

or amendment may, within 60 days after the date of receipt of notification of such determination, file a petition with the Assistant Secretary asking for reconsideration of the issue of whether such Plan or amendment conforms to the requirements for approval under the Act and pertinent Federal regulations.

(2) Within 30 days after receipt of such petition, the Assistant Secretary shall notify the applicant or Lead Agency of the time and place at which the hearing for the purpose of reconsidering such issue will be held.

(3) Such hearing shall be held not less than 30 days, nor more than 90 days, after the notification is furnished to the applicant or Lead Agency, unless the Assistant Secretary and the applicant or Lead Agency agree in writing on another time.

(4) Action pursuant to an initial determination by the Assistant Secretary described in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section that a Plan or amendment is not approvable shall not be stayed pending the reconsideration, but in the event that the Assistant Secretary subsequently determines that the original decision was incorrect, the Assistant Secretary shall certify restitution forthwith in a lump sum of any funds incorrectly withheld or otherwise denied. The hearing procedures are described in part 99 of this chapter.

**Subpart C—Eligibility for Services**

**§ 98.20 A child’s eligibility for child care services.**

(a) In order to be eligible for services under § 98.50, a child shall:

- (1)(i) Be under 13 years of age; or,
- (ii) At the option of the Lead Agency, be under age 19 and physically or mentally incapable of caring for himself or herself, or under court supervision;
- (2) Reside with a family whose income does not exceed 85 percent of the State’s median income for a family of the same size; and
- (3)(i) Reside with a parent or parents (as defined in § 98.2) who are working or attending a job training or educational program; or
- (ii) Receive, or need to receive, protective services and reside with a parent or parents (as defined in § 98.2)

other than the parent(s) described in paragraph (a)(3)(i) of this section.

(A) At grantee option, the requirements in paragraph (a)(2) of this section and in § 98.42 may be waived for families eligible for child care pursuant to this paragraph, if determined to be necessary on a case-by-case basis by, or in consultation with, an appropriate protective services worker.

(B) At grantee option, the provisions in (A) apply to children in foster care when defined in the Plan, pursuant to § 98.16(f)(7).

(b) Pursuant to § 98.16(g)(5), a grantee or other administering agency may establish eligibility conditions or priority rules in addition to those specified in this section and § 98.44 so long as they do not:

- (1) Discriminate against children on the basis of race, national origin, ethnic background, sex, religious affiliation, or disability;
- (2) Limit parental rights provided under Subpart D; or
- (3) Violate the provisions of this section, § 98.44, or the Plan. In particular, such conditions or priority rules may not be based on a parent’s preference for a category of care or type of provider. In addition, such additional conditions or rules may not be based on a parent’s choice of a child care certificate.

**Subpart D—Program Operations (Child Care Services)—Parental Rights and Responsibilities**

**§ 98.30 Parental choice.**

(a) The parent or parents of an eligible child who receives or is offered child care services shall be offered a choice:

- (1) To enroll the child with an eligible child care provider that has a grant or contract for the provision of such services, if such services are available; or
- (2) To receive a child care certificate as defined in § 98.2. Such choice shall be offered any time that child care services are made available to a parent.

(b) When a parent elects to enroll the child with a provider that has a grant or contract for the provision of child care services, the child will be enrolled