H. Child Support Pass-Through and Disregard

1. Pass-through and disregard

Pass-through means child support intended for a TANF participant, up to $50 per dependent child or minor parent per financial group per month and not to exceed $200 per financial group per month, that is sent to the client before any remaining amount of current child support is withheld by the state. Pass-through includes current child support only. (Current child support is the amount of child support ordered by a court or administrative process, such as through the Division of Child Support (DCS), for the benefit of a child.)

The amount of pass-through is not included in the amount of unreimbursed assistance (URA).

Disregard means child support, up to $50 per dependent child or minor parent per financial group per month and not to exceed $200 per financial group per month, that is not counted as income of the client. Disregard includes current child support only.

Example: Dad and three children: The children receive $50 each from their mother. Pass through allows up to $50 per child per month, so $50 per child is sent to the client. Disregard means that we do not count that $50 per child as income. ($150 received by the client and zero counted.) If Dad received $200 child support for the children, we would only count $50 as income.

2. TANF participants

Although TANF participants on an open program 2 grant (and not coded SFP or PLS) have to assign their rights to all child support to the state, TANF participants will receive a pass-through of child support up to the limits described in item #1 above. The pass-through is disregarded when determining ongoing eligibility and benefits. This means that the child support is not counted as income.

Certain caretaker relatives, including non-needy caretaker relatives: In the case of a caretaker relative other than the obligee on a child support case where the child named in the child support order or award does not reside in the obligee’s home (and the caretaker is either needy or non-needy), the following is the process by which the pass-through is redirected to the needy or non-needy caretaker:

- If the child support case already has a voluntary redirect or joinder (which means that the needy or non-needy caretaker has been added to the child support case as a pay to and the children are tied to that child support account) and the needy or non-needy caretaker opens TANF and a subsequent child support payment is
received: the child support computer system will systematically disburse the child support payment and send the appropriate pass-through amount to the needy or non-needy caretaker;

- If a child support payment is received on a case with a child support order and there is an open TANF grant, the child support computer system will review a number of criteria to determine eligibility for pass through. If the “person number” on the TANF grant does not match that of the obligee on the child support case, the child support computer system will disburse the child support payment to the TANF bucket (which is an amount retained by the state), no pass-through will be disbursed to the obligee or needy or non-needy caretaker and an alert will be sent to the child support case manager (CSCM) advising the CSCM to review the case to determine who the child(ren) are with. If it is determined to be a needy or non-needy caretaker relative grant and there is not already a voluntary redirect in place nor has a joinder been initiated, the CSCM will be instructed to begin the process. The needy or non-needy caretaker will not receive a pass-through until the Child Support Program is able to secure a voluntary redirect or until the joinder legal action has been completed. Once a voluntary redirect or a joinder legal action has been completed and a subsequent child support payment is received, the pass-through will be sent to the needy or non-needy caretaker.

The pass-through to the needy or non-needy caretaker is disregarded when determining ongoing eligibility and benefits. This means that the child support is not counted as income.

Direct payments: Although TANF participants are required to assign their rights to child support and support is to be paid through DCS, there are times when the obligor pays the support directly to the TANF participant. When this happens, child support paid directly to the financial group:

- That is not turned over to the department or to DCS or that is paid to a third party on behalf of a member of the financial group is considered countable unearned income;

- That is turned over to the department or to DCS is considered countable unearned income except for any amount of pass-through and disregard as described in item #1 above.

If a TANF participant appears to be eligible for pass-through but the TANF participant does not receive the pass-through, contact the client’s DCS worker.

TANF applicants, two-parent households and families in SFPSS

Pass-through does not apply to TANF applicants, two-parent households and families in SFPSS. This is because the state does not generally withhold child support for these
clients so the clients already receive their child support. However, disregard does apply. TANF applicants, two-parent households and families in SFPSS receive a disregard up to the limits described above. This means that amount of child support will not be counted as income.

Examples:

- **TANF applicant (program 2)**

  Angela and her child Natasha are applying for SNAP and TANF. Angela is currently receiving $100 per month in child support from Natasha’s absent father. Disregard = $50 per month. (Code this as DSP $50, SUP $50, with a need/resource end date of the current month.)

  Betty and her three children, Bobby, Billy and Bucky, are applying for TANF. The family is currently receiving SNAP benefits. Betty receives $150 per month in child support from Bobby and Billy’s father Ben, and receives $35 per month in child support from Bucky’s father Dennis. Disregard = $135 per month. (Code this as DSP $135, SUP $50, with a need/resource end date of the current month.)

**NOTE**

For TANF applicants who are applying as program 2:

*Code as DSP/SUP only child support already received in the month of application. This is because once the DHS case is coded as open TANF, DCS will retain child support and CSP/PSP coding will be added by the system for any support received after TANF was opened.*

*Use a need/resource end date of the current month. (For these TANF applicants who are applying as program 2, it is not appropriate to use a need/resource end date “C.”).*

- **TANF participant (program 2 and not SFPSS)**

  Jeni and her five children, Jack, Jerry, Jeff, Jill and Jan, are currently receiving SNAP and TANF benefits. The absent father, Jim, is paying $295 per month in child support. Pass-through and disregard = $200 per month. (Do not code CSP/PSP. The system should automatically add this coding.)

  Christine and her three children, Tommy, Timmy and Tracy, are currently receiving SNAP and TANF benefits. Terry, the father of Tommy and Timmy, is paying $150 per month in child support. Ted, the father of Tracy, is paying $35 per month in child support. Pass-through and disregard = $135 per month. (Do not code CSP/PSP. The system should automatically add this coding.)
Kari and her child Sami are receiving TANF. Kari’s other child Tami, who has a different father, is not receiving TANF because there is no deprivation. Sami’s father pays $25 in child support each month. Tami’s father pays $55 in child support each month. Pass-through and disregard (for the support from Sami’s father) = $25. (Do not code CSP/PSP. The system should automatically add this coding.) Although Tami is not getting TANF, she is still in the financial group, which means a disregard is applied to the support paid on her behalf. Disregard = $50. (Code this as $50 DSP, $5 SUP, need/resource “C”.)

- **TANF applicant or participant (program 82)**

Mark and Kim have a child in common. In addition, Kim’s child, Luke, from a previous relationship, lives with Mark and Kim. Luke’s father pays $75 per month in child support. Kim anticipates the support will continue in this amount each month. Disregard = $50 per month. (Code this as DSP $50, SUP $25, with a need/resource “C”.)

- **SFPSS**

Rose and her child Rosa are receiving SNAP and TANF. Rose is in SFPSS due to her disabilities. Rosa’s father Robert has started paying an average of $40 per month in child support. Rose anticipates this support will continue. Disregard = $40 per month. (Code this as DSP $40, SUP $0 with a need/resource “C”.)

Emily and her three children, Edward, Eugene and Elaine, are receiving SNAP and TANF benefits. In addition, Emily has been participating in SFPSS and is receiving a partial SSI grant. Edgar, the father of the children, is paying $125 per month in child support. Emily anticipates this support will continue. Disregard = $125 per month. (Code this as DSP $125, SUP $0, with a need/resource “C”.)