

2002 Mapping Change Update

Since Mapping Change was written in December, an unusual number of changes in state and federal policy have been adopted. This addendum to the 2002 Mapping Change will summarize the most important of those changes.

Cash Assistance to Needy Families: In the February, 2003, deficit reduction package, the number of six-month extensions available to families in the Temporary Family Assistance program without a showing of barriers to employment was reduced from three to two. However, this change is not scheduled to take effect until July of 2003.

Unemployment Compensation: On January 8, 2003, President Bush signed legislation temporarily extending unemployment benefits. This federally funded extension is called Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation (TEUC). In Connecticut, this means that anyone who was receiving unemployment benefits in a temporary 13-week extension and whose benefits were terminated on December 28, 2002 before the end of the full 13 weeks is eligible for the remainder of the 13 weeks. In addition, anyone who uses up their regular 26 weeks of unemployment benefits may be eligible for 13 weeks of extended benefits. Anyone who applies for extended benefits before May 31, 2003 and is found eligible for benefits can get the full 13 weeks of benefits.

Child Care Policies and Programs: In the February, 2003, deficit reduction package, eligibility for child care assistance for families moving from welfare to work was limited to families with incomes up to 55% of the state median income. Previously, families moving from welfare to work were eligible for child care assistance until their income reached 75% of state median income.

Health Care: The February, 2003, deficit reduction package made many changes in medical assistance programs:

Medicaid/SAGA: As of April 1, the HUSKY A program for parents is limited to parents in families with income up to 100% of the federal poverty level. The HUSKY A program remains open to children in families with incomes up to 185% of the federal poverty level. To the extent allowed by federal law, co-pays of \$1 will be imposed for visits to the doctor's office (except for Medicaid recipients in a managed care plan) and for filling prescriptions. (These changes also apply to the state-funded medical program for recent legal immigrants.) Co pays were also adopted for the SAGA program.

ConnPACE: In the February, 2003, deficit reduction package, the annual registration fee for ConnPACE was increased from \$25 to \$30 and ConnPACE co-payments were increased to \$16.25 for each prescription filled.

2003 Federal Poverty Guidelines for the 48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia

Size of Family Unit	Poverty Guideline
1	\$8,980
2	12,120
3	15,260
4	18,400
5	21,540
6	24,680
7	27,820
8	30,960

For family units with more than 8 members, add \$3,140 for each additional member.