



Child Care Scholarship Program

Policy Manual

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Department of Social Services

PO Box 1520

Columbia, SC 29202-1520

Phone: 803.898.2570

Fax: 803.898.7335

For policy related questions,
Please email: SCChildCare@dss.sc.gov

****COVID-19 Information** Background**

On March 13, 2020, South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster declared a state of emergency in response to the Novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Subsequent Executive Orders directed all public schools to close through April 30, 2020 (3/15/20); all non-essential state staff not report to work, physically or in-person, until further notice (3/19/20); and all "non-essential businesses, venues, facilities, services, and activities for public use close for the duration of the emergency (4/1/20).

As the Lead Agency for the Child Care Development Block Grant, the South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS) is requesting a temporary waiver of some of the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) requirements.

Waiver for Extraordinary Circumstances

Section 658I(c)(1) of the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act (42 U.S.C. 985g(c)(1) and Part 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 598.19(a) of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) regulations allow the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to temporarily waive one or more of the requirements contained in the CCDBG Act or the CCDF regulations.

Section 98.19(b)(2) allows States to apply for waivers of no more than two years "in cases of extraordinary circumstances, which are defined as temporary circumstances or situations, such as a natural disaster or financial crisis".

According to CCDF regulation 45 CFR 598.19(c), waiver requests must:

- a) Indicate which type of waiver the State is requesting.
- b) Detail each sanction or provision of the Act or regulations that the State seeks relief from;
- c) Describe how a waiver from that sanction or provision will, by itself, improve delivery of child care services for children; and
- d) Certify and describe how the health, safety, and well-being of children served through assistance received under this part will not be compromised as a result of the waiver.

Purpose of Child Care Waiver Request

South Carolina is requesting a waiver, effective March 13, 2020, based on extraordinary circumstances because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The end date is based on the date that the Governor ends the state of emergency for South Carolina. The need for short-term emergency child care services is critical to assist first responders, emergency personnel, emergency support personnel, essential government personnel, those in essential businesses in the local community, and health care professionals responding to public needs related to COVID-19. General policy changes are needed to support families and child care providers affected by COVID-19. The need for emergency funding is critical to manage the financial crisis child care providers are facing because of interruption of child care services, low enrollment of children, or center closures. The circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic are justifiably extraordinary circumstances.

Waiver Request

South Carolinas requested approval to waive relevant federal regulations in order to accomplish the following:

1. Use CCDF funds to provide direct services to families who do not meet CCDF eligibility requirements (waive provisions of 45 CFR §98.20).
2. Use CCDF funds to provide direct services and/or quality dollars to providers who do not meet the full scope of CCDF health & safety, training, and criminal background check requirements (waive provisions of 45 CFR § 98.41 and 45 CFR §98.43).
3. Modify processes for monitoring provider compliance with CCDF health & safety, training, and criminal background check requirements (waive provisions of 45 CFR § 98.41 and 45 CFR §98.43).
4. Temporarily suspend the following inspections required in 45 CFR §98.42(b)(2):
 - a. Pre-licensure inspection for compliance with health, safety, and fire standards.
 - b. Annual unannounced inspection for compliance with all child care licensing standards; and

- c. Annual inspection for compliance with health and safety (including, but not limited to, those requirements described in § 98.41), and fire standards for child care providers (licensed and license-exempt) enrolled in the ABC Quality program.
5. Use CCDF funding for emergency and temporary child care centers to serve children and families affected by COVID-19, as part of SCDSS' Statewide Disaster Plan. These providers may not meet the full scope of CCDF health & safety, training, and criminal background check requirements.
6. Use CCDF funds to provide direct services and/or quality dollars to providers who do not meet criminal background check requirements as outlined in 45 CFR §98.43.
7. Use CCDF funds to implement changes to payment practices and absence/enrollment policies to support continuation and recovery of child care services. Direct service payments for full-time enrollment of children served through the Child Care Scholarship Program will be continued for up to 180 days for providers not able to serve families due to the impacts of COVID-19. During the emergency period, families/providers will have flexibility to transfer enrollments to temporary locations to continue care and meet increased demand. Thereafter, direct service payments may be extended for a period not to exceed 180 days if deemed necessary. SCDSS will also make direct service payments to eligible providers who provide care for children on a temporary basis while operations are restored to the original provider.

Certification of Health and Safety

During the waiver period, SCDSS will continue to provide support, technical assistance, and consultation to child care providers and those in temporary care sites. SCDSS certifies the health, safety and well-being of children served will not be compromised as a result of these waiver requests.

SCDSS Child Care Scholarship Program Policy Change/Staff Alert

Parent Co-pays were suspended effective April 14, 2021 for all funding categories.

Effective 10/01/2023, co-pays were reinstated for the Strong Start-85% funding category only.

*In March 2020, COVID related child care categories did not require printing out CHIP screens for verification. Staff were still responsible for doing CHIP checks on all COVID related child care but not printed attachments were needed. The COVID related child care categories are COVID-19, COVID-300%, COVID-CARES, COVID-FC, CCDF-85% and Strong Start-85%

COVID-300%

Effective October 15, 2020, the income guidelines were expanded to 300% of poverty. For the period of October 15, 2020 – March 24, 2021 the income guidelines were as follows:

| Family Size | Gross Family Income Limit | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| | Monthly | Annual |
| 1 | \$0 - \$3,190 | \$0 - \$38,280 |
| 2 | \$0 - \$4,310 | \$0 - \$51,720 |
| 3 | \$0 - \$5,430 | \$0 - \$65,160 |
| 4 | \$0 - \$6,550 | \$0 - \$78,600 |
| 5 | \$0 - \$7,670 | \$0 - \$92,040 |
| 6 | \$0 - \$8,790 | \$0 - \$105,480 |

Beginning March 25, 2021, the COVID-300% guidelines were updated as follows:

| Family Size | Gross Family Income Limit | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| | Monthly | Annual |
| 1 | \$0 - \$3,220 | \$0 - \$38,640 |
| 2 | \$0 - \$4,335 | \$0 - \$52,260 |
| 3 | \$0 - \$5,490 | \$0 - \$65,880 |
| 4 | \$0 - \$6,625 | \$0 - \$79,500 |
| 5 | \$0 - \$7,760 | \$0 - \$92,120 |
| 6 | \$0 - \$8,895 | \$0 - \$106,740 |

Beginning February 28, 2022, the COVID-300% guidelines were updated as follows:

| Family Size | Gross Family Income Limit | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| | Monthly | Annual |
| 1 | \$0 - \$3,398 | \$0 - \$40,770 |
| 2 | \$0 - \$4,578 | \$0 - \$54,930 |
| 3 | \$0 - \$5,758 | \$0 - \$69,090 |
| 4 | \$0 - \$6,938 | \$0 - \$83,250 |
| 5 | \$0 - \$8,118 | \$0 - \$97,410 |
| 6 | \$0 - \$9,298 | \$0 - \$111,570 |

Beginning January 2023, the COVID-300% guidelines were updated as follows:

| Family Size | Gross Family Income Limit | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| | Monthly | Annual |
| 1 | \$0 - \$4,553 | \$0 - \$54,630 |
| 2 | \$0 - \$6,160 | \$0 - \$73,920 |
| 3 | \$0 - \$7,768 | \$0 - \$93,210 |
| 4 | \$0 - \$9,375 | \$0 - \$112,500 |
| 5 | \$0 - \$10,983 | \$0 - \$131,790 |
| 6 | \$0 - \$12,590 | \$0 - \$111,570 |

Beginning May 17, 2023, the COVID-300% guidelines were updated as follows:

| Family Size | Gross Family Income Limit | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| | Monthly | Annual |
| 1 | \$0 - \$3,645 | \$0 - \$43,740 |
| 2 | \$0 - \$4,930 | \$0 - \$59,160 |
| 3 | \$0 - \$6,215 | \$0 - \$74,580 |
| 4 | \$0 - \$7,500 | \$0 - \$90,000 |
| 5 | \$0 - \$8,785 | \$0 - \$105,420 |
| 6 | \$0 - \$10,070 | \$0 - \$120,840 |

COVID-300% funding ended September 30, 2023.

A waiver was approved on September 22, 2022 indicating that staff were not required to call for verification on employment letters when all of the information was provided on those letters that we need for eligibility determination purposes. That waiver applied only to the following categories regarding the need for calling to verify employment letters: COVID- 19, COVID-300%, CCDF-85% and Strong Start-85%.

NOTE: All other funding categories required calls for verifications.

Effective 11/14/2023, the verification of employment form is no longer required. The information from the letter will be used to determine eligibility when all the information to determine eligibility is present on the letter. This applies to all COVID related child care categories, CCDF-85% and Strong Start-85% only.

**CCDF-85% - CCDF-85% funded began being used effective 5/16/2023. Any client that was at or below 85% SMI were categorized under CCDF-85%. If the applicant was over 85% SMI but was under 300% of FPL, then we were able to use COVID-300% funding.

Strong Start – 85% Child Care was effective 10/01/2023. This category is the only category with a co-pay at this time. **Note: There was a system glitch for the dates of 10/01/2023-11/07/2023 where co-pays were not being assessed by the system. Our IT staff resolved this issue on 11/07/2023.

Effective 06/18/2024, all eligibility for all child care categories will be based on 85% State Median income.

Effective 10/01/2024, all clients that are at or below 150% of federal poverty level will not be assessed a copayment.

Note: not all client fees pulled correctly due to an IT error. Corrected 11/10/2024 forward.

Effective December 1, 2025, the Child Care Scholarship Program placed a pause on accepting any new applications unless the families fall within a protected category. The pause affects determination and redetermination of eligibility for all cases except those in a protected category.

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Chapter 1

Introduction to The Child Care Scholarship Program

DSS Mission Statement

To serve South Carolina by promoting the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and vulnerable adults, helping individuals achieve stability and strengthening families. This mission is accomplished through the core principles of competence, courage and compassion.

1.1 PROGRAM PURPOSE AND LEGAL BASIS

1.1.1 PURPOSE OF THE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS) administers the child care subsidy program, hereafter referred to as the Child Care Scholarship Program. Child care services provided through this program are funded by the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), and State dollars. The CCDF is under the administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families and is distributed to the states to provide child care services for low income families.

The purpose of the Child Care Scholarship Program is to:

- A. Increase the availability, affordability, accessibility and quality of child care for families in the state of South Carolina.
- B. Assist families in achieving and maintaining economic self-support and self- sufficiency.

The goals of economic independence and prevention of welfare dependency are promoted through the belief that continued employment results in more secure families. This program reinforces the idea that the strength of the family is important to the state's and the nation's economy. Targeting families that are attempting to achieve and maintain economic independence from welfare is a concern of state and federal government.

1.1.2 FEDERAL REGULATIONS

As the lead agency, SCDSS is responsible for implementing a program that complies with federal regulations associated with the CCDF. Under these regulations, SCDSS must ensure that:

- The program is made accessible to all eligible parents as funding permits.
- A parent is given a choice of eligible providers, and that the requirement of this program will not significantly restrict parental choice of the types of providers.
- A parent will have unlimited access to their child and to the provider who is caring for their child during normal hours of operation.
- A record of parental complaints is maintained and made available to the public on request.
- Consumer education information is made available to the public concerning:
- Licensing and regulatory requirements
- Complaint procedures
- Health and safety information
- Policies relative to child care services.
- Payment rates will be sufficient to ensure equal access for an eligible child.

1.1.3 LEGAL BASIS

The following laws and regulations govern the administration of the child care services:

42 USC 1397c (Public Law 97-35, Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981). Requires the state to publish an annual intended-use report for Title XX SSBG funds.

The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (P.L.101-508) as amended by P.L.102-401, P.L. 102-586, P.L.103-171 and found at Title VI, Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, P.L.104-193.

1.1.4 CHILD CARE SERVICE GOALS

The goals of the child care services are:

- To promote family independence by giving priority for the use of child care funds to Welfare Reform clients through the Family Independence Act.
- To enhance the quality and increase the supply of child care for all families, including those who receive no direct assistance under CCDF or SSBG.
- To provide parents with a broad range of options in addressing their child care needs.
- To strengthen the role of the family.
- To improve the quality of, and coordination among, child care programs and early childhood development programs.
- To increase the availability of early childhood development and before-school and after-school care services (school-age care).

The Child Care Scholarship Program incorporates the following elements which are beneficial to families, providers, and local communities:

- Families are offered information regarding accessible child care arrangements.
- Child care providers are afforded opportunities for participating in the delivery of paid care, less paperwork, timely payment, resources for staff training and program improvement.
- The consolidated management of publicly funded child care results in effective administration, planning, and reporting.

At many levels, information and referral options are being provided and applicants are learning about child care and what is available in the communities. A guiding principle of the Child Care Scholarship Program is a commitment to provide the applicant with information that allows informed choices regarding child care arrangements.

1.1.5 BASIC SERVICE PHILOSOPHY

Since the passage of the South Carolina Family Independence Act in 1995 and the related federal Welfare Reform Law of 1996, funding priority for the Child Care Scholarship Program is given to parents participating in the State's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program.

Child care is essential to parents who are:

- Participating in a training program
- Securing employment
- Pursuing educational opportunities
- Participating in TANF

1.1.6 USE OF POLICY MANUAL

The Child Care Scholarship Program Policy Manual, as well as any applicable procedural manuals and attachments, will be used by SCDSS staff to determine eligibility for child care assistance in a fair, consistent, and timely manner. All SCDSS staff are responsible for exercising prudent and reasonable judgment when applying policy.

If a child care worker is unable to reach a decision about a specific situation that is not addressed in the manual, the child care worker will contact the Child Care Scholarship Program Control Center Supervisor or other identified supervisors for a decision. If a decision is still unable to be made, the Program Manager or Director will be consulted.

It is the responsibility of all SCDSS child care staff carrying out policies and procedures of the program in a timely, accurate, courteous, and non-discriminatory manner. SCDSS child care staff will be held accountable for ensuring proper application of policy.

1.1.7 NON-DISCRIMINATION

In accordance with Title VI Section 601 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title V Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, SCDSS will administer programs so that no person shall, solely because of race, color, national origin or qualified handicap, be: Excluded from participation in, denied the benefit of, or subjected to discrimination under any program or activity administered by SCDSS.

1.2 CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION

1.2.1 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

All requests for information on specific clients or child care providers must be coordinated with the Office of General Counsel. When a request is made by individuals seeking access to public records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the child care worker should direct the individual to send written inquiries to:

Freedom of Information Officer
South Carolina Department of Social Services
P. O. Box 1520
Columbia, SC 29202

The schedule of fees for FOIA requests are:

Search Fee: \$37.00
per hour Redaction
Fee: \$37.00 per hour
Copies (color): \$0.06
per page Postage:
Actual cost

Policy indicates that all client and provider case files are maintained by the appropriate worker for a period of three years or until all applicable audits have been completed. If an audit is in progress, all documents shall be maintained until the audit is complete. Applications for applicants who are not funded shall be maintained for 12 months. See [Retention Schedule](#).

1.2.2 CONFIDENTIAL CASE INFORMATION

The following case information is considered confidential and must be safeguarded:

- All information obtained during interviews with the applicant/recipient (A/R).
- All information obtained while verifying eligibility for the A/R.
- Name, address, and Social Security Number (SSN) of the A/R
- Information on the economic, social or medical circumstances of the A/R.

1.2.3 DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Confidential information may be disclosed in the following situations:

Verification: When the child care worker is attempting to verify eligibility and must disclose information limited to the facts required to determine eligibility.

Federal Assistance: When another agency administering a federal or federally assisted program, which provides needs-based assistance directly to an individual, is attempting to assist an A/R and requests information directly related to that agency's programs.

Audit: When a legislative body or designated audit body certifies the information is needed for auditing purposes.

Federal Program Investigation: When any investigation, prosecution, or criminal/civil proceeding is being conducted in connection with the administration of federal programs administered by SCDSS.

Child Abuse/Neglect: When child abuse and/or neglect is suspected.

Child Care Applicant Consent: When the applicant discloses information or when the applicant or their authorized representative request to view information in the applicant's case file.

EXCEPTION: The applicant may not view confidential medical reports from third parties nor give consent for this information to be disclosed.

1.3 CONFLICT OF INTEREST WHEN DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY

A conflict of interest is defined as a situation (actual or perceived interest) in which staff decisions are influenced by their personal interests. The definition includes any bias or the appearance of being bias in a decision-making process that would reflect a dual role played by staff.

Child care staff must maintain program integrity in all aspects of their jobs at all times and are to avoid any conflict or appearance of a conflict of interest. Child Care Scholarship Program staff are responsible for answering the Child Care Scholarship Program Control Center phone lines for clients and providers and determining eligibility for child care services. The child care staff should not review, determine eligibility, nor consult on any case involving a person related to them or any case where there is any type of relationship, such as a friend or neighbor. Any case where a conflict of interest exists, or may exist, should be brought to the attention of a supervisor immediately. The supervisor must assign the case to another worker who is not related to, nor has any conflict of interest, with any person included in the case.

Note: Child care staff, including supervisors, should refrain from searching for or researching cases on staff, co-workers, friends, relatives and acquaintances.

1.4 VOLUNTARY PROGRAM

The Child Care Scholarship Program is a voluntary program. A licensed, registered, waivered, exempt and/or approved child care provider may enroll into the program if they meet the enrollment criteria. Family, Friend, or Neighbor providers may also enroll but enrollment is specific to the family or families served.

1.5 MANDATED REPORTER

Child Care Scholarship Program staff, as well as all other agency employees, are required to report any suspected abuse or neglect to the appropriate entities. The following is an excerpt of the SC Code of Laws on Mandated Reporters:

SECTION 20-7-510. Persons required or permitted to report; method; confidentiality.

(A) A physician, nurse, dentist, optometrist, medical examiner, or coroner, or an employee of a county medical examiner's or coroner's office, or any other medical, emergency medical services, mental health, or allied health

professional, member of the clergy including a Christian Science Practitioner or religious healer, schoolteacher, counselor, principal, assistant principal, social or public assistance worker, substance abuse treatment staff, or childcare worker in a childcare center or foster care facility, police or law enforcement officer, undertaker, funeral home director or employee of a funeral home, persons responsible for processing films, computer technician, or a judge must report in accordance with this section when in the person's professional capacity the person has received information which gives the person reason to believe that a child has been or may be abused or neglected as defined in Section 20-7-490.

If a person required to report pursuant to subsection (A) has received information in the person's professional capacity which gives the person reason to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been or may be adversely affected by acts or omissions that would be child abuse or neglect if committed by a parent, guardian, or other person responsible for the child's welfare, but the reporter believes that the act or omission was committed by a person other than the parent, guardian, or other person responsible for the child's welfare, the reporter must make a report to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

NOTE: Child care staff should refer any questionable situations to a supervisor.

1.6 THE CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CONTROL CENTER

The Child Care Scholarship Program Control Center, hereafter called the Control Center, is located at SCDSS. Staff are responsible for the:

- Daily operation of the Child Care Scholarship Program
- Coordination of child care eligibility
- Selection and payment to providers.

Toll-free lines for clients and providers are operated by the Control Center staff. Clients and providers may access the Child Care Scholarship Program by calling the toll-free telephone numbers between the hours of 8:00am- 5:00 pm Monday thru Friday. The toll-free lines are designed to:

- Provide information to a client receiving child care services.
- Provide information to an interested family wishing to apply for services.
- Provide technical assistance and resolution to a provider regarding payment information or for other situations encountered by a client or provider.

Parents may call 1-800-476-0199 for assistance and child care providers are to call 1-800-262-4416. Both lines are available Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The Control Center fax number is 1-800-310-5417.

The mailing address for the Control Center is:

**Child Care Scholarship Program
SC Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 100160
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-3160**

1.6.1 WEBSITES AND COMMON EMAILS ADDRESSES

- **General website:** www.scchildcare.org
 - General website that houses all information pertaining to the Division of Early Care and Education.
- **ABC Quality website:** www.abcquality.org
 - Website that specifically has information about ABC Quality.
- **Connection Forms:** Connectionforms@dss.sc.gov
 - Email address used for the submission of connection forms.
- **SC Child Care:** scchildcare@dss.sc.gov
 - Email address where general questions may be submitted by clients.
- **Provider Questions:** ProviderQuestions@dss.sc.gov
 - Email address where participating child care providers may submit questions regarding their payments or other issues around the children they serve.
- **Provider Rate Forms:** Providerrateforms@dss.sc.gov
 - Email address where the provider submits rate increase requests and documentation.
- **Special Needs:** SpecialNeeds@dss.sc.gov
 - Email address where the special needs clients, providers and referring entities submit information specific to special needs.
- **FFN Enrollments:** FFNEnrollments@dss.sc.gov
 - Email address where information is sent and received on family, friend and neighbor providers.

1.7 CHILD CARE PAYABLES

Child Care Payables is responsible for receiving all Service Voucher Logs (SVL's) for payment. This area reviews each SVL for proper documentation of enrollment. Properly documented SVL's are entered into the Child Care Scholarship Program database for payment. The payment process takes approximately 10-14 days to complete. A remittance advice and payment validation is generated and sent to providers detailing the services paid for each child enrolled and reflects the amount of funds deposited to the banking account or the amount of the check. Providers also receive with each remittance advice a new SVL to complete for payment for children with continued services.

Child Care Payables is also responsible for updating and entering banking information for providers requesting direct deposits to personal or business accounts. Providers MUST complete a direct deposit form, DSS Form 1105-1, Authorization Agreement and Enrollment Form for Electronic Vendor Payment and Remittance Advice and send in a VOIDED check when a deposit is made to a valid checking account. Providers electing to have funds deposited to a savings account must have their bank complete Section 3 of the direct deposit form for account verification. The form should be sent to Child Care Payables for entering into the E-pay system. A pre-note process is necessary in order for funds to be deposited to personal accounts. This process takes approximately 14 business days for proper verification of account information.

Child Care Payables is NOT responsible for the garnishment of payment due to notices of levy by other agencies such as SC Department of Revenue or the IRS. If the provider's payment is intercepted by any agency referenced above, the provider is responsible for contacting the imposing agency for negotiating the levy. The imposing agency is responsible for forwarding release of levy notices to SCDSS when garnishments are to be terminated and the imposing agency is responsible for administering any refunds due to the provider.

1.8 ACCESSING THE CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

A family interested in applying for child care assistance may inquire about the Child Care Scholarship Program by contacting the Control Center at 1-800-476-0199 or other identified entities. Child care assistance is based on available funding and specific eligibility criteria. Information regarding the Child Care Scholarship Program and enrolled child care providers may be obtained from the SCDSS child care website at www.scchildcare.org or www.abcquality.org. Interested families may also apply through the Child Care Scholarship Program Benefits Portal.

In order to consider the needs of the family in accessing support, materials, applications, and our website are all available in both English and Spanish. Additionally, our agency contracts with an organization that provides interpretation and translation services in over 100 languages.

1.9 CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS PORTAL

The Child Care Scholarship Program has a benefits portal that allows an applicant to create an account, electronically complete the child care application and upload all supporting documentation via the portal. The benefits portal is used for the majority of child care application submissions.

Chapter 2

Child Care Assistance

2.1 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

2.1.1 RESIDENCY

In order to receive child care services through the Child Care Scholarship Program, the applicant must be a legal resident of South Carolina. When residency is questionable, the applicant may be asked to submit proof of residency. Proof of residency may include a current copy of one of the following:

- Lease agreement
- Utility bill (water, gas, light, cable, cell phone, etc)
- Driver's license
- State identification card
- Voter registration
- Other documents as approved by the Program Director.

NOTE: Notarized statements from friends or relatives are not acceptable methods for verification of residency.

2.1.2 AGE

In order to apply for child care assistance through the Child Care Scholarship Program, the applicant must be 18 years old or within six months of turning eighteen at the time of the application. If the applicant does not meet the age requirements to apply for child care assistance, the minor's parents must apply for child care services in their own name and use their family size and income, or **both** of the minor's parents must sign an emancipation statement.

NOTE: This does not apply to TANF and TANF/CO eligibility categories.

In order to receive child care assistance through the Child Care Scholarship Program, the child in need of care must be within the ages of birth up to age 13, unless the child has special needs, in which services may be approved up to age 19. Some sources of funding have different age requirements.

Exceptions to the age requirements for applicants and children will be made on a case-by-case basis and must be approved only by designated Child Care

Scholarship Program Staff, the Control Center Supervisor or their designee. See [Exception Criteria for CPS and FC Child Care Cases](#).

NOTE: A child who turns age 13 during their child care eligibility period will continue to receive services through the end of the current eligibility period.

2.1.2 CITIZENSHIP/QUALIFIED NON-CITIZEN

A child served through the Child Care Scholarship Program must be a citizen of the United States or a qualified non-citizen. An applicant for and recipient of the child care scholarship must declare that the child for whom they are applying or receiving child care subsidy for is a citizen or qualified non-citizen. The parent's declaration that their child is a citizen or qualified non-citizen should be accepted unless there is reason to question the validity of the declaration.

If the applicant acknowledges that the child is a non-citizen, the child care worker must verify if the child is a "qualified non-citizen" able to receive federal benefits. If the child care worker has a suspicion that the documentation may be invalid or falsified, additional documentation should be requested. Incorrect reporting of citizenship or status may result in loss of child care eligibility even if otherwise eligible.

An applicant who is in the TANF Program or transitioning off of the TANF Program is to be considered already verified for citizenship or eligible alien status by the State for child care purposes and will need no further verification. Verification of citizenship/non-citizen status is required for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); therefore, requirement has taken place.

Note: Being a legal resident is not the same as citizenship. Applicants may be in the United States legally for work or educational purposes but may not be considered citizens or qualified non-citizens.

2.1.3 CITIZENSHIP/QUALIFIED NON-CITIZEN STATUS

When an applicant's statement on citizenship or legal non-citizen status is questionable or inconsistent with other information on the application, the child care worker will ask the applicant to provide acceptable verification of citizenship or legal non-citizen status. It is the responsibility of the applicant to secure and present valid documentation.

Acceptable forms of verification include:

- Birth certificate
- INS certificate of citizenship or naturalization
- US passport

Acceptable documentation for the following specific groups of non-citizens include:

| Qualified Non-Citizen | Documentation |
|--|--|
| Refugee A person who is admitted into the US as a refugee under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) | I-94 indicates "refugee" per section 207 of the INA or I-551 stamped RE-6, RE5, RE7, RE8, RE9 |
| Asylee A non-citizen in the United States or at a port of entry who is found to be unable or unwilling to return to his or her country of nationality, or to seek the protection of that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of prosecution. | I-94: stamped "Granted Asylum under Section 208 of the INA.", a I-551, or a court letter showing asylum has been granted |
| Cuban/Haitian Entrant Any individual granted parole status as a Cuban/Haitian entrant or granted any other special status subsequently established under the immigration laws for nationals of Cuba or Haiti, regardless of the status of the individual at the time assistance or services are provided; and Any other national of Cuba or Haiti who is not subject to a final, non-appealable and legally enforceable removal order and who meets the following criteria: Is in removal proceedings under the Immigration and Nationality Act; or Has an application for asylum pending with USCIS. | I-94 stamped "Cuban/Haitian Entrant, or I-94 Arrival/departure code with a stamp showing paroled into the US or showing Status Pending CHS Adjustment code on the I-551, Permanent Resident Card, Cuban or Haitian passport with a {212(d)(5)} stamp dated after 10-10-80 (passport may be expired) DHS Form 1-862 Notice to Appear; DHS Form 220-A, Order of Release on Recognizance, DHS Form I-122, Notice to Applicant for admission detained for hearing before an Immigrant judge. EOIR-26, Notice of Appeal, date stamped by the Office of the Immigrant Judge. 1-766 Employment Authorization Document (EAD) with code C08 or C10; or 1-688B Employment Authorization |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>Document, showing that application for suspension of deportation/cancellation of removal submitted.</p> <p>DHS receipt for filing Form I-589 (Application for Asylum and withholding of Removal)</p> |
| Amerasian A person fathered by a US citizen and born in Vietnam between January 1, 1962 and January 1, 1976 and close family members admitted as immigrants. | I-94 is stamped: "Processed for I-551" with codes AM1, AM2 or AM3, or I-551 is stamped with codes AM6, AM7 or AM8. |
| Deportation Withheld A person whose deportation is withheld under Section 241(b) (3) or 243 (b) of the INA. | I-688B: Employment Authorization Card; or I-766: Employment Authorization Document (EAD) |
| Victim of severe forms of trafficking A person forced into prostitution, slavery, and forced labor through coercion, threats of physical violence, psychological abuse, torture and imprisonment. | Victim of trafficking will have a letter of certification from the Office of Refugee Resettlement, Washington D.C. or I-94: stating admission under Section 212(d)(5) |
| Deportation Withheld A person whose deportation is withheld under Section 241(b) (3) or 243 (h) of the INA. | I-688B: Employment Authorization Card; or I-766: Employment Authorization Document (EAD) |
| Veterans and active duty servicemen and their families A person who served in the active military, naval or air service and who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable; full-time servicemen who work on a military base and can be deployed at any time, and their families. | A discharge certificate (Form DD-214) Military ID card |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants Non-citizens granted Special Immigrant Status under section 101 (a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) who are eligible for the same benefits available to refugees admitted under section 207 to the same extent, and for the same periods of time, as such refugees.</p> <p>Principal applicant, spouse, or unmarried child under 21 years of age, Iraqi or Afghan Special Immigrant</p> <p>Principal Applicant, spouse, or unmarried child under 21 years of age of Iraqi or Afghan Special Immigrant in P6 Category Iraqi or Afghan Special Immigrant</p> <p>Principal Adjusting Status in the United States</p> | <p>Iraqi or Afghan passport with an immigrant visa stamp noting that the individual has been admitted under IV (Immigrant Visa) Category S11 and DHS stamp or notation on passport or 1-94 showing date of entry</p> <p>DHS Form I-551 ("green card") showing Iraqi or Afghan nationality (or Iraqi or Afghan passport), with an IV (immigrant visa) code of S16</p> |
| <p>Afghan Humanitarian Parolees (Non-SI Parolees) Individuals paroled into the United States under section 212(d)(5) of the INA (8USC 1182 (d)(5))</p> <p>Afghan citizens and nationals paroled into the US between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2023;</p> <p>their spouses or children paroled after September 30, 2022 and their parents or guardians paroled after September 30, 2022, if the Afghan citizen or national is an unaccompanied child.</p> | <p>Form 1-94 with COA codes – OAR, OAW, PAR, DT, PAROLED or Humanitarian Parole (per INA section 212 (d)(5)(A))</p> <p>Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp with COA codes OAR, OAW, PAR, DT, PAROLED or Humanitarian Parole (per INA section 212 (d)(5)(A))</p> <p>Interim Notice Authorizing Parole (INAP) noting parole under INA 212 (d)(5)(A)</p> <p>Form 1-765 Employment Authorization Document (EAD) receipt notice with code C11</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| | Form 1-766 Employment Authorization Document (EAD with code C11). |
| <p>Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees</p> <p>Individuals paroled into the United States under Section 212(d)(5) of the INA (8USC 1182 (d)(5). They are eligible for TANF benefits and services until the end of their parole term.</p> <p>Citizens or national of Ukraine (or persons who last habitually resided in Ukraine) paroled into the US between February 24, 2022 and September 30, 2023</p> <p>Their spouses or children paroled after September 30, 2023</p> <p>Their parents, legal guardians or primary caregivers paroled after September 30, 2023, if the Ukrainian citizen or national is an unaccompanied child.</p> | <p>For 1-94 noting humanitarian parole (per INA section 212 (d)(5) or 8 USC §1182 (d)(5))</p> <p>Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting "DT"</p> <p>Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting Uniting for Ukraine or "U4U"</p> <p>Foreign passport with DHS/CBP admission stamp noting Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee or "UHP"</p> <p>Form 1-765 Employment Authorization Document (EAD) receipt notice with code C11</p> <p>Form I-766 Employment Authorization Document (EAD with code C11)</p> |

The burden of proof to provide these documents is always on the parent. If the qualified non-citizen status cannot be determined or documentation cannot be obtained, the application will be denied.

