

POLICY

CATEGORY:	Workforce Programs: Child Care	No.: 4.3.111.00
TITLE:	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Child Care for UI Claimants	
SUPERSEDES:	N/A	
EFFECTIVE:	August 28, 2009	
BOARD APPROVAL:	August 27, 2009	

I. PURPOSE:

To establish a policy to provide American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding for child care assistance to qualified unemployment insurance customers who are actively seeking employment. This policy will be in effect until the AARA child care funds have been expended or until June 30, 2011, whichever occurs first.

II. DEFINITIONS:

Actively seeking employment – Working with a case manager, a claimant has an intensive plan of various job seeking activities that will require the temporary support of child care services.

Employment – Work that will result in at least twenty –five (25) hours per week at a wage at least equal to the minimum wage.

III. POLICY STATEMENT:

ARRA child care funds will be used to provide child care services to children of parents who are receiving UI benefits, who are actively seeking employment, and who are determined to need these services to complete an intensive plan of job seeking activities of a minimum of twenty-five (25) hours per week. Child care will be authorized by a case manager on a temporary and as needed basis.

Child care will be authorized during the time that the parent can demonstrate the need to participate in job search activities and the parent will provide documentation that they have actively participated in the activities of the plan. The documentation and verification of participation in the job search activities will be completed by the workforce center staff following the guidance of the workforce development letters and the board's policy. Self attestation is not an acceptable documentation.

ARRA funds may be used for child care services for children under the age of thirteen (13) or nineteen (19) for a child with disabilities. Children must reside with the parent and child care is a needed service in order to actively seek and gain employment for a minimum of twenty five (25) hours per week.

UI claimants who have been authorized for child care and who successfully gain employment will be a priority for child care services. Once employment is obtained, child care services will continue as long as the parent meets the eligibility requirements for Child Care Development Funds (CCDF).

IV. PROCEDURES:

The workforce center contractor in conjunction with the child care contractor will develop procedures that detail allowable work search activities for UI claimants who are determined eligible and authorized to receive child care services. Procedures will ensure that documentation and verification of activities has been completed prior to re-authorization of child care services.

V. RELATED POLICY INFORMATION:

WD Letter 41-07, Change 2 issued on September 23, 2008 and entitled “Verification Procedures for Choices and Food Stamp Employment and Training Participants in Job Search – Additional Guidance.”

WD Letter 27-09 issued on July 23, 2009 and entitled “American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: Direct Child Care Services”.

Texas Workforce Commission Rule § 809.41 (a) (3) (B) A Child’s General Eligibility for Child Care Services.

Board Policy - Workforce Programs, Policy 4.0.119.00 entitled “Self Directed Job Search: Choices/Food Stamp”.

VI. RESPONSIBILITIES:

It is the responsibility of the board contract manager to ensure that the workforce center contractor and the child care contractor are apprised of and comply with this policy.

It is the responsibility of the workforce center contractor and the child care contractor to develop procedures that comply with this policy and to ensure that their staff are apprised and comply with the policy and procedures.

VII. FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS:

N/A

VIII. DISTRIBUTION:

Board

Board Staff

Contracted Staff

Reviewed by EOO Officer

Date

Executive Director

Date