



RI Department of Human Services

Responses to CEC May 2026 Follow-Up Questions

Rhode Island Works (RIW)

- Please explain why Maintenance of Effort (MOE) can no longer be claimed on Weatherization activities.

Answer: To ensure that only allowable TANF MOE expenditures are claimed, account-level data is matched and verified for eligibility. DHS provides RI Energy with the account numbers for TANF-eligible families, along with the total dollar amount allocated from the ratepayer fund, which includes both weatherization services and heating system repair and replacement. These DHS-verified account numbers are then matched to the corresponding expenditures at RI Energy to ensure that all claimed costs are allowable TANF MOE expenses. The reduction in reported MOE is a result of updating the claim methodology to include only those families with incomes below 60% of the SMI. While the required federal rule is not currently in writing, the income level was lowered due to being conservative in our reporting to avoid potential audit scrutiny.

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

- Please clarify the average count of 385 children absent each batch period as stated on page 45 of written testimony.

Answer: CCAP Providers are required to submit accurate attendance reports online using the CCAP provider portal. Attendance records are weekly, as opposed to daily, and are created based on current enrollment. Prior to April 2026, the weekly reimbursement rate is paid for children attending any portion of their enrolled hours each week and for children who are absent for a full week when a parent absent notice is provided (up to two consecutive weeks). Payment is not made for children who are absent for a full week if no notice is provided. Each batch period consists of two weeks. It is estimated that an average of 385 children are absent without notice (provider did not receive a payment) per batch. Approximately 60% of absences were for the two-week period. Effective April 4, 2026, the Department shifted to payment based on enrollment per the 2024 CCDF Final Rule. Under payment based on enrollment, the weekly reimbursement rate is paid for children attending any portion of their enrolled hours each week and for children who are absent for the full week up to four consecutive weeks. There is no longer a required parent absence notice. At the time of forecasting analysis, payment under the new rules had not been implemented. The caseload forecasts in testimony are based on average batch payments experienced during last year's RI Bridges security breach when five consecutive batches were paid on enrollment. Non-payment absences have consistently constituted an average of 3.5% of the caseload and will be a key data point to best continue to monitor and analyze the ongoing impact of this rule change.