Keying a Client When the Parent is not a Legal Citizen, but the Child is

When entering a case for a child where the parent is not a legal citizen, but the child is, a [pseudo-SSN](#) must be created for the parent in order to process the application. The application is entered in the name of the parent using a pseudo social security number.

2.1.4 ESTABLISHING THE NEED FOR CHILD CARE SERVICES

There must be an established need for child care prior to applying for services. In order to be eligible for child care services through the Child Care Scholarship Program, the applicant must be working, in school, or in a training program at least 15 hours per week (including travel time) or as determined by the child care funding source. A TANF parent may not be required to participate for a minimum of 15 hours; however, they must be in compliance with their Family Plan.

Note: This means a parent may be working a minimum of 10 hours, adding 5 hours of travel time equals 15 hours which meets the need requirement of 15 hours.

2.1.5 ESTABLISHING IF THE APPLICANT IS ELIGIBLE FOR FULL TIME OR PART TIME CARE

Parents are eligible for either full time or half time care.

Full time is determined in one of the following ways:

- The client is working full-time hours (travel time is included) of 25 or more per week.

Determined by number of hours worked plus travel time of 5 hours per week (more travel time may be used if determined necessary. See [Travel Time](#)). Example: Client works 20 hours per week. 20 hours of work plus 5 hours of travel = 25 hours which equals full time eligibility.

Note: Policy was updated 10/01/2024 to reduce the number of hours from 30 to 25 for eligibility to full time care.

- The client is in school full time (12 or more credit hours per week or full time as determined by the school).
- If the client is in school part time based on the credit hours for eligibility and is working part time, as determined above, the client will be eligible for full time care.

Half time care is determined in one of the following ways:

- The client is working part time hours (including travel time) of 15-24 hours per week.

Determined by number of hours worked plus travel time of 5 hours per week (more travel time may be used if determined necessary. See [Travel Time](#)). Example: Client works 15 hours per week. 15 hours of work plus 5 hours of travel = 20 hours which equals part time eligibility.

- The client is in school part time only.
- If the client is in school part time and not employed enough hours to equal part time employment, then they are eligible only for part time only.

NOTE: When calculating the hours worked, follow the mathematical rule of rounding and always round the to a whole number. Example: If working 37.5 hours, round to 38. If working 20.4 hours, round to 20 hours.

2.1.6 TRAVEL TIME

Travel time to work, school or training is considered when determining the type of child care needed. An average of one hour of travel time per day (5 hours per week) should be given. However, additional travel may be considered if documented. **Acceptable documentation of travel time includes print outs from internet resources such as MapQuest, Google Maps, Bing Maps, or any other mapping sites that document the travel time from the applicant's home to their work, school, or training location.** Travel time may be used and should be notated on the eligibility worksheet when determining the number of hours working or participating per week.

2.1.7 FAMILY DEFINITION

All family members are identified in order to determine the family household unit and the gross monthly income. For eligibility purposes, the family household unit is defined as the number of persons counted as indicated below who reside in the same household and who may be responsible for the financial support of the child whose eligibility for child care services is being determined. Additionally, all children in the household should be considered when determining the family household unit. If a child is between the ages of 18-21 and in school, the child is counted. If between the ages of 18-21 and not in school, the child is not counted. The following is information on who to include and exclude when determining the family household unit:

Who **IS** counted when determining the family household unit:

- Natural/adoptive parent, caretaker or grandparent, or an individual acting in loco parentis, such as a relative or non-relative who has been granted custody or guardianship by a court of law
- Married spouse of the parent or caretaker, if residing in the same home;
- Families in same sex marriages, if residing in the same home;
- Second parent or alleged parent of the child needing care when they are residing in the home, even if unmarried to the parent/caretaker;
- Dependent child in the household. A dependent child is defined as an unmarried child under age 18 or under age 21 if a student in secondary school or equivalent vocational/technical school;

NOTE: The following only applies to Welfare Reform eligibility categories (TANF, TANF/CO, and TCC): A dependent child aged 0-13, or 13-19 if special needs, living in the household of a caretaker/relative, but not included in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) budget, is eligible to receive child care services.

- Family members living temporarily away from home, i.e., military spouse, not residing in the same household due to being stationed away from home;
- Stepparent/grandparent;
- Teen parent who has their own TANF benefit case but resides in the household of their parent or caretaker. The teen parent and child make up their own family household unit. A teen parent must be participating in school and/or working as a part of his/her TANF Family Plan;

- Applicant of child care who is 18 years of age or older is considered a separate household from their parent even if the applicant resides in the same house;
- Foster child when in a family case that is applying for non-foster care services for their own children.
- Foster child is considered a one-person family and only the child's income is counted.
- Emancipated minor is defined as a minor 18 years or under whose parent has entirely surrendered the responsibility of the care and custody of the minor and the right to the minor's earnings and is under no legal obligation to support the minor.
- An emancipated minor with a child living in the home of their parent is counted as a separate household. This minor is not included in the TANF or SNAP budgets. A minor is emancipated if they meet one of the following conditions:
 - The court legally released the minor from parental control,
 - Both parents of the minor have signed an [emancipation statement](#). This statement must be notarized,

NOTE: The Child Care Scholarship Program uses this statement for eligibility purposes only. However, this information may be made available under the Freedom of Information Act.

- The minor has legally married, OR
- The minor has been legally divorced or become widowed but has not returned to parental support.
- An un-emancipated minor is counted in the family size of their parent. Applications for child care will be taken in the parent's name and the parent must meet all eligibility criteria, unless the following circumstances apply:
 - The teen parent has no parent or legal guardian whose whereabouts is known.
 - No parent or legal guardian of the teen parent allows the teen to live in their home.
 - The teen parent lived apart from their own parent or legal guardian for a period of at least one year before the birth of the dependent child.
 - The physical or emotional health or safety of the teen parent or dependent child would be jeopardized if they resided in the same residence with the major parent or legal guardian.

- There is otherwise good cause for the teen parent or dependent child to receive assistance while living apart from the major parent, legal guardian, another adult relative, or an adult supervised supportive living arrangement.

NOTE: Documentation of good cause includes, but is not limited to, written statements from at least two corroborating persons showing that it is not in the best interest of the teen parent to live with their parent or legal guardian. One of these corroborating persons should be a professional such as a school counselor, social worker, or mental health professional.

Those **NOT** counted when determining the family household unit:

- Incarcerated family member, such as a parent or sibling, is not included in the family size.
- Adults who are not married but reside in the same household are not considered part of the same family household unit unless they are the parents of the same child.

2.1.8 INCOME DEFINITION AND CALCULATIONS

For eligibility purposes, gross family income is defined as the source and amount of current gross income earned by all adult family members identified in the family household unit through the receipt of:

- Wages
- Tips
- Salaries
- Commissions
- Piece-rate payments
- Cash bonuses
- Armed services pay, including uniform and living allowances.

The income of the following individuals is counted when determining eligibility:

| Individual | Special Instructions |
|--|---|
| Dependent child | Earned income of a dependent child is excluded. |
| Minor | Earned income of any minor is excluded. |
| Teen Parent Adult | All earned and unearned income of the teen adult parent is counted unless specifically excluded. |
| Parent in the home | All income is counted unless specifically excluded. |
| Caretaker relative other than child's parent | Income is counted if need is included in the benefit calculation unless specifically excluded. If married, and caretaker relative is included in the family household unit , both spouse and caretaker relative living in the home must be included in the family household unit. |
| Stepparent in the home | All income is counted unless specifically excluded. |

Calculating the Gross Monthly Income

The family's monthly income is calculated by adding the gross monthly income of each adult family member identified in the family household unit. Income such as regularly received child support payments or Social Security benefits for a child under age 18 should also be included. A family member living temporarily away from home must be included in the family size and their income included in the calculation. See [Family Definition](#).

To arrive at the gross monthly income for an applicant who receives wages, child support, or other earned/unearned income, follow the formulas below according to how often the income is received:

- Weekly – The gross weekly salary is multiplied by 4.33.
- Biweekly (every other week) – The gross bi-weekly salary is multiplied by 2.16.
- Semi-monthly (client is paid twice a month) – Add the two checks (gross amounts) together.

When you have only the hourly rate and hours worked per week for a client paid semi-monthly, income should be calculated by multiplying the hourly rate of pay x the number of hours worked. That total should then be multiplied by 2. That amount should then be added together to get the semi-monthly amount:

Example: \$15/hour at 40 hours per week, paid semi-monthly should be calculated as $\$15 \times 40 = \600 . $\$600 \times 2 = \1200 . $\$1200 + \$1200 = \$2400$.

- Monthly (client is paid once a month). Use the gross monthly salary.
- Through self-employment. Use the adjusted gross income from the profit loss statement. Use adjusted gross income and divide by 12. If the adjusted gross income is a negative number, enter zero.
- If only the yearly salary is provided, use the yearly salary and divide by 12 to get the gross monthly income.
- Seasonal or irregular gross income must be averaged.

NOTE: The 4.33 and 2.16 formulas are used to get an average of income as some months have more weeks. These formulas are federal standard calculations used to determine income and provide a more accurate representation of income.

Verification of income from work will be used to determine eligibility for child care. The child care eligibility worker may use agency databases available such as TANF or SNAP etc. for information to verify income when other documentation is not provided. Child care eligibility staff will review check stubs to ensure there is **NO** appearance of the check stubs being tampered with, falsified, etc. If there are discrepancies, third-party verification will be obtained and documented.

Earned vs. Unearned Income

Earned income is income earned through wages, salaries, tips and other taxable income. Unearned income is income received from a source other than work. Ie..TANF benefits, Social Security, child support, alimony, etc.

2.1.9 GRADUATED PHASE-OUT

The Child Care Scholarship Program sets the initial eligibility threshold at 85% of state median income (SMI) and therefore is not required to provide a graduated phase out.

2.1.10 CHILD SUPPORT

Written verification of child support is not required. However, the applicant should disclose all applicable sources of income. The amount listed on the application will be used to calculate the child support amount. If the applicant indicates that they are not receiving the child support on a regular basis, you may not count the CS income. Eligibility workers will use only what is listed on the application for counting child support. Since the TANF/SNAP database is not always current, we will not include any child support listed in an open case if it is not included on the application submitted by the client.

Note: Child support is calculated the same way as gross income. If child support is received weekly, multiply the amount by 4.33, bi-weekly by 2.16, etc.

2.1.11 TREATMENT OF OVERTIME INCOME

Overtime income will be counted when it appears on at least half of the paystubs submitted with a child care application, even if the overtime pay amounts vary with each paystub. Unusual pay amounts will be counted only if they appear on at least half of the paystubs submitted with a child care application. If paid weekly, overtime should be on at least two pay stubs. For bi-weekly or semi-monthly, on at least one.

2.1.12 TREATMENT OF IRREGULAR FLUCTUATIONS OF EARNINGS

For initial child care determination and redetermination of eligibility irregular fluctuation in earnings will be considered. Temporary increases in income, including temporary increases that result in monthly income exceeding 85% SMI, does not affect eligibility or family copayments. Seasonal income or irregular income must be averaged over a period of time; typically, three months.

For example, an applicant is employed as a waitress and submits four paystubs with the application. Three of the paystubs show \$250 gross per week; the fourth paystub shows \$1000 gross for the week. The client lives and works in North Augusta and the paystubs submitted are for the month of April. The \$1000 paystub is for the same week as the Master's Golf Tournament in North Augusta. It is not typical for the client to receive a \$1,000 paycheck. That paystub is an unusual pay amount and would not be considered in determining the applicant's gross monthly income. For this example, to determine the client's gross monthly income, the three \$250 paystubs would be averaged; the \$1000 paystub would not be included.

Pay stubs should be representative. Pay stubs that are received that have vastly differing amounts should be carefully examined. If one or more pay stubs are not representative, staff may use the pay stubs they have to average the income based on the client's normal rate of pay, hours and earnings.

2.1.13 TREATMENT OF SHIFT PREMIUM, SHIFT DIFFERENTIAL AND PAID TIME OFF

Shift premium and shift differential is pay that an employee receives for working the least desirable hours at a business. Paid time off is pay that an employee receives as part of having available sick or vacation time. For initial child care determination and redetermination of eligibility, the **pay** from shift premium, shift differential and paid time off **are** counted, paid time off and holiday hours only are counted. The shift differential **hours are not** counted as they are part of the regular hours indicated on the pay stubs.

2.1.14 INCOME INCLUSIONS

The following types of income are to be considered when computing the amount of gross income for eligibility purposes:

Family Independence Stipend (also known as TANF)

Assistance payment to aid a family with a dependent child who is in the financial assistance budget. The TANF/SNAP database will be used to verify receipt of a TANF stipend.

Alimony

Allowance, usually ordered by the Family Court, paid to an individual by the spouse or former spouse after a legal separation or divorce or while legal action is pending. Any alimony amount listed on the application will be counted. If the client has an open CHIP case and had not indicated alimony income on the application, the amount in CHIP may be used. Otherwise, self-attestation of the alimony income is accepted, and child care staff should use the amount of alimony income indicated on the application and calculate the amount based on the frequency listed by the client. Alimony income reported will be calculated using the same formulas of income multiplied by 4.33 if received weekly, 2.16 if bi-weekly, 2 if semi-monthly or if a monthly amount is given, the monthly amount will be used.

Child Support

Allowance, usually ordered by the Family Court, for the support of a child. The child care applicant may provide self-declaration of the amount and frequency of the receipt of child support payments.

Social Security

Social Security pensions, survivor's benefits, and permanent disability insurance benefits paid by the Social Security Administration (SSA) before deductions for medical insurance. Railroad retirement insurance benefits from the U.S. Government. If the client has an open CHIP case and had not indicated social security income on the application, the amount in CHIP may be used. Otherwise, self-attestation of the social security income is accepted and child care staff should use the amount of social security income indicated on the application and calculate the amount based on the frequency listed by the client. Social Security income reported will be calculated using the same formulas of income multiplied by 4.33 if received weekly, 2.16 if bi-weekly, 2 if semi-monthly or if a monthly amount is given, the monthly amount will be used.

Veterans' Pensions

Money paid periodically by the Veterans Administration to a disabled member of the armed forces or to a survivor of a deceased veteran, as well as subsistence paid to a veteran for education and on-the-job training, and "refunds" paid to a veteran as G.I. insurance premiums. If the client has an open CHIP case and had not indicated pension income on the application, the amount in CHIP may be used. Otherwise, self-attestation of the pension income is accepted, and child care staff should use the amount of pension income indicated on the application and calculate the amount based on the frequency listed by the client. Income reported will be calculated using the same formulas of income multiplied by 4.33 if received weekly, 2.16 if bi-weekly, 2 if semi-monthly or if a monthly amount is given, the monthly amount will be used.

Pensions and Annuities

Pensions or retirement benefits paid to a retired person or their survivor by a former employer or by a union, either directly or through an insurance company.

Unemployment Compensation

Compensation received from a government unemployment insurance agency or a private or public insurance company for an injury incurred at work. The cost of this insurance must have been paid by the employer and not the individual. The length of time the individual is expected to be out of work due to injury should be included in the narrative. If the client has an open CHIP case and had not indicated unemployment income on the application, the amount in CHIP may be used. Otherwise, self-attestation of the unemployment income is accepted, and child care staff should use the

amount of unemployment income indicated on the application and calculate the amount based on the frequency listed by the client. Unemployment income reported will be calculated using the same formulas of income multiplied by 4.33 if received weekly, 2.16 if bi-weekly, 2 if semi-monthly or if a monthly amount is given, the monthly amount will be used.

Workers' Compensation

Compensation received periodically from a private or public insurance company for an injury incurred at work. The cost of this insurance must have been paid by the employer and not the individual. The length of time the individual is expected to be out of work due to injury should be included in the narrative. If the client has an open CHIP case and had not indicated workers compensation income on the application, the amount in CHIP may be used. Otherwise, self-attestation of the workers compensation income is accepted, and child care staff should use the amount of workers compensation income indicated on the application and calculate the amount based on the frequency listed by the client. Workers' compensation income reported will be calculated using the same formulas of income multiplied by 4.33 if received weekly, 2.16 if bi-weekly, 2 if semi-monthly or if a monthly amount is given, the monthly amount will be used.

Wages or Salary (Includes seasonal work/income)

Total money received for work performed as an employee, including:

- Wages
- Salary
- Commissions
- Tips
- Piece-rate payments
- Cash bonuses
- Armed forces pay, BASE pay and any Special Duty Pay
- Shift differential pay
- Holiday pay
- Leave pay
- Schedule C for self-employment
- Military Leave Earning Statement (LES). This is the only acceptable form of verification for a member of the military.

Self-Employment (Non-Farm)

Adjusted gross income or net income earned in self-employment in one's own business, professional enterprise or partnership. A schedule C is the only acceptable verification of income for self-employment employed for over a year.

If the applicant is newly self-employed (less than a year) and tax information is not available, the applicant may complete the **Newly Self-Employment Form (DSS Form 1010)** and submit to be considered for eligibility purposes.

NOTE: Reference [Verification of Self-Employment](#).

Farm Self Employment

Gross receipts minus expenses from the operation of a farm by a person on their own account as an owner, renter, or sharecropper.

If the applicant is newly self-employed and tax information is not available, the applicant may complete the **Newly Self-Employment Form** (DSS Form 1010) and submit to be considered for eligibility purposes.

Farm income is usually available only at the end of the crop year but may be prorated over the next 12 months.

Dividends from Stocks and/or Bonds

Benefits received by a person who holds shares of stock (interest in a company) or bonds (interest bearing certificates), or benefits received from profits of an insurance company with whom they have a policy, or as a result of their membership in an association which shares its profits with its members. The amount received may be documented by placing a copy of the individual's dividend statement in the record.

Interest on Savings or Bonds

Benefits accrued as a result of a savings account or bonds. This includes all such income whether paid directly or reinvested in the savings account or bonds.

Income from Estate or Trusts

Periodic receipts from estates or trust funds. This may be verified through **Child Care Scholarship Policy Manual**

probate court or the institution handling the trust fund.

Net Rental Income

Income from the rental of a house, store, or other property, minus expenses necessary to the upkeep of the rental property. This amount may be verified by copies of rent receipts and expense records placed in the file. Further verification should be obtained from those persons paying a rental fee to assure accuracy.

Income from Boarders/Lodgers

Income from boarders/lodgers minus expenses necessary to provide room and/or board. This may be verified in the same manner as net rental income.

Net Royalties

This includes the following:

- The share of proceeds paid to the applicant as owner of a right (for example, a patent) for permission to use it or operate it.
- The share of proceeds paid to one from whom land rich in oil or minerals is leased.
- The share, usually a specified percentage, or proceeds from the work of a composer or writer and paid to the individual.

This amount should be verified by placing a copy of the royalty contract in the record.

General Assistance

State-funded assistance payment to the totally and temporarily disabled.

This may be verified by checking the assistance payments case record.

2.1.15 INCOME EXCLUSIONS

The following types of income are not to be considered when computing the amount of gross income for eligibility purposes:

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Supplemental Security Income issued through the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Optional Supplement issued by SCDSS.

Funds Connected with Judgments of Indian Claims

Per capita payments or funds held in trust for any individual in satisfaction of a Judgment of the Indian Claims Commission or the United States Court Claims.

Income from Property Sold

Money received from the sale of property (such as stocks, bonds, a house, or a car) is to be disregarded unless such individual was engaged in the business of selling such property.

Supplemental and Special Food Programs

Exclude the value of supplemental food assistance under the National School Lunch Act, as amended.

Payment from Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970

Children's Earnings

No inquiry shall be made regarding the earned income of a dependent child under 18 years of age unless the child is emancipated or is a teen parent with a TANF benefit case in their own name. See [Family Definition](#).

Certain Loans and Grants

Disregard income from loans and grants, such as Scholarship, obtained and used under conditions that preclude their use for current living costs. Also, disregard any loans or grants to any undergraduate student for educational purposes made or issued under any program administered by the Commissioner of Education under the Higher Education Act (e.g., Pell or Carl Perkins grants or Montgomery GI Bill).

Home Products

Disregard the value of home produce used for household consumption.

Value of Meals Received Through Special Programs

The value of meals received through congregate dining programs, etc., is excluded regardless of funding source for such programs.

Volunteers in Services to America (VISTA) Income

The income received by volunteers under the VISTA program must be disregarded.

Foster Care Board Payments

These payments, including clothing allowances, are excluded from the income of both foster parents and foster children.

Earnings Received Under Job Training Partnership Act of 1983

Adoption Subsidy

Lump Sum Payments from Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI),

Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and child support payments in arrearage

Bank Withdrawals

Borrowed Money

Tax Refunds (to include payment or refunds from Earned Income Tax Credit or Dependent Care Credits)

Gifts

Lump Sum Inheritances or Lump Sum Insurance

Payments Capital Gains

Value of SNAP Allotment

Income from Work-Study Programs

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Donated Food Value. Funds from the Cobell Settlement

Income received from Cobell v. Salazar settlement, codified in the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 is excluded. The settlement is the result of a lawsuit originally filed by Eloise Cobell over the mismanagement of Native American trust assets.

AmeriCorps

2.1.16 ASSET LIMIT

In order to receive child care services through the Child Care Scholarship Program, the applicant must not have assets that exceed \$1,000,000. This is a self-declaratory question on the child care application. If the applicant does not check yes or no on the asset question, staff will call the applicant to receive verbal confirmation and will document on the application that they verbally received the yes or no answer. If questionable, the applicant can be asked to provide verification of assets. If an applicant indicates that their assets exceed \$1,000,000 the application will be automatically denied.

2.2 VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

2.2.1 VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS **Child Care Scholarship Policy Manual**

All child care eligibility staff and Child Care Scholarship Program staff have access to the TANF/SNAP database also known as Client History and Information Profile System (CHIP), which contains a client's information about TANF/SNAP benefits. Staff also have access to the Child and Adult Protective Services System (CAPSS), which contains information about children in CPS and foster care cases. These systems are used to verify that clients are open in TANF, CPS or foster care cases, prior to determining child care eligibility.

When researching cases and verifying information submitted by applicants, clients, or child care providers, staff may use the internet as a resource. Searching information on general websites for verification of addresses, phone numbers, public record searches for marriage licenses, births, etc. is permissible for all child care staff and may be used when determining eligibility.

Based on child care funding eligibility criteria, in order to be eligible for child care assistance, the applicant must be working, in school, in a training program, complying with the TANF Family Plan, or permanently or temporarily disabled. If a two-parent household, both parents must be working, in school or in a training program or permanently or temporarily disabled. Income from employment, enrollment in school or participation in a training program will be verified. Also, an applicant who is disabled will verify disability income and submit a doctor's statement (DSS Form 1247) to verify disability.

An applicant must be determined eligible for child care based on the number of hours per week child care is needed. In addition to the number of hours the client is working, in school or training, credit hours or actual clock hours in school or training and travel time are considered. The hours child care is needed may not always coincide with the work hours of the parent. For example, a parent who works third shift needs to sleep during the day; therefore, child care may be approved during the day to help support the family. Study time is not considered when determining hours needed. The goal is to use a reasonable approach that supports the family's efforts to be productive. A non-welfare reform parent must need a minimum of 15 hours of child care services per week per child. A TANF parent may not be required to participate a minimum of 15 hours.

2.2.2 ACCEPTABLE METHODS OF VERIFICATION

Acceptable methods of verification of employment include the following:

Pay Stubs - The preferred method of employment verification. The most recent 30 days of pay stubs should be submitted when an applicant submits an application. Pay stubs are required when a client has been employed over 60 days.

Letters from employers - Letters of employment will be accepted only when a client has started a new job, has a documented commitment of employment to begin within 2 weeks or is returning to work after being on leave. If the letter of employment indicates that the client has been employed for over 60 days, pay stubs will be requested.

Offer Letters - Offer letters will be accepted only for applicants who are within two weeks from starting a new job. The offer letter must also be signed by the applicant indicating the acceptance of the job.

Clients Paid in Cash - If a client is paid only in cash and does not receive pay stubs, a letter on company letterhead or from the employer must be submitted. Calls must be made by staff to verify these letters. Staff must call the employer to verify.

Leave Earning Statement - For an applicant in the military, a Leave Earning Statement (LES) is the only acceptable method of verification. When determining the pay, use only the BASE pay and any special duty pay (bonus) when calculating the income. For determining the hours of employment, use what the applicant indicated on their application. If paid monthly, only one LES is required. If paid bi-weekly or semi-monthly, two LES' are required.

Self-Employment - For an applicant who is self-employed a schedule C is the only acceptable method of verification for an applicant that has been self-employed for over one year. If the applicant is newly self-employed and tax information is not available, the applicant may complete the [Newly Self-Employment Form \(DSS Form 1010\)](#) and submit to be considered for eligibility purposes.

The burden of proof is always on the applicant.

NOTE: The IRS has started using tax transcripts in order to protect PII. If only the tax transcripts are available and it clearly identifies the profit/loss for the applicant, then we may accept the tax transcripts as verification.

NOTE: Exceptions to these acceptable forms of documentation may be made on a case-by-case basis by the Program Manager or Program Director.

Wage forms are not accepted as proof of employment.

2.2.3 VERIFICATION OF AN ABSENT PARENT

If an applicant is married but separated during the time of the application, verification will be required in order to prove separation. Legal papers verifying marital separation, or a maintenance order is preferred. However, in the event that court documentation is not available, the applicant may submit proof of separate residences via a lease agreement, utility bill (light, gas, water, cable, cell phone bill), etc.

For applicants with newborn babies, under 10 months of age, that do not have the other parent listed on the application, proof of separate residences will be requested. Lease agreements, utility bills (light, gas, water, cable, cell phone bill), etc will be used for verifying separate addresses for those applicants who are not married but have recent child in common and indicate they are not in the same home. The burden of proof is on the client to provide the necessary information for verification of the absent parent. If the parent is unable to provide proof of separate residences, the application will be denied.

The following are some common scenarios, in addition to the above situations, and the acceptable documentation:

| Scenario | Acceptable Documentation |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Absent parent is incarcerated | Incarceration documents or mug shot proving current incarceration |
| Absent parent is deceased | Copy of death certificate or obituary |
| Child's father is unknown | Birth certificate showing no father named |

Child care staff should attempt to obtain proof of a different address for the absent parent. If staff cannot obtain proof of separate addresses via the methods indicated above, the parent may be sent an Absent Parent form. The Absent Parent form allows the parent to sign a declaratory statement, under the penalty of perjury, to document the status of the absent parent. The Absent Parent form should always be the last resort to obtain information about the absent parent and should not be sent until all other options have been exhausted.

Note: Notarized statements from parents, friends, or relatives are not accepted as methods of verification.

2.2.4 WORK

Employment for child care purposes also includes subsidized employment, i.e., On-the-Job Training, sheltered workshops through Vocational Rehabilitation, or unsubsidized employment, including self-employment. It may also include part-time, post-secondary work-study assignments of at least 15 hours per week (the 15 hours may include travel time. Example 10 hours of work plus 5 hours of travel time to equal the 15 hours). Volunteer activity (such as a Vista Volunteer) is not considered employment. Employment income from a child under age 18 is excluded.

An applicant is considered employed if they are working at an occupation where they are paid a wage/salary or have a documented commitment of employment that will begin within two weeks from the application date. An applicant participating in a work-study program will be considered employed; however, their income from the work-study program is not considered. Substitute teaching or other as needed (PRN) employment or job assignments are not considered employment unless they are long-term placements of a month or more. Verification of the long-term assignment is required. If verification of a long-term assignment cannot be provided, the application will be denied. An applicant who has a new commission-only job may receive three months of child care in order to establish a work history. Continued eligibility will be re-determined at the end of this time period.

Additionally, a retired individual does not meet the criteria for working, school or training.

In order to meet the work criteria and receive child care services, the non-welfare parent/guardian must be:

- Employed full-time: Average of 25 or more hours per week

Determined by number of hours worked plus travel time of 5 hours per week (more travel time may be used if determined necessary. See [Travel Time](#)).

Example: Client works 20 hours per week. 20 hours of work plus 5 hours of travel = 25 hours which equals full time eligibility.

- Employed part-time: 15 -24 hours per week.
Determined by number of hours worked plus travel time of 5 hours per week (more travel time may be used if determined necessary. See [Travel Time](#)). Example: Client works 15 hours per week. 15 hours of work plus 5 hours of travel = 20 hours which equals part time eligibility.

NOTE: Travel time may be considered when determining the number of hours worked per week. See [travel time](#).

TANF parent may not be required to participate a minimum of 15 hours. If both parents are in the household, both parents must be working, in school, or in training. If one or both parents work only part-time, then only part-time care will be given.

NOTE: The burden of proof of income and work, school or training status is upon the applicant.

