

Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS) Bureau of Child Care Policy & Technical Assistance

Provider Technical Assistance Letter 5 Publicly Funded Child Care Payment After Denial and Activity Gap Benefits September 12, 2014 Updated December 9, 2022

How can serving publicly funded child care (PFCC) applicants approved for payment after denial and families approved for the activity gap benefit your child care program?

- Your program may be eligible to receive payment for child care services provided while the county agency completes the eligibility determination process for a denied initial PFCC application.
- Your program may continue to receive PFCC payments for at least three months, but not more than four months, after a PFCC eligible caretaker loses their qualifying activity.

Payment After Denial (PAD) Information

What prevents PAD benefits from being approved?

- Your program will not receive payments for child care services provided during the PFCC eligibility determination if:
 - Your program did not have a valid Provider Agreement with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) when child care services were provided.
 - The PFCC application was denied as incomplete, due to missing one or more of the required elements detailed in rule 5101:2-16-02 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC).
 - The PFCC application was denied because the applicant's child(ren) was(were) not age eligible.
 - PAD payment was issued to a child care program in the prior twelve months for the applicant's child(ren) during that eligibility determination process.

How will you know when a PFCC applicant qualifies for the PAD benefit?

- The county agency will create a full time PFCC authorization for the applicant's child to your program from the date the county agency received the valid application through five days past the date the application was denied.

How will your program get paid once a child has been authorized to your program with PAD benefits?

- You will direct the applicant to use the automated child care system to track their child's attendance in accordance with procedures outlined by ODJFS.
- ODJFS will begin processing the payment on the Sunday following your submission of the completed attendance data.

Activity Gap Information

How is the activity gap benefit approved?

- Caretakers are required to notify the county agency of any changes which affect PFCC eligibility within ten calendar days.
- The reason for the loss of the qualifying activity may include, but is not limited to:
 - A caretaker being laid-off
 - A caretaker being fired
 - A caretaker quitting their employment
 - A caretaker sanctioned from Ohio Works First (OWF) or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) activity
 - A caretaker stops attending school or training

How long is the activity gap benefit extension if the family is approved?

- The length of the activity gap benefit depends on when the activity loss occurred.
- The activity gap benefit extension period cannot extend beyond the end of the family's current eligibility period.
- If the caretaker does not report the loss of the qualifying activity within 10 days as required, the activity gap benefit will be calculated beginning with the first day after the qualifying activity ended, and any PFCC payments exceeding the determined activity gap period would be recovered as an improper payment.

Will the family's copayment be impacted if they are determined eligible for the activity gap benefit?

- If the activity gap benefit case update also reduces the family's gross monthly income amount, it may result in a reduced family copayment responsibility going forward.

Is the activity gap benefit still an option for children enrolled in a federally funded Head Start program?

- Yes, a child of a family approved for the activity gap benefit who is enrolled in a federally funded Head Start partnership program may have their PFCC eligibility extended through the end of the Head Start program year after the activity gap benefit extension expires.

Will families have hearing rights once the activity gap extension period has expired?

- Yes, the "Right to State Hearing" information is included on the approved activity gap benefit notice.

Additional Questions?

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact the provider ODJFS Business Unit at CC_business_unit@jfs.ohio.gov or call 1-877-302-2347, option 1.