

NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**


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DAAS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER NO. 19-05

TO: Area Agencies on Aging Directors, Family Caregiver Support Program Specialists

FROM: Joyce Massey-Smith 

SUBJECT: Family Caregiver Support Program Eligibility for Adult Parents 55+ Caring for Adult Children with Disabilities

DATE: April 1, 2019

The purpose of this letter is to inform of new programmatic policy regarding eligibility for Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP) services.

Eligibility for FCSP Services for Adults 55+ Caring for Adult Children with Disabilities

The Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) has obtained clarification from the Administration for Community Living regarding eligibility for services to older adults (specifically those age 55 and older) caring for adult children with disabilities. The Older Americans Act Reauthorization of 2016 allows for the National Family Caregiver Support Program to be more inclusive of caregivers, to include people who are age 55 or older and parents of individuals with disabilities as addressed below:

*42 USC Chapter 35, Subchapter III, Part E
3030s (3) Older relative caregiver*

The term 'older relative caregiver' means a caregiver who— "(A)(i) is age 55 or older; and "(ii) lives with, is the informal provider of in-home and community care to, and is the primary caregiver for, a child or an individual with a disability; "(B) in the case of a caregiver for a child— "(i) is the grandparent, stepgrandparent, or other relative (other than the parent) by blood, marriage, or adoption, of the child; "(ii) is the primary caregiver of the child because the biological or adoptive parents are unable or unwilling to serve as the primary caregivers of the child; and "(iii) has a legal relationship to the child, such as legal custody, adoption, or guardianship, or is raising the child informally; and "(C) in the case of a caregiver for an individual with a disability, is the parent, grandparent, or other relative by blood, marriage, or adoption, of the individual with a disability.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES

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Funding Considerations

*42 USC, Chapter 35, Subchapter III, Part E
3030s (g) (C) Limitation*

A State may use not more than 10 percent of the total Federal and non-Federal share available to [the State] to provide support services to older relative caregivers.

With regards to funding limitations related to this newly identified eligibility criteria, DAAS has confirmed with the Administration for Community Living that no more than 10 percent of the total (federal and non-federal share) share available for Family Caregiver Support Program funds may be used to provide support services to older-relative caregivers. While this “10 percent rule” is not new to the FCSP, we want to clarify that this includes the 55 + older adult that is providing care for an adult child with disabilities.

Policy Effective Date and Monitoring

DAAS will be updating FCSP materials, including monitoring tools, to include this newly eligible population for release by FFY2020. The expanded eligibility criteria identified in this letter is effective immediately. DAAS recognizes that this is a significant addition to eligibility criteria that has operational implications. Area Agencies on Aging must add this population to current eligibility criteria, while still adhering to “the 10 percent” rule.

Please contact Laura Jane Ward (laura.ward@dhhs.nc.gov) if you have any questions regarding this policy.

JMS/HB/LJW/pg