2.2.5 VERIFICATION OF WORK

It is preferred that the applicant submits current 30 days worth of consecutive paystubs with the child care application to verify income and employment. The pay stubs must be relevant pay dates to the date the applicant is applying. If the applicant submits paystubs for less than 30 days and there is a year-to-date amount included on the paystubs, the year-to-date amount may be used to calculate gross monthly income. If less than 30 days of check stubs available, worker can average the available stubs, document the calculation used and ensure documentation of calculations is imaged with the case file.

Example: The pay stubs should be representative. If only three stubs are available when the client is paid weekly, staff may average those three pay stubs, divide by three and multiply by 4.33 to get the gross monthly income. If four stubs are received for non-consecutive dates, those stubs may also be used as long as the amounts and hours are representative. In situations where there are three pay stubs with one missing time period, staff may figure the amount of the missing pay stub for calculations. Additionally, if staff have pay stubs that have a year to date on the stubs and there is enough time in the year to average at least one month of income, the year to date may be used to compute income. All of these options are acceptable ways to calculate the work from pay stubs.

NOTE: For an applicant in the military, a Leave Earning Statement (LES) is the only acceptable method of verification. When determining the pay, use only

the BASE and any special duty or special pay when calculating the income. For determining the hours of employment, use what the applicant indicated on their application.

PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY PROCESS FOR NEW EMPLOYMENT AND JOB SEARCH CATEGORIE

Presumptive eligibility is used on a limited basis and is used to assist a Child Care Scholarship Program client with child care who has obtained a new job and is in the process of obtaining verification of the employment or for the funding categories that allow for job search such as Homeless, DLL, Head Start, etc. The client is in need of child care to maintain their new job or when allowed, to seek employment. The client will be given twelve weeks (3 months) of full time or part time care based on how many hours the client or case manager initially indicates they are working, in school, or in training. If the client is in a funding category that allows for job search, 12 full time weeks will be given, unless otherwise indicated.

Child Care staff will follow the procedures listed below in order to process the extension of services when a client was originally approved for presumptive and has submitted the required documentation:

1. Print the application from the Benefits Portal, On-base or SCOSA system, if needed
2. Complete a new Eligibility Worksheet
3. The same application number previously assigned for the presumptive care will be notated and a note added to the eligibility worksheet indicating that the client has provided the documentation to support work/school/training.
4. Update the application from the Benefits Portal, On-base or SCOSA to include the new employment information and initial the changes.
5. If eligible, staff will extend the connection for the child through the end of the original 12 months of eligibility under the correct half time or full-time funding (to avoid a potential increase in co-pay).
6. Staff document the client's memo field indicating that the client was initially determined eligible for presumptive services and that documentation has been received and services extended through the full 12 months.
7. Send the eligibility worksheet along with the supporting documentation to be imaged.

If the client does not provide the documentation within the 12 weeks (3 months) allowed, or if the documentation provided caused the client to not qualify for child care, the services will end after that 3-month presumptive period.

NOTE: If 30 days or less remain on the Child Care Scholarship Program eligibility period at the time the change is requested, the child care eligibility worker will request the client to complete a new application.

Note: If a client reports changes that would make them eligible for only part time care only when they were originally given full time care, no changes are made. The child care services continue at the original level of services approved. Example: If a client was approved for full time services initially but reports a reduction in hours of work, etc that would qualify for half time based on hours, the services will not be reduced to full time. The client will continue to receive the full-time child care service that was originally approved.

2.2.6 VERIFICATION OF SCHOOL

An applicant is considered participating in an educational program if the program results in one of the following:

- High school diploma
- General Equivalency Diploma (GED)
- Associate's degree
- Other college degree.

An applicant attending high school or is obtaining a GED, must submit a copy of their school schedule. If the applicant is in college or other type of educational program, a copy of their schedule and proof of payments made towards registration/tuition for the term in which they are applying must be submitted to the Child Care Scholarship Program. Units of service for school participation may also be used. A client's statement is acceptable for verification of school attendance for a dependent child aged 18 or under 21 in the household. If the situation is questionable, verification of the paid school registration/schedule will be requested.

NOTE: Actual class instruction time issued for programs that do not use a credit hour system and travel time are considered; however, study time is not counted when determining eligibility and the need for care.

When a parent/guardian attends school, the child care services for which they are eligible is determined by whether they are a full-time student or a part-time student. A student who is registered in school for full-time, as determined by the institution, will be given full-time child care services as long as they are otherwise eligible. A student who is registered in school for part-time, as determined by the institution, will be given half-time child care services if school attendance is the only criteria they meet, i.e., they are not also working. When a client is registered for less than 12 credit hours but has required labs, seminars, or practicums for which they do not receive credit, those may be counted for consideration to receive part-time or full-time child care services. Graduate schools consider a full-time student to be registered for nine or more credit hours; therefore, full-time child care may be authorized. Typically, 3-11 credit hours is considered part time unless otherwise determined by the school. Twelve or more credit hours is considered full time. When questionable, child care staff may ask for further clarification.

NOTE: Once determined eligible, the parent will be given 12 months (52 weeks) of child care.

On-line computer courses from an accredited college or university that count as credit hours leading to a degree are acceptable courses for post-secondary education. Distance education/on-line courses may be countable under limited circumstances.

NOTE: Schools offering distance education must be accredited by one of the following:

South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) if located in South Carolina Department of Education of any other state in which the program is located US Department of Education.

Vocational educational training programs are provided by the following:

- Employment and training providers contracted by SCDSS
- Accredited vocational-technical schools
- Certificate programs at accredited secondary, proprietary schools
- Non-profit organizations
- Secondary schools that offer vocational education
- Post-secondary educational institutions
- Accredited internet-based institutions offering distance learning intended to prepare the participant for specific occupations.

SELF-PACED/DISTANCE LEARNING

An applicant may be in school or in a training program that is designed to allow them to complete their schooling or training at their own pace. Applicants enrolled in self-paced or distance learning programs will be approved only for part time care and for no more than 10 hours.

2.2.7 VERIFICATION OF TRAINING

An applicant is considered participating in job-training if the training is to teach marketable skills in the competitive labor market. A non-welfare reform parent must need a minimum of 15 hours of child care per week per child (travel time may be included). A TANF parent's hours of care will depend on participation required in the TANF Family Plan. Verification of training will be required.

Note: This means a parent may be in a training program a minimum of 10 hours, adding 5 hours of travel time equals 15 hours which meets the need requirement of 15 hours.

Full Time: 25 or more hours of training per week.

Full time is determined by number of hours in training plus travel time of 5 hours per week (more travel time may be used if determined necessary. See [Travel Time](#)).

Example: Client is in training 20 hours per week. 20 hours of training plus 5 hours of travel = 25 hours which equals full time eligibility.

Part-time: 15 -24 hours of training per week

Part time is determined by number of hours in training plus travel time of 5 hours per week (more travel time may be used if determined necessary. See [Travel Time](#)). Example: Client is in training 15 hours per week. 15 hours of work plus 5 hours of travel = 20 hours which equals part time eligibility.

2.2.8 VERIFICATION OF SELF-EMPLOYMENT

Self-employment income is earned income received directly from one's own business, trade, or profession, instead of receiving a specified wage from an employer.

NOTE: Child care may be denied for a client who has been employed in the same self- employment business for at least one year and is not making at least minimum wage.

A schedule C is the only acceptable method of verification for an applicant that has been self-employed for over one year.

If the applicant is newly self-employed and tax information is not available, the applicant may complete the **Newly Self-Employment Form** (DSS Form 1010) and submit to be considered for eligibility purposes.

The burden of proof is always on the applicant.

Some self-employed applicants may submit an IRS form 1120-S if they are part of an S Corporation or a K1 partnership which allows income, deductions and credits to bypass corporate level taxation and flow directly to the shareholder. For income determination, the line indicating ordinary business income should be used.

If the spouse of the self-employed parent is working for the company, pay stubs are required as proof of employment. A statement from the self-employed spouse is not acceptable verification of employment for the other parent. If an IRS 1040 can be provided that shows the income from the schedule C for the self-employed parent as well as separate income from the other parent, the tax documents may be used.

If the applicants cannot provide proof of separate income, the application will be Denied as both parents must be working, in school or in training. The burden of proof is on the client.

UBER, LYFT, INSTACART, SPARK and taxi drivers, they are considered independent contractors and therefore are considered self-employed. If the UBER, LYFT, INSTACART, or other similar types of work (any independent contractor, social media influencer, etc) applicant has been in the job for over a year, a Schedule C, profit loss statement, is the only acceptable method of verification.

If employed less than a year, the printout of active time and actual working time along with their first and last name from their account/profile page with the gross pay and any relevant tips should be submitted.

2.2.9 HOME-BASED BUSINESS

A parent who works in the home (i.e., medical transcriptionist) may be eligible for assistance with child care. The child care worker may obtain verification of income from the employer, either through check stubs from the employer or a notarized declaratory statement denoting:

- Nature of the home-based business
- Hours worked per day AND
- Day-to-day business duties.

If self-employed, a schedule C must be submitted to verify income.

2.2.10 VERIFICATION OF DISABILITY

Eligibility criteria in some child care categories may not allow the applicant to be disabled. See [Specific Child Care Categories](#) for clarification. If one or both parents are temporarily or permanently disabled, verification will be required. The applicant must submit a physician's (DSS Form 1247) or other health professional's statement to verify the disability along with proof of disability income, if applicable. The applicant must submit a statement from the physician stating that the applicant **cannot work**. If the disability form indicates the applicant can work, they must provide proof of employment or school in order to be considered for eligibility. If they can work but are not employed or otherwise in school or training, the application may be denied. If the disability is temporary, the duration of the temporary disability must be indicated and a date that they may return to work, along with any applicable disability income. The client must also submit a return-to-work letter from the employer indicating the return to work date, hours worked, rate of pay and frequency of pay. The statement may also include if the applicant is capable of caring for their own child. Temporary disability typically is a result of a short-term injury, pregnancy, etc.

A disability may be physical or mental, and must be verified by a physician or other health professional who includes:

- Physician assistant
- Nurse practitioner
- Psychologist
- Psychiatrist
- Physical therapist
- Other professional qualified to make a clinical diagnosis.

If the client has previously applied and is permanently disabled, previous verification may be obtained from child care imaging (On-Base) and used as verification. For temporary disability, new documentation will be required.

Military disability will be handled the same way. The DSS 1247 form must be completed and must indicate that the parent cannot work. Military statements that indicate percentages of disability are not accepted as verification.

If the applicant is disabled and determined by the physician that they cannot work, full time care will be given.

If the client has disability income, they may submit proof of that income or may self-attest the amount they receive each month. If the client has an open CHIP case and had not indicated disability income on the application, the amount in CHIP may be used. Otherwise, self-attestation of the disability income is accepted, and child care staff should use the amount of disability income indicated on the application and calculate the amount based on the frequency listed by the client. Disability income reported will be calculated using the same formulas of income multiplied by 4.33 if received weekly, 2.16 if bi-weekly, 2 if semi-monthly or if a monthly amount is given, the monthly amount will be used.

NOTE: DSS Form 1247, Medical Release/Physician's Statement, should be used to verify the client's disability.

2.3 CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS

Children determined eligible for a child care scholarship will receive 12 months of child care regardless of temporary changes in a parent's work, school or training activities or family income, as long as the income does not exceed 85 percent of state median income (SMI), or other income thresholds if established for certain funding sources. Child care assistance may not be terminated prior to the end of the 12-month period if a family experiences a temporary job loss or temporary change in participation in a training or school activity.

Parents will have continuous eligibility throughout the 12-month period as long as the income does not exceed 85% SMI or experience a non-temporary change. If a parent experiences a non-temporary loss of work, school or training, child care assistance can be terminated however, child care assistance must be provided at the same level for a period of three months to allow parents to engage in job search, resume work, or to attend an education or training program as soon as possible.

2.3.1 TEMPORARY CHANGES

During the period of time between eligibility determination and redetermination, if the child met all of the eligibility requirements, the child shall be considered eligible and will receive services at least at the same level regardless of:

- A change in family income, if the family does not exceed 85% of SMI for a family of the same size;
- Any time-limited absence from work for an employed parent due to reasons such as need to care for a family member or an illness;
- Any interruption in work for a seasonal worker who is not working between regular industry work seasons;
- Any student holiday or break for a parent participating in training or education;
- Any reduction in work, training or education hours, as long as the parent is still working or attending training or education;
- Any other cessation of work or attendance at a training or educational program that does not exceed three months or longer period of time
- Any change in age, including turning 13 years old during the eligibility period; and
- A change in residency within the State, Territory or Tribal area.
- Reduction in work, school, or training hours (as long as the parent is still in work, school or training)
- A change in age including a child turning 13 years old during the eligibility period.

2.3.2 NON-TEMPORARY CHANGES

Non-temporary changes are defined as a situation that may exceed 3 months (use calendar days to compute). These situations may be terminated provided child care assistance is provided for three months. These changes, include but are not limited to the following:

- Stop participating in the TANF program
- CPS case closes
- Foster Care case closes
- Adoption in finalized

2.3.3 USE OF THE 10-DAY TERMINATION POLICY

The effective date of termination using the 10-day termination policy is the first Monday following the 10th working day from the date of determination (Holidays and weekends are not considered work days). Termination reasons include but are not limited to the following:

- Client moves out of state.
- Client is determined to have intentionally committed fraud.
- Client exceeds 85% SMI after a non-temporary change.

2.3.4 WHEN A CLIENT WANTS TO VOLUNTARILY WITHDRAW OR INDICATES SERVICES ARE NO LONGER NEEDED

If a parent indicates that they want to voluntarily withdraw from the Child Care Scholarship Program or indicates that no services are needed, the child care database will be updated with a status code 20- Services on Hold Per Client and the memo field documented to reflect that the parent indicated that services were no longer needed or wants to voluntarily withdraw. Services are not to be terminated. Any connected services should be ended with proper notice to the child care provider and the provider notified of the ending of the services. The case will remain in the 20- Services on Hold Per Client status for the remainder of the client's 12-month eligibility. At any point, if the client comes back in during that eligibility period, the status may be updated to 57-Active and the client may resume services until the end of their eligibility period.

2.4 SPECIFIC CHILD CARE ELIGIBILITY CATEGORIES

A client may be eligible for more than one eligibility category. However, the eligibility category with the most stringent eligibility requirements for which the client qualifies takes priority. As a family's eligibility changes, the client may be switched from one eligibility category to another based on the client's status and availability of funds. A parent may apply for child care services for a dependent child who resides in the caretaker's household.

2.4.1 PROTECTIVE SERVICES DEFINITION/CATEGORIES

The Child Care Scholarship Program extends eligibility to specific populations of children, otherwise not eligible, by including them in the agency's definition of "children who receive or need to receive protective services". The categories identified under protective services for the purpose of not requiring a co-pay and/or (one or both) not requiring a parent to meet the work, school, or training criteria. Those categories are: children in foster care, kinship care, under court supervision or any child welfare category. Children in head start programs, families experiencing homelessness, and families affected by natural disasters. Additionally, families that qualify under dual language learners, children eligible for the 4K program to include siblings (4K+siblings), Special Needs, First Steps evidence-based program initiative, child care after adoption (AdoptCC), Kinship Guardianship (KinGap), child care after reunification (Reunify CC), CCDF-Caretaker Relative (CCDF-CR), Dual Language Learners, Family Literacy, Head Start, SNAP E&T, Starlight and Criminal Domestic Violence.

2.5 TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

The Family Independence Act of 1995 established the TANF Program administered by SCDSS. The purpose of child care through TANF is to provide the necessary child care for a family to participate in approved employment, education, training, or to comply with their TANF Family Plan. A fundamental goal of TANF is to emphasize parental responsibility and self-sufficiency.

SCDSS must provide support services such as child care to enable the parent to move into employment, education or training. A parent participating in TANF is not required to pay a fee to the provider. However, the parent is responsible for paying the difference in what the Child Care Scholarship Program pays and

what the provider charges, if applicable. The TANF CM will make a referral to the child care worker using the [DSS Form 1269](#), Request for Support Services. TANF child care authorization will be 12 months (52 weeks) at a time as needed for the component in which the client is participating.

In order to receive child care through this category, the individual must meet the following criteria:

- Be receiving a TANF stipend
- Be a TANF participant who is either:
 - Working
 - Attending school
 - Attending training
 - Complying with the Family Plan as agreed upon with the TANF CM OR
 - Participating in a TANF countable component OR
 - Attempting to start a TANF countable component within two weeks.
- Have a need for child care for a child under age 13

NOTE: A child aged 13-19 with special circumstances may be considered for eligibility. A child who turns age 13 during their child care eligibility period will continue to receive services through the end of the current eligibility period.

- Attempting to remedy a sanction (up to 30 days)

In the case of an employed TANF recipient who becomes temporarily disabled and is unable to work and unable to care for child, they may continue to receive child care assistance as long as they remain employed and can verify that they are on leave from their employment.

2.5.1 CHALLENGING ADULTS THROUGH REHABILITATION, EDUCATION AND SERVICES (CARES)

Child care may be paid for a TANF client in the CARES Program. In order to be included in the CARES Program, the incapacity of the adult recipient must prevent the individual from participating in a TANF work activity for a period of 90 days or more. An individual diagnosed with a physical or mental disability expected to last 90 days or more, and accepted for treatment by Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, or Mental Health, is also eligible for the CARES Program.

NOTE: A recipient who is permanently and totally disabled will be included in CARES regardless of their ability to work or participate full-time. A case in which an individual works full-time even though they are totally and permanently disabled would continue in the CARES Program.

The medical incapacity is subject to reevaluation at intervals that are specific to each recipient's circumstances, at a minimum, at annual redetermination. This interval is dependent on what has been determined by the doctor or other health professional and what is documented on the [DSS Form 1247](#), Medical Release/Physician's Statement or other verification which is completed and signed by a physician.

NOTE: Support services funds may be used to pay to have medical forms completed for a participant in the TANF Program once they have been determined eligible and have been participating in the CARES Program.

NOTE: Child care services may be provided to comply with the Family Plan as agreed upon by the TANF CM. The TANF CM must notify the child care worker if there is a change in medical capacity. TANF-CARES child care authorization will be 12 months (52 weeks) at a time.

If child care assistance is needed, the TANF CM will send the TANF child care unit via the ABC Mailbox in SCOSA the [DSS Form 1269](#), Request for Support Services, and the [DSS Form 3791](#), Child Care Scholarship Program Application, and other documentation as appropriate to request child care.

2.5.2 TANF TWO-PARENT PROGRAM

In order to be included in the Two-Parent program there must be two parents in TANF. Case management of Two-Parent cases begins with an evaluation and assessment of the adults in the family. The evaluation will be an overall picture of the strengths and growth areas within a family unit. A Family Plan will be developed with the two-parent family and will indicate the activities in which they are required to participate. Support Services, including child care is available to two-parent families in need of care.

NOTE: Any support services payments offered to participants in the TANF Work Program must also be offered to participants that meet the criteria for inclusion in the Two-Parent program.

If child care assistance is needed, the TANF CM will send the TANF child care unit via the ABC Mailbox in SCOSA the [DSS Form 1269](#), Request for Support Services, and the [DSS Form 3791](#), Child Care Scholarship Program Application, and other documentation as appropriate to request child care.

NOTE: Both parents will need to be in an approved component in order to be approved for child care.

2.5.3 TANF - CHILD ONLY (TANF/CO)

A parent/caretaker relative who is receiving a TANF benefit (TANF Child Only case) for a child may be eligible to apply for TANF/Child Only (TANF/CO) child care. These cases contain caretaker relatives, SSI parents, or disqualified parents. The following criteria must be used in determining child care eligibility:

- Child must be a TANF or SSI recipient.
- Parent/caretaker relative must be employed at least part-time (15 – 24 hours), in school or training or have a verified disability at the time of application. Employment may be in conjunction with training or attending school.
- In two-parent families, both parents/caretakers must be working at least part-time, in school/training, or have a verified disability.
- Parent/caretaker relative must meet income guidelines to be eligible for TANF/CO.
- Parent/caretaker relative must pay a fee based on their income.
- Authorization will be for 12 months (52 weeks).
- The child is under the age of 13 (or the child is aged 13 -19 with Special Needs).
- There is no co-pay for this category of care.

NOTE: A child who turns age 13 during their child care eligibility period will continue to receive services through the end of the current eligibility period.

PROCESSING OF TANF/CO CHILD CARE CASES

Due to TANF/CO cases not having a TANF CM in the DSS county offices, child care eligibility staff will be responsible for obtaining an Child Care Scholarship Program Application from the parent/caretaker relative. The following process will be followed:

1. Review the TANF/SNAP database to ensure that the child is receiving a TANF benefit in a Child-Only case (use the child's SSN to inquire on a specific child). This review will serve as the child care referral.
2. If the child is receiving a TANF benefit and the parent/caretaker relative meets the specific TANF/CO eligibility criteria as outlined in TANF-Child Only (TANF/CO) (See Section 2.6.3), then the child care eligibility worker can mail, email, or fax the Child Care Scholarship Program Application to the parent/caretaker relative and request income verification or training verification if the parent/caretaker relative is on SSI, according to policy.

An individual who meets qualifications will be eligible to receive 12 months of services and may re-apply for an additional 12 months as funding permits and as long as the child continues to receive TANF benefits. The application must be filed in the name of the parent/caretaker relative and entered into the Child Care Scholarship Program database using the FI/CO eligibility category. A parent/caretaker relative whose TANF/CO case closes due to income exceeding the limit is eligible to apply for transitional child care services.

2.5.4 TANF - CHILD ONLY – PROTECTIVE SERVICES (TANF/CO-PS)

Caretaker/Relatives (aunts, uncles, grandparents, etc.) receiving a TANF benefit for a dependent child may be eligible for child care assistance. Child care may be provided for child(ren) who have experienced emotional, physical, or other trauma.

- Child must be a TANF recipient.
- The family will receive 12 months (52 weeks) of child care. The family can re-apply for services at the end of the twelve months if child remains eligible and funding is available.
- The parent/caretaker is the applicant, and all the information on the application relates to the family.
- Parent/caretaker relative must be employed at least part-time (15 –24 hours) at the time of application and remain employed to continue receiving services. Employment may be in conjunction with training or

attending school. A parent/caretaker who receives SSI may be eligible for child care assistance if they are either employed at least part-time or participating in an activity (training or education) that will enable them to become employed in the future.

- In two-parent families, both caretakers/relatives must be working at least part-time. Exceptions to this policy are made if one of the caretaker/relatives meets the following criteria: **A caretaker/relative in a two-parent family who has a verified temporary or permanent disability.**
- The applicant **does not** have to meet the income guidelines.
- Only licensed child care providers may be used for TANF/CO-PS child care. If there is a situation in which a licensed provider cannot be obtained, an exception to the policy will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis in order to determine approval by State Office. See [Exception Criteria for CPS and FC Child Care Cases](#) below.
- There is no co-pay for this category of care.
- If the family's income is above the maximum entrance amount (but under the exit amount), the income entered into the database will be entered at a dollar less than the maximum 85% SMI.
- The child is under the age of 13 (or the child is aged 13 -19 with Special Needs).

NOTE: A child who turns age 13 during their child care eligibility period will continue to receive services through the end of the current eligibility period.

2.6 TRANSITIONAL CHILD CARE (TCC)

An individual who has received a TANF benefit and whose benefit ends due to one of the following is eligible to apply for transitional child care assistance:

- Employment
- Increase in earned income.
- Expiration of earned income disregards.
- Waiver of earned income disregards.
- Voluntary closure requests when excluded income exceeds the income limit.
- 24-month TANF time limit.

A parent is eligible based on meeting the child care income limit guidelines and the fact that they are employed at least part-time (15 – 24 hours per week). Travel time is also considered when determining the number of hours worked each week.

Full time: 25 or more hours per week

Full time is determined by number of hours worked plus travel time of 5 hours per week (more travel time may be used if determined necessary. See [Travel Time](#)). Example: Client works 20 hours per week. 20 hours of work plus 5 hours of travel = 25 hours which equals full time eligibility.

Part time: 15 -24 hours per week

Determined by number of hours worked plus travel time of 5 hours per week (more travel time may be used if determined necessary. See [Travel Time](#)). Example: Client works 15 hours per week. 15 hours of work plus 5 hours of travel = 20 hours which equals part time eligibility.

A client that is employed who becomes temporarily disabled and is unable to work and unable to care for child, they may continue to receive child care assistance as long as they remain employed and can verify that they are on leave from their employment (see [Establishing a Need](#)). A parent receiving child care through this category does not have a co-pay. TCC services will be authorized for 12 months of child care.

There are four different types of transitional categories:

- Transitional Child Care 1 ([TCC1](#))
- Transitional Child Care 2 ([TCC2](#))

- Transitional Child Care 24 ([TCC24](#))
- Transitional Child Care – Full Family Sanction ([TCC/FS](#)).

Note: Each year of Transitional Child Care will receive 12 months of eligibility.

Federal Time Limits

A client is not eligible for child care services when their TANF closes due to Federal Time Limits.

TWO-PARENT FAMILY

In a two-parent family one parent must be working at least part-time (15 – 24 hours per week). Travel time is also added when determining the number of hours worked per week. See [Establishing the Need for Child Care Services](#). The parent can also attend school in conjunction with work. The second parent must be working or going to school at least part-time or have a verified disability. If one or both parents work or attend school or training part-time, only part-time child care will be given.

Full Time: 25 or more hours per week.

Full time is determined by number of hours worked plus travel time of 5 hours per week (more travel time may be used if determined necessary. See [Travel Time](#)). Example: Client works 20 hours per week. 20 hours of work plus 5 hours of travel = 25 hours which equals full time eligibility.

Part-time: 15 -24 hours per week

Part time is determined by number of hours worked plus travel time of 5 hours per week (more travel time may be used if determined necessary. See [Travel Time](#)). Example: Client works 15 hours per week. 15 hours of work plus 5 hours of travel = 20 hours which equals part time eligibility.

NOTE: A family household unit where one parent works at least part-time and the other attends only school is eligible to apply for such assistance.

2.7 TRANSITIONAL CHILD CARE 1 (TCC1)

Availability for TCC1 begins the first month of TANF benefit ineligibility. The child care eligibility worker will use the TANF/SNAP database to determine that the TANF benefit case has been closed for a transitional closure reason. To receive child care through this category, the individual must:

- Be closed from TANF due to earned income exceeding the TANF income guidelines or due to voluntary withdrawal due to earned income as indicated by closure code VE.

- Have received a TANF benefit in the month immediately preceding the first month of ineligibility.
- Have a need for child care for a child under age 13.

If the client does not apply in the month immediately following the closure date of TANF, the 12 months will start when the client applies and is determined eligible.

NOTE: A child aged 13-19 with special needs may be considered for eligibility.

A child who turns age 13 during their child care eligibility period will continue to receive services through the end of the current eligibility period.

- Be working part-time or full-time. A parent who is attending school and working at least part-time is eligible for child care assistance for both school and work. Total hours must be a minimum of 30 hours per week (travel time can be considered).
- Be income-eligible based on current income standards.
- There is no co-pay for this category of care.

NOTE: TCC1 will be authorized for 12 months of child care.

| Action by FI CM | SNAP CHIP Code | Code Reason |
|-----------------|----------------|---|
| Closure | EX | Closed Due to Earned Income |
| Closure | DX | Closed Due to Loss of Disregards |
| Closure | IN | Closed Due to Earned Income |
| Closure | CX | Closed Due to Child Support Income |
| Closure | TL | Closed Due to TANF Time Limit |
| Closure | VE | Voluntary Withdrawal Due to Earned Income |
| Closure | FA | Full Family Sanction |
| Closure | AT | Full Family Sanction |
| Closure | RJ | Full Family Sanction |
| Closure | DS | Full Family Sanction |

SEAMLESS ELIGIBILITY FOR FIRST YEAR OF TRANSITIONAL CHILD CARE

Child Care Scholarship Program services should be continued in a timely manner without interruption, and in an effort to ensure that there is no break in services for a family moving between TANF child care to the first year of TCC, a child care application from the client will not be required. If the TANF benefit effective date of closure is within 30 days of the processing date, the seamless process can be used. If the TANF benefit effective date of closure is over 30 days, then the client will complete a new child care application and submit income verification.

If the seamless TCC case is approved, the child care eligibility staff will determine the effective transitional closure date in the TANF/SNAP database and close out the TANF child care accordingly. If the effective transitional closure date in the TANF/SNAP database has passed, then closeout the TANF child care effective the first available Monday and insert the new TCC application into the Child Care Scholarship Program database, which will produce an approval/connection letter that will be sent to the client and provider. Child care eligibility staff will call the client and the provider to make them aware of the change in connection.

To allow for continued child care services, the child care eligibility staff will:

- Review the TANF/SNAP database to ensure that the client's TANF benefit case has been closed appropriately for a transitional reason code.
- Determine the effective date of closure in the TANF/SNAP database and pick up transitional child care services with no break in service. Note: Child care services will be authorized for 12 months (52 weeks) of child care.
- Review the Child Care Scholarship Program database to ensure that the client is currently receiving TANF child care. If the TANF participant is not receiving TANF child care, a [DSS Form 3791](#), Child Care Scholarship Program Application, must be completed.
- Use information from the TANF/SNAP database, SCOSA or On-base to update the Child Care Scholarship Program database, as appropriate, with a current address, family composition, family size, employer information, and income.
- Determine income using the current wage information in TANF/SNAP. Verify that the income does not exceed the child care income standards.
- Complete a new child care eligibility worksheet (DSS Form 37110) and attach the following TANF/SNAP screens from CHIP:
 - Client Profile Page
 - Case Profile Page 2
 - Household Summary Page 1 and 2
 - Notice History Screen
 - Update the information into the Child Care Scholarship Program database for the first year of TCC and obtain an application number.
 - Call the client and the provider to make them aware of the changes such as the category change, the copay, number of weeks approved, etc.

NOTE: If during the review of the TCC case, the seamless TCC case is denied, the TCC worker will complete a termination according to policy for the case so that a termination notice will go to the client and provider.

- There is no co-pay for this category of care.

2.8 TRANSITIONAL CHILD CARE 2 (TCC2)

The transitional child care, second year (TCC2), eligibility category is for:

An individual whose first year of transitional time period is ending. An additional 12-month eligibility period may begin under TCC2 when any of the aforementioned categories end. If receiving TCC1, the Child Care Scholarship Program sends an automated notification to the parent and provider 60 days prior to services ending.

