.dhs.ri.gov>), the RI Secretary of State website (<http://sos.ri.gov/ProposedRules/>), and available in hard copy upon request (401-462-

3015 or RI Relay, dial 711). **A public hearing will be held to consider the proposed amendments on April 15, 2026 at 5:00pm at the Louis Pasteur Building, 25 Howard Avenue, Bldg. 57, Cranston, RI 02920, in the West Wing Conference Room.** Persons wishing to testify may do so by signing up at the hearing or by submitting written testimony no later than 11:59pm on April 22, 2026 to Tara Borges, Office of Policy Development, Department of Human Services, Hazard Building, 41 West Road, Bldg. 74, Cranston, RI 02920 or [DHS.PolicyFeedBack@dhs.ri.gov](mailto:DHS.PolicyFeedBack@dhs.ri.gov).

The seating capacity of the West Wing Conference Room will be enforced and therefore the number of persons participating in the hearing may be limited at any given time by the hearing officer, in order to comply with safety and fire codes.

The Louis Pasteur Building is accessible to the handicapped. Individuals with hearing impairments may request an interpreter's presence by calling 711 or Relay RI 1-800-745-6575 (Voice) and 1-800-745-5555 (TDD). Requests for this service must be made at least 72 hours in advance of the Hearing date. The Department of Human Services does not discriminate against individuals based on race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, religious belief, political belief or handicap in acceptance for or provision of services or employment in its programs or activities.