

HUMAN SERVICES

(a)

CATASTROPHIC ILLNESS IN CHILDREN RELIEF FUND COMMISSION

Notice of Readoption
Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund
Readoption: N.J.A.C. 10:155

Authority: N.J.S.A. 26:2-148 et seq.
Authorized By: The Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund
Commission, LorieAnn Wilkerson-Leconte, MPH, Interim
Executive Director.
Effective Date: April 22, 2025.
New Expiration Date: April 22, 2032.

Take notice that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:2-148 et seq., N.J.A.C. 10:155, Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund, was scheduled to expire on May 21, 2025. N.J.A.C. 10:155 provides requirements related to the provision of financial assistance to families with catastrophic medical debt due to a child’s illness or condition.

The chapter sets forth one subchapter described immediately below.
N.J.A.C. 10:155-1.1 through 1.4 cover foundational elements of Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund (the Fund). They include the purpose and scope of the Fund, definitions of terminologies used within the chapter, outline the general requirements for receiving assistance, and an overview of the initial application process for accessing aid.
N.J.A.C. 10:155-1.5 and 1.6 set forth procedural and methodological requirements for reviewing applications. They include the State Office and Catastrophic Illness in Child Relief Fund Commission (Commission) review process, which details the steps involved in evaluating applications, and the eligibility standard, which explains the income-to-expense ratio used to determine an applicant’s eligibility.

N.J.A.C. 10:155-1.7, 1.8, and 1.9 detail important financial guidelines for the Fund. The sections include limits on Fund disbursements, which specify the caps on payments for particular expenses; the sliding payment schedule, which outlines the method for distributing available funds to applicants when resources are insufficient; and the Allocation Distribution Plan, which permits negotiation with vendors and incorporates family input to determine the priority of payments made.

N.J.A.C. 10:155-1.10, 1.11, and 1.12 summarize various responsibilities tied to the administration of the Fund. The responsibilities include local agency responsibilities, which describe the duties and obligations of the local agencies managing the Fund within each county; State Office responsibilities, which specify the particular tasks assigned to State Office staff; and Commission responsibilities, which detail the roles and duties of the commission members.

N.J.A.C. 10:155-1.13 through 1.16 outline the basis for making payments and cover several key aspects. They define the time period used to measure expenses and income for eligibility determination, list the types of health-related expenses that qualify for payment through eligible health services, and identify those that are not covered by the Fund through ineligible health services. Additionally, they describe the process for the administration of payments to families and providers, including an explanation of the sources of funds collected for the Fund.

N.J.A.C. 10:155-1.17 and 1.18 detail the appeal process and special cases. The sections detail the procedure for filing an appeal of Commission decisions, including the required timeframe and the address for submitting a written appeal. Additionally, the sections cover unique circumstances in special cases, which may be considered by the Commission to waive either the family responsibility or the caps on expenses.

N.J.A.C. 10:155-1.19, Confidentiality of information, mandates the importance of maintaining confidentiality, mandating that all information received from applicants must be kept private.

N.J.A.C. 10:155-1.20 addresses the recovery of Commission expenses, allowing for the Fund to be reimbursed for expenses paid to families when those amounts are later recovered through a settlement or judgment in a legal case.

While the Commission is readopting these rules, it recognizes that further rulemaking may be necessary to update these rules to reflect current program requirements and any applicable Federal rules. Thus, the Commission will continue to review the rules and may consider making substantial amendments prior to the next scheduled expiration.

An administrative review of the rules has been conducted, and a determination has been made that N.J.A.C. 10:155 should be readopted because the rules are necessary, reasonable, adequate, efficient, understandable, and responsive to the purposes for which they were originally promulgated. Therefore, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:2-148 et seq., and 52:14B-5.1, these rules are readopted and shall continue in effect for a seven-year period.

(b)

DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
Notice of Administrative Change
Standard of Need
N.J.A.C. 10:84-1.6

Effective Date: April 15, 2025.
Take notice that, in accordance with P.L. 1997, c. 13, the Department of Human Services announces an updated standard of need for 2025. The standard of need is calculated based on the methodology described at N.J.A.C. 10:84-1.6.

Full text of the changed rule follows (additions indicated in boldface **thus**; deletions indicated in brackets [thus]):

SUBCHAPTER 1. EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAM OPERATIONS

10:84-1.6 Standard of need
(a)-(c) (No change.)
(d) The standard of need is set forth in the table below. Each year, the Department of Human Services will provide, through a notice of administrative change published in the New Jersey Register, an updated standard of need.

<u>Standard of Need</u>	
Number in <u>Family</u>	Monthly <u>Standard</u>
1	[\$3,047] \$3,002
2	[\$3,434] \$3,391
3	[\$4,176] \$4,121
4	[\$5,283] \$5,171
5	[\$5,671] \$5,560
6	[\$6,480] \$6,448
7	[\$6,868] \$6,837
8	[\$7,256] \$7,226
more than 8	add [\$388] \$389 each person