

CDD.1160: Citizenship and Immigration Status

Category: Child Care Financial Assistance Program

Authority: Vermont Act 76 of 2023; 33 V.S.A. §3512

Last revised date: 04/15/2024

Effective date: 06/30/2024

Overview

This policy guides the Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) staff on how the citizenship and immigration status of a Program applicant will impact CCFAP eligibility and funding.

Updates

This document has been updated to reflect the new CCFAP Policy formatting, including rewriting and reorganizing the previous policy's content and completing a plain language review. Additional changes include:

1. Removal of the requirement for a family to have a federally eligible citizenship or immigration status.
2. Added the requirement of CCFAP staff to not request additional family citizenship statuses.
3. Replaced the text of bullet 3 in its entirety to allow state funding for children with non-federally eligible citizenship statuses if the family meets all other CCFAP qualifications.

All changes are highlighted in gray below.

Policy

A family's eligibility for financial assistance shall not be impacted by the citizenship status of the participating child(ren). If a participating child does not have a federally eligible citizenship status, the financial assistance will be paid for with state funds.

Procedure

1. ~~A participating child must have a verified, federally eligible citizenship or immigration status.~~ The primary caretaker may self-declare the citizenship or immigration status on the Child Care Financial Assistance Program application.

Approved: Deputy Commissioner 06/30/2024

State of Vermont, Department for Children and Families
Child Development Division

Only the child's citizenship and immigration status, who is the primary beneficiary of the Program, is relevant.

- a. **Note:** Citizenship and immigration statuses of other household members **must not** be requested. The Department for Children and Families Child Development Division and all partner organization employees are **not** charged with enforcing civil immigration matters and will **not** contact federal immigration authorities to report the identity of applicants who self-declare the option of 'none of the above.'
2. Federally eligible statuses include:
 - a. US Citizen.
 - i. If the child was born in the United States, they are a US Citizen.
 - b. **Qualified Immigrant** includes one of the following immigration statuses:
 - i. Lawful permanent resident
 - ii. Asylee
 - iii. Refugee
 - iv. Paroled into the U.S. for at least one year
 - v. Granted withholding of removal
 - vi. Victim of abuse or trafficking
 1. The Eligibility Specialist may contact CDD for assistance to determine if a child is eligible as a victim of abuse or trafficking.
3. ~~If a child's citizenship or immigration status is not one of the above, they are not eligible to receive child care financial assistance. A child who is not eligible due to their citizenship or immigration status may be counted as a household member when determining household size.~~ An eligible family will receive child care financial assistance through Vermont State funding if a child's citizenship or immigration status is listed as 'none of the above' on the CCFAP application and the family meets all other eligibility criteria.
 - a. CCFAP eligibility criteria requires families to:
 - i. Have a service need as outlined by the CCFAP Rules and Regulations;
 - ii. Meet Income eligibility standards as set forth by the Child Development Division;
 - iii. Be a resident of Vermont, unless the assistance is for a child in a "pre-adoptive" home residing in another state as approved by DCF;
 - iv. Family assets must not exceed \$1,000,000.

History

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Effective June 30, 2024, Act 76 of 2023 amended 33 V.S.A. § 3512 to extend CCFAP eligibility to all qualifying Vermont Residents regardless of citizenship status.

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