Qualifying Activities for the Publicly Funded Child Care Program

Eligibility for the publicly funded child care program requires all caretakers in the household to verify participation in one or more of the following qualifying activities:

1. Paid employment on a full-time or part-time basis.
    a. Paid employment includes the following if verification is provided confirming the employee will return to work:
        i. Maternity leave.
        ii. Leave taken according to the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA).
        iii. Short term disability.
    b. The end of seasonal paid employment shall not be considered paid employment, even if there is verification that the employee will return to work.
2. Basic education activities.
    a. Basic education activities must take place at an official practice center site or as part of a limited English proficiency program where an instructor is present, and include the following:
        i. High school or equivalent education.
        ii. Remedial high school education.
        iii. Adult basic literacy education.
        iv. Education for individuals with limited English proficiency.
    b. Basic education activities shall be verified by the following documentation:
        i. Proof of enrollment.
        ii. The days and hours the caretaker is attending.
        iii. The length of the class.
        iv. Proof of initial testing, within the first month of class participation, showing the caretaker's education and/or literacy level.
        v. When the class has open enrollment and no established end date, the caretaker shall provide proof of how often progress is measured, and provide verification of their progress at least once every twelve months.
3. Post-secondary education activities.
    a. Post-secondary education activities must be part of a course of study leading to a degree, certificate or license. They include the following:
        i. College classes.
        ii. Federal work study assignments.
        iii. Technical classes.
        iv. Vocational classes.
    b. The caretaker must have a record of satisfactory participation as defined by the school or institution.
    c. When education activities are accessed via electronic media, the number of hours approved for child care shall not exceed the number of credit hours per week for the course, as defined by the educational institution.
    d. Post-secondary education activities shall be approved by one of the following:
        i. An accredited institution of higher education.

ii. An institution that has a certificate or has an authorization from the Ohio board of regents.
iii. An institution that has a registration from the state board of school and college registration.

e. Post-secondary education activities shall not be eligible for receipt of publicly funded child care benefits in the following instances:
i. When the caretaker has completed the requirements for a baccalaureate degree unless the education is necessary to meet specific requirements associated with maintaining the caretaker's employment, certification or licensure.
ii. When the caretaker has completed one hundred forty-four undergraduate semester hours or two hundred sixteen undergraduate quarter hours, or the combined equivalent hours.

4. Vocational and occupational job skills training that is directly related to the caretaker's employment goal.
a. Job skills training may include but are not limited to:
i. Classroom job skills training.
ii. Supervised on-the-job skills training.
iii. Refresher job skills training.
b. Job skills training activities shall be approved by one of the following:
i. An accredited institution of higher education.
ii. An institution that has a certificate issued or has authorization from the Ohio board of regents.
iii. An institution that has a registration from the state board of school and college registration.
iv. A workforce inventory of education and training (WIET) provider who has been approved by the Ohio department of job and family services (ODJFS).
v. An apprenticeship program approved by the Ohio State Apprenticeship Council and registered with ApprenticeOhio.

5. Requirements set forth for those participating in Ohio works first (OWF) or the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) including:
a. Caretakers who have applied for or receive OWF and need child care to comply with a self-sufficiency contract or an individual opportunity plan.
b. Caretakers who are sanctioned under OWF and are participating in an approved activity to meet OWF requirements.
c. Caretakers who need child care to comply with a SNAP employment and training program plan.
d. Minor parents participating in the learning, earning and parenting (LEAP) program pursuant to rule 5101:1-23-50 of the Administrative Code.