A former TANF participant who was eligible to apply for TCC but failed to do so. If the participant is eligible, 12 months of child care will be approved.

Eligibility for child care begins effective the first Monday after the TCC1 eligibility period has ended. A new application is required, and income eligibility must be re-determined.

- There is no co-pay for this category of care.

To receive child care through this category, the individual must:

- Not be receiving a TANF benefit, and the TANF benefit case closed for a transitional reason.
- Be working full-time or part-time (second parent may be permanently or temporarily disabled verification required). If working and attending school, employment and education hours must be for a minimum of 30 hours per week.
- Have a need for child care for a child under age 13.

NOTE: A child aged 13-19 with special needs may be considered for eligibility. A child who turns age 13 during their child care eligibility period will continue to receive services through the end of the current eligibility period.

- Be income-eligible based on current income thresholds.

2.9 TRANSITIONAL CHILD CARE 24 (TCC24)

2.9.1 TCC24-1

- Eligibility for TCC24-1 (first year) begins the first month of TANF benefit ineligibility due to 24-month TANF time limits.
- There is no co-pay for this category of care.

To receive child care through this category, the individual must:

- Be closed from TANF benefits due to time limits.
- Be working full-time or part-time (second parent may be permanently or temporarily disabled. Verification required)
- Have a need for child care for a child under age 13

NOTE: A child aged 13-19 with special needs may be considered for eligibility. A child who turns age 13 during their child care eligibility period will continue to receive services through the end of the current eligibility period.

- Be income-eligible based on current income standards.

2.9.2 TCC24-2

The transitional child care is due to TANF benefit case closing due to the client using all of their 24-month TANF benefit time limits. Second year uses child care category TCC24- 2.

2.10 TRANSITIONAL CHILD CARE - FULL FAMILY SANCTION (TCC/FS)

2.10.1 TCC/FS – 1

Eligibility for TCC/FS -1 (first year) begins the first month of TANF benefit ineligibility due to full family sanction. A family household member who becomes employed or increases earnings during a full family sanction and the earnings cause the family household unit to become ineligible for TANF benefits may be eligible to receive child care services under TCC/FS.

To request TCC/FS during the full family sanction, the TANF CM must:

- Verify new employment or increased earnings AND
- Complete a mini-budget to determine if income exceeds the TANF gross and/or net income limit.
- All available earned income disregards must be given to determine eligibility or ineligibility.

If case is income ineligible for TANF benefits, the TANF CM must:

- Make a referral to the child care worker on the [DSS Form 1269, Request for Support Services](#)
- Indicate on the referral that the TANF case benefits originally terminated due to full family sanction AND
- Indicate that the individual is now employed or has had an increase in earnings.

The client may be eligible for seamless child care eligibility if they were receiving TANF child care in order to cure their sanction. If the client was not receiving TANF child care, a Child Care Scholarship Program application must be completed. An individual who qualifies may receive TCC/FS for 12 months and may reapply for an additional 12-month period based on the availability of child care funding.

2.10.2 TCC/FS – 2

A client may reapply for an additional 12-month period based on the availability of child care funding. The child care category in the Child Care Scholarship Program database for the second year is TCC/FS -2.

2.11 CHILD WELFARE CHILD CARE

Child care assistance may be provided if funding is available for a family that has an open Child Protective Services (CPS) treatment case or a child in an open foster care (FC) case. Cases in the investigative phase are not eligible to apply for child care. The case must be in an open/active status. Specialized and Intensive Foster Care and Clinical Services (IFCCS) foster child care cases will also be approved on a case-by-case basis (follow exception criteria below). A child may also be in the process of being adopted, but the adoption has not been finalized. Services are provided to a child's family to prevent further abuse or neglect or to provide a stable and consistent routine for a child to compensate for stressful experiences. A child is eligible for child care through age 12. However, a child, 13 years old through age 18, who should not be left unsupervised or who has emotional problems may receive child care after the age of 12. Documentation should support the reasons child care is needed after age 12.

NOTE: Only children in the custody of South Carolina are eligible for child care services through the Child Care Scholarship Program. If the child is in the custody of another state, it is the sending state's responsibility to provide assistance to the child.

Only licensed child care providers may be used for CPS and FC child care. If there is a situation in which a licensed provider cannot be obtained, an exception to the policy will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis in order to determine approval by State Office. See [Exception Criteria for CPS and FC Child Care Cases](#) below. Also see [Out-of-State Provider](#).

2.11.1 EXCEPTION CRITERIA FOR CPS AND FC CHILD CARE CASES

Child care arrangements for CPS and Foster children must be in licensed facilities enrolled in the Child Care Scholarship Program. However, exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis. The Human Services (HS) worker should request exceptions via email to Shelah Strange at shelah.strange@dss.sc.gov. Documentation should also be made in the CAPSS system and the Case manager should coordinate with their supervisor to ensure the arrangement is appropriate. The request should detail the following:

- Caretaker's name and SSN
- CPS/FC child's name and SSN
- Reason the particular facility is requested

- Worker's assessment that the facility meets the child's assessed Needs
- Documented approval from the Human Service (HS) program supervisor for the child to receive child care services in a facility that is registered or exempt from regulatory requirements.

Approval for requests for exceptions are not guaranteed. Therefore, requests should be made as far in advance as possible. If the approval is granted by State Office, the child care worker must note the approval in the memo field.

2.11.2 APPLICATION PROCESS FOR CPS AND FC CHILD CARE

The HS worker will refer cases for child care to the child care worker using the DSS Form 3004, Child Care Referral Form. Child care services should be authorized by the child care worker prior to the start date for services. Therefore, referrals must be made in a timely manner.

The child care worker with a caseload in the county of case management (county in which the case originates) is responsible for determining eligibility for CPS and FC cases. This policy includes those cases managed through Specialized Foster Care and IFCCS. A CPS client will receive 12 months of child care.

NOTE: When a CPS case is closed or no longer active, the child care case will be terminated according to Child Care Scholarship Program's termination policy upon notification from the HS worker or via verification from agency databases.

2.11.3 CPS-IN

A case is considered to be a CPS-In case when the child continues to live in their own home. An application will be processed by the child care worker if the following eligibility criteria are met:

- The family must have an open treatment CPS case managed by an HS CM.
- The CPS family will receive up 12 months of child care per year.
- The parent/caretaker is the applicant, and all the information on the application relates to the family.
- The applicant **does not** have to meet the income guidelines or be working, in school or in training, because the service is provided in conjunction with protective services. However, if the client is working, in school or in training, the information must be verified.

- If the parent/caretaker refuses to provide income verification, the child care worker must enter income in the Child Care Scholarship Program database at \$1.00 below the 85% SMI maximum in order to capture and track the income.
- If the client is not working and has no income, income should be entered as \$0.
- There is no co-pay for this category of care but parents are responsible for paying the difference in what the Child Care Scholarship Program pays and what the child provider charges.

NOTE: CPS clients who are not working, in school, or training receive full-time child care for the purpose of supporting family stability.

The HS CM must provide information to the child care worker to include:

- Completed [DSS Form 3004](#), Child Care Referral Form
- Completed [DSS Form 3791](#), Child Care Scholarship Program Application.

NOTE: It is preferred that the parent/caretaker sign the application. If the parent/caretaker refuses to sign, it is recommended that the HS CM sign the application.

- Verification of income.

A CPS-In client must need the service for one of the following reasons:

- To enable the child to remain in the home while the parent pursues rehabilitation.
- To reduce the detrimental effects of abuse and neglect by providing the child with developmentally appropriate experiences in the areas of physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and language development.
- There is no co-pay for this category of care but if the client has income, it will be captured for reporting purposes.
- If the family's income is above the maximum 85% SMI amount, the fee is assessed at a \$1 less than the maximum 85 % exit amount. The family may be responsible for the difference in what the Child Care Scholarship system pays and what the child care provider charges.
- CPS clients who are not working, in school, or training receive full-time child care.

- The child is under the age of 13 (or the child is aged 13 -19 with Special Needs).

NOTE: A child who turns age 13 during their child care eligibility period will continue to receive services through the end of the current eligibility period.

2.11.4 CPS-OUT

A case is considered to be a CPS-Out case when the child is living in the home of a relative or designated caretaker.

An application must be processed by the child care worker, and the following eligibility criteria met:

- The family must have an open treatment CPS case managed by an HS CM.
- The CPS-OUT family will receive 12 months (52 weeks) of child care.
- The caretaker/relative is the applicant, and all the information on the application relates to the caretaker.
- There is no co-pay for this category of care but parents are responsible for paying the difference in what the Child Care Scholarship Program pays and what the child provider charges.
- The applicant **does not** have to meet the income guidelines or be working, in school or in training, because the service is provided in conjunction with protective services. However, if the client is working, in school or in training, the information must be verified.
- If the parent/caretaker refuses to provide income verification, the child care worker must enter income in the Child Care Scholarship Program database at \$1.00 below the 85% SMI maximum in order to capture and track the income.
- If the client is not working and has no income, income should be entered as \$0.
- The family may also be responsible for the difference in what the Child Care Scholarship system pays and what the child care provider charges.

NOTE: CPS clients who are not working, in school, or training will receive full-time child care, in order to support family stability.

The HS CM should provide information to the child care worker to include:

- Completed [DSS Form 3004](#), Child Care Referral Form
- Completed [DSS Form 3791](#), Child Care Scholarship Program application. **It is preferred that the caretaker sign the application. If the parent/caretaker refuses to sign, it is recommended that the HS CM sign the application.**
- Verification of income, if applicable.

A CPS-Out client must need the service for one of the following reasons:

- To enable the child to remain in the home of the caretaker/relative while the parent pursues rehabilitation.
- To reduce the detrimental effects of abuse and neglect by providing the child with developmentally appropriate experiences in the areas of physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and language development.
- The family is not responsible for the weekly copay but may be responsible for the difference in what the Child Care Scholarship system pays and what the child care provider charges.
- The child is under the age of 13 (or the child is aged 13 -19 with Special Needs).

NOTE: A child who turns age 13 during their child care eligibility period will continue to receive services through the end of the current eligibility period.

2.11.5 THE INTERSTATE COMPACT ON THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN (ICPC)

The ICPC is a statutory agreement between the states that governs the placement of children from one state to another. It includes requirements that states must follow before a child can be placed in another state. The purpose of the ICPC is to ensure that children placed in another state receive the same services, oversight and protections that would be afforded if they remained in their home state.

It is the sending states responsibility to pay for all child care costs.

2.11.6 FOSTER CARE CRITERIA

Child care services may be provided to a foster child if there is an open/active foster care case. A child in a licensed group home or emergency shelter is not eligible to receive child care. An application is completed in the name of the foster child. It is preferred that the application is signed by the foster parent on behalf of the foster child. Since the foster parent is caring for a child of the State,

no fee is charged for child care assistance for the foster child. However, a foster parent will be responsible for the difference between what the Child Care Scholarship Program pays for and what the provider charges. A foster child whose case is transferred to Adoption Services remains eligible for child care benefits until the adoption is finalized by the court, as long as the foster parent and/or adoptive parent meet the eligibility criteria for the Child Care Scholarship Program.

NOTE: A foster parent who owns a licensed or registered family child care or group child care home or center cannot receive child care assistance to provide child care for their own foster child.

The information on the application relates to the foster child and the foster child's income. The following eligibility criteria must be met if exception not granted:

- For entrance into the program, the foster child's monthly gross income shall not exceed 85% of the state median income based on a family size of one. The foster child may remain in the program, as long as the other eligibility criteria are met and the foster child's monthly gross income does not exceed 85% of the state median income for a family of one. Child care will be authorized for 12 months (52 weeks).
- Only the foster child's income is used for eligibility. The case must be entered using the foster child's actual income. If there is no income, enter \$0.
- The foster child is under the age of 13 (or the child is aged 13 -19 with Special Needs).
- The case is entered using the foster child's name and SSN.

NOTE: If the foster child does not have a valid SSN, the child care worker must use the child's birth date to construct a temporary pseudo SSN.

A client receiving assistance under this program can choose only licensed facilities or programs. The only exception is when the HS CM has received prior authorization from State Office Child Care Scholarship Program staff.

Child Care Licensing works in coordination with SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) as necessary to help obtain needed immunization records for foster children. Child care providers contact their regional licensing office.

when assistance is needed with obtaining immunizations and/or other health and safety paperwork. Child care licensing works with the foster care case manager as needed to obtain this information. Foster children are given a 90-day grace period to provide proof of immunizations.

2.11.7 CHILD CARE AFTER ADOPTION - ADOPTCC

Child care scholarships may be provided for a full 12 months (52) weeks in order to support the family when there is a child who is legally adopted child that once had an open/active foster care case in South Carolina. This applies only to children who were in the custody of SC Department of Social Services. Private adoptions, ICPC, or other out of state adoptions are not eligible to apply for child care under this category.

In order to qualify for child care under this category, the following criteria must be met:

- Child has been legally adopted and no longer has an open/active foster care case.
- The child care application should be in the name of the adoptive parent.
- The adoptive parent does not have to be working, in school, or in training.
- The adoptive parent does not have to be income eligible.
- The child needing care must be under the age of 13 or have a verified special need which may allow for services from the ages of 13-19.
- If the family's income is above the maximum entrance amount (but under the exit amount), the income entered into the database will be entered at a dollar less than the maximum 85% SMI.
- If the client is not working and has no income, income should be entered as \$0.
- One time - 12 months of care (52 weeks) of age-appropriate care will be given.
- The family must choose an enrolled ABC Quality provider.
- There is no co-pay for this category of care.

The process for applying for this category is:

- Adoptive parents may request a child care application by emailing FosterChildCare@dss.sc.gov.
- Adoptive parents must provide a copy of the adoption finalization court order.
- The adopted child will receive 12 months of child care if otherwise eligible. Upon receipt of the referral form and child care application, eligibility staff will check CAPSS to verify closure.

- Eligibility staff will determine eligibility and key, fund and connect the children to enrolled ABC Quality providers for 12 months of child care.
- The funding source will be AdoptCC.
- All applications will be tracked on the Foster Care spreadsheet under the tab Adopt Child Care.

Adopt CC child care is authorized only for the child who is being adopted. Other children in the home will be approved only if CCDF funding is available and the child care services will be dual funded and services aligned for all children.

2.11.8 SPECIALIZED AND IFCCS FOSTER CARE

Child care eligibility for a child in a licensed Specialized and IFCCS foster home may be approved on a case-by-case basis. These cases must be emailed to Shelah Strange, shelah.strange@dss.sc.gov, in Child Care Services. Follow [Exception Criteria for CPS and FC Child Care Cases](#).

Child care can only be considered when the child is placed in a licensed home. The referring Foster Care CM is responsible for:

- Completing the [DSS Form 3004](#), Child Care Referral Form
- Completing the [DSS Form 3791](#), Child Care Scholarship Program Application
- Obtaining the necessary signatures
- Requesting authorization from State Office to approve child care for a child in specialized or intensive foster care AND
- Submitting a waiver request, as appropriate, for use of a child care facility that is not licensed.
- There is no co-pay for this category of care.

2.11.9 CHILD CARE FOR BABY OF A FOSTER CHILD

A foster parent may receive child care assistance for the baby of a foster child when SCDSS does not have custody of the baby. The baby will be eligible as long as the mother (foster child) remains in foster care and the child resides in the care of the mother. The application should be entered in the name of the foster child and all income information will be based on the foster child's income. The funding category for this type of child care is Foster Care funding. There is no co-pay for this category of care. Children approved under this category will receive 12 months of child care.

If the minor foster child (in the case of a teen parent) is in a group home or shelter and has an open/active foster care case, services may be provided. The application would be entered in the teen parent's name and their income would be counted.

2.11.10 REUNIFICATION CHILD CARE

Child care may be provided for families where a foster child or a child in a family preservation case outside of the child's home is closed and the child is reunified with the Bio or Original Guardian.

In order to qualify for child care under this category, the following criteria must be met:

- Child has no longer has an open/active foster or family preservation case and has been reunified with the bio parent or original guardian.
- The child care application should be in the name of the Bio parent/guardian name.
- The parent does not have to be working, in school, or in training.
- The parent/guardian does not have to be income eligible.
- 52 weeks of age-appropriate care will be given.
- There is no co-pay for this category of care.
- The family must choose an enrolled ABC Quality provider.
- Would serve a family up to age 5 or 52 weeks, whichever is longest.
 - Example: If a child is reunified at the age of 2 years old, the child may receive services until they are 5 years old.
 - For sibling groups, for children over 5, they would receive 12 months (52 weeks) of child care only.

The process for applying for this category is:

- All DSS case involvement (foster or family preservation case) must be closed.
- Upon closure, the case manager will forward a child care referral form (DSS Form 3004) and the child care application into the Child Care Scholarship Eligibility Unit.
- Upon receipt of the referral form and child care application, eligibility staff will check CAPSS to verify closure.
- Eligibility staff will determine eligibility and key, fund and connect the children to enrolled ABC Quality providers for 12 months of child care.
- The funding source will be ReunifyCC
- All applications will be tracked on the Foster Care spreadsheet under the tab Reunify Child Care.

2.11.11 KINSHIP GUARDIANSHIP (KIN GAP)

Child care will be given for a full 12 months (52) weeks in order to support the family when there is a child who is transitioning out of foster care into a Subsidized Legal Guardianship arrangement with a kin or fictive kin caregiver, also known as Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (KinGAP) arrangement. This applies only to children who were in the custody of SC Department of Social Services. This funding is limited to one year.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Child has been placed with a licensed kinship guardian for a period of no less than six months and a court has granted that kinship caregiver subsidized legal guardianship, and there is no longer an open/active foster care case.
- The kinship guardian must provide proof of court order granting legal guardianship.
- The child care application should be in the name of the legal kinship guardian.
- The guardian does not have to be working, in school, or in training.
- The guardian does not have to be income eligible.
- The child needing care must be under the age of 13 or have a verified special need which may allow for services from the ages of 13-19.
- There is no copay for this category.
- If the family's income is above the maximum entrance amount (but under the exit amount), the income entered into the database will be entered at a dollar less than the maximum 85% SMI.
- If the client is not working and has no income, income should be entered as \$0.
- One time - 12 months of care (52 weeks) of age-appropriate care will be given following approval.
- The family must choose an enrolled ABC Quality provider.
- There is no copayment for this category, but parents are responsible for paying the difference in what the Child Care Scholarship Program pays and what the child provider charges.

Process:

- Qualifying kinship guardians may request a child care application by emailing FosterChildCare@dss.sc.gov.
- Kinship legal guardian must provide a copy of the court order granting legal guardianship.

- The child will receive 12 months of child care if otherwise eligible. Upon receipt of the child care application and court order, eligibility staff will check CAPSS to verify closure.
- Eligibility staff will determine eligibility and key, fund and connect the children to enrolled ABC Quality providers for 12 months of child care.
- The internal categorizing funding source used by ABC voucher staff will be KIN GAP.
- All applications will be tracked on the Foster Care spreadsheet under the tab Kin Gap Child Care.

2.12 NON-WELFARE LOW INCOME FAMILIES

These eligibility categories are used for an eligible client when they do not meet the criteria for:

- TANF or TANF CARES, [TANF Two-Parent Child Care](#) or [TANF - Child Only](#)
- [TCC1](#), [TCC2](#), [TCC24](#) or [TCC/FS](#)
- [Child Welfare Child Care](#).

If funding is available, an individual who is not eligible for the categories listed above may be determined eligible under other funding sources, as long as the following criteria are met:

- The applicant must need child care services in order to work or attend school or training. An exception may be made for a family where one parent is working, in school or training and the other parent is disabled, or both parents are disabled, either permanently or temporarily.
- The applicant needs a minimum of 15 hours of child care per week.
- The family's total gross income at the time of eligibility shall not exceed 85% of state median income based on family size.
- The applicant has a need for child care for a child(ren) under the age of 13 (or child aged 13 -19 with Special Needs).

NOTE: A child who turns age 13 during their child care eligibility period will continue to receive services through the end of the current eligibility period.

2.13 CRIMINAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

This eligibility category provides Child Care Scholarship for an individual living in a shelter to escape a domestic violence or sexual assault situation or who is receiving services from a state-funded domestic violence/sexual assault program. Parents must meet the basic Child Care Scholarship Program criteria and verification of participation with a State-funded domestic violence program as required.

Eligibility criteria for this category is as follows:

- Must be currently living in a criminal domestic violence shelter or participating in a shelter approved activity, such as counselling.
- Applicant must be working, in school, in training or seeking employment opportunities (counselling through the shelters count as training hours) a minimum of 15 hours per week.
- Must need child care a minimum of 15 hours per week.
- Must be 18 years old or an emancipated minor.
- Must be at or below 85% of State Median Income (SMI)
- There is no co-pay for this category of care.

2.14 HEAD START WRAP AROUND CHILD CARE SERVICES

Head Start provides child care wrap-around services to a parent whose child is enrolled in a Head Start program. Parents applying for Head Start child care will be approved for child care without regard to income and there are no work, school, or training requirements. The application is completed through the local participating Head Start program or Early Head Start program and child care eligibility is processed by the Child Care Scholarship Program staff. Applications submitted by Head Start are presumed to meet criteria for participation in Head Start and will be considered categorically eligible for a child care scholarship as a result.

If approved for services, the child must attend the Head Start approved child care site for a minimum of two weeks before transferring to another provider. Head Start clients are funded for a full 12 months and are given age-appropriate care based on the age of the child. However, when enrolled in the Head Start program, the Child Care Scholarship Program pays only part time in order to extend the Head Start day. Full time may be given when the Head Start programs are closed and child care is needed for full time during school closings and summer care.

Eligibility criteria for this category is as follows:

- Applicant must be eligible and enrolled in a Head Start program.
- There are no work, school, or training requirements on this category of funding.
- Families approved under this category will receive 12 months of child care services for the Head Start child.
- If the client is not working and has no income, income should be entered as \$0.
- If the family's income is above the maximum entrance amount (but under the exit amount), the income entered into the database will be entered at a dollar less than the maximum 85% SMI.
- Must have a child of early Head Start age (0-3 years old) and/or Head Start age (3- 5 years old) in need of child care services.
- This category does not have a co-pay.

2.15 FIRST STEPS

This partnership offers child care services for any child ages 0-5 of families that are participating in an evidence-based program as determined and verified by the individual SC First Steps Partnerships. The qualifying factors are:

- The family must in an evidence-based program.
- There are no work, school, or training requirements on this category of funding. Families approved under this category will receive 12 months of child care services. Clients approved under this funding will be approved for full time care unless otherwise requested.
- If the family's income is above the maximum entrance amount (but under the exit amount), the income entered into the database will be entered at a dollar less than the maximum 85% SMI.
- If the client is not working and has no income, income should be entered as \$0.
- There is no co-pay for this category of care.

2.16 SPECIAL NEEDS

Special Needs provides child care assistance to a parent who has a child with a documented disability or special need and is available to children from birth to age 19.

NOTE: A child who turns age 19 during their child care eligibility period will continue to receive services through the end of the current eligibility period.

Intake is handled through one of the following entities:

- County [Department of Disabilities and Special Needs](#) offices
- [BabyNet](#) offered through the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
- [Children's Rehabilitative Services](#) offered through Department of Public Health
- [SC School for the Deaf and Blind](#)
- [Easter Seals](#)
- [Bright Start](#)
- [SC Autism Society](#)
- Other contracted Early Intervention providers throughout the state

The child must have a special need as identified by one of the entities above, or must have a current Individualized Education Plan (IEP), IFSP or 504 Plan through their school, which specifies that they are receiving speech, occupational, or physical therapy. Child care applications for children who have IEPs can be obtained by calling Child Care Scholarship Program Special Needs at 1-803-898-9735. Additionally, children approved for child care under special needs will receive 12 months of child care from the date of approval.

An addendum must be included with the child care application. If there are multiple children in the family receiving services through an early interventionist or other entity listed above, each child must have their own addendum.

NOTE: All children with identified special needs are not automatically eligible for this fund source.

Eligibility is handled at the State Office. An applicant may be determined eligible under this category if the following criteria is met:

- Must be working, in school, in training, or disabled.
- Must have a child with a documented disability or special need and be referred from one of the above entities.
- Eligible children must be under the age of 19 years old.
- Must need child care a minimum of 15 hours per week.
- Must be 18 years old or an emancipated minor AND
- Must be at or below 85% of the state median income.
- There is no co-pay for this category of care.

NOTE: The IEP, IFSP and 504 plans must have a current start and end date. The signature page for IEPs, IFPs and 504 is not required. Addendums must also have current dates and must be signed by the Early Interventionist.

Special Needs child care is authorized only for the child who has special needs. Siblings of children approved for Special Needs child care will be approved only if CCDF funding is available and the child care services will be dual funded and services aligned for all children.

2.17 HOMELESS CHILD CARE

Child care assistance may be available for families experiencing homelessness. Child care slots are provided in coordination with the State Department of Education Homeless liaison and the four homeless coalition continuum of care organizations throughout the state:

- Eastern Carolina Homeless Organization
- Low Country Homeless Coalition
- Midlands Area Consortium for the Homeless
- United Housing Connections

According to the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness, a family will be considered homeless when they lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The lack of a fixed nighttime residence includes loss of housing, economic hardship, living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations or are living in emergency or transitional shelters. Furthermore, living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations or similar settings.

To qualify for funding for the homeless child care scholarship, a family must:

- Meet the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless (above)
- Must provide verification of homelessness via a letter on Coalition (if not school aged) or Department of Education letterhead (if the child in care is a school aged child) indicating that the family has been determined to meet the definition of homelessness as defined by the McKinney-Vento Act.

Note: For direct referrals, an in office third party verification is done to document that a family meets the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness. This verification cannot be done by the staff person that is also determining eligibility.

- Must be at or below 85% of the state median income at the time of application.

- Must be working, in school, in training or actively searching for work. A grace period of 90 days may be given to allow the parent the time to obtain documentation of employment, school or training. During the grace period, the children are allowed to enroll with a child care provider.
- If working, the most recent 30 days of pay stubs is preferred or a letter from the employer indicating the number of hours worked per week and the rate and frequency of pay.
- If in school, a copy of the current school schedule and proof of paid registration.
- If in a job search component, it should be indicated at the time the application is submitted. The applicant will be given 12 full months of eligibility.
 - If in a current drug and/or alcohol or mental health treatment program, it should be indicated at the time the application is submitted. The applicant will be given 12 full months of eligibility. If the family becomes employed after the 12 weeks of presumptive child care, eligibility will be extended, and a full 12 months of eligibility will be given.
- Must have a child under the age of 13 in need of child care services.

A family that is homeless may receive a maximum of 2 consecutive years of funding at the same address. Exceptions to policy may be made on a case by case basis with approval from the Program Manager.

If an applicant has an open SNAP case with the same address listed on the child care application, child care staff will use the homeless indicator in CHIP to confirm or deny homeless status. If the client has selected they are not homeless in an open CHIP case, the case will be denied.

Clients that apply and are denied for not meeting the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness or has exceeded the two consecutive years of funding at the same address and immediately reapply with a different address will be denied and will be subject to investigation of submitting fraudulent information for the purpose of obtaining child care services.

NOTE: A child who turns age 13 during their child care eligibility period will continue to receive services through the end of the current eligibility period.

Clients approved for funding under the homeless initiative will not have a co-pay. However, if the child care provider charges more than the Child Care Scholarship Program can pay, the provider may require the parent to pay the difference.

2.18 FAMILY LITERACY CHILD CARE

The purpose of this funding is to provide child care assistance to current high school students and/or individuals enrolled in an adult education program working on a high school diploma or GED. Participation in college does not count for this funding. Intake is primarily done by school counselors, nurses or other staff through the Department of Education. However, some referrals are made directly to State Office.

To qualify for the child care funding the parent:

- Must be actively seeking a high school diploma or GED.

NOTE: Applicants that are seeking a college degree or are homebound are not eligible to apply under this funding.

- Children needing care must be between the ages of 0-12.
- The minimum number of hours of participation required in order to receive child care is 15 hours per week.
- Applicants in school 15-24 hours per week will be given only half-time care. However, if the applicant also works, the work time will be included. If working and going to school a combined 25 or more hours per week, the family would be eligible for full-time care.
- Must provide a copy of their current school schedule.
- If working, provide the most recent 30 days of check stubs.
- Must be at or below 85% of the state median income.
- If approved, applicants will receive 12 months of child care.
- There is no co-pay for this category of care.

2.19 DUAL LANGUAGE LEARNERS (DLL)

Funding under the dual language learner program is intended to provide child care assistance to enable low-income children that are dual language learners to have access to high quality child care services. Referrals may be made from direct contact with a family or through the USC bilingual specialist with Child Care Resource and Referral.

To qualify for the child care funding the parent:

- Must be working, in school (ESL classes will count), in training, participating in a drug/alcohol or mental health treatment program or doing job search a minimum of 15 hours per week.
- Children needing care must be between the ages of 0 through 12.
- Must need a minimum of 15 hours of child care per week.
- Must be at or below 85% of the state median income.
- If approved, applicants will receive 12 months of child care.
- There is no copay for this category.

2.20 GENERAL CCDF/DISC FUNDING

CCDF/DISC funding may be available to low income working families that meet the income guidelines when funding permits.

Eligibility is handled at the State Office. An applicant may be determined eligible under this category if the following criteria is met:

- Must be working, in school, in training, or disabled.
- Must have a child between the ages of birth through 12 years old.
- Must need child care a minimum of 15 hours per week.
- Must be 18 years old or an emancipated minor AND
- Must be at or below 85% of the state median income.
- The parent must pay a fee based on their income.

2.21 EARLY HEAD START CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP

The Child Care Scholarship Program works with local Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP) to provide limited slots to the programs in order to provide child care funding to eligible families. Each eligible EHS-CCP is given a designated number of child care slots.

Eligibility is handled at the State Office. An applicant may be determined eligible under this category if the following criteria is met:

- Must be working, in school, in training, or disabled.
- Must have a child between under the age of zero and 2 years old.
- Must need child care a minimum of 15 hours per week.
- Must be 18 years old or an emancipated minor AND
- Must be at or below 85% of the state median income.
- There is not a copay for this category.

If eligible, 12 months of child care will be approved.

