



LARIMER COUNTY WORKS POLICY

Title:	Relative Caregivers Eligibility and Payment		
Effective Date:	July 1, 2010	Page: 1 of	3
Desk:	BPD	Revision:	
Reference:			
Agency Letters:	NA		
Regulations:	Volume III, sections: 3.603.5, 3.605 and 3.620		

Background:

State of Colorado regulations allow counties to determine under what circumstances a participant may receive other assistance (3.620) in addition to the basic cash assistance payment (BCA). Larimer County defines this optional program benefit as the Other Assistance Program (non-supportive services).

1.0 Policy:

It shall be the policy of Larimer County subject to available appropriation and funding:

1. To provide additional cash assistance to relative caregivers (not natural or adoptive parents) who are caring for children residing in his or her home who are related to the caregiver within the 5th degree through a “formal non-certified” placement or “informal arrangement” and for who monthly BCA is paid.
2. To refer and review all families assisted under this policy for good cause for an exemption from referral to the Child Enforcement (3.602.6) , unless the relative caregiver specifically requests child support services be pursued.

Nothing in this policy shall limit the relative caregiver from applying for and receiving benefits under any Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funded assistance or programs.

2.0 Eligibility:

- 2.1 The child or children cannot receive a Foster Care Kinship Payment through the foster care program and BCA, County Diversion or Other Assistance for the same calendar month.
- 2.2 The household must meet all Colorado Works eligibility requirements outlined in State Staff Manual, Volume III section 3.600.
- 2.3 Household size is the total number of relative children placed through the “formal non-certified” placement process or informal arrangement and cannot include the relative caregiver, their children or other individuals living in the home (i.e., child only cases).
 - 2.3.1 The half sibling rule may be applied and the child receiving child support payments through the Family Support Registry may be excluded as outlined in 3.603.5
- 2.4 The child or children’s total countable monthly income must be equal to or less than the BCA standard of need.

2.5 The relative caregiver must be found to exercise care and control. Having legal custody does not automatically establish this factor (3.605).

3.0 Payment:

3.1 Relative Caregiver (RC) payments shall be made quarterly to RC households that received a BCA payment for the month the quarterly payment is to be authorized. Payments shall be transferred to the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card or directly deposited into a specified bank account on a quarterly basis approximately the 15th working day of last calendar month in a fiscal quarter (i.e., March, June, September and December).

3.2 Quarterly payment amounts are set by the Benefits Planning Division Manager as follows:

Number of Relative Children	Quarterly Payment Amount
1	\$600
2	\$900
3	\$1,200
4	\$1,500
Each additional child	\$300

4.0 Scope:

Applies to relative caregivers of children placed in the home through the “formal non-certified” placement or “informal arrangement” process and who apply for and are found eligible for Colorado Works – Basic Cash Assistance.

5.0 Definitions:

Formal non-certified placement – refers to children living with a custodial relative related to the child within the 5th degree placed there by child welfare, but who is not certified as a foster parent through the child welfare system.

Informal arrangement – refers to children living with a custodial relative related to the child within the 5th degree placed in the home by an agreement within the family.

Relative Caregivers – are individuals who are related by blood or marriage to the child within the 5th degree of relationship. For the purposes of this policy, natural and adoptive parents cannot be relative caregivers of his or her own child or children.

Relative children – are children related to the relative caregiver within the 5th degree of kinship excluding those related as natural or adoptive children of the caregiver.

Residing in the home – means children are physically in the home and under the care and control of the relative caregiver as defined in 3.605 and 3.606.1.

6.0 Departments Affected:

Larimer County Department of Human Services.

7.0 References:

Code of Colorado Regulations, Rule Manual Volume III, Income Maintenance, Section 3.600, 3.602.6 3.603.5, 3.606 and 3.620.

Code of Colorado Regulations, Rule Manual Volume VI, Child Support Enforcement, section: 6.230.1

Fifth Degree of Kinship Chart (Colorado.gov/cs/satellite/cdhs-coloradoworks)