



DATE: April 6, 2021
TO: Katie Beckett Program Stakeholders
FROM: Kristeena Ashby, Assistant Deputy Chief, LTSS Operations

SUBJECT: Katie Beckett Program Part A Opening to Children who Meet Tier 2 Institutional Level of Care

TennCare is beginning to enroll children into Katie Beckett Part A who meet Tier 2 institutional level of care.

For now, we have opened 50 program slots for children who meet Tier 2 criteria. Children will be enrolled into these slots based on prioritization criteria set forth in our approved waiver and rule.

We are continuing to hold the remainder of the first 50 Part A slots for children who meet Tier 1 criteria to ensure that we are able to enroll those with the most complex medical needs and disabilities. The benefits available to both groups of children enrolled in Part A are the same, with services provided based on each child's individualized needs.

Additional information about Tier 1 and Tier 2 criteria and prioritization criteria are available on the TennCare and DIDD websites. These include:

TennCare Rule 1200-13-01

<https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/rules/1200/1200-13/1200-13-01.20201120.pdf>

- Katie Beckett level of care criteria are in 1200-13-01-.11.
- Katie Beckett Part A prioritization criteria are in 1200-13-01-.32.

TennCare Level of Care Guide

<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tenncare/documents/KatieBeckettLevelOfCareGuide.pdf>

Level of Care Guide Information for Families

<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tenncare/documents/KatieBeckettProgramLevelOfCareGuideForFamilies.pdf>

Note that additional edits to these criteria are forthcoming soon based on recommendations of the TAG. Changes will be initially posted to the *Guide* on the TennCare and DIDD websites, and any needed adjustments to the TennCare Rule will be made through the rulemaking process.

As Part A slots are filled, we will continue to gather information about the projected cost of services for each child (based on the person-centered planning process). This will allow us to determine if sufficient funds remain to open additional program slots in Katie Beckett Part A. Notification of additional slots will be posted on the TennCare and DIDD websites.

Background:

As you know, there is a specific amount of funding to enroll children into the Katie Beckett Program. The law that created the program requires that children with the most complex needs and disabilities are enrolled into Katie Beckett Part A.

When developing level of care criteria for the Katie Beckett program, TennCare and DIDD convened a technical advisory group (TAG) comprised of physician experts who care for children with complex medical (including complex behavioral health) needs, parents of children with complex medical and behavioral needs, and advocates. In collaboration with the TAG, TennCare established 2 institutional level of care tiers for Part A, Tier 1 and Tier 2.

- Tier 1 is for children with the most complex needs and disabilities.
- Tier 2 is for children who also meet institutional level of care, but their needs are not as significant as children who meet Tier 1 criteria.

Based on recommendations from the TAG, TennCare and DIDD decided to initially open enrollment into Katie Beckett Part A to only those children who meet Tier 1 level of care. This allowed us to ensure we are meeting the requirements of the law by ensuring that children with the most complex medical and behavioral needs and disabilities are enrolled into Part A. If we had not done this, we would have run the risk that Part A slots could fill with children whose needs aren't as significant, leaving insufficient slots for those who meet Tier 1 criteria. This was particularly critical as we expected (and in fact received) a large volume of applications at the program's outset.

As a result of this decision, children who meet Tier 2 level of care for Part A have been enrolled in Part B initially, while awaiting potential enrollment into Part A.

TennCare and DIDD convened another meeting of the TAG in late March. Now that the initial volume of applications has been processed, the TAG recommended that we open Part A to children who meet Tier 2 level of care, based on the prioritization criteria in our rule. We are pleased to announce that the process is now beginning.