2.22 CCDF-CR FUNDING

Funding under CCDF for Caretaker Relatives may be available if a caretaker relative has custody of their nieces, nephews, or grandchildren and are otherwise not eligible for child care under any other category such as CPS or TANF/CO. This category is not for the non-related caretakers.

To qualify for this child care funding the following criteria must be met:

- Caretaker relative must have custody of the child in need of care.
- Caretaker relative is the applicant.
- Applicant can be working, in school, in training, or temporarily or permanently disabled.
- Retirement would be allowed for situations where the caretaker is retired.
- If income is provided, we will calculate the income:
- If income is zero, then zero dollars will be counted.
 - If the income is provided is above the allowable 85% SMI, the income will be entered at \$1 under the 85% SMI for the income to be captured.
 - If the family has no income, \$0 will be entered as the income.
 - There is no copayment for this category, but parents are responsible for paying the difference in what the Child Care Scholarship Program pays and what the child provider charges.

Requests for approval for this child care category should be sent to the Child Care Scholarship Program Manager for approval. If approved, 12 months of child care will be approved.

Note: Child care will be approved only for the nieces, nephews, or grandchildren of the relative caretaker applying for child care. The biological children of the caretaker relative will not be approved under this funding unless the Child Care Scholarship Program is accepting applications from the general public. In those cases, the child care will be dual funded.

2.23 4K PLUS SIBLINGS

In conjunction with SCDSS' partnership with First Steps, child care is offered to siblings ages 0 through 12 when there is an approved 4K child through First Steps. The qualifying factor for child care for siblings is that there must be an eligible child that is approved for the state 4K program.

When the family applies for the 4K program for their child, and the child is enrolled and has been approved for the 4K First Steps program, the client will receive an approval email from SC First Steps. The 4K First Steps application includes the application portion for child care, if needed. The application process is handled through Cognito database at First Steps.

The family must have at least one eligible 4K child approved for the 4K program through SC First Steps.

- There are no work, school, training or income requirements for the family.
- Clients are funded for a full 12 months and are given age-appropriate care based on the age of the child. However, when enrolled in the 4K+ Siblings program, the Child Care Scholarship Program pays only part time in order to extend the 4K day. Full time may be given when the schools are closed and child care is need for full day.
- Income for this category is entered as \$0.
- Older and younger siblings are approved for child care and given age-appropriate child care for 12 months (52 weeks) from the date they are determined eligible.
- There is no copay for this category, but parents are responsible for paying the difference in what the Child Care Scholarship Program pays and what the child provider charges.

NOTE: 4K Plus Siblings Applications that are submitted, and the client has services under a different funding source that does not expire until 6 months or more will not be processed until the originally funding category has ended. Exception: If a 4K Plus client needs to add a child. In those situations, we will allow the existing application to be closed out and all children aligned with 12 months of eligibility under the 4K Plus application.

2.24 STARLIGHT (RECOVERY)

The Child Care Scholarship Program works with the Starlight Program, a community for children with their mothers who have dealt with substance abuse. The purpose of the partnership between the Child Care Scholarship Program and Starlight is to provide child care assistance for families enrolled in this program so they may focus on their treatment. Referrals are made directly from the Starlight Program to designated child care staff. The families, when approved, are given 12 months eligibility. The criteria for this program are listed below:

- Parent must be enrolled in the Starlight program.
- Parents are not required to be working, in school, or in training.
- The Starlight Program will submit the child care application along with a verification letter indicating that the parent is participating in the program.
- There is no co-pay for the families, but parents are responsible for paying the difference in what the Child Care Scholarship Program pays and what the child provider charges.
- Income for this category is entered as \$0.
- Funding category is RECOVERY.

2.25 SNAP EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING (SNAP E&T)

The purpose of the SNAP E&T child care scholarship is to allow families participating in the SNAP E&T program to have access to quality child care assistance. Referrals are made directly from the SNAP E&T staff to the designated child care worker. For clients that call in and want to directly apply for the SNAP E&T program, the client should be directed to email their contact information to SNAP2WORK@dss.sc.gov. Child care staff do not make referrals to this program.

In order to qualify for a child care scholarship through the SNAP E&T, the E&T workers will identify families that are in need of child care services in order to complete their employment and training requirements at DSS and forward all supporting documents to the child care eligibility worker. Applicants must meet one of the following criteria in addition to participating with the program:

- Must be working, in school, in training or actively searching for work.
- Must be at or below 85% of SMI at the time of application.
- Must have a child under the age of 13 in need of child care services.

Clients approved for funding under the SNAP E&T scholarship will not have a co-pay. However, if the child care provider charges more than what the Child Care Scholarship Program can pay, the provider may require the parent to pay the difference.

The supporting documentation required for this category are:

- Completed DSS 3791 Child Care Scholarship Application
- DSS Form 1269 – Request for Support Services
- DSS Form 1234 – Client Referral/Communication Form
- Employment Plan
- If working:
 - The most recent 30 days of pay stubs is preferred or a letter from the employer indicating the number of hours worked per week and the rate and frequency of pay.
- If in school or training:
 - A copy of the current school schedule and proof of paid registration.
- DSS Form 3754 – Support Service Communication Form - To be sent **ONLY** when there are changes to be made.
- There is no copay for this category.

Clients approved under SNAP E&T will be given 12 months of eligibility.

2.26 STRONG START – 85% (Pause on application intake 12/1/2025)

Strong Start-85% funding may be available for families that meet the income guidelines and eligibility criteria when funding permits. Parents apply for Strong-Start-85% through the Child Care Scholarship Program Benefits Portal.

An applicant may be determined eligible under this category if the following criteria is met:

- Must be working, in school, in training, or temporarily or permanently disabled.
- Must have a child between the ages of birth through 12 years old.
- Must need child care a minimum of 15 hours per week.
- Must be 18 years old or an emancipated minor AND
- Must be at or below 85% of the state median income.
- A fee is assessed for this category.

NOTE: Applicants with income at or below 150% of poverty are not assessed a copay for this category.

Chapter 3

APPLICATION PROCESS

3.1 INTAKE AND APPLICATION

Since the passage of the South Carolina Family Independence (FI) Act, the majority of child care applications come through the county offices of the South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS) which is the focal point for TANF/Welfare Reform. However, when funds are available for other non-welfare low-income clients, an individual may apply for services through the Child Care Scholarship Benefit's portal, through specific categories of care or other entities that may be identified by SCDSS.

3.2 CHILD CARE APPLICATION

The Child Care Scholarship Program Application, [DSS Form 3791](#) and/or Child Care Scholarship Program Benefit's portal is the primary document used for determining eligibility. Other information such as pay stubs, tax forms, agency databases (including the TANF/SNAP database CAPSS, documentation in SCOSA, On-base etc.) may be used to determine eligibility but must be used in conjunction with the application. Every effort must be made to ensure that child care eligibility is processed into the Child Care Scholarship Program database as soon as verification is received. Processing time should be within 3-5 working days of the completed information being received. Processing times may be longer depending on the volume of work.

If the applicant meets eligibility criteria for funding under which they are applying, a determination is made that the family is eligible. When the family is eligible, all children under age 13 within the family are eligible. However, all children may not need child care services, or they may not meet the age requirements for funding sources. Additionally, a family may meet all eligibility requirements, but it does not ensure a family will receive child care under the Child Care Scholarship Program as there may be limited funding.

3.2.1 CLIENT AND RECIPIENT SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

The Child Care Scholarship Program currently collects (but cannot require) the client's/child's SSN on the child care application and uses the SSN as the primary client identifier in the database. Only the last four digits of the SSN are printed on any documentation that is sent out from the Child Care Scholarship Program. However, services will not be denied for an applicant or child who refuses to provide an SSN. In those instances, a pseudo SSN will be created.

3.2.2 PSEUDO/TEMPORARY SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

If the parent/caretaker or the child does not have an SSN, the child care worker may create a pseudo SSN using the following process:

- The first three positions of the temporary SSN should be zeros.
- The next two positions should be the child's month of birth.
- The last four positions should be the child's day and year of birth.

EXAMPLE: If the birth date is 3/4/06, the temporary SSN will be 000-03-0406. In the instance of multiple births, such as twins or if another child has the same birthday, the first child is 000, the second is 001, and so forth. **The same applies to situations where there is already an existing social security number in the system with the same pseudo.**

Child care staff must monitor these temporary numbers and obtain the actual SSN as soon as possible. Upon receipt of the correct SSN, staff should coordinate with the designated staff to update the pseudo social security number to the actual number in order to align the changes with the SVL. Once the change is made, the designates staff will document the memo field indicating the change has been made.

NOTE: Changes to names and social security numbers must be coordinated with designated staff to ensure that the changes do not affect a child care providers current payment.

3.2.3 TEMPORARY ABSENCE DURING CHILD CARE ELIGIBILITY PERIOD (IN LOCO PARENTIS)

Temporary absence of the primary parent/caretaker from the home may be due to reasons related to one of the following which requires the caretaker/guardian to act in loco parentis for the child:

- Work
- Military
- Educational and vocational training
- Institutionalization
- Joint custody arrangement
- Other circumstance.

The child remains eligible for child care as long as the primary parent/caretaker's permanent residence remains in South Carolina and the guardian responsible for the child has a need for child care in order to work, attend school/training. The Caretaker/Guardian must complete [DSS Form 37117](#), Guardianship/In Loco Parentis Verification.

NOTE: DSS Form 37117 or other verification of guardianship/in loco parentis status must be notarized.

Work Related Temporary Absence

If a family household member is temporarily absent from the home due to a work-related assignment, including military, they are considered part of the family household unit unless a separate legal residence is established.

Applications for in loco parentis cases should be done in the name of the biological parent and their information used for eligibility determination.

Temporary Absence Due to Educational/Vocational Training

An individual temporarily absent due to participation in an educational or vocational program remains eligible for child care as long as their permanent residence remains that of the child. Examples of educational/vocational training include colleges, technical schools, and training centers

Applications for this category should be done in the name of the biological parent and their information used for eligibility determination.

3.2.4 CUSTODY VERIFICATION

When custody is in question, verification may be required. Acceptable methods of verification include, but are not limited to:

- Legal court documentation showing custody or guardianship OR
- Verification of custody/guardianship via CAPSS.
- If in the TANF budget, custody has already been verified, CHIP may be used as verification.

Note: Signed, notarized statement from one or both parents will no longer be accepted as proof of temporary or permanent guardianship/custody.

When custody is split between the mother and the father, only one parent may apply for child care. Whichever parent has 51% of physical custody should apply. In instances where the mother and father were never married and thus does not have custody documents, the custody will default to the mother. Regardless if custody is split 50/50, only one parent may apply for child care. See [MISUSE OF SERVICES](#)

The applicant that is applying for child care must have physical and legal custody of the child in need of care. If the child in need of child care is in an open SNAP case under another parent or guardian, that person must apply for child care for that child or the child must be removed from that open SNAP case before the child care application can be processed.

3.2.5 SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

It is encouraged that the child care application be signed and dated by the applicant before the application is processed and before services are rendered. However, this is not required if all other eligibility criteria is met.

Note: When applying through the benefits portal, the system records a submission date along with the printed name of the client. This satisfies the signature requirements.

3.3 APPLICANT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon being approved for child care, the parent/caretaker receives a copy of their rights and responsibilities in an eligibility packet mailed to them. Additionally, the rights and responsibilities are available to the applicant on the last page of the application.

3.3.1 APPLICANT RIGHTS

The applicant has the right to:

Choose one of the following types of providers:

- Child care center
- Family child care home
- Group child care home
- Church facility
- Neighbor, friend or relative.

NOTE: A client receiving services under Child Protective Services or Foster Care may choose only a licensed facility or program (unless otherwise approved for a waiver to policy). See [Exception Criteria for CPS and FC Child Care Cases.](#)

Receive a fair hearing, regarding any decision which results in the denial or termination of services, provided that decision is not due to lack of funding as lack of funding is not an appealable issue. The Notice of Appeal shall be in writing to:

Individual and Provider Rights, SCDSS
P.O. Box 1520
Columbia, SC 29202-1520

Note: Please include your contact information: First and last name, telephone number, and email address.

Make complaints or discuss areas of concern or suggestions regarding the Child Care Scholarship Program or their child care provider by calling 1-800-763-2223.

Visit their child anytime that they are in the provider's care.

3.3.2 APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of the applicant to keep their contact information and address current with the Child Care Scholarship Program and to report if they lose employment, if they disenroll or stop attending and education or training program or if their family income exceeds 85% of state median. Current state median income amounts may be found at www.scchildcare.org.

Any change reporting in the above information should be reported to the Child Care Scholarship Control Center at 1-800-476-0199 or via email to scchildcare@dss.sc.gov.

3.3.3 VERBAL ABUSE BY A CLIENT

If a client curses or yells at any SCDSS staff, the client will be sent an official email by the Program Manager after the first offense. The email will describe the incident and inform the client that another such incident may result in the denial of their services. The information will also be documented in the Child Care Scholarship database. If the second offence occurs, the denial of their services will be initiated. The AWS phone system recordings will be used as proof of the incidents, when applicable.

3.4 CHILD CARE INCOME STANDARDS

When determining if an applicant meets the income requirements for initial approval for child care services through the Child Care Scholarship Program, the total family size, see [Family Definition](#) and the total gross income for the family must be at or below 85% SMI, see Child Care Income Standards ([Appendix 1](#)).

3.4.1 ASSESSMENT OF FEES

Within the Child Care Scholarship Program, there are co-payments and registration fees. The co-pay is the parents share of the weekly child care costs and the registration fee is used to pay a portion of the enrollment costs to the child care provider. The Child Care Scholarship Program does not pay for activity, transportation, or other fees outside of the weekly child care or registration fees.

Once it is determined that the client meets the income guidelines, the Child Development Fee Scale ([Appendix 2](#)) is used to determine the weekly co-pay for the client, if applicable. The copay is the fee that is to be paid by the client directly to the child care provider. The fee is per week, per child. The CCDF regulations require that copayments not be set above 7% of the family income. The Child Care Scholarship Program copayments are currently 2% or less.

Copayment amounts can be found on the sliding fee scale at:

<https://www.scchildcare.org/media/gtvb1pjk/fee-scale-2024-2025.pdf>

Note: Clients that are under the protective service definition per the CCDF State Plan do not have co-pays.

If a copayment is assessed for a family, the copayment amount will not be increased at any time during the 12-month eligibility regardless of the changes in the household. If the change in the household would decrease the copay, the fee may be reassessed, when applicable, since a lower copayment would benefit the family.

Note: Effective 10/01/2024, clients that have income at or below 150% of federal poverty level, regardless of funding source, will not be assessed a copay.

3.4.2 CLIENT COPAYMENTS

Co-payments are based on family size and gross monthly income and are assessed according to the Child Care Fee Scale. This is a weekly fee, when applicable, and applies to all children receiving care. Each provider is responsible for collecting this fee, from the parent, in advance of service delivery. The Child Care Scholarship Program assumes no responsibility for collection or payment of copays.

Families that meet the agency definition of “protective services” do not have a co-payment.

If a copayment is assessed for a family, the copayment amount will not be increased at any time during the 12-month eligibility regardless of the changes in the household. If the change in the household would decrease the copay, the fee may be reassessed, when applicable, since a lower copayment would benefit the family.

Note: Effective 10/01/2024, clients that have income at or below 150% of federal poverty level, regardless of funding source, will not be assessed a copay.

NOTE: Although many funding sources do not have a client fee, if the providers' rate exceeds the maximum rate allowed by the Child Care Scholarship Program, the client is responsible for paying the difference to the provider.

3.4.3 REGISTRATION FEES

Registration fees are set amounts established by the provider to cover costs not included in the weekly rate. The Child Care Scholarship Program will pay registration fees to providers up to an established program maximum per child per calendar year. Regardless of the number of different providers who may provide services to the child during the eligibility period, total registration fees paid for a child will not exceed the established program maximum for a one-year calendar period.

EXCEPTION: If a provider closes their facility and a client is forced to find another provider, the Child Care Scholarship Program may pay a registration fee to the new provider regardless of whether the client has already used their allocation of the registration fees. These are rare incidences and must be approved by the Program Manager. The provider may require the client to pay a registration fee due even if the client has already used their registration fee allocation for the eligibility period. Registration fees are automated and paid on a provider's SVL after a child has had three consecutive paid weeks of services. The number of allowable instances will be determined on a case-by-case basis and must be approved by the Program Manager.

3.5 ELIGIBILITY WORKSHEET

Eligibility staff use the Child Care Scholarship Program Client Eligibility Worksheet, [DSS Form 37110](#), when determining eligibility for all applicants. The eligibility worksheet is a tool to be used in order to provide consistent eligibility determination.

CHIP should be checked on all applications regardless of funding source. On the eligibility worksheet, it should be documented that CHIP was checked. CHIP screens are required to be printed **only** for seamless transitional cases.

NOTE: Seamless eligibility of TANF to TCC1 does not require a new application; however, the eligibility worksheet and supporting documentation (such as the TANF/SNAP print screens) must be included in the child care case.

3.6 NOTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

When a client is entered into the Child Care Scholarship Program database, an Eligibility Letter is sent to the client informing them of their eligibility. In addition to the letter of eligibility, the parent receives an eligibility packet that includes the following:

- a. Parent handbook,
- b. Options sheet for choosing a child care provider
- c. Holiday schedule
- d. Copy of the client rights and responsibilities

- e. Connection form
- f. Earned income tax credit information.
- g. Help Me Grow Health Screening brochure.

Chapter 4 **Provider Authorization**

4.1 PROVIDER AUTHORIZATION/CONNECTION

Prior to taking a child to an enrolled Child Care Scholarship Program provider, the parent must complete a connection form; a pre-printed form. The connection form must be signed and dated by both the client and the child care provider. Once completed, the connection form must be sent to the Control Center in order for the child to be connected with the selected child care provider. Connection forms may be sent in one of the following ways:

By Email (Preferred):

Connectionforms@dss.sc.gov

Via fax:

1-800-310-5417

By Mail:

Child Care Scholarships Program
P.O. Box 100160
Columbia, South Carolina
29202-3160

The provider should not begin serving the child until they receive written or verbal authorization from the Child Care Scholarship Program that the connection has been approved. Email confirmation from The Child Care Scholarship Program should be accepted as verification. If a provider serves a client outside the authorized period (start and stop dates), the client is responsible for the full cost of the service.

Connections are made for the Monday of the week the connection form is received or for a future date of service if specified or for other dates indicated in the memo field by eligibility staff. Connections will not be backdated prior to the week of receipt unless otherwise authorized by the Control Center Supervisor

or other designee. Cases where there is not a discrepancy between providers on who served the child and there is a need to backdate to prevent a gap in services may be approved if the date is within a three-month time frame. Dates outside of the three months must be approved by a manager.

Note: Control Center staff may make connections over the phone when they receive a telephone call or email from the client or child care provider and they can confirm with both that the child will be starting and on what date.

4.1.1 PARENTAL CHOICE

A parent is legally and morally responsible for their child and has the right to select the child care provider of their choice. Finding suitable child care is one of the most important decisions that a parent can make. The goal of any interaction between a parent and staff is to ensure that the applicant receives adequate information to make choices that provide stable and reliable child care. A parent receiving Child Care Scholarship Program assistance is offered a broad range of options in addressing their child care needs. A client eligible for child care may visit, abcqualitycare.org or scchildcare.org to search for available enrolled child care providers. For clients that do not have access to the internet, they may request a list of providers by calling the Child Care Scholarship Program Control Center. A parent has the option of choosing the provider who will care for their child, whether the provider is a:

- Child care center
- Family or group day home
- Church or synagogue
- School
- Employer
- Family, Friend, and Neighbor

Note: For family preservation (CPS and FC cases), client may choose only licensed child care programs unless a waiver has otherwise been approved.

4.1.2 PROVIDER SELECTION

As with all child care categories, if the provider chosen is not currently enrolled in the Child Care Scholarship Program, the child care worker should:

A. Send an email to designated Control Center staff with the following information:

- a. client name and SSN,
- b. if known, provider's name and
- c. complete address (street, city, state, zip),
- d. contact telephone number, including area code,
- e. provider's FEIN/SSN, if known.

B. Ensure, prior to sending the email, if a new Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) provider is chosen, that basic FFN criteria is met. See Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care Providers. If a Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care (In the Child's Home) (FNI) arrangement is needed, ensure that FNI provider criteria is met. See Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care (In the Child's Home) (FNI), i.e., to ensure that there are at least five children from that family requiring care.

4.1.3 CLIENT PASSWORDS

A client is encouraged to establish a password to be assigned to their client file. This ensures a level of security that will prevent an individual, other than the actual client, to call and obtain information about the client's child care case.

In order to create a password, the following actions are taken:

- Verify client's SSN in order to access the file.
- Verify client's mailing address.
- Verify at least one child's birth date.
- Have the client establish a six-character password upon verification of the above information. The password can be either letters or numbers, or a combination of the two. The client should refrain from using symbols or punctuation marks.

NOTE: The password is NOT case sensitive.

Advise the client that if they lose or forget the password or wish to change the password at any time, they will have to supply a copy of their driver's license along with a request to change their password via mail or fax before the password can be changed and before further information can be given.

NOTE: Advise the client NOT to share their password with anyone. Proceed with the call.

For a file with an existing password:

- Verify client's SSN in order to access the file.
- Verify client's mailing address.
- Ask the client to verify their password.
- **If the password is correct:** Have the client verify at least one of their child's birth dates. If the client can provide the correct date, proceed with the call.
- **If the password is not correct:** Advise the client that they will have to supply a copy of their driver's license along with a request to change their password via mail or fax before the password can be changed and before further information can be given.

4.1.4 MAXIMUM CARE ALLOWED

An eligibility period is defined as a period of 12 months (52 weeks) for which a client is determined eligible. When eligible, a full 12 months of care is given. This may be full-time care, half-time care, [less-than-half-time care \(LHT\)](#) or any combination of the three. Additionally, an applicant may have an older child who needs care only when school is out, such as during summer, spring break or a holiday. It is permissible to fund and connect only the services needed in this situation however, the client will be given a full 12 months of eligibility.

NOTE: LHT care is used only for the Welfare Reform (FI, TCC1, TCC2, TCC/24 and TCC/FS) child care eligibility categories. LHT care may be used in conjunction with a full- time or half-time care arrangement or it may be used alone. It cannot be used to pay the same child care provider.

4.1.5 MEMO FIELD DOCUMENTATION

The memo field is the official documentation within the Child Care Scholarship Program database. All conversations, information, and actions regarding the specific client or child care provider should be documented with each instance and as the actions occur. The memo field is used for appeals, Freedom of Information (FOIA) requests, and to maintain historical information. The memo field is not to be used as an editorial and the information documented should be specific to each action taken on the case. Clear information on what actions have been taken on a case should be notated as well as the following information:

- Date
- What actions taken. (funding, connections, information provided, who you spoke with if during a conversation, etc)

NOTE: If connecting a child to a provider, the name of the child should be listed, the dates of the connections (straight date range if all full time or all half time and a breakdown of the connection weeks if the child receives a combination of full and part time care)

- Child Care worker name should always be notated at the end of each memo field entry.

4.1.6 FUNDING/CONNECTING A CHILD UNDER THE APPROPRIATE AGE GROUP

When a child is being funded and connected to a particular child care facility, the facility may not be enrolled for the age group of the child. The Child Care Scholarship Program has the age groups 0-1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5-12 not in kindergarten, 5-12 in school, and 13-19 for special needs and foster children that need care after 13 years of age. If during the connection process, the provider of choice is not authorized for the care type that the child is in, but the child is within six months of going into the next age group, the funding and connections can be made under the next age level. **NOTE:** The child remains under the original funded age group for the entire eligibility period unless the child is within six months of being in another age group and the provider is not authorized for the original age group they were funded under.

EXAMPLE: If a child is two years old and will be three within six months and the provider of choice is not authorized for the 2-year-old rates, the child can be funded and connected under the 3 year old rates.

The child will remain under the originally approved age group for the duration of the 12-month eligibility.

4.1.7 DUAL FUNDING

Dual funding is the process by which multiple children in a family are eligible under different fund sources during the same child care eligibility period. Dual funding situations are rare but are generally used when one child in a family is eligible for special needs child care and one or more other children are eligible under another funding source. Dual funding applies to a family with multiple children only and cannot be used to add more than one fund source for the same child.

It is the responsibility of the person determining the most recent eligibility to process the case as dual funded.

EXAMPLE: Child 01 may be eligible under Special Needs and child 02 may be eligible under Strong Start – 85%.

4.1.8 NOTICE OF CONNECTION TO A CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP PROVIDER

Once the client has been connected to a particular child care provider, an Authorization/Connection Letter is mailed to the client and the selected child care provider. The letter includes the following:

- Client name and last four digits of the SSN
- Authorization period (start and stop dates)
- Name of child to receive the service
- Assessed fee, if applicable
- Type of care
- Number of weeks authorized.

A client may receive more than one authorization letter if they:

- Change from one provider to another
- Receive full-time service part of the year and half-time service the remainder of the year
- Receive a combination of full-time, half-time or less than half-time services.

4.2 IMMUNIZATIONS

All children receiving services through the Child Care Scholarship Program must be age-appropriately immunized as outlined in the U.S. recommended immunization schedule; see the following links:

[Recommended Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 0 Through 6 Years](#)

[Recommended Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 7 - 18 Years](#)

[Catch-up Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 4 Months Through 18 Years](#)

An applicant for the Child Care Scholarship Program self-certifies that the child for whom they are requesting child care services has received all required immunizations. A child whose parent objects to immunizations on religious grounds or a child whose medical condition contraindicates immunization are exempt from the immunization requirement.

Exception Families that are experiencing homelessness or children in foster care are given a 90-day grace period to provide proof of immunization. During this grace period, children are allowed to enroll with a child care provider.

Chapter 5

PROVIDER INFORMATION

5.1 CHILD CARE PROVIDER DEFINITIONS

All program specific eligibility criteria, processes and policies for child care providers for approval and participation in the ABC Quality Program may be found by visiting www.abcquality.org.

5.1.1 CHILD CARE CENTER (CCC)

A child care center (CCC) is a facility operating with a capacity of 13 or more children. A CCC must be licensed or approved if the program operates more than four hours per day and more than two days a week. A program that operates less than four hours per day may keep children during the week and during school vacations and holidays and be exempt from licensing.

5.1.2 GROUP CHILD CARE HOME (GCCH)

A group child care home (GCCH) is a facility operating with a capacity from seven to 12 children. A GCCH may care for eight children without an additional caregiver. When the attendance reaches nine, or there are more than three children under the age of 24 months, an additional caregiver must be present at all times. In addition, there must be an emergency backup person available who is not included in the staff-to-child ratio. Since August 25, 2000, a GCCH may not be operated in a separate building; it must be in the residence of the operator. As of September 1, 2009, all GCCH's must meet the same fire codes as a CCC, and some county zoning offices no longer allow GCCH's. A provider who resides in a mobile home should contact the State Fire Marshall's Office at 803-896-9800 to determine if the structure meets fire codes.

5.1.3 FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME (FCCH)

A family child care home (FCCH) is a provider that may provide care for up to six children at any given time. Registration or licensure is required if a person provides care to more than one unrelated family or child on a regular basis (more than two days a week and more than four hours a day).

5.1.4 FAMILY, FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR CARE (FFN)

A family, friend, and neighbor (FFN) is a provider who is unregulated and is not required to meet licensing/regulatory requirements.

5.2 REQUIRED REGULATORY STATUS

In order to enroll in the Child Care Scholarship Program, a provider must be appropriately regulated as required by [SC Child Care Licensing Law](#) as follows:

5.2.1 CHILD CARE CENTER (CCC)

A CCC serving 13 or more children and operating for more than four hours per day is required to be licensed, whether the center is for-profit, non-profit or private. This requirement does not apply to the following:

- Educational facility, whether private or public, which operates solely for educational purposes in grade one or above.
- Five-year old kindergarten program.
- Kindergarten or nursery school or other daytime program operating no more than four hours per day and receiving children younger than lawful school age.
- Facility operating for more than four hours a day in connection with a shopping center or service or other similar facility where the same children are cared for less than four hours a day and not on a regular basis while a parent or custodian is occupied on the premises or is in the immediate vicinity.

- School vacation or school holiday day camp for children operating in district sessions running less than three weeks per session.
- Summer resident camp for children.
- Bible school normally conducted during a vacation period.
- Facility for the intellectually disabled.
- CCC owned and operated by a local church congregation or an established religious denomination or a religious college or university which does not receive State or federal financial assistance for child care services.

5.2.2 GROUP CHILD CARE HOME (GCCH)

A GCCH operating in a residence where the provider cares for at least seven but not more than 12 children, including children living in the home and children received for child care who are related to the operator, is required to be licensed.

5.2.3 FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME (FCCH)

A FCCH operating in a residence where the provider cares for up to six children may be registered or licensed. Registration is required if a provider cares for more than one unrelated child on a regular basis (more than two days a week and more than four hours a day). An FCCH which chooses to become licensed will have to meet additional requirements.

NOTE: A child care facility which is not required to be regulated by SCDSS must have approval by SCDSS in order to participate in the Child Care Scholarship Program.

5.2.4 PROVISIONAL LICENSES

In order to enroll in the Child Care Scholarship Program as an ABC Quality provider a Level A, Level B, Level C or Level P provider, the provider must have a regular license. A Level A or Level B provider may remain in the Child Care Scholarship Program if they receive a provisional license at subsequent license renewals. However, must obtain a regular license within a reasonable amount of time as determined by ABC Quality.

5.2.5 PROVIDERS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR ENROLLMENT OR RE-ENROLLMENT IN ABC QUALITY

All program specific eligibility criteria, processes and policies for child care providers For approval and participation in the ABC Quality Program may be found by visiting www.abcquality.org.

5.2.6 DUAL EMPLOYMENT OF A CHILD CARE PROVIDER

If a family, friend and neighbor or family child care provider is chosen by the parent is a State employee, verification must be obtained to ensure that the State employment hours of the provider do not coincide with the hours they are providing child care. The ABC Quality – Provider Enrollment, DSS Form 37108, must include this information.

5.2.7 WHEN NEW/UPDATED PROVIDER PAPERWORK IS REQUIRED

New provider paperwork for the Child Care Scholarship Program is required at the following periods for all provider types:

- Initial enrollment
- Re-enrollment

EXAMPLE: When a Level A, B, C or P provider has been terminated and has waited the mandatory one year to re-enroll.

