

February 11, 2020

My name is Shyness Moore and I am a teen parent. My son attends the Elizabeth Celotto Child Care Center, Student Parenting and Family Services in New Haven, CT. The child care center is an Early Head Start program and they partner with the United Way of Greater New Haven.

Last year I was not approved for Care 4 kids due to the fact that my mother's work schedule did not match the child care center hours. I was seventeen years old with a three-month old son. My son is my responsibility not my mothers. I turned eighteen in October 2019 and I applied for Care 4 Kids and I was approved because I am now eighteen. I am still in High School and my mom still works at the same job with the same hours. Just because I was seventeen the application was denied and now that I am eighteen it gets approved. I feel it shouldn't matter the age of the mother because even though I am a teen mom my son is still my responsibility. Yes, my mom helps me and I do have a part time job, so I should have been approved last year.

Without this child care center I would not be able to finish school and receive my High School Diploma. My son has developed into a happy toddler because he goes to the center. My son attends the center on a daily basis he has learned a lot of words and how to walk at the center. The center also helps other teen moms in High School. These teen moms don't get approved for Care 4 kids either because they are not eighteen and their family may not work. I am going to college next year and college is not an approved activity. Therefore, I only get approved for one year while I am a senior in High School.

I am in support of the carve out funding that helps families enrolled in the EHS partners, like Celotto. It has helped make a difference in my life and my child's to have access to Elizabeth Celotto and the services I receive.

Sincerely,



Shyness Moore

e.
101
0