

## **Workforce Solutions, South Plains, TX Child Care Subsidies**

The Workforce Solutions South Plains Board of Directors approved new income eligibility guidelines for child care assistance provided by the agency. The board received additional child care assistance funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), and decided to use it to increase the number of children in care for low income individuals.

The ARRA funding enabled the board to establish higher income guidelines. The former child care assistance income requirements for the South Plains region were established in 2003 at 185% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. The new guidelines allow child care assistance to be provided to those individuals whose income is at 75% of the State Median Income Estimates published in the Federal Register.

The new criteria became effective on October 1, 2009. It is estimated that the new eligibility standards will allow child care funding for eight hundred additional children. Workforce Solutions Child Care Services expect to see the increase in both part-time and full-time child care.

The board will re-evaluate the number of clients wait listed at the end of the ARRA funding and determine whether the eligibility requirements need to be changed or remain the same. All clients receiving child care assistance through ARRA funding have time-limited care, and they are aware that funding is not on-going. Through attrition and close management of numbers, those clients receiving ARRA time-limited care could possibly be rolled over into regular funding. This is something the board will watch closely.

**Contact:** Brenda Cox

Director of Childcare and Youth Programs  
Workforce Solutions South Plains Board Administration  
1301 Broadway, Suite. 201  
Lubbock, TX 79401  
(806) 744-1987 ext. 2006  
[Brenda.cox@SPWorkForce.Org](mailto:Brenda.cox@SPWorkForce.Org)