



Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) 516 West Loockerman St., Dover, DE 19904
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March 24, 2023

Planning and Policy Unit
Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance
1901 North DuPont Highway/P O Box 906
New Castle, DE 19720-0906

RE: 26 DE Reg. 756 DHSS/DSS TANF Family Cap Regulations (March 1, 2023)

To Whom It May Concern:

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed the Delaware Health and Social Services/Division of Social Services (DHSS/DSS) proposal to amend Section 3000 of the Delaware Social Services Manual (DSSM) regarding Technical Eligibility for Cash Assistance. Specifically, this regulation would eliminate Section 3008.2, which placed a family cap on benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Families (TANF) Program. Council **supports** the elimination of the family cap on benefits.

The amount of the cash assistance benefits a family receives is based upon the size of the family and the family's net income. At present pursuant to Section 3008.2, if a child is born more than 10 months after the date an individual applies for TANF, there would be no increase in the monthly benefit despite the increase in family size. According to the Background section of the proposed regulation, the family cap was intended "to reduce out-of-wedlock pregnancies among recipients." Regrettably, the family cap rule has not affected the birthrate for recipients as was expected, is more harmful and has the potential to deepen the poverty and financial hardship for children and families of color.

In Delaware, the elimination of the family cap would provide additional assistance to around 155 families. Eliminating the family cap is an effort to assist families to escape living in poverty rather than punishing them for the number of children they have. As mentions earlier, Council supports this amendment.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our support. Please feel free to contact Pam Weir or me should you have any questions on our comments.

Sincerely,

Ann C Fisher

Ann C. Fisher
Chairperson

ACF: kpc