



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES (DPHSS)
DIVISION OF CHILDREN'S WELLNESS
BUREAU OF CHILD CARE SERVICES (BCCS)
Child Care Assistance Program
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Discontinuation of Essential Worker Waivers FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

What is considered an essential worker?

The Bureau of Child Care Services (BCCS) designates essential workers as individuals—whether employed in the public or private sector, or serving as volunteers—who are mandated to report to work or fulfill their duties during a declared emergency or disaster. This includes both on-site and remote responsibilities that are critical to maintaining essential operations and services. Such designations are typically based on official declarations and are intended to ensure the continuity of services vital to public health and safety during emergencies.

How will I know if my application was processed with an essential worker waiver?

After your application has been processed, the Eligibility Specialist will notify you via email that you have been designated as an essential worker. Along with your Notice of Action (NOA), they will also attach the relevant Executive Order (EO) to substantiate this classification.

Why is the essential worker waiver ending?

The Department of Public Health & Social Services (DPHSS), Bureau of Child Care Services implemented temporary waivers for essential worker employees in response to Typhoon Mawar. After two years from the initial impact of the typhoon, the continued use of emergency-based waivers can no longer resume.

When is the essential worker waiver ending?

July 31, 2025. If you submit your application on or after August 1, 2025 the essential worker's income will not be waived.

If I renew on or before July 31, 2025, will this affect my certification period?

Essential worker waivers submitted before August 1, 2025 will remain active for the duration of the certification period. This means that, despite any changes in certification requirements or policies that may take effect on or after August 1, 2025, your current certification status will not be affected until your designated renewal period arrives. At that time, you will be required to comply with the prevailing certification criteria and renewal procedures in effect.

What happens if I apply on or after August 1, 2025?

Families with essential worker employees are encouraged to continue to apply for child care assistance after August 1, 2025, but will be subject to standard eligibility criteria. Eligibility is assessed based on your family's total monthly gross income and household size, following the established income guidelines.

What if I don't agree with the eligibility findings?

All clients are formally notified through the Notice of Action (NOA) that they have the right to request a Fair Hearing if they disagree with a decision or action taken regarding their benefits or services. This notice serves as an official communication outlining the client's right to appeal, the procedures for requesting a hearing, and the timelines within which the request must be made.