

February 23, 2009

Sharon L. Summers
Policy, Program & Development Unit
Division of Social Services
1901 North DuPont Highway
P.O. Box 906
New Castle, DE 19720

RE: DSS Prop. Food Supp. Program Dependent Care Reg. [12 DE Reg. 1051 (February 1, 2009)]

Dear Ms. Summers,

The Developmental Disabilities Council understands that the Division of Social Services proposes to revise its Food Supplement Program (formerly Food Stamps) standards related to the dependent care deduction.

Consistent with the attached WorkWorld summary, Congress amended federal law last year to modify the dependent care deduction for the Food Supplement program:

(S)ection 4103 contains a provision which eliminates the cap on the deduction for dependent care expenses (previously \$175 or \$200 per month, depending on the dependent's age) and allows families eligible for the deduction to deduct the entire amount of dependent care expenses when calculating eligibility and benefit levels. This provision takes effect October 1, 2008.

Before October 1, 2008, dependent care costs were deductible up to the following maximums:

- \$200 per dependent child if the dependent child was under age 2; or
- \$175 per dependent child or incapacitated/dependent adult if the dependent was age two or older.

As noted in the preface to the proposed DSS regulation, DSS wishes to remove "previously overlooked language related to the dependent care cap." The revisions are essentially a "housekeeping" measure and repeal the references to the dependent care distinctions based on a child's age.

The Developmental Disabilities Council endorses these changes. Should you need to

contact us regarding these remarks please contact our office at 739-3333.

Sincerely,

Diann Jones
Chair

cc. State Council for Persons with Disabilities
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens