

BC Plus Presentation for EPIC Child Welfare Parents and Caretakers October 23, 2007

DRAFT Policy & Process

New population to be included in BadgerCare Plus (CWPC)

Parents and caretaker relatives of children who have been temporarily removed from the home and are under the custody of the child welfare system. For the parents and caretakers to be eligible, the children must be placed in one of the following programs through child welfare:

- Foster Care
- Court-ordered Kinship Care
The Kinship Care relative caring for a child and the child's parent may be simultaneously eligible for BC+.

It does not matter what the child's living arrangement is while they are under the custody of Child Welfare Agency. Parents and caretakers with children in any of the following facilities/placements can qualify as a child welfare caretaker:

- Group homes
- Treatment Foster Care
- Shelter Care
- Residential Care Centers
- Institutions for Mental Disease
- Other medical institutions

Parents of children placed in a Type 1 or 2 Juvenile Correctional Institution are not eligible since the children are not under the custody of child welfare in this situation.

Providing access to BC+ for this group is intended in part to help parents and caretakers overcome any medical problems that contributed to the children being removed from the home.

Eligibility rules

Besides meeting the regular financial and non-financial eligibility criteria for BC+, child welfare parents and caretakers also must:

- Continue to exercise responsibility for the care and control of the child
This means that either legal custody remains with the parent/caretaker or that it is planned that the child will be returned to the parent/caretaker when the court order expires.
- Cooperate with the permanency plan that is in place for the child, provided that family reunification is one of the goals of the plan.
There is cooperation as long as the permanence goal is reunification. If the child welfare agency determines that reunification should no longer be the permanence goal, requests that the court change the goal, and the court agrees with the agency, then the parent/caretaker isn't meeting this requirement.

Process

When a child(ren) is removed from the home, the child welfare agency sends written communication to the Income Maintenance (IM) Agency worker or change center with the following information:

- Identifying info of all children removed from home (name, DOB, SSN)
- Identifying info of all caretakers in the home (name, DOB, SSN)
- Address of home
- Date of removal
- Children's placement status (clarifying whether living arrangement is under child welfare agency supervision or not)
- Whether family reunification is a Permanency Plan goal
- Whether the living arrangement is Kinship Care or Independent Living & further info if its likely that another request for BC+ benefit for the child may be submitted.
- The SACWIS case name (child welfare client database system)
- Child welfare agency contact info

When the IM Agency receives the info above, they take the following action:

- Makes the appropriate updates to the BC+ case if one already exists.
- In Kinship Care (KC) situations where KC relative is on an open case, coordinate with the KC caseworker about the case changes.
- Communicate back to child welfare with info on the CWPC case and IM contact person so child welfare knows that IM agency expects updates regarding placement or permanency plan.

The process above assumes the family is already receiving BC+. A parent can apply for BC+ as a CWPC after a child is removed.

Changes for ongoing cases

If there are any changes in circumstances concerning the child welfare placement (such as a change in living arrangement or permanency plan) it must be communicated to the IM Agency.

Once a change is communicated to the IM Agency, they will do the following:

- Make the appropriate updates to the BC+ case and redetermine eligibility.

If any of the following changes occur with the CWPC case, the IM Agency must communicate them to the child welfare agency:

- The CWPC's BC+ case has closed for a calendar month
- There is a change in address for the CWPC
- The children have been determined eligible for BC+ after returning to the home. Inform the child welfare agency of the effective date of BC+ eligibility.
- The children are not eligible for BC+ after returning to the home. Inform the child welfare agency of the effective date of BC+ ineligibility. The child welfare agency needs to terminate the Foster Care MA with proper notice.