- When a provider changes FEIN/SSN information
- When there is a change in ownership.
- When an FFN provider begins caring for an additional family or has been inactive and begins serving a new family.
- When a provider moves.
- When a facility changes its name (additionally, a letter from the provider explaining the reason for the change is required).

5.3 HEALTH AND SAFETY PRE-SERVICE TRAINING

In 2014, the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act was signed into law reauthorizing the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program. All child care providers in the ABC Quality program as well as Family, Friend and Neighbor Providers must complete the certificate. As part of the new law, all newly hired employees of ABC Quality providers are required to complete the SC Health & Safety Pre-Service Certificate and certification of Pediatric First Aid & Infant/Child CPR within 90 days of hire.

The SC Health & Safety Pre-Service Certificate:

- Is a free on-line course offered through Pro-Solutions.
- Links to the courses can be found at www.sc-cccd.net or www.scchildcare.org.
- The Certificate must be completed for all caregiving staff prior to enrollment and after enrollment, new staff must complete within 90 days of hire.
- All courses will be counted as DSS training hours in the designated topic areas for the calendar year in which they were taken. See attached chart for courses, topic areas, and credit hours.
- Individuals must complete all required courses to receive the SC Health & Safety Pre-Service Certificate.
- Pediatric First Aid and Infant/Child CPR certification:
 - Is offered at no cost, as long as funding remains available, to ABC Quality providers through the National Safety Council. Please contact them at 803- 732-6778 for information.
 - Must be completed by all caregiving staff prior to enrollment and after enrolment, new staff must complete within 90 days of hire.
 - Other CPR/First Aid trainings are acceptable if they meet ABC criteria, but you will be required to cover the cost of the training.

NOTE: On-line CPR/First Aid training is not accepted.

The 15-hour Pre-Service Training course content includes:

- Child Development: Milestones from Birth to Age 12 (1 Hour)
- Keeping Children Safe: Building and Classroom Safety (1 Hour)
- Essentials of Outdoor Safety in South Carolina (2 Hours)
- Emergency Preparedness: Better Safe Than Sorry! (1 Hour)
- Responding to Medical Emergencies (1 Hour)
- Recognizing and Reporting Suspected Child Abuse in South Carolina (2 Hours)
- Transportation Safety Basics in South Carolina (1 Hour)
- My Plate: Helping Children Make Healthy Food Choices (1 Hour)
- Infectious Disease Control, Immunizations, Bloodborne Pathogens and Bio Contaminants: Kick Those Germs to the Curb! (1 Hour)
- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) (1 Hour)
- Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome, Abusive Head Trauma and Child Maltreatment (1 Hour)
- Administering Medication in Child Care Settings (1 Hour)
- Prevention of and Response to Different Types of Allergies (1 Hour)

In addition to the required 15 hours of pre-services training being done within 90 days of enrollment, the provider is also required to complete 10 hours of annual training.

5.4 Grants

5.4.1 PROVIDER GRANTS

As funding permits, grants may be offered to providers. Providers who receive a grant are required to comply with the grant agreement and comply with all terms and conditions of the grant. If the provider does not comply by staying in the program for the required amount of time or does not purchase the approved items in the grant, recoupment of grant funds will be initiated for all or part of the grant as applicable. This will be done, when possible, by withholding the provider's last payment. Recoupment of grants is not appealable. Therefore, providers should evaluate their personal situations before committing to the requirements of the grant.

If a previous recoupment has been initiated against the provider perhaps because of an audit, overpayment, or if the provider owes money to the Government due to an IRS lien, and funds are being recouped from the provider through their payments, then the provider will not be eligible for any grants offered at that time due to the fact that Child Care Scholarship will automatically take the grant money in payment towards the recoupment or lien. If at the time a grant is offered and the provider is under a repayment for an IRS Lien, the provider should not enter into the grant as the IRS will intercept this money for repayment.

5.4.2 NON-COMPLIANCE WITH GRANT TERMS

If the provider does not comply by staying in the Child Care Scholarship Program for the required amount of time, if applicable, either voluntarily or involuntarily, or does not spend the grant funds as requested and approved, recoupment of grant funds will be initiated.

SCDSS reserves the right to disqualify the provider for any future grants. This is not appealable.

NOTE: Failure to use grants funds properly may result in the initiation of an audit by the Program.

5.4.3 RECOUPMENT OF GRANT FUNDING

If a recoupment has been initiated against the provider perhaps because of an audit, overpayment, or if the provider owes money to the Government due to an IRS lien, and funds are being recouped from the provider through their payments, then the provider will not be eligible for any grants offered at that time due to the fact that the Child Care Scholarship Program will automatically take the grant money in payment towards the recoupment or lien.

NOTE: Recoupment of grant funds is not appealable.

5.5 CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM PARENT, CARETAKER, OR GUARDIAN WHO OWNS A CHILD CARE PROGRAM

A Child Care Scholarship Program parent, caretaker or guardian, to include a foster parent, who owns a licensed or registered FCCH, licensed GCCH, or center, will not receive child care assistance to provide child care for their own child, a child in their custody, or a foster child.

5.6 LICENSING/REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

State regulatory requirements mandate that CCCs and GCCHs be licensed and that FCCHs be licensed or registered. A CCC or GCCH owned and operated by a local church congregation or established religious denomination or religious college/university must be licensed in order to receive federal or State funds if the program operates more than four hours per day.

The SCDSS Child Care Licensing (CCL) should be contacted to report a possible violation of the law any time staff believe a provider is exceeding their licensed capacity and serving more children than allowed under State regulatory law.

5.6.1 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICES REQUIREMENTS

The Child Care Scholarship Program complies with Internal Revenue Services (IRS) regulations and sends an IRS Form 1099, for payments made to a provider who participates in the Child Care Scholarship Program. Form 1099 will be mailed by January 31st of each year. A Form 1099 is sent to all child care providers, except corporations, who are paid \$600 or more by the State during the tax year. A provider should contact the IRS for more information.

All providers, including FFN providers, are considered independent business owners and are not considered an employee of the State of South Carolina. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the provider to pay applicable taxes on all money earned.

5.6.2 PROVIDER PASSWORDS

A provider is encouraged to establish a password to be assigned to their provider file. This ensures a level of security that will prevent an individual, other than the actual provider, to call and obtain information about the provider's information. In order to create a password, the following actions are taken:

- Verify provider's FEIN or SSN in order to access the file.
- Verify the provider's mailing address.
- Have the provider establish a six-character password upon verification of the above information. The password can be either letters or numbers, or a combination of the two. The provider should refrain from using symbols or punctuation marks.

NOTE: The password is NOT case sensitive.

Advise the provider that if they lose or forget the password or wish to change the password at any time, they will have to supply a copy of their driver's license and along with a request to change their password via mail or fax before the password can be changed and before further information can be given.

NOTE: Advise the provider NOT to share the password with anyone. Proceed with the call.

For a file with an existing password:

- Verify provider's FEIN or SSN in order to access the file.
- Verify the provider's mailing address.

Ask the provider to verify their password.

- **If the password is correct**, proceed with the call.
- **If the password is not correct**: Advise the provider that they will have to supply a copy of their driver's license along with a request to change the password via mail or fax before the password can be changed and before further information can be given.

NOTE: Child care providers that want to receive their SVL online must have an established password in order to set up the online account.

5.7 PROVIDER SELECTIONS AND TYPES

A provider is selected by an individual client after the client is determined eligible, funded, and notified that they may choose a provider. A client is given a wide range of child care options, including:

- Center-based care
- Family child care home (FCCH)
- Group child care home (GCCH)
- Church or synagogue
- School
- Employer
- Care by a Family, Friend, or Neighbor.

The client may request to receive a list of enrolled ABC Quality providers to assist them with choosing a provider, or may visit www.scchildcare.org or www.abcquality.org. The client may choose a provider from the list or any provider willing to participate and enroll in the Child Care Scholarship Program. The provider must complete certain documents which are required before they can be authorized to serve a child and receive reimbursement. The types of providers are:

- Level A, B and C or P
- Non-related Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care Out of child's home (FNO)
- Non-related Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care In the child's home (FNI).

- Related Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care Out of the child's home (FRO).
- Related Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care in the child's home (FRI).

NOTE: The Child Care Scholarship Program may enroll and reimburse regulated center-based, group or family child care providers that operate outside the state of South Carolina, that are also border states (Georgia and North Carolina only) unless the case is a family preservation case. For family preservation cases, child care arrangements may be approved for any state that takes the children from the case. Out of state Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) providers will be approved only for child protective service and foster care cases and only with prior approval of the arrangement by the designated program staff and human service worker.

5.7.1 REPORTS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT

State law requires a provider to immediately report suspected child abuse or neglect to SCDSS, Department of Child Protective and Preventive Services or local law enforcement. A provider must also notify other SCDSS staff as follows when they have been reported for suspected child abuse or neglect:

- Regulated facilities – Report to Child Care Licensing
- Exempt Providers – Report to ABC Quality
- FFN provider – report to Child Care Scholarship Control Center staff.

A client who suspects child abuse or neglect will be directed to contact the SCDSS Department of Child Protective and Preventive Services in the county in which they reside.

5.7.2 PROCESS FOR ENROLLMENT

All program specific eligibility criteria, processes and policies for child care providers for approval and participation in the ABC Quality Program may be found by visiting www.abcquality.org.

Upon determination by ABC Quality that the provider meets the qualifications to enroll, ABC Quality forwards the following completed forms to the Control Center:

- Enrollment Form, DSS Form 37108

- Provider Agreement, DSS Form 37101
- Provider Rate Form, DSS Form 37107
- Copy of provider's published child care rates (unless a Federal Head Start Program)
- IRS Form W-9
- Copy of IRS Form SS-4 or IRS Letter 147-C – if operating under a federal identification number (FEIN) OR
- Copy of the social security card if operating under an SSN. Print outs from the Social Security Administration will no longer be accepted. Other documents with the SSN will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for acceptance.
- Copy of driver's license or State ID, if operating under an SSN.

Upon receipt of the completed enrollment packet, the Child Care Scholarship Control Center staff take the following actions:

- The information from the IRS Form W-9, IRS Letter 147-C, and/or IRS Form SS-4 is sent to Finance to be entered into the SCEIS (South Carolina Enterprise Information System) in order to obtain a vendor number. A confirmation of the SCEIS vendor number is sent via email to the Control Center staff. SCEIS uploads the vendor information to the Comptroller General's (CG's) Office.

NOTE: The provider name, I.D, and SSN/FEIN must be identical in both the CG files and the Child Care Scholarship System in order for payments to be made to the provider.

Once the provider information has been loaded and accepted in the CG's files, the Control Center enters the provider information into the Child Care Scholarship Program database. At this point, the provider is eligible to begin serving children. After an established period of time (usually within 30 days) the provider paperwork is prepped and sent for imaging.

5.7.3 FAMILY, FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR CARE PROVIDERS (FFN)

The use of FFN is mandated by the Amendments to the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1996. The federal regulations state that a parent eligible for child care assistance may choose an FFN child care provider. See the policy manual for the family friend and neighbor providers at <https://www.scchildcare.org/media/0jtm0nv/ffn-policy-manual-4-18-2023-v15-002.pdf>

In order to be enrolled in the Child Care Scholarship Program as a Family, Friend, or Neighbor child care provider, the following steps are taken:

FOR RELATED FFN ARRANGEMENTS

The provider must be related to the child in one of the following ways: An aunt or uncle, first generation only, sibling, grandparent or great-grandparent, all of whom do not reside in the same household as the child. An interested client or provider contacts the Child Care Scholarship Program Control Center and indicates that they are interested in becoming enrolled in the Child Care Scholarship Program. A packet of information is sent to the provider.

Upon receipt of the paperwork, the provider completes the following forms:

- Family, Friend, and Neighbor Child Care Enrollment and Agreement, [DSS Form 3774](#)
- Family, Friend, and Neighbor Child Care Certification, [DSS Form 3776](#)
- IRS Form W-9
- Copy of social security card for proof of social security number (SSN). Other documents with the SSN will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for acceptance.
- Copy of driver's license or State ID
- Print outs from the Social Security Administration will no longer be accepted.

NOTE: No out-of-state identification will be accepted, unless an out of state arrangement is approved.

- Copy of a completed [DSS Form 37124](#), Family, Friend, and Neighbor Central Registry Release of Information and Consent Form, on all household member 18 years or older.

Note: Central Registry checks are required every five years.

Upon receipt of the completed paperwork, the Child Care Scholarship Program staff takes the following actions:

- The completed [DSS Form 37124](#) will be scanned by Control Center staff and forwarded via email to the designated Child Care Licensing staff.
- The information from the IRS Form W-9 and social security card is sent to Finance to be entered into the SCEIS (South Carolina Enterprise Information System) in order to obtain a vendor number. A confirmation of the SCEIS vendor number is sent via email to the Child Care Scholarship Program Control Center staff.

NOTE: The provider name, I.D, and SSN must be identical in both the CG files and the Child Care Scholarship Program database in order for payments to be made to the provider.

- Once the provider information has been loaded and accepted in the CG's files, the Control Center enters the provider information into the Child Care Scholarship Program database. At this point, the provider is eligible to begin serving children.

NOTE: Child Care Scholarship Program Control Center staff may conditionally enroll the FFN child care provider into the Child Care Scholarship Program database if the Central Registry and Sex Offender results are not received when the provider has been loaded into SCEIS.

A copy of the Policy manual for Family, Friend and Neighbor Child Care is mailed to the provider upon enrollment by child care licensing.

After an established period of time (usually within 30 days) the provider paperwork is prepped and sent for imaging.

It is the responsibility of SCDSS to advise clients on what to look for in choosing FFN providers. It is the client's responsibility to monitor their FFN arrangement. SCDSS explains the necessary forms and the payment procedures. Additionally, SCDSS requires FFN providers to self-certify the existence of a smoke detector and fire extinguisher in the home where the child will be served. When these basic health and safety requirements are not available, the FFN provider must purchase these items and may request reimbursement up to \$45.00. The Child Care Scholarship Program Control Center Staff must use the Family, Friend, and Neighbor Provider Health and Safety Grant Reimbursement Request, [DSS Form 3778](#), to request the reimbursement.

FOR NON-RELATED FFN ARRANGEMENTS

An interested client or provider contacts the Child Care Scholarship Program Control Center and indicates that they are interested in having a non-related FFN provider enroll in the Child Care Scholarship Program.

- A Non-Related FFN Application for Consideration of Enrollment form (DSS Form 3775) is sent to the potential provider along with the FFN Enrollment and Agreement (DSS Form 3774), FFN Child Care Certification (DSS Form 3776), and W-9 are mailed.
- Upon receipt of the paperwork, the provider completes the following forms: DSS Form 3775 – Application for Consideration of Enrollment.
- Upon receipt of the completed DSS Form 3775, Child Care Scholarship Program staff will review the information and send the DSS Form 1706 – Criminal Background Check Questionnaire to the child care provider for all family members 15 years and older along with the Form 37124 – Central Registry Form for all household members 18 years and older.
 - Copy of social security card for proof of social security number (SSN). Other documents with the SSN will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for acceptance.
 - Copy of driver's license or State ID
 - Print outs from the Social Security Administration will no longer be accepted.

NOTE: No out-of-state identification will be accepted, unless an out of state arrangement is approved.

Upon receipt of the completed paperwork, the Child Care Scholarship Program staff take the following actions:

- The completed [DSS Form 37124](#) will be scanned by Control Center staff and forwarded via email to the designated Child Care Licensing staff.
- The information from the IRS Form W-9 and social security card is sent to Finance to be entered into the SCEIS (South Carolina Enterprise Information System) in order to obtain a vendor number. A confirmation of the SCEIS vendor number is sent via email to the Child Care Scholarship Program Control Center staff.

NOTE: The provider name, I.D, and SSN/ must be identical in both the CG files and the Child Care Scholarship Program database in order for payments to be made to the provider.

Once the provider information has been loaded and accepted in the CG's files, the Control Center enters the provider information into the Child Care Scholarship Program database. At this point, the provider is eligible to begin serving children.

NOTE: Child Care Scholarship Program Control Center staff may conditionally enroll the FFN child care provider into the Child Care Scholarship Program database if the Central Registry and Sex Offender results are not received when the provider has been loaded into SCEIS.

A copy of the Family, Friend and Neighbor Child Care Provider Business Procedures is mailed to the provider upon enrollment.

NOTE: The enrolled non-related FFN providers have 90 days to complete the pre-service online training. Providers that fail to complete the online pre-service training will be terminated.

After an established period of time (usually within 30 days) the provider paperwork is prepped and sent for imaging.

It is the responsibility of SCDSS to advise clients on what to look for in choosing FFN providers. It is the client's responsibility to monitor their FFN arrangement. SCDSS explains the necessary forms and the payment procedures. Additionally, SCDSS requires FFN providers to self-certify the existence of a smoke detector and fire extinguisher in the home where the child will be served. When these basic health and safety requirements are not available, the FFN provider must purchase these items and may request reimbursement up to \$45.00. The Child Care Scholarship Program Control Center Staff must use the Family, Friend, and Neighbor Provider Health and Safety Grant Reimbursement Request, [DSS Form 3778](#), to request the reimbursement.

INSPECTIONS FOR LICENSE-EXEMPT IN-HOME CARE

Non-related FFNs (care in both in/out of the child's home) are monitored by Child Care Licensing for compliance with background checks, CPR/First Aid certification and Health and Safety Pre-service training. These providers receive an annual unannounced visit.

5.7.4 DENIAL OF FFN ARRANGEMENTS

Denial of FFN arrangements include, but are not limited to:

- Potential FFN provider who resides in the same household as the child approved for child care services.
- Any asterisked items on the FFN forms that are answered in the negative.
- A founded or open Child Protective Services investigation and support allegation against a provider who is known to the public (e.g., a provider is involved in an active CPS case).
- SCDSS has public knowledge of a criminal allegation that may jeopardize the health and safety of children, at State Office discretion.
- The child care worker suspects that the provider is under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of application or subsequently thereafter.
- An individual receiving Child Care Scholarship Program services for their own child, grandchild, foster child or other child in their custody cannot become an FFN provider for someone else.
- The FFN provider requested is the child's absent parent or the parent's significant other (spouse, girlfriend, boyfriend, life partner, etc.) that resides either in or out of the home.

NOTE: If it is known that the potential FFN provider plans to have another person care for the child while they are en route from their primary employment, or other activity, the arrangement must be denied.

- FFN arrangement cannot be approved for a provider who is a member of the same TANF/FS family household unit as the parent applying for child care services, even if a member of the TANF/FS household unit has been disqualified and is not in the TANF/FS budget.
- A person who becomes an FFN provider (or potential provider) is found to have been terminated from the Child Care Scholarship Program for misrepresentation as a Child Care Scholarship Program client will not be approved as an FFN provider. The child care worker will notify the provider in writing, if the arrangement is terminated or denied. If a provider is terminated or denied, payment may not be made for services rendered.
- Other reasons as determined appropriate based on the individual situations.
- Any provider or family member 18 years or older with an unsatisfactory Central Registry finding or sex offender search.
- Any provider who is employed by the South Carolina Department of Social Services within the State, Regional or County offices.
- Failure to return the FFN provider packet within 15 calendar days may result in the denial of the enrollment request.

5.7.5 FAMILY, FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR CARE (IN THE CHILD'S HOME) (FNI)

An in-home child care arrangement is care that is provided in the child's own home by a relative or non-relative child care provider who is at least 21 years old and who does not live in the same household as the child.

In-home care is affected by interaction with other laws and regulations. For example, in home providers who are NOT related to the child are classified as domestic service workers under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) (29-USC Section 206 (A) and are therefore covered under minimum wage. FNI providers are also subject to tax requirements.

Based on these IRS Regulations, the use of an in-home arrangement is limited to:

In-home arrangement in which the provider is not related to the child will be approved only when the client has five or more children in the home that require

care or families who need care for children with special needs or medical conditions (CCDF State Plan).

FNI providers related to the child may be approved to provide care; however, the relationship must be verified by a client statement. If relationship status is questionable, the child care worker will require verification through birth certificates, marriage license, or other legal documents. The provider must be related to the child in one of the following ways: An aunt or uncle, first generation only, sibling, grandparent or great-grandparent, all of whom do not reside in the same household as the child. Cousins or other relations not previously listed are not considered related for the purpose of child care.

NOTE: The Child Care Scholarship Program will not pay for child care services to any member of the household in which the child resides.

The same procedures for FFN providers who are providing care in their home (FNO) apply to FNI providers (who provide care in the child's home). See [Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care \(FFN\)](#) for specific criteria.

5.7.6 OUT-OF-STATE CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

The Child Care Scholarship Program may enroll and reimburse regulated center-based, group or family child care providers that operate outside the state of South Carolina. Primarily, out-of-state providers are enrolled to allow payment of child care costs for children in Child Protective Services (CPS) or Foster Care (FC) who are in the custody of SCDSS, but have been placed with a caretaker or relative who resides outside of South Carolina. However, this option can be used for all child care categories.

Border state providers (Georgia and North Carolina) may request enrollment into the Child Care Scholarship Program and may continue to be enrolled for the agreement period and serve any Child Care Scholarship Program client who chooses them as a provider.

NOTE: Out of state Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) providers will be approved only for child protective service and foster care cases and only with prior approval of the arrangement by the designated program staff and human service worker.

Out-of-state center, family or group child care providers must be licensed and agree to:

- Reimbursement via direct deposit
- Enrollment in the on-line SVL system
- Reimbursement at the Level B URBAN rate.

To request an out-of-state provider, the child care eligibility worker will contact the provider team (send email to the designated provider team staff). The request should include the following information:

- Client's name and Social Security Number
- Provider's name and complete address (street, city, state and zip code)
- Contact telephone number for the out-of-state provider, including the area code.

Designated provider team staff will verify through that state's child care website that the child care facility participates in the state's child care subsidy program and has a licensing in good standing. Once verified, staff will make contact with the out-of-state provider and forward the following paperwork to them for completion:

- DSS Form 37126 (Out of State provider Enrollment Form and Agreement)
- IRS Form W-9
- Direct Deposit Form 147C

Once the paperwork is received, provider team staff will:

- Submit a work order to have the out-of-state provider county added to the Child Care Scholarship Program database
- Send the IRS Form 147C and IRS Form W-9 to finance to have the provider loaded into SCEIS.

Once the provider information has been loaded into SCEIS and a vendor number is obtained, the provider will be keyed into the system and any applicable connections made.

NOTE: For foster children or children with an open CPS case, the eligibility worker will be notified by provider team staff once the provider has been approved.

5.8 PROVIDER ENROLLMENT AGREEMENT

Enrollment agreements are normally effective for a period of three years from the date signed by the provider. The provider's ABC enrollment expires on the end date of the agreement.

Enrollment Agreements are provider/owner specific and address-specific. This means that another provider/owner cannot take over operation of the facility and that if a provider moves (regardless of whether they have obtained the appropriate regulatory document) that ABC Quality is under no obligation to offer an agreement at the new location. **When the provider moves, the agreement becomes null and void, which is not appealable.**

Although agreements are normally for three years, ABC Quality reserves the right to offer agreements for a shorter period of time. Please see [ABC Quality Center-Based Manual 9.23 \(scchildcare.org\)](http://scchildcare.org) for more information.

5.9 HISTORY OF COMPLIANCE

The child care facility is required to have and maintain a History of Compliance with regulatory requirements in order for the facility to enroll and maintain enrollment in the Child Care Scholarship Program. Child care licensing conducts inspections bi-annually and the results of these inspections determine health and safety compliance. [ABC Quality Center-Based Manual 9.23 \(scchildcare.org\).](http://ABC Quality Center-Based Manual 9.23 (scchildcare.org).)

5.10 MAXIMUM PAYMENT RATES

The Child Care Scholarship Program establishes the maximum payment rates based on the approved rate setting methodology.

Maximum rates are categorized by provider type, age groups, and by pre-determined rural or urban designations. Although the maximum rates change every two years, a provider must submit rate increases in order to receive the new higher rates.

5.11 SECOND CHILD DISCOUNTS

A second child discount is established by provider at the time of enrollment. The discount is an amount (percentage) of discount applied to a family with multiple children receiving care with the same provider. The second child discount is applied to all children except the youngest when the children are at the same facility. Therefore, a family with four children will have the second child discount applied to the oldest three children. All Child Care Scholarship Program providers do not elect to have second child discounts. A second child discount offered to a private paying client must be offered to Child Care Scholarship Program clients. When a second child discount is applied, it will remain in effect until the connection ends, the child transfers to another provider, or eligibility ends.

5.12 PROVIDER RATES

5.12.1 RATE INCREASES

A child care provider may increase the child care rates they charge once per year within the Child Care Scholarship Program. Rate increases effect all children.

NOTE: Requests for rate increases will not be approved for any provider who is under a corrective action Plan or under an appeal.

5.12.2 RATE INCREASES FOR ALL LEVELS

A provider who increases their child care rates may request a rate increase form once per year. The following steps are taken when increasing child care rates:

- The provider must call ABC Quality, Child Care Control Center or email ProviderRateForms@dss.sc.gov to request a Provider Rate Form, [DSS Form 37107](#). (exception: FFN providers will call the Child Care Scholarship Program Control Center) Any provider who has not submitted all corrective action will not be allowed to receive a rate increase. Upon satisfactory correction, they may request a rate change.
- The rate increase form is sent to the child care provider.
- The form is completed by the provider and returned to The Child Care Scholarship Program Control Center via email to ProviderRateForms@dss.sc.gov or by fax with the required documentation, which is:
 - A copy of the provider's published/written child care rates, (i.e., written fee policy, parent handbook with rates included)
 - Any correspondence given to parents notifying them of the rate increase.

NOTE: The rate increase will not be processed without this information.

The provider will receive written notification of the outcome of the request for a rate increase. The rate increase form is forwarded to the designated Child Care Scholarship Program Control Center staff to be updated in the Child Care Scholarship Program database.

5.12.3 RATE INCREASES FOR FAMILY, FRIEND, AND NEIGHBOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

A provider who increases their child care rates may request a rate increase form once per year. The following steps are taken when increasing child care rates:

- The provider must call the Control Center to request an FFN Child Care Enrollment and Agreement Form, [DSS Form 3774](#).
- The rate increase form is sent to the child care provider.
- The form is completed by the provider and returned to the Child Care Scholarship Program Control Center. Control Center staff updates the information in the Child Care Scholarship Program database.
- Upon approval, the rate increase will be effective for all children connected.

5.12.4 RATE DECREASES FOR ALL LEVELS

When a provider has a rate decrease, the decrease will immediately apply to all children connected to the provider and all future connections.

NOTE: The same procedures as outlined in Rate Increases will be followed with the exception that all rate decreases will be effective immediately without regard to the client's eligibility period as this will benefit the family by reducing the potential out of pocket costs.

5.13 RECORDS

A provider should establish good record keeping methods and maintain all documentation in an orderly fashion. Records should be kept for a period of five years plus current year or until all applicable audits have been completed. If an audit is in progress, all documents shall be maintained until the audit is complete.

The following records are required to be kept on-site and will be reviewed during regular monitoring visits, audits, or as needed to resolve discrepancies.

5.13.1 ATTENDANCE

Daily attendance records must be maintained for each child served through the Child Care Scholarship Program.

Attendance may be documented in several different ways, which include the following:

- Recording days and actual hours of attendance or absences in a roll book or log sheet, to include the USDA Log Sheet
- Computer attendance logs will be acceptable.
- Using sign-in/sign-out sheets OR
- Using computer logs, etc.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If the provider uses sign-in/sign-out sheets, and the parent fails to sign-in and also sign-out, the SCDSS Auditors may recoup funds.

The child's name on the attendance must match the name on the SVL. The child's given name, not a nickname, should be recorded.

NOTE: A provider who does not maintain daily attendance or accurate records may be required to repay funds if the provider cannot provide documentation that the child was enrolled in the program.

Daily attendance records may be requested to resolve a discrepancy between two different providers when a child's date of attendance is in question.

5.13.2 SERVICE VOUCHER LOG (SVL)

A provider must maintain copies of the submitted SVL on-site for a period of five years plus current year. Records may be required to be maintained longer if the provider is under a current audit.

NOTE: Providers who participate in the On-line SVL system must keep a paper copy of the submitted SVL.

The provider should review the SVL against the Provider's Remittance Advice and payment validation.

5.13.3 CLIENT/CHILD RECORDS

An individual file should be kept on-site for each child enrolled through the Child Care Scholarship Program. Information should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Parent name and child's complete name SSN of the parent and child.

NOTE: It is helpful to cross-reference each child's file with other children from the same family, especially when the last names are different.

Child Care Scholarship Program Authorization/Connection Letter which describes the following:

- Client's name and name of the child
- Amount of billing
- Start and stop dates
- copay amount (if applicable)
- Type of care (full time, part time, or less than half time).
- Correspondence from the Child Care Scholarship Program related to the client.

5.14 ADVERSE ACTIONS BY ABC QUALITY

For all detailed processes and action for providers enrolled in ABC Quality, please refer to the **ABC Quality [ABC Quality Center-Based Manual 9.23 \(scchildcare.org\)](http://scchildcare.org)**.

5.15 GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

5.15.1 USE OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Providers enrolled in ABC Quality are prohibited from the use of corporal punishment. Corporal punishment is defined as the use of physical force to the body as a discipline measure. Physical force to the body includes but is not limited to spanking, slapping, biting, and shaking. If the owner/operator of the facility administers corporal punishment, termination of facility enrollment will occur on the first offense.

If staff in a child care center uses corporal punishment, and the corporal

punishment was not condoned by the owner/operator, the provider should be given an opportunity to take appropriate corrective action. If appropriate action is taken, termination of enrollment will not occur.

If further instances of corporal punishment are used at the facility within any 12-month period, the termination of enrollment process will be initiated.

5.15.2 FAILURE TO PROVIDE CHILD CARE SERVICES AT ENROLLED ADDRESS AND/OR PROVIDING SERVICES AT A LOCATION THAT IS NOT ENROLLED AND OR WHICH THE CHILD IS NOT CONNECTED.

Providers must notify ABC in advance of days the facility will be temporarily closed or if the facility is moving or permanently closing.

Children must be served at the location for which they have been connected. If the provider has two or more locations enrolled, they may not switch or transport children between locations without notifying Child Care Scholarship Program for authorization. Children will appear on the SVL for the location in which they have been connected. When it is verified that children are being served at a location other than the enrolled address, the termination of enrollment process will be initiated.

