

Act No. 198 (H.790). Human services; Reach Up; child care

An act relating to Reach Up, Reach Ahead, and the Enhanced Child Care Services Subsidy Program

This act increases the earned income disregard in the Reach Up program from the first \$200.00 per month of earnings plus 25 percent of the remaining unsubsidized earnings to the first \$250.00 per month of earnings plus 25 percent of the remaining unsubsidized earnings. The act also requires that Reach Up case managers meet with participating families following any statutory or regulatory changes affecting earned income disregard, asset limits, or other eligibility and benefit criteria to inform families of the changes and to advise them of opportunities to maximize earned income without a corresponding loss of benefits.

The act decreases the Reach Ahead food assistance benefit from \$100.00 per month during the first six months of the program to \$50.00 per month. It also extends the program from one to two years. During the second year of participation in the Reach Ahead program, families are eligible to receive a food assistance benefit of \$5.00 per month and to participate in the enhanced child care subsidy program. The enhanced child care subsidy program is funded with savings resulting from caseload reductions in the Reach Up program and may be suspended or modified in the event there are insufficient savings available.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on July 1, 2014