

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Early Education and Care

TO: Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) Agencies, Community Partnerships for Children (CPC) Programs, Contracted Providers and Head Start Programs

FROM: Amy Kershaw, Acting Commissioner

CC: EEC Staff

RE: Access Limitations to EEC Child Care Financial Assistance -- Additional Guidance

DATE: December 11, 2008

The Department of Early Education and Care has posted a new Management Bulletin, **EMB FY 2008-03 Access Limitations to EEC Child Care Financial Assistance: Additional Guidance (12/11/08)** at http://www.eec.state.ma.us/docs/EMBFY2008_03.pdf to further clarify policies that took effect November 3, 2008. As you know, EEC significantly limited access to child care financial assistance through the Income Eligible account. While these limitations affect the ability of *new* families to access EEC financial assistance, we are committed to ensuring that children currently enrolled in early education and care and after school programs continue to receive support as long as they remain eligible.

EEC has also posted an updated matrix, **Child Priority Status Codes: Access Status Effective 11/3/08** at <http://www.eec.state.ma.us/docs/MatrixChildPriorityStatusCodes.pdf>, which may be used to determine which families have *immediate* access to EEC financial assistance through vouchers and contracts, as well as families to be placed on the centralized waiting list.

EEC is developing a letter for you to use in notifying parents of these recent changes, which we will forward to you in the near future.

Thank you for your continued work to support children and families in the Commonwealth.

Please address inquires to: bulletinquestions@massmail.state.ma.us