

3400.0140 COUNTY RESPONSIBILITIES.

Subpart 1. **County child care assistance policies and procedures.** Counties shall adopt policies and procedures for providing child care assistance to enable eligible applicants to seek or retain employment or to participate in education or training programs. All county policies that apply to child care assistance must be in writing and must be included in the county's biennial child care fund plan required under part 3400.0150.

Subp. 2. **Child care assistance information.** The county shall provide information on child care assistance to child care service providers, social service agencies, and the local news media as it deems necessary to ensure the full use of its child care fund allocation.

Subp. 3. [Repealed, 26 SR 253]

Subp. 4. **Determination of providers eligible for payments.** The county's process for approving providers eligible for payments under the child care fund may not exceed 30 calendar days, or 45 calendar days with the approval of the applicant, from the date the child care application is approved, the date the child care provider is selected by the applicant, or, the date the county received the results of the background investigation required by Minnesota Statutes, section 119B.125, subdivision 2, whichever is later. Reimbursement for child care expenses must be made according to the date of eligibility established in part 3400.0040, subpart 6c. If the county determines that a provider chosen by an applicant is not eligible to receive child care payments under the child care fund, the applicant may appeal the county's determination under part 3400.0230.

Subp. 5. **Additional information for legal nonlicensed providers.** The county shall provide each authorized legal nonlicensed family child care provider health and safety material supplied by the department and shall refer the provider to the child care resources and referral agency. The county must tell the provider that the county is required to keep a record of substantiated parental complaints concerning the health and safety of children in the care of legal nonlicensed providers and that, upon request, information governing substantiated complaints shall be released to the public as authorized under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 13.

Subp. 5a. [Repealed, 33 SR 695]

Subp. 6. **Duties upon receipt of complaints against legal nonlicensed providers.** Within 24 hours of receiving a complaint concerning the health or safety of children under the care of a legal nonlicensed provider, a county must relay the complaint to:

A. the county's child protection agency if the complaint alleges child maltreatment as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 260E.03, subdivision 12;

B. the county's public health agency if the complaint alleges a danger to public health due to communicable disease, unsafe water supply, sewage or waste disposal, or building structures;

C. local law enforcement if the complaint alleges criminal activity that may endanger the health or safety of children under care; or

D. other agencies with jurisdiction to investigate complaints relating to the health and safety of a child.

If a complaint is substantiated under item A, the county must keep a record of the substantiated complaint as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 260E.35, subdivision 6. If a complaint is substantiated under items B to D, the county must keep a record of the substantiated complaint for three years. Upon request, information governing substantiated complaints shall be released to the public as authorized under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 13. Upon receiving notice of a substantiated complaint under items A to D, the county shall not make subsequent payments to that provider from the child care fund for child care services provided by that provider unless the conditions underlying the substantiated complaint have been corrected.

Subp. 7. **County contracts and designation of administering agency.** Counties may contract for the administration of all or part of the child care fund. The county shall designate the agency authorized to administer the child care fund in the county's child care fund plan. The county must describe in its child care fund plan how it will oversee the contractor's performance.

Subp. 8. **Agreement with employment and training services providers.** Cooperative agreements with employment and training services providers must specify that MFIP families participating in employment services and meeting the requirements of part 3400.0080 are eligible for child care assistance from the county responsible for the MFIP participant's approved job search support or employment plan or according to Minnesota Statutes, section 256G.07.

Subp. 9. **Local match.** The county shall provide a local match according to Minnesota Statutes, section 119B.11, subdivision 1.

Subp. 9a. **Child care assistance funding.** In the manner prescribed by the commissioner, counties shall claim funding for child care expenditures for all eligible recipients who are in employment, education, training, or other preemployment activities allowed under the federal and state reimbursement programs. The commissioner shall allocate any federal or state earnings to the county that claimed the funding and the county shall use the earnings to expand funding for child care services.

Subp. 10. **Eligibility priorities for beginning assistance.** If a county's basic sliding fee program allocation for child care is insufficient to fund all applications for child care assistance, the county may prioritize eligibility among the groups that remain to be served after the county has complied with the priority requirements set forth in Minnesota Statutes, section 119B.03, subdivision 4. The county shall include its rationale for the prioritization of eligibility for beginning assistance in its biennial child care fund plan. To the extent of available allocations, no eligible family may be excluded from receiving child care assistance.

Subp. 11. [Repealed, 26 SR 253]

Subp. 12. [Repealed, 26 SR 253]

Subp. 13. [Repealed, 26 SR 253]

Subp. 14. **Child care fund reports.** Counties must submit financial and program activity reports according to instructions and schedules that the commissioner establishes after considering such factors as the department's need to receive county data in a manner and on a schedule that meets federal reporting deadlines and the counties' need for lead time when changes in reporting requirements occur.

Subp. 15. [Repealed, 26 SR 253]

Subp. 16. [Repealed, 26 SR 253]

Subp. 17. [Repealed, 26 SR 253]

Subp. 18. [Repealed, 26 SR 253]

Subp. 19. [Repealed, 33 SR 695]

Subp. 20. [Repealed, 26 SR 253]

Statutory Authority: *MS s 119B.02; 119B.04; 119B.06; 256.01; 256H.01 to 256H.19*

History: *14 SR 519; 18 SR 1144; 26 SR 253; 33 SR 695*

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