5.15.3 MISUSE OF CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS

If a provider uses Child Care Scholarship Program grant funds for purchases other than its approved use and the provider does not reimburse the Child Care Scholarship Program within the time frame given for reimbursement (including any extension of time approved), the termination of enrollment process may be initiated. Recoupment of the funds will also be initiated.

5.15.4 FRAUD/MISREPRESENTATION

If a provider intentionally makes a false statement or misrepresents themselves regarding a material fact or fails to disclose a material fact that results in obtaining, attempting to obtain, or continuing to receive Child Care Scholarship Program funds which the provider would not otherwise qualify to receive, the termination of enrollment process will be initiated. Funds will be recouped for the period of time when the provider did not qualify for the funds.

5.15.5 VERBAL OR PHYSICAL ABUSE BY A PROVIDER

If a provider curses or yells at any SCDSS staff, the provider will be sent a certified letter after the first offense by ABC Quality. The letter will describe the incident and inform the provider that another such incident will result in termination being initiated. If a second offense occurs, the termination of enrollment process will be initiated. If the provider threatens, or physically assaults any SCDSS staff during the course of conducting SCDSS business, the termination of enrollment process will be initiated.

5.16 PROCESS FOR TERMINATING A PROVIDER ENROLLMENT

The following shall occur when the Child Care Scholarship Program is initiating termination of an Child Care Scholarship Program provider's enrollment:

5.16.1 LIFE-THREATENING OR SUBSTANTIAL THREAT OF HARM

When there are life-threatening issues at an ABC Quality facility, the termination of enrollment process shall be initiated immediately, and CCL shall be notified. Life- threatening issues include, but are not limited to the following:

- Sewer backed up in facility.
- No water in the facility
- Over-heated facility
- Fire alarm disconnected.
- A child seriously injured or death due to lack of supervision or negligence by staff
- Lack of supervision resulting in a child leaving the facility unnoticed
- Lack of supervision resulting in a child being left at another location.
- A child removed due to abuse or neglect by staff.
- Ratios exceeded by 25 percent or more, etc.

If the termination of enrollment process results in termination, the termination of enrollment should be effective immediately after the appeals process ends. The Director of Early Care and Education may make a decision to remove all Child Care Scholarship Program children from the facility during the appeals process.

5.16.2 NON-LIFE-THREATENING SITUATIONS

If the reason for the termination of enrollment is not determined to be life threatening and does not pose an immediate and substantial threat to the health and/or safety of the child, termination of enrollment shall follow normal procedures.

5.17 COMPLAINTS

If ABC Quality receives a complaint on a License-Exempt facility, the complaint will be documented, and the Quality Assessor will make an unannounced visit, as appropriate, in order to investigate the complaint.

If the complaint is that the License-Exempt facility is operating more than the stated hours, or if ABC Quality discovers the facility is operating more than the stated hours, the complaint will be forwarded to Child Care Licensing as an illegal operation.

Any complaint that involves an injury to a child may be referred to the Office of Out of Home Abuse and Neglect (OHAN). All complaints received will be kept on file with ABC Quality and are public record.

5.17.1 NOTIFICATION TO CHILD CARE STAFF

If termination of enrollment results after the appeals process, the ABC Quality Designee will send an e-mail to notify the Child Care Scholarship Program Control Center of the final decision to terminate enrollment and the effective enrollment termination date.

5.17.2 APPEALS

The ABC Quality office will track the termination of enrollment of providers to determine if the provider files an appeal within the 30-day time frame allowed for filing an appeal.

Once ABC Quality receives notification that a provider has filed an appeal, the ABC Quality Designee will enter this information into the Child Care Scholarship

Program database, so that no new Child Care Scholarship Program children can be connected during the appeals process.

If a provider does file an appeal (regardless of the Child Care Scholarship Program level), the Provider Appeals and Hearing Process should be followed.

If during the appeals process the violations are life-threatening or pose an immediate and substantial threat to the health and/or safety of the children enrolled, the Director of Early Care and Education may make a decision to remove all Child Care Scholarship Program children from the facility.

5.17.3 FINAL NOTIFICATION TO THE CLIENTS AND THE PROVIDER FROM THE CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

After receiving the final notification from ABC Quality that a facility is being terminated, the Child Care Scholarship Program will send a letter to all Child Care Scholarship Program clients connected to the facility, notifying them that the facility's enrollment is being terminated and that the Child Care Scholarship Program will not pay for services after the termination of enrollment date to that provider.

The Child Care Scholarship Program Control Center will send a final notice to the provider as well as a letter to the clients, notifying the provider of the facility's termination of enrollment from the Child Care Scholarship Program and the last date payment will be made to the facility on behalf of Child Care Scholarship Program clients.

Parents will be given an opportunity to select another ABC Quality Program facility for their child. A listing of all Levels A, B, C and P facilities are available at www.scchildcare.org. Parents may also request a printed list of ABC Quality provider by calling the Child Care Scholarship Program Control Center at (800)476-0199.

Parents may choose to remove their child from the facility prior to the official termination of enrollment date but must call the Child Care Scholarship Program Control Center to receive prior approval. If any Child Care Scholarship Program parents continue to choose the provider after the official termination of enrollment date, the parents will be responsible for full payment to the provider after the termination of enrollment date.

5.17.4 REFERRAL RESOURCES TO ASSIST CLIENTS

The Child Care Scholarship Program should make every effort to assist clients in finding other child care arrangements. Additionally, parents can be referred to the South Carolina Child Care Resource and Referral Network at 1-888-335-1002 or via email at scccr@mailbox.sc.edu

5.17.5 FACILITY OWNERSHIP CHANGES

A provider must immediately notify ABC Quality or the Child Care Scholarship Program of any changes in ownership of the facility. A change in ownership invalidates the enrollment agreement as it is not transferable. It also invalidates the DSS License or Registration. Agreements are non-transferable. The provider's file will be placed in a closed status. The new owner may apply by completing the application process and meeting the enrollment requirements.

NOTE: The provider must notify ABC Quality at least 30 days prior to the sale.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: It is extremely crucial to notify ABC Quality of the sale of the facility so that payment under the provider's TAX ID number can be stopped. If the provider fails to do this and the new owner continues to receive the SVLs and submits them, payment will continue to be made under the original provider's TAX ID, and thus the original provider is responsible for payment of taxes due. The Child Care Scholarship Program cannot be held responsible when providers fail to notify the Child Care Scholarship Program of the sale. Providers must call or write ABC Quality directly to inform them of this change.

When a provider notifies ABC Quality or the Child Care Scholarship Program that they are closing, the termination date will be the first Monday following the date of the closure.

5.17.6 CHILD CARE LICENSING CLOSES PROVIDER'S FILE

When it is known that Child Care Licensing has closed a provider's file, meaning the provider no longer has a License or Registration, then ABC Quality will also close the provider's file. Reasons this might occur would be if the provider notified Child Care Licensing but failed to notify ABC Quality or Child Care Scholarship Program.

NOTE: The above terminations are not appealable.

5.18 VOLUNTARY TERMINATION BY THE PROVIDER

Providers may voluntarily request to end their enrollment/agreement at any time as an enrolled ABC Quality provider at any level by notifying the ABC Quality Program in writing or through a documented telephone contact.

NOTE: Voluntary termination of a provider's enrollment agreement is not appealable. If the provider requests to voluntarily end their enrollment agreement, and then later requests to rescind the termination of their agreement, ABC Quality is under no obligation to do so, particularly if the provider's file has been terminated in the Child Care Scholarship Program.

The provider may not reapply for enrollment at any level for a period of one year from the effective date of termination.

Providers who have received a grant must stay in the Child Care Scholarship Program for the period required by the grant, or the grant funds will be recouped.

5.18.1 FRAUD

Any institution or its principals who have been convicted of fraud are ineligible to participate in the Child Care Scholarship Program at any level.

FRAUD AND ABC QUALITY

ABC Quality takes fraud very seriously. In every policy and document given to providers, ABC Quality strives to make known its expectations of providers for participation in the program, along with subsequent action for non-compliance.

ABC Quality maintains a complaint line, 1-800-763-2223, this number can be used by the public to report complaints and incidents of fraud.

Fraud Definition:

ABC refers to fraud as the following (but not limited to):

- 1) Intentionally making a false statement; misrepresentation regarding a material fact; failure to disclose a material fact/information; or any action that results in obtaining, attempting to obtain, or continuing to receive ABC funds, which the provider would not otherwise qualify to receive, or to circumvent or help others circumvent the requirements of ABC Quality.

Examples of this could include billing clients for services when they are being paid through Child Care Scholarship Program for the service; serving children at unauthorized locations because they have reached their capacity at their current location or have opened a new location which they don't want to enroll; continuing to bill for clients who have left their program, allowing another provider or location that is not enrolled to use your Federal ID or Social Security number to connect children, collecting the payment and distributing it to them; submitting falsified documents such as a high school diploma/degree and CPR/First aid cards, etc.

- 2) Conviction of fraud in a federal/state court with Child Care Scholarship Program or ABC Quality.
- 3) Billing for services and receiving payment for services or goods that were not obtained in accordance with requirements of ABC Quality, the Provider Agreement and ABC Provider Business Procedures.

5.18.2 FALSIFIED DOCUMENTS

Institutions or principals who falsify or misrepresent official, legal documents (i.e., birth certificates, degrees, transcripts, etc.), or other Child Care Scholarship Program documents (SVL, enrolment records) and submit to agency representatives are ineligible to participate in the Child Care Scholarship Program at any level.

5.19 AMENDMENTS TO A PROVIDER'S FILE

A provider's file may be amended at any time. An amendment can be initiated by the provider, ABC Quality, or Child Care Scholarship Program Control Center staff. The provider must notify the following appropriate program area of any changes or amendments that need to be made to their enrollment:

- Level A, B, C, P or exempt providers – Contact ABC Quality
- FFN providers – Contact Child Care Scholarship Program Control Center staff

NOTE: Changes should not be sent with the SVL.

Amendments may occur for, but are not limited to, the following reasons:

5.19.1 ADDING OR DELETING ADDITIONAL AGE GROUPS

A provider may request to add another age group not previously authorized if they are currently providing child care services for that age group (Level A, B, C, P or exempt) or at any time for an FFN provider. To request an additional age group, the provider must:

- Contact ABC Quality or the Child Care Control Center to request an additional age group be added.
- Meet regulatory requirements for the age groups served. Child Care Scholarship or ABC Quality staff will verify that the program meets the regulatory requirements to enroll the requested age group.
- Currently enrolled ABC Quality programs may request to add half-time or full-time for an age group for which they are already authorized. FFN can add at any time.
- A provider or the Child Care Scholarship Program may delete an age group under the following circumstances:
- A provider should request to delete an age group if they are no longer serving an age group or does not want to be authorized for that age group.
- The Child Care Scholarship Program may delete an age group if it is determined that the provider is no longer serving that age group or is not meeting regulatory requirements for that age group.

5.19.2 CHANGE IN FACILITIES REGULATORY STATUS

The provider must notify the appropriate program area if one of the following occurs:

- Provider changes from Family to Group
- Provider changes from Family or Group to a Center
- Provider changes from a Group to a Family
- Provider changes from Center to a Family or Group

5.19.3 CHANGE IN NAME OF CHILD CARE FACILITY

If the provider changes the name of the child care facility, the provider must:

- Notify ABC Quality.
- Submit new enrollment paperwork provided by ABC Quality reflecting the new name.

5.19.4 CHANGE IN DIRECTOR OF CHILD CARE FACILITY

If there is a change in the director of the child care facility, a provider must notify ABC Quality and Child Care Licensing.

5.19.5 CHANGE IN MAILING/PAYMENT ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBERS

If there is a change in the facility address where services are provided [other than the provider has moved], such as a change because of 911 or payment address, or phone number, the provider must:

- Notify ABC Quality.
- Submit a signed W-9 Tax form which can be requested from the appropriate program area. The W-9 is used for address changes only.

5.19.6 WORKING TELEPHONE

If there is a change in the facility phone number where services are being delivered, the provider must notify ABC Quality.

Center based programs and group child care programs must have an operable telephone with an outside line that is accessible to staff persons in emergencies.

Family child care homes shall have a working, listed telephone in the family child care home and shall make the telephone number available to parent/guardians of children enrolled in the family child care home and to Department staff. The telephone number must be listed in all appropriate directories to ensure emergency identification and response.

Family, friend and neighbor providers are required to only have access to a phone for emergencies.

Chapter 6

CASE MANAGEMENT

6.1 STOP AND START DATES

A parent may need to have a break in care in situations where the child is with a non-custodial parent for court ordered visitation, vacation, hospitalization, etc. for a period of a week or more. The parent may ask the provider to hold the child's slot during the time the child is away. The provider may bill for only 3 consecutive weeks of non-enrollment before dropping the child from their center. However, the provider may agree to insert a stop and start date for the child when the client is in need of a break of service when the duration of the non-enrollment is known. By inserting a stop and start date, the child is allowed to start back with the provider at the agreed upon time. Both the parent and the provider must agree to this arrangement prior to the extended absence. This allows for more accurate billing of enrollment.

6.2 BREAKS IN WORK, SCHOOL OR TRAINING

When a client stops working or attending school or training, for whatever reason, they must notify the Control Center within 10 calendar days of the date the change occurred. The client will be allowed to continue receiving child care services for 3 months (90 days) from the date they stopped working/school/training. The Child Care Scholarship Program staff will terminate the child care services effective the first Monday after the 3 months (90 days) from the break, and the termination letter will be sent to the client and the provider.

If the client obtains employment or begins school or training during the 90-day period, they must submit documentation to: SChildCare@dss.sc.gov with the subject of "Termination Reversal" If the client is determined to be eligible, the termination will be overturned and the client will be authorized for the child care services for which they were originally authorized.

Once the new employment, school, or training information is received, staff will:

- Print the application from On-base.
- Complete a new eligibility worksheet to ensure that the client remains under 85% SMI.
- Use the same income from the previous application as to not change the copayments.

If the client remains eligible, the clients original services will be extended through the end of the original eligible period.

If the client does not obtain employment or begin school or training during the 90-day period, or does not contact the Control Center during the 90-day period to inform staff about new employment/school/training, the termination will stand and child care services will end as of the date of termination.

If, when the client notifies the Control Center, it has been 90 days or more since the client stopped working or attending school or training, then child care services will be terminated for the client effective the first Monday after 10 working days from the date of notification.

NOTE: The exception to this policy occurs if a client has a break in employment/school/training due to a disability or medical leave. See [Verification of Disability.](#)

6.3 RETENTION SCHEDULE

All client and provider case file material including, but not limited to the following, shall be maintained in the child care imaging system for a period of five years plus current year or until all applicable audits have been completed:

- Child Care Referral (DSS Form 3004, When applicable)
- Child Care Scholarship Program Child Care Application (DSS Form 3791)
- Work/School/Training Verification
- Eligibility Worksheet (DSS Form 37110)
- Written correspondence from client/provider
- Enrollment Forms, agreements and rates forms.

If an audit is in progress, all documents shall be maintained until the audit is complete. Child care applications for applicants who are denied and who are subsequently not funded shall be maintained for 12 months.

6.4 TRANSFERS FROM ONE PROVIDER TO ANOTHER

A client may transfer from one provider to another provided the client contacts the Child Care Scholarship Program Control Center either by phone or in writing and receives approval prior to the transfer. The effective date of transfer is the first Monday following the seventh working day after the day the Control Center receives the phone call or receives the written notice. State holidays and weekends are not considered work days in counting the seven days.

Note: Emails are accepted as written notification.

A client may transfer from one provider to another through the following process:

- A client must notify the Control Center either by telephone or in writing and receive approval prior to the transfer.
- The effective date of the transfer will be the first Monday following the seventh working day after the Control Center receives the phone call or written notice from the client requesting the transfer.

To determine the effective date of transfer, the day the Control Center receives the phone call or written notice is considered day one of the notice. See **EXCEPTION** below. The child care worker begins counting seven working days from that date. In counting the seven days, State observed holidays [i.e. 4th of July, Labor Day, etc.] or weekends are not included, as they are not considered working days. Whatever date the seventh working day falls on, the transfer date will be the following Monday.

EXAMPLE: A request is made on Wednesday. Counting seven working days beginning with Wednesday, the working day would fall on Thursday of the next week. The transfer date would be the next Monday following this Thursday.

EXCEPTION: If notification is received on a Thursday, then Friday is counted as day one. If notification is received any other day of the week (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday), that same day is always counted as day one.

NOTE: When a client requests a transfer from a FFN provider, the connection will be ended the first Sunday following the request. No notice is required to the FFN provider.

Notice may be waived under unusual circumstances if sought by the client and approved by a supervisor. The Control Center will notify the provider if the waiver is approved. The previous provider will not be paid after the start date is established for the new provider.

Prospective Payments and Transfers:

Due to child care providers being paid in advance of service delivery, when a client requests a transfer, payments may have already been made past the effective transfer date. In those cases, the transfer should be processed, and a receivable adjustment be completed from the effective transfer date to the last paid date. Upon completion of the receivable adjustment, the connections will be inserted to cover the time adjusted to the new child care provider.

NOTE: THE Child Care Scholarship Program WILL NOT PAY TWO PROVIDERS FOR THE SAME WEEK, unless the parent also has a less than half-time arrangement.

The previous provider will be notified in writing via a Transfer Letter of the client's last authorized day of service.

SPECIAL NOTE: A client with unpaid fees at the time of the transfer will still be allowed to transfer. It is the responsibility of the provider to ensure copayments are paid timely.

6.5 EARLY RELEASES

A provider may voluntarily choose to release a child from their facility. In doing so, the provider forfeits future payments. When extenuating circumstances exist and a parent needs to be released from a provider prior to a given transfer date, the Control Center Supervisor, or designee, may grant the early release if deemed appropriate. If an early release is not granted and the client removes the child prior to the transfer date, the client will be responsible for payment to the new provider until the transfer/re-connection date.

NOTE: If the provider refuses to allow the child to attend, regardless of the reason, connections will be ended and the children will be given an early release.

If an early release is granted and the child care provider has been paid for future dates, a receivable adjustment will be completed to recoup the funds.

6.6 TRANSFERS OF FOSTER AND CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICE CLIENTS

Only a CPS/FC Case Manager may authorize the full transfer of a CPS or Foster Care child. There may be extenuating circumstances which require immediate actions from the CPS/FC Case Manager, which may include an effective transfer date that does not follow the seven-day notice rule. CMs must be aware of the provider's notice policy and is required to give the provider as much notice as possible before moving the CPS/Foster child. A child care payment may be made for a CPS/Foster child requiring an out-of-state placement where the care is provided by a child care center.

Due to child care providers being paid in advance of service delivery, when a client requests a transfer, payments may have already been made past the effective transfer date. In those cases, the transfer should be processed, and a receivable adjustment be completed from the effective transfer date to the last paid date. Upon completion of the receivable adjustment, the connections will be inserted to cover the time adjusted.

Control Center staff may complete the transfer in the Child Care Scholarship database but should follow-up with an email to the appropriate CPS/FC eligibility worker informing them of the transfer request. The CPS/FC eligibility worker will then notify the county case manager of the request for transfer in order for the new referral form to be sent.

NOTE: Case managers must submit a new DSS Form 3004 to reconnect a CPS or Foster child to a new provider.

6.7 NOTIFYING CLIENTS AND PROVIDERS OF TRANSFERS

When a client is approved to transfer, the previous provider will be notified of the client's last authorized day of service (always a Sunday) via a [Transfer Letter](#). The Transfer Letter will be sent to the client and the provider from whom the client is transferring. The client is instructed at the time they request a transfer that in order for services to be authorized for a new provider, the Control Center must receive a connection form in advance of the client starting services with the new provider. If the new provider begins serving the client before the effective date of transfer, the client is responsible for the full cost of the services prior to authorization.

Due to child care providers being paid in advance of service delivery, when a client requests a transfer, payments may have already been made past the effective transfer date. In those cases, the transfer should be processed, and a receivable adjustment be completed from the effective transfer date to the last paid date. Upon completion of the receivable adjustment, the connections will be inserted to cover the time adjusted.

6.8 TANF CLIENT MOVES TO ANOTHER COUNTY

For TANF cases only, when a client moves to another county, the child care worker in the former county must indicate that the child has moved and notify the eligibility worker. If services are to continue in the new county, the eligibility worker will note the memo field that the client has moved, update the mailing address and process a transfer between providers. If there is time remaining in the approved 12-month eligibility period the services should continue through the end of the 12 month eligibility period so the client can continue receiving services at the same level as originally approved.

6.9 SITUATIONAL CHANGES WITHIN THE ELIGIBILITY PERIOD

A client may have the need to add additional children or may want to provide documentation to support full time care when they were previously approved for only part time. The Child Care Scholarship Program will ensure that each child approved receives 12 months of eligibility while not increasing the original client co-pay as a result.

A new application is required and a re-determination is **only** necessary when:

- The change causes the client to change from one eligibility category to another, unless the change can be processed according to seamless eligibility policy.
- The client gets married and wants to add additional children to services.

A new application is **NOT** required; however, edits may be needed when there are situational changes within the 12-month eligibility period as long as those changes do not lessen the 12-months of eligibility and does not increase the original copay.

Clients experiencing situational changes in their household will be processed based on their individual need as defined below. Per federal CCDF guidelines, The Child Care Scholarship Program will ensure that each child approved receives 12 months of eligibility while not increasing the original client co-pay during those changes.

Note: Situational change requests during any pause in child care applications due to funding will not be processed unless the client is in a protected category.

Note: All TANF recipients must request changes through their workforce consultant, all CPS cases must go through the case manager and all requests for 4K+Siblings must go through the Office of First Steps. However, the process for handling each situational change in the system will be done as indicated below:

| Situational Changes Within a 12-Month Eligibility Period | |
|--|---|
| Situation | Process |
| Single parent receiving services needs to go from half time care to full time care | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Client submits a request to change services from half time to full time and provides documentation proving full time work/school/training. ○ If the client applied through the benefits portal, the request to go from half time to full time application must be made through the portal. ○ If the client did not originally apply through the benefits portal, the client may request the change by emailing scchildcare@dss.sc.gov ○ Child Care eligibility staff must calculate the documentation submitted to support the change from half time to full time to ensure it meets the full-time child care criteria. <p>If the client meets the full-time criteria and does not exceed the 85% SMI child care eligibility staff will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Print the previous eligibility worksheet only from On-base or SCOSA that was approved for half time. ○ Complete a new eligibility worksheet. ○ Select the Change box on the worksheet. ○ The same application number previously assigned will be notated and a note added to the eligibility worksheet that the client is going from half time to full time. ○ The same income from the previously approved application will be used to ensure no increase in the client copay. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff will update the funded units from half time to full time in the Child Care Scholarship database only (to avoid a potential increase in co-pay). ○ Staff document the client's memo field indicating that the client was determined to meet the eligibility criteria for full time care, that funding was changed, and connections made, when there is a child care provider selected. ○ Send the eligibility worksheet, along with the supporting documentation to be imaged. |

| Situational Changes Within a 12-Month Eligibility Period | |
|---|---|
| Situation | Process |
| | <p>If the client does not meet the full-time criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Services will continue at the level in which they were originally determined eligible. ○ Document that the request made to go from FT to HT was denied and that the services remain at the same level as originally approved. ○ Any documentation provided will be sent to Imaging. |
| Family receiving services and need to add additional children | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Client submits the request to add a child. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If the client applied through the benefits portal, the request to add a child(ren) to existing application must be made through the portal. ○ If the client did not originally apply through the benefits portal, the client may request the change by emailing scchildcare@dss.sc.gov. A Request to Add Additional Children form will be sent and must be completed by the parent/guardian to capture the date of birth, race, ethnicity, immunization and citizenship on the children to be added. <p>If the client meets the full-time criteria and does not exceed the 85% SMI, child care eligibility staff will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Child Care eligibility staff will print the previous eligibility worksheet from On-Base or SCOSA, note the change in family size and add the eligible children to the worksheet, initial all changes and note on the eligibility worksheet that a child(ren) is being added to the application. ○ Current services would be closed out (not terminated) and a new 12 months of care will be given to align all children with the same service dates. Existing children receiving services will get an additional 12 months. ○ Child care eligibility staff will use the same income from the previous application and update the family |

| Situational Changes Within a 12-Month Eligibility Period | |
|--|--|
| Situation | Process |
| | <p>size. (This will not increase the copay but may decrease the co-pay which will benefit the family).</p> <p>Note: Previously eligible children will receive an additional 12 months of eligibility as well as what they were originally determined eligible for.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The new application number will be changed on the worksheet for tracking purposes. All changes should be initialed. ○ All children will be funded and connected for a full 12 months of care without changing the previous co-pay. ○ Child care eligibility staff will document the file indicating that the family is adding an additional child(ren), indicate the date the child(ren) was added; fund and connect the children and indicate what child care provider the child(ren) were connected to, when applicable. ○ The updated worksheet and any supporting documentation will be sent to imaging. |
| Single Parent Receiving Services Gets Married (no new children to add) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ These cases will only be documented to indicate the client has recently married. ○ Will not add new spouse and income until redetermination to avoid a change in co-pay, income and services. ○ Any documentation provided will be sent to Imaging. |
| Single Parent Receiving Services Gets Married (new children to add) **Exception for needing a new application** | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This will require a new application as it is a non-temporary change. ○ The client will complete a new application via the Child Care Benefits portal to add the spouse and children. <p>If eligible and does not exceed the 85% SMI, child care eligibility staff will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Close out (not terminate) and a new 12 months of care will be given to align all children. Existing children receiving services will get an additional 12 months. |

| Situational Changes Within a 12-Month Eligibility Period | |
|--|--|
| Situation | Process |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Child care eligibility staff will add a new application period in the database to add the spouse and new children and align all children with the same service dates. <p>Note: Previously eligible children will receive an additional 12 months of eligibility as well as what they were originally determined eligible for.</p> <p>If not eligible, let existing services run until the original 12 months of care ends for the children originally receiving services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The client memo field will be updated to include all actions taken. ○ All documents. Including the denial letter, if not done through the portal, will be sent to Imaging. |
| If There is a Divorce or a Child is Removed/Dies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We would reassess eligibility ONLY if it would benefit the parent with a lesser co-pay. ○ If the change does not benefit the client, child care eligibility staff will only document the database to indicate that the client has divorced, been widowed, the child has been removed from the home or is deceased. ○ Provided documentation supporting the change will be sent to Imaging. |

- Changes in address and telephone numbers will be updated in the Child Care Scholarship Program database and documented in the memo field.

Note: If a client reports changes that would make them eligible for only part time care only when they were originally given full time care, no changes are made. The child care services continue at the original level of services approved. Example: If a client was approved for full time services initially but reports a reduction in hours of work, etc that would qualify for half time based on hours, the services will not be reduced to half time. The client will continue to receive the full-time child care service that was originally approved.

6.10 TERMINATION OF SERVICES TO CLIENTS

6.10.1 WHEN A PROVIDER STOPS SERVING A CLIENT

The provider must notify the client and the Control Center by calling the provider line at [1-800-262-4416] before discontinuing services to the client. The following applies when a provider wants to stop serving a client:

- The reason for discontinuing services must be included, i.e. failure to pay fees or parent does not pick child up on time. The connection will end the last day of the service week, (always a Sunday) in which the provider asked the client to leave.
- The client should be notified by the provider a minimum of three working days in advance of the effective date of the discontinuation of services.
- The client should be allowed to finish any week in which the provider has billed for the client.

NOTE: If the provider decides to stop serving a child in the middle of a week and does not allow the child to attend or finish the week, the client will be granted an early release to transfer the child to a new provider. The first provider will not be paid for that week of care.

6.10.2 TERMINATION OF A CLIENT AND WRITTEN NOTIFICATION

If termination of services is initiated by the Child Care Scholarship Program the provider and client will be notified in writing that the services are being terminated and all payments for services rendered after the termination date become the client's responsibility. Proper notice (10 days from the date of determination) will be given to both the parent and the provider of the effective termination date.

Services may be terminated for a client or child only when:

- The client/child does not meet specific eligibility criteria or requirements.
- The child does not live with the client.
- The client intentionally submits false information.
- The client moves out of state.

NOTE: A situation where a client is terminated from a particular provider for not following a facility's policy does not constitute a termination from the Child Care Scholarship Program.

When the Control Center is notified that a client and/or recipient needs to be terminated, the following procedure is followed:

- On the date that a termination of a client or recipient is determined necessary, the child care worker starts counting 10 working days (excluding weekends and holidays), with day one being the next day. The effective date of termination will be the first Monday following the 10th working day from the date of determination.
- A termination within the Child Care Scholarship Program will not be backdated. If a request is made for termination that has not followed the 10-working day notice rule, Control Center staff will change the effective date to reflect the 10-working day notice.

For a Welfare Reform (WR) client, recommendations for termination or reinstatement of services will be coordinated between the county Case Manager (as appropriate) and the Child Care Scholarship Program child care eligibility worker.

6.10.3 NOTIFYING CLIENT AND PROVIDER OF TERMINATION

When a decision to terminate a client/child is reached by the Control Center, the client and provider will be mailed a Termination Letter that reflects the effective date of termination. The termination notice is intended to:

- Give the client time to make other arrangements outside of the Child Care Scholarship Program.
- Give program staff adequate time to process the paperwork.
- Allow timely notification to the client and provider of the termination before the effective date of termination.
- The effective date of termination is the first Monday following the 10th working day from the date of determination. (Holidays and weekends are not considered work days.) The client is also sent a notice regarding his/her right to request a fair hearing.

6.11 CLIENT COMPLAINTS

Clients may make a complaint related to child care provided through the Child Care Scholarship Program by calling 1-800-763-2223. A client is encouraged to report concerns or complaints about the following:

- A provider whom the client suspects of violating minimum licensing standards.
- A provider whom the client suspects is not providing quality child care, as defined by the Child Care Scholarship Program Standards.

When a call is received, it is logged-in and maintained. A substantiated complaint is:

- Made available to the public upon request.
- Placed in the provider's permanent file maintained by ABC Quality Monitoring.
- Forwarded to the Control Center for necessary action when it results in the provider being terminated from the Child Care Scholarship Program.

