

## **P2215 CHILD SUPPORT (continued)**

### **P2215D Child support payments and the Reach Up budget (Reach Up rule 2272) (22-20)**

#### **Child support payments begin**

At the end of every month, ACCESS will see if OCS has begun receiving current support payments on behalf of a Reach Up household. If so, an eligibility version for the first month of a family bonus and parent share will be created and require approval. A message appears on the district's Daily Report which states: "Approve change to 100% disbursement/ child support offset".

The child support will be held and will impact Reach Up benefits two months later.

Example: Effective 8/1 the household has Reach Up benefit of \$500. OCS receives \$200 support on both 8/5 and 8/19 for a total of \$400. The entire amount is held. On 9/1, Reach Up ELIG for October requires approval and shows a parent share of \$350 (\$400 minus the \$50 family bonus which is disregarded), and a corresponding decrease in the Reach Up benefits.

This changes the Reach Up payment from \$500 to \$150 and changes the grant to 100% payment cycle. Since the total of the Reach Up and the child support payments still equals the Reach Up entitlement of \$500 plus the excluded family bonus, 3SquaresVermont has no change. Approve the change to the Reach Up eligibility and send a notice. On 10/1, the client receives the \$50 family bonus, parent share of \$350 and Reach Up benefit of \$150 for a total of \$550.

#### **Child support payment changes**

##### ***Child support changes***

No approval or notice is needed when the amount of child support received in a month by OCS increases or decreases but does not exceed the Reach Up benefit. Since the Reach Up is offset by the amount of child support, the household will see no loss of net income.

Example: Child support received in October is \$30 less than the previous month,

Reach Up will be increased by \$30 two months later for December 1<sup>st</sup> when that support is received by the household.

### ***Child support stops***

If no support is received one month, but resumes the next month, no notice is needed because 100% payments should continue. Currently there is ACCESS work being done to make sure this is correct. If a case is found that switched to 60%/40% payments after missing just one month of child support, contact AOPs.

If support is not received for consecutive months, ELIG will be auto-approved for Month 4.

Example: OCS receives no support in December and January. On February 1<sup>st</sup>, ELIG for March is auto-approved and a notice printed in the D.O. saying that April will be paid as 60%/40%.

In either of the above situations, if any other change requiring a notice occurs, the notice will continue to refer to the benefit and will not refer to any change in support payments.

### **Reach Up closes**

When Reach Up closes, OCS will have held two months of support payments. ACCESS is programmed to use these payments (over \$50 per month) to reimburse the state for Reach Up paid in the first two months of the current direct payment cycle.

Example: OCS began receiving support of \$150 a month in January. Reach Up payments were decreased by \$100 beginning two months later in March. Reach Up is closed effective May 31<sup>st</sup> due to earned income.

Child support collected in April and May will be compared to Reach Up that was paid in January and February. If there is an excess after the Reach Up is reimbursed, any remainder will be sent to the household for receipt in June through a second type of "Disposal" payment.

If the household also receives 3SquaresVermont, this support will be excluded as lump sum income.

If Reach Up is reinstated before the closure, the household will immediately be returned to 100% Reach Up benefit payment cycle, and the grant notice will give this information.

## **Excess child support**

When child support collected exceeds the amount of what may be applied to the Reach Up benefit, but it does not qualify as Excess of Grant (EOG—see below), ACCESS will create a TODO message.

If SSF the TODO is issued at the end of the month:

*This client is receiving a lump sum payment of [\$129.00] from OCS. Please review Rufa or PSE eligibility.*

If TANF the TODO is issued by the daily OCS receipts process:

*The client is receiving a lump sum payment of [\$150] from OCS today.*

Excess child support received counts as unearned income. Refer to Reach Up procedure [2213G Lump Sum Income](#) and the sections on child support lump sums.

The custodial parent in the household will receive a notice that an excess payment has been sent to them.

## **Excess of Grant (EOG)**

When child support is collected towards the monthly child support obligation, and it exceeds the amount of what may be applied to the Reach Up benefit and it does qualify as Excess of Grant (EOG) ACCESS will call for a closure of the benefit.

The excess of grant calculation is done by ACCESS. It is straightforward when there is one absent parent (ABSP).

Example of EOG with 1 ABSP:

Obligation of \$500 is paid

Reach Up benefit is \$425

Capped receipt is \$500

\$500 minus \$50 FMBO = \$450

$\$450 > \$425$  so benefit will close for EOG

Example of non-EOG with 1 ABSP:

Obligation of  $\$302.42$

Reach Up benefit of  $\$268$

Capped receipt is  $\$302.42$

$\$302.42$  minus  $\$50$  FMBO =  $\$252.42$

$\$252.42 < \$268$  so benefit will not close for EOG

With multiple absent parents (ABSPs) it can be more complicated because the receipts are capped to the individual ABSP's obligation—and some may pay more.

Example of non-EOG with 2 ABSPs:

ABSP #1 with obligation of  $\$50$  is paid, with  $\$175$  paid towards arrears, ABSP #2 with obligation of  $\$500$  only pays  $\$300$

Reach Up benefit is  $\$425$

Capped receipts are  $\$50 + \$300 = \$350$

$\$350$  minus  $\$50$  FMBO =  $\$300$

$\$300 < \$425$  so benefit will not close EOG, even though  $\$475$  was paid in.

If arrears are not owed to the State or the TANF arrears, the extra child support collected will be sent to the custodial parent.

## **BPS Support**

See Reach Up Guidance [How Child Support Works](#) and the Child Support training available through LINC (slides from training available [here](#)).

**ACCESS Reach Up budget with parent share**

05/02/16 09:20		RUFA Results - Budget		ASPLVA0	
PERIOD:	04 16	VER:	3 OF 3	PERIOD:	4 16 VER: 2
PROC:	04 29 16		15:59	PROC:	03 31 16 15:02
NET SELF EMPLOY INCOME:		\$			\$
GROSS EARNED INCOME:		+\$			+\$
WORK EXPENSES:		-\$			-\$
EARNED INCOME DISREGARD:		-\$			-\$
DAY CARE EXPENSES:		-\$			-\$
UNEARNED INCOME:		+\$	70.00		+\$ 70.00
RUFA Income:		=\$	70.00		=\$ 70.00
BASIC NEED STANDARD:		\$	1064.00	FOR: 4	\$ 1064.00 FOR: 4
SHELTER EXPENSES:		+\$	450.00		+\$ 450.00
TOTAL NEEDS:		=\$	1514.00		=\$ 1514.00
PAYMENT STANDARD: 49.6%		\$	750.94		\$ 750.94
REACH UP Sanction Amt:		-\$			-\$
RUFA Grant:		=\$	680.00		=\$ 680.00
RECOUPMENT:		-\$			-\$
RUFA Grant Less Recoup:		=\$	680.00		=\$ 680.00
Parent Share Offset Amt:		-\$	500.00		-\$ 500.00
RUFA Reduced Grant Amt:		=\$	180.00		=\$ 180.00
INCOME TEST: GROSS: PASSED			NET: PASSED		GROSS: PASSED NET: PASSED
USER: T05 FNX: ELIG MODE: D		RPTGRP: 666-67-8952			PERIOD: 3
DO: Z IMS: GB1 RPTGRP NAME: Marge Simonson					

\$500 is amount received from NCP 2 months prior.

\$180 from RU is added to \$500 to equal grant total of \$680. HH will also receive \$50 bonus.

"NCP" = Non-custodial parent or absent parent.