

DISCUSSION: The comments of the CYFCC regarding the proposed child care policy changes mirror exactly the City's position. The requirement that applicants for child care services be eighteen (18) years of age will severely limit the ability of teen parents to qualify for child care which allows them to continue their education. If the teen's parent has to be the applicant, their income will have to be counted and, if the teen's parent does not work, the teen would not be eligible. The limit of 72 months (six years) will be a barrier to employment and eventual self-sufficiency for many parents and will be a threat to the safety of school age children who may be left at home, unsupervised, during after school hours. The third proposed revision requires child care applicants to apply for child support, which we support so long as local agencies have the flexibility to exempt applicants who can document that they are at risk of domestic violence if they file for support.

FISCAL IMPACT: If teen parents are not eligible for the Child Day Care Fee System, localities may have to identify other resources, including local dollars, to ensure that teen parents are able to complete their education.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment I - Letter dated January 9, 2014 from the Children, Youth and Family Collaborative Commission, requesting the permission of City Council to submit comments on proposed VDSS child care regulations.

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