

Child Care Assistance for Families Experiencing Homelessness

Information for Child Care Providers

Overview

Are you working with a family who is experiencing homelessness and needs help paying for child care? Here's what you need to know about homelessness and the New Jersey's Child Care Subsidy Program. A family who is experiencing homelessness has up to six-months to submit the required paperwork for their child care subsidy application. During this six-month period, a family can start receiving a child care subsidy while they establish eligibility and their application is processed.

What You Need to Know as a Child Care Provider

As a child care provider, you are encouraged to immediately notify your Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Agency if you believe a family is experiencing homelessness so they can help eligible families obtain a child care subsidy – if they are not already receiving one. Subsidy applications from families who are homeless are prioritized and processed within 30 calendar days. If the child was in care before the subsidy application was made, payment can be authorized back to the date the application was submitted to the CCR&R. Without delaying child care services, the six-month grace period gives the family more time to collect and submit to the CCR&R paperwork that verifies:

- Parent Employment/School/Training
- Child age
- Child citizenship
- Residency

Who is Considered Homeless?

Children who are homeless lack a fixed and adequate nighttime residence. This includes migratory children and children who live in:

- Shared housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason;
- Motels, hotels or campgrounds due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations;
- Emergency or transitional shelters;
- Locations not designed or intended for human sleeping (i.e. park benches); or
- Cars, parks, public spaces, bus or train stations, or abandoned buildings.

For more information about child care services for families who are homeless, contact your Child Care Resource and Referral Agency.