



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Taylor N. Hatch
Secretary

DATE: June 30, 2026 **TRANSMITTAL NO.:** P-26-06-0005

TO: Economic Self Sufficiency Operations Managers
Economic Self Sufficiency Program Offices

FROM: Julie Reed, Chief, Program Policy
(Signature on File)

SUBJECT: Earned Income Disregard for Family Home Health Aide (FHHA) Program

EFFECTIVE: Upon Receipt

This transmittal provides guidance on a policy change in the type of income disregarded for certain Medicaid Assistance Groups (AGs). Households that include a medically fragile child will have the income earned by the parent or caregiver, who is employed through a Home Health Agency to provide care for that child, disregarded when determining Medicaid eligibility.

This income disregard **does not apply to** Food Assistance (FA), Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) or Refugee Assistance Program (RAP) Assistance Groups.

Background

House Bill 391 (2023) created the Home Health Aide for Medically Fragile Children Program found in Section 400.4765, Florida Statutes. The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) received approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to disregard earned income in Medicaid eligibility for a parent or caregiver who is providing paid care to a child in the Family Home Health Aide (FHHA) Program.

Policy and Procedures

The Home Health Agency (HHA) earned income of a parent or caregiver who is providing paid care to a medically fragile child within the FHHA Program will be disregarded as countable income in Medicaid eligibility determination. The federal approval excludes from the household's countable income any income earned through employment as a home health aide for medically fragile children (FHHA program) that are identified as the parent or caretaker.

To exclude the HHA income from the household Medicaid budget(s), both the "FAMILY MA" and "SSI MA" buckets on AFEI will be changed to \$0.00 to account for the income exclusion. All other household earnings will continue to be included as policy dictates.

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Mission: Work in Partnership with Local Communities to Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

Note: the income exclusion applies to the household of the parent or caregiver and not necessarily the household of the medically fragile child (if the caregiver does not live in the same home).

The Headquarters Economic Self Sufficiency (ESS) Program Office will receive notification from AHCA to identify children enrolled in the FHHA Program. FHHAs will also submit documentation to ESS verifying their participation in the FHHA Program. Cases that include children, household members or AGs who meet the program criteria and are enrolled in the FHHA Program, will be maintained at the Headquarters ESS Medicaid Policy Unit, until further notice.

There is no requirement to pend for the FHHA Program at application, renewal or reported changes, HQ staff will continue to apply regular case processing to determine eligibility for the household. When a child or FHHA is identified as meeting the program criteria and enrolled in the FHHA Program, the case will be manually transferred to a confidential caseload at Headquarters. Headquarters ESS Medicaid Policy Unit staff will be responsible for ensuring that earned income is disregarded in the Medicaid budget for both initial and ongoing eligibility determinations, and for processing initial and ongoing benefits for cases that include FA, TCA, and RAP.

Regional Program Offices with policy questions related to this transmittal should submit them through the Policy Technical Assistance Request form.

cc: Assistant Secretary for Economic Self Sufficiency (Bridget Royster)
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Assistant Secretary for Office of Community Services (Jonathan Stephens)
Assistant Secretary for Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (Amanda VanLaningham)
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