

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES FAMILY INVESTMENT ADMINISTRATION	TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE MANUAL	
REDETERMINATION 214	COMAR 07.03.03.04 07.03.03.18	APPLICATION 200

214.1 REQUIREMENTS

Redetermine eligibility for most TCA cases every twelve months.

- A. Assign a period of eligibility (certification period) at the initial certification. .
 1. Recertify annually for:
 - a. Child only cases
 - b. Cases containing an individual disabled 12 months or more (if the medical verification expires before 12 months, a new medical must be obtained no later than the end of the month in which the medical expires)
 - c. If a long term disabled customer is cooperating with the disability contractor MAXIMUS, has a pending SSI claim or is in appeal status for the denial of the SSI claim, do not ask the customer to provide a new medical form verifying the continued disability.
 - d. Cases in which the case manager works closely with the customer's efforts to achieve independence
 2. Recertify less than annually if, for example, the:
 - Customer will complete a training program and begin employment during the certification period
- B. The case manager completes the recertification process before the certification period ends (because the case automatically closes on CARES) by taking the following steps:
 1. Notifying customers that determining continued eligibility is required to certify them for a new certification period,
 2. Providing a recertification application and all necessary forms
 3. Scheduling a new appointment date for completion of the redetermination, if the date set by CARES is not acceptable to the case manager or customer, in time to provide uninterrupted benefits
- C. Follow the procedures for determining initial eligibility with the following exceptions:
 1. Do not apply the initial means test for earned income
 2. Do not duplicate documentation for any factors that cannot change such as Social Security numbers and birth certificates

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Note: Only a child who became a minor parent since the last certification period began needs to sign a medical release (Form 1176) for substance abuse screening. Adults added to the AU since the beginning of the last recertification period should have signed an 1176 when added to the assistance unit at interim change.

214.2 REDETERMINING ELIGIBILITY

- A. During the interview (no face-to-face is required), review and work with the customer to update the family's independence plan
- B. Evaluate all technical and financial eligibility factors, concentrating on those that are likely to change during certification periods, such as household size, income or address
 1. Be sure there is a signed Consent to Release Medical Information form (DHR Form 1176) for substance abuse in the file
 2. Determine if a sanction should have been imposed or ended during the certification period
 3. Determine if there is a new good cause claim or if an existing good cause claim is continued for family violence (work and child support), work programs and other requirements
 4. Determine if there is a new exemption or if an existing exemption is continued
 5. Verify:
 - a. Income (includes changing jobs)
 - b. Assets
 - c. Alien status (if changed)
 - d. Questionable information

Note: Verify school attendance, preventive medical check-ups (PPI), and living arrangements (including subsidized housing) annually.

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C. Notify customers prior to the end of the certification period to:

1. Allow the customer sufficient time to provide required verification before the end of the certification period, and
2. Ensure that no break in benefits for an eligible customer occurs

214.3 RELATED PROCEDURES

A. Reinstatement is required when a case will close in the ongoing month but the reason for the case closing has been resolved or corrected before the end of the month in which the NOAA was sent, such as:

1. The customer requests a timely hearing, requiring the case to remain open pending the hearing decision, until the end of the current certification period;
2. The customer provides the requested information before the end of the month;
3. The closure was due to local department error.

B. Reopen the case (**using the same AU ID number**) when the assistance unit is closed and it is within 30 days of the closure, when:

1. A hearing decision is favorable to the customer
2. The closure was due to local department error
3. The customer provides requested information too late in the month to reinstate the case.

C. Reapplication (**using the same AU ID number**) occurs when a case is closed because a customer

1. Failed to keep a scheduled interview or provide requested verification to complete recertification by the certification end date, or
2. Was sanctioned for the first or second sanction for failure to cooperate with, for example, work requirements, but meets requirements within 30 days of TCA case closing

214.4 CASE MANAGEMENT TIPS

A. In cases where the certification end date is less than the 12-month default period in CARES, overwrite the default end date to replace it with the correct one

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B. Review the case record and ECMS to verify all documentation is included

214.5 EXAMPLES

Recertification

Example 1: The Jones family was certified for TCA through August 31. The case manager scheduled the recertification appointment for July 15. The customer was seen as scheduled and provided verification to prove continued eligibility.

- The new certification period begins September 1.

Example 2: Mr. Johnson was certified through July 31. He kept his recertification appointment on June 20 and provided verification of his earnings. Due to his income, he was no longer eligible for TCA.

- The Notice of Denial for the new certification period was sent before July 31.

Reinstatement

Example 3: The Jackson family was certified through October 31. On July 23, Ms. Jackson received notice her TCA case would be closed effective August 1. On July 26, she filed an appeal, requested a hearing and notified the local department that she wanted to have her benefits continued pending the hearing decision.

Because she requested benefits to continue within the required 10 days of case closing, the case was **reinstated** on CARES on July 26 for August 1 and the family continued to receive TCA through the end of their certification period, pending the hearing decision.

Reopen

Example 4: The Brown family was certified for TCA through August 31. Ms. Brown missed the scheduled recertification appointment on July 17, but was interviewed and provided verification to prove continued eligibility on August 25.

- The local department did not take action until September 3. The TCA closed and was **reopened** using the same AU number. The new certification period began September 1. The benefit was not prorated.

Reapplication

Example 5: The Smith family was certified for TCA and FSP through September 30. Ms. Smith failed to keep her scheduled recertification appointment on August 18. On September 15 she came into the office to see the case manager. However, by September 30, she had not yet provided requested verification of continued eligibility.

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The case closed October 1. On October 5, Ms. Smith **reapplied** (the same AU ID number was used) for TCA. She provided the required verification.

- Because the case closed, the Smith family was required to follow the reapplication process that includes prorating from the date of application.
- TCA and FSP benefits were prorated from October 5.