

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
PROGRAM INFORMATION BULLETIN

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 Date

INFORMATION BULLETIN NO: 17-01

PROGRAM: RCA and RMA

Subject: Revised Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) Rules in Effect with the Implementation of the ImpaCT System

<p>Overview – Refugee Cash Assistance Changes</p>	<p>Federal regulations governing the Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) program provide states with two options for setting the rules for their program eligibility requirements. A state can choose to use its pre-October 1996 Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) rules or it can use the rules pertaining to its current Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance program (TFA in Connecticut). Until now Connecticut has used its pre-TFA AFDC program rules for RCA.</p> <p>With the implementation of the ImpaCT system TFA rules will be used for the RCA Program instead of the outdated AFDC rules that apply in the Eligibility Management System (EMS).</p> <p>States are required to provide cash assistance to Refugees through their TANF or State Supplement programs before providing benefits through the RCA program. Therefore in practice the only refugees who receive RCA are single individuals (unless pregnant), or married couples without dependent children who are not elderly or disabled.</p>
<p>Overview – Refugee Medical Assistance Changes</p>	<p>Federal Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) rules permit states to set higher income limits for their RMA program than are currently used in Connecticut. States have also been encouraged by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement to use Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) rules for their RMA programs.</p> <p>Connecticut is implementing changes related to both of these options with the implementation of the ImpaCT system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The income limit for RMA is being increased to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) rather than using the Medically Needy Income Limit (MNIL). • In addition, the MAGI rules that are applicable to the Access Health medical coverage groups (X01, X02, X07, X25) are also used for RMA.

<p>Former AFDC rules that will no longer be used for RCA</p>	<p>The old AFDC rules that will <u>no longer</u> apply to RCA include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 185% of Standard of Need gross income test • 100% of Standard of Need applied income test • Fill-the-gap budgeting • \$1,000 asset limit • \$1,500 vehicle asset exclusion • 21-year old dependent child age limit (This was an old AFDC rule that changed to age 18 in 1986, but the RCA program continued to use it.)
<p>TFA rules that apply to RCA</p>	<p>The following TFA rules will apply to RCA with implementation of ImpaCT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FPL gross income test • Applied Income Test for new applicants • Combined Income Test for recipients • Disregard of earnings less than 100% FPL • \$3,000 asset limit • \$9,500 vehicle asset exclusion • 18 year old dependent child age limit, or under 19 if in secondary school full-time
<p>TFA rules that <u>do not</u> apply to RCA</p>	<p>Certain TFA rules will not apply to RCA. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 21-month time limit. RCA has its own 8-month time limit. • Employment Services requirements. RCA has its own employment and training requirements. • Cap Child rules • Sponsor deeming rules (Refugees don't have legally responsible sponsors.)

<p>RMA rules that no longer apply</p>	<p>The following RMA rules will no longer apply with implementation of ImpaCT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automatically providing R01 RMA coverage to RCA recipients. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Federal rules require that refugees be provided Medicaid (HUSKY) coverage before being considered for RMA. Since virtually all refugees qualify for Medicaid (typically X02, X07 or X25), RMA eligibility is no longer automatic for RCA recipients. ○ Refer to the April 27, 2016 Field Operations Communication on the topic of Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA). Staff should <u>never</u> authorize RMA coverage without prior approval from Central Office, Eligibility Policy and Program Support Unit at 860-424-5250. You may also Email the unit at EligPolicy.DSS@ct.gov. ○ When performing Application Registration in ImpaCT for refugees, do not select Medical Assistance on the 'Register Program-Program' screen. Instead follow existing procedures for processing a HUSKY application in the AHCT system for these individuals. • The R04 Refugee Newborns coverage group is eliminated as this does not exist in RMA federal regulations and any newborn refugee would qualify under the X10 (if processing in ImpaCT) or F10 (if processing in EMS) HUSKY Newborn group. • The R03 RCA Eligible Non-Recipient Group – Categorically Needy group is eliminated as it has been consolidated with the R95 RMA Medically Needy group and renamed the Refugee Medical Assistance group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RMA regulations do not distinguish between the Categorically Needy and Medically Needy categories. ○ Any such individuals who do not qualify for HUSKY coverage will now be placed in the R95 RMA group if their income is less than 138% of the FPL. ○ If income exceeds 138% of the FPL the R99 Refugee Medical Assistance – Spend-down group will apply. • The R02 Earnings Extension coverage group remains in effect. To qualify for this group an individual or family who is receiving HUSKY or RMA receives extended benefits (limited by the eight month overall limit for RMA benefits) if they lose their regular HUSKY coverage due to increased earnings. With the relatively high income standards in effect for the HUSKY MAGI groups this is a relatively rare occurrence. • The RMA asset limit is eliminated. Similar to the rules for the HUSKY MAGI groups, there is no asset test for RMA.
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Disposition: Retain for Future Reference
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Eligibility Policy and Program Support (860-424-5250)
Economic Security (860-424-5540)
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