

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: Direct Final Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: October 27, 2026

End of Public Comment: November 26, 2026

Rulemaking Authority:

RIGL 42-12-23

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

The FY 27 Rhode Island state budget approved expanded eligibility for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) by increasing the household income limit for eligible families from two hundred sixty-one percent (261%) to two hundred eighty-five percent (285%) of the federal poverty level (FPL), effective January 1, 2027. The budget also increases the income threshold for Transitional Child Care from three hundred percent (300%) to three hundred twenty-five percent (325%) of FPL. -Changed all references of two hundred sixty one percent Federal Poverty Level (261% FPL) to two hundred eighty five percent Federal Poverty Level (285% FPL). -Changed all references of three hundred percent Federal Poverty Level (300% FPL) to three hundred twenty five percent Federal Poverty Level (325% FPL).

The Agency does not expect this filing to be controversial and therefore, a public hearing will not be held.

Additional Information and Public Comments:

If no formal objection is received on or before November 26, 2026, the Department of Human Services will file the Amendment and the Final Rule will take effect on this date.

Objections should be addressed to:

Tara Borges

Department of Human Services

Office of Policy Analysis, Research & Development

Hazard Bldg. #74, 41 West Road

Cranston, RI 02920

DHS.PolicyFeedBack@dhs.ri.gov

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. These amendments will allow additional Rhode Island families with incomes above the current CCAP initial eligibility limit to qualify for child care assistance and will extend transitional child care assistance to families whose incomes exceed the current eligibility threshold.

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