

EES Policy No. 22-08-02 (clarification added)	RE: Hero Relief Program and Temporary Emergency Child Care Provisions Ending
Policy Memo	Contact Persons: Sally Hargis
From: Sandra Kimmons	KEESM Reference:
Date: September 27, 2022	Other:
Primary DCF Areas Affected: Child Care Hero Relief Program	Where Posted on Web: http://content.dcf.ks.gov/ees/KEESM/Policy_Memo/policy_memo_list.htm

Effective October 1, 2022, DCF will begin phasing out the Hero Relief Program. Most families who would have been eligible under the Hero relief program will still qualify for child care, but may have a family share deduction assigned, depending on income and household size. In addition, the temporary emergency child care provisions as described in Policy Memo No. 21-06-04 will end September 30, 2022.

Effective October 1, 2022, no new applications will be accepted for the Hero Relief program. All applications received October 1, 2022 or later will be processed using the rules of the regular child care program. Eligible families will be assigned the appropriate family share deduction for their household's size and monthly income according to the F-1 Monthly Family Income and Family Share Deduction Schedule if their income exceeds 100% of the Federal Poverty Level.

For applications received prior to October 1, 2022, EES staff will continue to process them using the Hero Relief program if qualified, unless the family is requesting child care that doesn't begin until October 1, 2022 or after.

Examples:

1. An application is submitted on September 29, 2022 for Mom and 2 children, needing child care to begin that day. Mom's employment qualifies her as an essential worker for the Hero Relief program. This application will be approved using the Hero Relief program with a social service need reason and no family share deduction, even if the application is not being processed until after October 1, 2022.
2. An application is submitted on September 29, 2022 for Mom and her 2 children, but care is requested to begin October 3rd. Mom's employment would qualify for the Hero Relief program, but since care is not needed until after October 1, this application will be processed for regular child care and a family share deduction will be assigned as appropriate.

For ongoing child care cases, as they come up for review beginning with September reviews for October

eligibility, the review application will be processed using regular child care requirements. The Hero Relief flag will be removed, the social service child care need reason will not be used, and a family share deduction will be assigned as appropriate. If by the time this memo is received by and reviewed with eligibility staff (9-9-22) a review has already been processed and approved for October benefits without a family share, or for a family of 7 or more with income over 85% of SMI, there is no need to go back and correct those cases, and the Hero Relief flags must remain in place on those cases. When processed for their next review, they will be changed at that time. Any September child care review for October benefits that is processed 9-10-22 or after must be processed using regular child care rules.

Examples:

1. A household of 8 receiving child care through the Hero Relief program (with no family share assigned) comes up for review in January 2023 for February 2023 benefits. The family's monthly countable income is \$8,500. When the review is processed, regular child care eligibility rules will apply, the social service need reason will no longer be used, and the family is eligible for benefits beginning February 2023 with a family share deduction of \$216.
2. A review for a household of 8 with monthly income of \$9,000 receiving child care through the Hero Relief program was processed on September 6th. The review application was approved for October 2022 through September 2023 with no family share deduction assigned. This case will remain open through September 2023 unless one of the changes listed in KEESM 7640 (excluding income exceeding 85% SMI) should occur.
3. Same situation as example 2 above, but the review is processed on September 15th. The review application for this case will be denied, and no benefits authorized beyond the current eligibility period ending September 30, 2022.
4. A household of 4 with monthly income of \$3,600 is receiving child care through the Hero Relief program and their case is due for review in September for October benefits. The household has submitted their review application. Income remains the same, and on September 2nd, the review was processed and approved for October 2022 through September 2023 with no family share deduction assigned. This case will remain open through September 2023 unless one of the changes listed in KEESM 7640 should occur.
5. Same situation as example 4 above, but the review application is processed on September 13th. The Hero Relief flag will be removed and the review application will be approved using the appropriate need reason (not social service) for October 2022 through September 2023 with a \$104 family share deduction assigned.

The emergency child care provisions as described in Policy Memo No. 21-06-04 will end September 30, 2022. With the return to regular child care policy, the provision that allowed additional benefits to be issued if a parent reported needing additional hours in a month for which benefits had already been issued will end. Effective October 1, 2022, such changes will again be effective the month following the month the change was reported per KEESM 9121.1. Also effective October 1, 2022, child care plans/cases may be ended prior to the end of an established eligibility if any of the circumstances listed in KEESM 7640 should occur. For ongoing child care cases, any change reported prior to October 1 will be processed using the temporary emergency policies for child care described in Policy Memo No. 21-06-04. Any changes reported October 1 or after will be processed using regular child care policies.

Examples:

1. A parent reports on November 5, 2022 they are now working more hours and need additional child care hours. The emergency provisions would have allowed additional hours to be authorized beginning with the month of November, but with the return to regular child care policy, this change would be made effective with the December 2022 benefits.
2. A household consisting of a parent and two children ages 2 and 4 is receiving child care while the parent is employed full time. Their current eligibility period runs from June of 2022 through May of 2023. On November 4th the parent reports she lost her job. With the emergency child care provisions, the case would continue through May 2023 unless the parent requested case closure, income exceeded 85% of SMI or if it was known that the children were no longer in the home (or a system generated closure occurred). With the return to regular child care policy, the case would be eligible for 3 months continuation of care (December 2022 through February 2023) to allow the parent time to return to an eligible activity (i.e. find another job). If the parent failed to do so, the case would close February 28, 2023.