Quality Monitoring staff in Columbia answers the complaint line and encourages clients to notify SCDSS Child Care Licensing (CCL) when a provider is suspected of violating minimum licensing standards. Quality Monitoring also follows up with CCL and notifies the Control Center when a provider's license has been suspended or revoked. A provider will be removed from the enhanced provider list and the vendor agreement will be terminated, suspended, or denied if a provider is not in good standing with CCL.

Quality Monitoring determines appropriate action after a complaint is investigated. Investigations may include unannounced on-site visits.

6.12 END OF SERVICE NOTIFICATION

Sixty (60) days prior to a client's services ending, the client and provider receive an end-of- service notice that indicates the last day of Child Care Scholarship Program child care services. Additionally, the last day of Child Care Scholarship Program service for a child also appears on the remittance advice which the provider receives when they are paid.

Note: Applications submitted more than sixty (60) days prior to services ending will be denied for applying too early.

EXCEPTION 1: A child must be connected for more than 60 days of services in order for an end-of-service notice to be generated.

EXCEPTION 2: If services are backdated and the last day of service has already passed, no end of service notice will be generated.

6.13 CLOSE OUTS

A close out is requested only when a client is moving from one eligibility category to another. A close out shortens the existing eligibility period so a new application may be entered. A letter is not generated when a close out is done.

6.14 SYSTEM GENERATED LETTERS

The Child Care Scholarship Program generates letters to inform applicants of action taken regarding their Child Care Scholarship Program child care services; they are the official documentation for clients and providers. These letters include:

ELIGIBILITY LETTER – This letter is produced when an applicant's child care application has been entered into the Child Care Scholarship Program database. The letter informs the applicant that the application has been approved, and the child for whom child care services has been requested has been approved.

AUTHORIZATION/CONNECTION LETTER – This letter is generated after the Control Center has connected a client's child to a specific provider. The letter includes:

- Name of provider to whom the child has been connected.
- Start and stop dates of the connection to that provider.
- Copay amount to be paid for each child connected.
- Rate to be paid the provider for each child.
- Total number of weeks each child is connected.

SERVICES END LETTER – This letter is produced 60 days before the end of a child's last connection, or the end of the child's eligibility period, whichever comes last. The letter informs the client and the provider of record that the child's services are scheduled to end on the date listed, and that the Child Care Scholarship Program is not responsible for any payments for the child after the date indicated.

CLIENT TERMINATION LETTER – This letter is generated the day after a client or a child is terminated in the Child Care Scholarship Program. The letter includes:

- Name of child to be terminated.
- Reason for the termination.
- Effective date of the termination.

A copy of the letter is sent to the client and to the provider of record.

PROVIDER TERMINATION LETTER - This letter is generated the day after a provider is terminated in the Child Care Scholarship Program. It includes the effective date of the termination and the reason for the termination.

CLIENT NOTICE OF PROVIDER TERMINATION – This letter is generated for the client who was connected to a provider who has been terminated in the Child Care Scholarship Program. The letter informs the client of the effective termination date and notifies them of the need to select a new provider.

TRANSFER LETTER – This letter is manually generated by staff when a client is transferring their child from one provider to a new provider. It gives the effective date of the transfer and the name of the child being transferred. A copy of the letter is sent to the client and to the provider of record.

Chapter 7

Provider Information

7.1 PAYMENT INFORMATION

The Child Care Scholarship Program pays the child care provider directly for services rendered to an eligible client. No payments are remitted directly to the client.

Prior to serving the first Child Care Scholarship Program child, the provider must be enrolled in the Child Care Scholarship Program. The provider must also submit a connection form or fax to the Control Center or the eligibility worker must indicate the start/stop dates for a child so the connection can be made. Once the initial connections have been made, the Service Voucher Log (SVL) will be generated and sent to the provider. The SVL is the official billing document for the Child Care Scholarship Program. It should be reviewed, completed, and signed by the provider and returned promptly after receipt to ensure timely payment. After the first SVL is generated, the provider receives another each time a payment is due. SVL's will continue to generate as long as the provider has active connections which have not been paid.

Effective 01/06/2025 the Child Care Scholarship Program began paying child care providers prospectively (in advance) of service delivery as well as paying on enrollment vs attendance. At the time of generation, the SVL will pull up to 4 future weeks (28 days) of care. The child care providers will indicate a yes or no for anticipated enrollment for the weeks listed on the SVL. Once the SVL pays, the provider will complete a validation of payment to ensure they were due the monies paid for the children on the previous SVL. The provider must complete the validation within two payment cycles. The provider may submit their SVL at any time after the validation has been completed. Providers no longer have to hold their SVL until the last date on the SVL since we are now paying in advance.

7.1.1 PAYMENT METHODS

All providers must submit the SVL before payment can be remitted. There are three different payment methods:

Direct Deposit: Direct deposit is offered to all providers. However, the provider must elect to enroll in the direct deposit method. The provider must submit a direct deposit form, [DSS Form 1105](#), along with a voided check to enroll. Once approved to receive their payments via direct deposit, the provider will no longer receive a paper check. However, the SVL and remittance advice forms will continue to be mailed to the provider with every payment cycle.

If a provider is receiving direct deposit payments from another State agency, the child care payments will be made into that same account and may not be changed unless the account is changed with the originating State agency.

If at any time during their enrollment a provider needs to change their account information, they must call the Control Center and must submit a written request along with a new direct deposit form, [DSS Form 1105](#), and a voided check to do so. The pre-note process will take place again and the provider may receive a paper check.

Check: A provider may choose to receive a paper check. In order to do this, the provider must submit a written request to Child Care Payables requesting to be paid by paper check and must indicate the reason why they do not want direct deposit.

Unless the provider is receiving a CAPSS payment or TANF benefit via the debit card, the provider may choose to receive a paper check. In order to do this, the provider must submit a written request to Child Care Payables requesting to be paid by paper check and must indicate the reason why they do not want their child care payments via the debit card.

7.1.2 REQUESTS FOR PAYMENT

A request for payment will be honored only if the provider has been authorized by the Child Care Scholarship Program to serve the child. The authorization for each Child Care Scholarship Program child gives the dates of approved child care services for a child. It is the provider's responsibility to maintain this information and bill only for eligible weeks.

A provider will not be paid for a child who is not enrolled for 3 consecutive weeks. Child care providers are still responsible for notifying the Child Care Scholarship Program when a child is no longer enrolled with their program. The provider may call the Child Care Scholarship Control center to drop children, may email ProviderQuestions@dss.sc.gov or may drop the children on their SVL.

Completing an SVL correctly the first time will ensure payment within 10-14 working days after receipt of the information.

NOTE: Payments for services over one year old will not be honored.

7.1.3 HAND-DELIVERED SVL'S

A provider that receives a paper SVL may hand-deliver their completed, signed, original SVL to the drop box located at State Office SCDSS. Child Care Payables staff pick up from the drop box daily. A hand delivered SVL is processed with all other payments. Delivering the SVL to the drop box does not guarantee a quicker payment. Payment should still be expected to be made within 10-14 working days from the date of receipt.

7.1.4 PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Payment is expected to take from 10 to 14 working days from receipt of the completed, signed, original SVL. A provider is asked and expected to wait until the 14th working day before calling about payment. The provider is reimbursed by a paper check or direct deposit, for services delivered. See [Payment Methods](#) along with the applicable Remittance Advices and payment validation, and the next SVL, if appropriate.

A provider receives a Provider Remittance Advice and payment validation with each reimbursement received.

The Provider Remittance Advice identifies the client, child, and payment amount for each week of enrollment making up the payment total. A provider is expected to match the Provider Remittance Advice against the provider's copy of the SVL to ensure proper payment for each transaction.

There are four types of remittance advice forms:

- 1) Paid Remittance Advice:** This form indicates which clients and weeks were paid.
- 2) Rejected Remittance Advice:** This form indicates which clients and weeks were not paid and the reason.
- 3) Adjusted Remittance Advice:** This form indicates if funds were deducted from the provider's check, the amount, and the reason. An adjusted remittance advice is sent only when there have been adjustments to the provider's payment due to overpayments.
- 4) Grant Remittance Advice:** This form indicates the amount of the grant paid.

The provider may call the Control Center (1-800-262-4416) or email ProviderQuestions@dss.sc.gov with any questions regarding payment problems, and/or questions about transactions that did not process.

7.1.5 PROVIDER CHECK PICKUP

A provider is not allowed to pick up a paper check reimbursement unless extenuating circumstances are present, as determined by Child Care Scholarship Program Manager and/or Child Care Payables.

7.1.6 PROVIDER ADJUSTMENTS

Provider payments will be adjusted when necessary to correct errors made by the payment agency or the service agency. The types of provider adjustments are:

- 1) Receivable Adjustment:** The process of collecting over-payment made to a provider. In this case, funds will be taken back for the specific period requested. The connection will be deleted or shortened once the adjustment is complete.
- 2) Partial Receivable Adjustment:** The process of collecting a portion of the over-payment made to a provider. In this case, one would process the adjustment for the difference between full-time and half-time care. The connection will not change; it will still reflect a full-time connection, but the difference between the full-time and half-time rate will be taken from the provider's payment.
- 3) Partial Payable Adjustment:** The process of paying a provider for an under-payment. In this case, one would process the adjustment for difference between half-time and full- time care. The connection will not change; it will still reflect a half-time connection, but the provider would receive the difference between the half-time and full-time rate.
- 4) Payable Adjustment:** The process of paying a provider for services due that cannot be paid under the normal SVL payment process.

The payment to a provider who owes money and has active connections will be deducted from future reimbursements until the debt has been satisfied.

7.1.7 TAX LIENS AND LEVIES

If a Child Care Scholarship Program provider does not pay their applicable state or federal taxes, a lien or levy may be imposed on their Child Care Scholarship Program reimbursements by the Internal Revenue Service and/or the State Revenue Department through the Comptroller General's Office. The provider's reimbursement will continue to be garnished until the unpaid amount of taxes has been recouped.

CHAPTER 8

APPEALS and FAIR HEARINGS

8.1 The Client Appeal

The applicant/client is given an opportunity to request a fair hearing in compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964. They may appeal any decision that results in the denial or termination of services, provided that decision is not based solely on lack of available funds or on the natural ending of services at the end of an eligibility period. Lack of funding or the natural ending of services at the end of an eligibility period are not negative actions taken by the Child Care Scholarship Program and will not be allowed to be reasons a client requests an appeal. In instances where a client requests an appeal based on lack of funding or ending of services, the appeal will be dismissed. **Client appeal hearings are held by the agency that makes the decision that the client is appealing.**

A fair hearing must be requested in writing and must be made within 30 days from the date of the negative action. The request may be made by the client/applicant or a person acting on their behalf, such as a legal representative, relative, or friend. Staff must not impede, limit, or interfere in any way with the client's right to request a fair hearing.

During an appeal process, the client is responsible for paying for their own child care arrangements. Child Care Scholarship Program child care services will resume if the decision is in favor of the client.

8.1.1 APPEALS/FAIR HEARINGS

If a client or provider disagrees with any decision that results in the denial or termination of their Child Care Scholarship Program services/enrollment, they may request a fair hearing before SCDSS. If the client or provider wishes to appeal the decision, they must notify SCDSS in writing, postmarked within 30 days of receiving a service denial notice or termination letter. The notice of intent to appeal should be directed to:

**South Carolina Department of Social Services
Individual and Provider Rights
P.O. Box 1520
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-1520**

Note: Please include your contact information: first and last name, telephone number and email address.

If notice of intent to appeal is not submitted to SCDSS within the 30-day period, the right to challenge the denial or termination will be lost and the decision will become final.

8.1.2 PROVIDER APPEALS

A provider has the right to request a fair hearing regarding any negative action taken by the Child Care Scholarship Program. Negative actions include but are not limited to termination from the ABC Program and de-enrollment of a specific care type. The provider must request the fair hearing within 30 days of the negative action by submitting the request in writing to the Division of Individual and Provider Rights (DIPR). Upon receipt of the request, DIPR will schedule the fair hearing and coordinate with SCDSS legal staff as well as the provider and the provider's legal representative as appropriate. ABC Quality staff are responsible for representing the Child Care Scholarship Program at fair hearings for:

- Level A, B and C and P Providers
- State Office Child Care Services staff are responsible for representing the Child Care Scholarship Program at fair hearings for:
- All FFN/FNI/FRO/FRI Providers

8.1.3 CONNECTING CLIENTS DURING AN APPEAL

No new Child Care Scholarship Program clients will be allowed to connect to an Child Care Scholarship Program facility during an appeal with SCDSS, the Child Care Scholarship Program, ABC Quality or Child Care Licensing. A provider may continue serving a child who is currently connected unless the health and/or safety of the child is jeopardized. However, if a provider is currently caring for a child and the services come up for renewal, or the family is determined to be eligible for extended weeks of care and the provider is under an appeal, the family will have to find alternative child care arrangements.

Exception: If a child needs to be backdated to a start date prior to the appeal date, the Program Manager or designee may connect the child.

8.1.4 STAFF ROLES IN APPEALS/FAIR HEARINGS

When a client requests a fair hearing as a result of a negative action, the Department of Individual and Provider Rights (DIPR) will notify the Child Care Scholarship Program. Child Care Scholarship Program staff are responsible for sending a copy of the denial or termination letter to DIPR.

When DIPR schedules the fair hearing for the client, a copy of the letter will be sent to either the State Office or the county SCDSS office, depending on which office initiated the negative action. The appropriate staff is responsible for:

- Completing a summary of the situation that led to the negative action AND
- Submitting a copy of the summary, application and supporting documentation to DIPR and the client prior to the scheduled date of the fair hearing.

This information must be completed and sent timely so that DIPR and the client receive it in advance of the scheduled fair hearing date.

A fair hearing will be scheduled via the telephone unless the client requests a face-to- face hearing. On the date of the fair hearing, the appropriate county or State Office staff is responsible for attending the face-to-face hearing or for calling DIPR at (803) 898-8080 before the scheduled telephone hearing. The appropriate staff will represent SCDSS at the hearing and will be responsible for presenting the facts and situation which led to the negative action which resulted in the denial or termination of the client's child care services.

After the fair hearing, DIPR will send a letter containing the decision of the hearing officer to the client and to the appropriate SCDSS staff person. If the negative action is upheld, no further action is necessary. However, if the negative action is reversed, the staff person is responsible for reinstating child care services for the affected client/child through the end of the existing eligibility period.

Chapter 9

Program Integrity

9.0 PROGRAM INTEGRITY

In order to operate and maintain a strong CCDF program, regular evaluations of the program's internal controls as well as comprehensive training for all entities involved in the administration of the program are imperative. The Child Care Scholarship Program implements internal controls that promote and support program integrity. No one person's role allows them to work from the beginning of the child care eligibility to payment of child care services. The desk review process and Improper Payment Review process are completed by staff that are not responsible for eligibility determination or payment information nor are they under the supervision of the Program Manager that is responsible for the oversight of the eligibility, enrollment and payment process staff. As risks are identified, resolutions are sought, including revision of policies, procedures and /or practices to minimize the risks.

9.1 DESK REVIEW PROCESS

A desk review process is in place to review a percentage of all child care eligibility workers' cases approved every two weeks. This process is used to ensure that eligibility has been determined correctly. Available agency data systems, such as TANF/SNAP and CAPSS are accessed, as appropriate, to ensure child care is in the correct child care category. The reviewer determines that all paperwork and documentation are in the case record. A review of the Child Care Scholarship Program database is also conducted to ensure that information from the application has been properly entered. Any errors or improper payments are communicated to the supervisor of the area responsible for the area and the error will be addressed and corrected by eligibility staff within 5 days of notification of the error/improper payment.

These desk reviews are considered to be a preventative measure that will assist SCDSS in conducting the improper payments reporting process. The reviews are also used to identify training needs for staff and to strengthen policy and procedures.

9.2 IMPROPER PAYMENTS

In November 2002, the Congress passed the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 (IPIA). The major objective of the legislation was to enhance the accuracy and integrity of federal payments. This legislation, in conjunction with implementing guidance from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), requires executive branch agency heads to review their programs and activities annually, identify those that may be susceptible to significant improper payments, estimate amounts improperly paid, and report on the amounts of improper payments and actions to reduce them.

9.3 REPORTING/INVESTIGATING MISUSE

When circumstances exist that cause a provider or another individual to suspect a client or provider is inappropriately receiving Child Care Scholarship Program child care services, it should be reported to the Control Center at 1-800-262-4416.

9.4 MISUSE OF SERVICES

Clients are responsible for keeping their contact information and address current with the Child Care Scholarship Program and to report if they lose their employment, if they disenroll or stop attending an educational or training program or if their income exceeds 85% of state median income. Current state median income amounts may be found on our website at www.scchildcare.org

Any individual who provides incorrect information or misrepresents facts for the purpose of obtaining or attempting to obtain child care services from the Child Care Scholarship Program will be subject to sanctions administered by SCDSS. Some common situations include, but are not limited to:

Situation 1: An applicant intentionally leaving off a spouse, partner or other parent of the child residing in the same home due to the other parent not working, being in school, or in training or knowingly leaving off the other parent for the purpose of remaining under 85% SMI. Intentionally applying under this situation will result in denial or termination of services and will be referred to the Office of the Inspector General.

Situation 2: Parents who are applying for child care who are residing in the same home must apply for child care assistance as one household. Parents who reside in the same home and attempt to apply for child care as a separate household unit for the same children may be considered to be misrepresenting themselves for the purpose of obtaining child care and may be terminated as such as determined by the Program Manager, their designee or the Office of Inspector General.

Situation 3: Applicant applies when the parents are not in the same household and the primary parent applies for child care in their name alone and exceeds income or is otherwise determined not eligible, the absent parent that does not have primary custody will not be allowed to apply for child care and may be considered to be misrepresenting themselves for the purpose of obtaining child care and may be terminated as such as determined by the Program Manager, their designee or the Office of Inspector General.

Situation 4: Parents of the same child(ren) that are divorced or otherwise no longer together, that apply for child care for the same children in two separate households for the purpose of obtaining child care by:

- increasing their family size in order to increase their chance for income eligibility.
- both parents apply because they have joint custody,
- both parents apply in order to include more children in their family size to increase chances of eligibility

Regardless of joint custody (50/50) situations, only one parent may apply for scholarships. If custody changes from one parent to another legal custody paperwork must be submitted. Services would then be stopped under the original parent that applied and moved to the parent that has assumed primary custody. Intentionally applying under this situation will result in denial or termination of services and will be referred to the Office of the Inspector General.

9.5 DETERMINATION OF MISUSE

During the application process, the client is informed that it is their responsibility to provide correct information when the application is completed. Additionally, the client is given a copy of the Applicant Rights and Responsibilities that emphasizes the need for accurate information. Further, the service application includes a statement which must be signed by the client. In signing this statement, the client declares that the information contained within the application is true to the best of their knowledge. The information provided by the client is the basis for determining client intent of misuse of services.

If it is determined that a client intentionally misrepresented themselves, the client will be terminated for life and will not be allowed to apply or receive child care services through the Child Care Scholarship Program under any funding category.

9.6 FRAUD

The Child Care Scholarship Program receives reports of potential fraud through our 1- 800 phones lines and the agency Fraud Hotline. Reports are researched and actions taken as appropriate to terminate child care services.

The Child Care Scholarship Program is required by federal regulations to recover child care payments that are the result of fraud. These payments shall be recovered from the party responsible for committing the fraud. The current system adjustment process addresses recoupment of payments to a provider.

Suspected fraud or misuse will be referred to the Office of Inspector General for guidance on how to proceed.

9.7 SYSTEM REPORTS

The Child Care Scholarship Program works a variety of reports in order to ensure that the most accurate information is updated in the system.

Reports include but are not limited to:

Monthly Caseload Report - An active child care caseload report is reviewed monthly against agency data systems to ensure continued child care eligibility. Upon reviewing the report, the appropriate action is taken to process seamless transitional child care for clients moving from TANF child care to TCC. The following reports are being reviewed on a monthly basis:

- TCC cases with open TANF benefit cases.
- TANF child care cases that have closed TANF benefit cases.

Pseudo Social Security Number Report – A report of all clients and recipients with pseudo social security numbers. Staff research CHIP, CAPSS and any other available systems to update the social security numbers to the actual social security number. This measure is used to prevent the same recipients from being entered into multiple records.

Provider Expiration Date Report – A report of all ABC Quality providers, their child care application number (CC number), the facility capacity and the license or registration expiration date. Staff access the Child Care Licensing system to obtain updated capacities and expiration dates and updates the Child Care Scholarship Program as needed. Any discrepancies or concerns are always addressed with child care licensing.

Provider Capacity Report – A report of all ABC Quality enrolled providers participating with the Child Care Scholarship Program that indicates the number of scholarship children and the licensed/registered capacity of the child care provider. This report shows only those providers that have more children connected than the licensed/registered capacity. Most providers on this list operate multiple shifts and remain in compliance with enrollment but this report is used to ensure the provider is under capacity with voucher children. Any discrepancies or concerns are always addressed with child care licensing and ABC Quality.

Duplicate Client Report – A report worked daily to ensure clients are not entered into the Child Care Scholarship Program system under two different numbers. Example: One file under the original social security number and one under a pseudo social security number for the same family or to catch any mistyped social security numbers that create duplicate files. This report is worked daily to reduce the amount of errors in payments to child care providers.

9.8 INTERNAL AUDITS AND CLIENT CALLS

Internal audits conduct a series of audits per year in order to review child care provider documentation to ensure compliance with CCDF federal requirements as administered by the Child Care Scholarship Program. Additionally, internal audit staff will visit any child care provider identified by the Director of Early Care and Education or the Program Manager for the Child Care Scholarship Program when requested.

To further facilitate program integrity, internal audit staff will begin calling a random sample of clients that are currently receiving child care at an enrolled ABC Quality provider to verify that the child is actually attending the child care facility where payments are being made. A report of all active clients with active connections has been created by the Information Technology team and will be used by internal audits to make these calls. Any findings by internal audits from these calls that need action will be forward to the Child Care Scholarship Program designated staff for necessary adjustments.

9.9 ATTENDANCE AUDIT

In order to support program integrity, the Child Care Scholarship Program will begin performing an attendance audit of child care provider payment records to confirm that the children being paid for by the Child Care Scholarship Program were indeed enrolled and attending a program for a specified time frame.

A randomizer will be created of active providers with active connections to exclude family, friend and neighbor providers, grant only providers and out of state providers. Twenty five percent (25%) of all providers with active connections at the time the attendance is requested will be reviewed. Each provider will be pulled no more than once every 12 months. Attendance pulls will be notated in the Child Care Scholarship Program database when requested so the same child care provider is not selected more than once.

during a 12-month period. 100% of the children connected will be reviewed for the time period requested.

The schedule of the pull of this information will be every quarter and each quarter will pull the previous three months. Example: For April 2026, the months of January 1, 2026-March 31, 2026, will be pulled. Information will be requested from the identified child care provider to be sent to a shared mailbox. Upon review of the documents, it will be determined if recoupments should be issued to the provider.

9.10 COLLECTION OF ATTENDANCE BY CHILD CARE LICENSING STAFF

Child care licensing staff will collect the attendance logs for a child care provider during an unannounced visit and will email the collected attendance to attendance@dss.sc.gov. These attendance records will include, at minimum, the attendance for the date of the visit. Upon receipt of the attendance logs, designated child care staff will run a report of connected children and compare to the children connected with the attendance logs submitted. Any discrepancies found will be communicated with the child care provider for clarification. In the even that the child care provider cannot prove any connected child was in attendance, receivable adjustments may be issued as determined appropriate by the designated child care staff and Program Manager.

APPENDIX 1

**Child Care Scholarship Program
Child Care Income Standards
October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026**

| Family Size | Gross Family Income | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|----------|---------------------------|-----------|
| | Income Threshold Monthly | | Income Threshold Annually | |
| | Minimum | Maximum | Minimum | Maximum |
| 1 | \$0 | \$3,777 | \$0 | \$45,324 |
| 2 | \$0 | \$4,939 | \$0 | \$59,269 |
| 3 | \$0 | \$6,101 | \$0 | \$73,215 |
| 4 | \$0 | \$7,263 | \$0 | \$87,161 |
| 5 | \$0 | \$8,426 | \$0 | \$101,106 |
| 6 | \$0 | \$9,588 | \$0 | \$115,052 |
| 7 | \$0 | \$9,806 | \$0 | \$117,667 |
| 8 | \$0 | \$10,023 | \$0 | \$120,282 |
| 9 | \$0 | \$10,241 | \$0 | \$122,897 |
| 10 | \$0 | \$10,459 | \$0 | \$125,511 |
| 11 | \$0 | \$10,677 | \$0 | \$128,126 |
| 12 | \$0 | \$10,895 | \$0 | \$130,471 |
| 13 | \$0 | \$11,113 | \$0 | \$133,086 |
| 14 | \$0 | \$11,331 | \$0 | \$135,701 |
| 15 | \$0 | \$11,549 | \$0 | \$138,316 |
| 16 | \$0 | \$11,767 | \$0 | \$140,931 |

The income thresholds are based on 85% of State Median Income (SMI).

APPENDIX 2

Child Care Scholarship Program Child Development Fee Scale October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026

| Family Size | Monthly Income | Client Fee | Family Size | Monthly Income | Client Fee | Family Size | Monthly Income | Client Fee | Family Size | Monthly Income | Client Fee | |
|-------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|------------------|------------|-------------|-------------------|------------|-------------|-------------------|------------|--|
| 1 | 0-\$1,956 | \$0 | 5 | 0-\$4,706 | \$0 | 9 | 0-\$7,457 | \$0 | 13 | 0-\$10,209 | \$0 | |
| | \$1,957-\$2,321 | \$6 | | \$4,707-\$5,450 | \$6 | | \$7,458-\$8,014 | \$6 | | \$10,210-\$10,390 | \$6 | |
| | \$2,322-\$2,685 | \$11 | | \$5,451-\$6,194 | \$11 | | \$8,015-\$8,571 | \$11 | | \$10,391-\$10,571 | \$11 | |
| | \$2,686-\$3,049 | \$14 | | \$6,195-\$6,938 | \$14 | | \$8,572-\$9,128 | \$14 | | \$10,572-\$10,752 | \$14 | |
| | \$3,050-\$3,413 | \$17 | | \$6,939-\$7,682 | \$17 | | \$9,129-\$9,685 | \$17 | | \$10,753-\$10,933 | \$17 | |
| | \$3,414-\$3,777 | \$20 | | \$7,683-\$8,426 | \$20 | | \$9,686-\$10,241 | \$20 | | \$10,934-\$11,111 | \$20 | |
| 2 | 0-\$2,644 | \$0 | 6 | 0-\$5,394 | \$0 | 10 | 0-\$8,145 | \$0 | 14 | 0-\$10,897 | \$0 | |
| | \$2,645-\$3,103 | \$6 | | \$5,395-\$6,233 | \$6 | | \$8,146-\$8,608 | \$6 | | \$10,898-\$10,984 | \$6 | |
| | \$3,104-\$3,562 | \$11 | | \$6,234-\$7,072 | \$11 | | \$8,609-\$9,071 | \$11 | | \$10,985-\$11,071 | \$11 | |
| | \$3,563-\$4,021 | \$14 | | \$7,073-\$7,911 | \$14 | | \$9,072-\$9,534 | \$14 | | \$11,072-\$11,158 | \$14 | |
| | \$4,022-\$4,480 | \$17 | | \$7,912-\$8,750 | \$17 | | \$9,535-\$9,997 | \$17 | | \$11,159-\$11,245 | \$17 | |
| | \$4,481-\$4,939 | \$20 | | \$8,751-\$9,588 | \$20 | | \$9,998-\$10,459 | \$20 | | \$11,246-\$11,331 | \$20 | |
| 3 | 0-\$3,331 | \$0 | 7 | 0-\$6,081 | \$0 | 11 | 0-\$8,833 | \$0 | 15 | 0-\$11,585 | \$0 | |
| | \$3,332-\$3,885 | \$6 | | \$6,082-\$6,826 | \$6 | | \$8,834-\$9,202 | \$6 | | N/A | | |
| | \$3,386-\$4,439 | \$11 | | \$6,827-\$7,571 | \$11 | | \$9,203-\$9,571 | \$11 | | | | |
| | \$4,440-\$4,993 | \$14 | | \$7,572-\$8,316 | \$14 | | \$9,572-\$9,940 | \$14 | | | | |
| | \$4,994-\$5,547 | \$17 | | \$8,317-\$9,061 | \$17 | | \$9,941-\$10,309 | \$17 | | | | |
| | \$5,548-\$6,101 | \$20 | | \$9,062-\$9,806 | \$20 | | \$10,310-\$10,677 | \$20 | | | | |
| 4 | 0-\$4,019 | \$0 | 8 | 0-\$6,769 | \$0 | 12 | 0-\$9,521 | \$0 | 16 | 0-\$12,273 | \$0 | |
| | \$4,020-\$4,668 | \$6 | | \$6,770-\$7,420 | \$6 | | \$9,522-\$9,796 | \$6 | | N/A | | |
| | \$4,669-\$5,317 | \$11 | | \$7,421-\$8,071 | \$11 | | \$9,797-\$10,071 | \$11 | | | | |
| | \$5,318-\$5,966 | \$14 | | \$8,072-\$8,722 | \$14 | | \$10,072-\$10,346 | \$14 | | | | |
| | \$5,967-\$6,615 | \$17 | | \$8,723-\$9,373 | \$17 | | \$10,347-\$10,621 | \$17 | | | | |
| | \$6,616-\$7,263 | \$20 | | \$9,374-\$10,023 | \$20 | | \$10,622-\$10,895 | \$20 | | | | |

APPENDIX 3

Child Care Scholarship Program Maximum Payments Allowed FFY2022: October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2026 Revised

| LEVEL A+ CHILD CARE CENTERS (NAC) | | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| | | Urban | Rural |
| Under age 1 FT | | \$ 296 | \$ 158 |
| Age 1 FT | | \$ 284 | \$ 158 |
| Age 2 FT | | \$ 284 | \$ 155 |
| Age 3 FT | | \$ 275 | \$ 150 |
| Age 4 FT | | \$ 274 | \$ 150 |
| Age 5 FT not in K'garten | | \$ 274 | \$ 150 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school FT | | \$ 274 | \$ 130 |
| | | | |
| Under age 1 HT | | \$ 197 | \$ 125 |
| Age 1 HT | | \$ 196 | \$ 125 |
| Age 2 HT | | \$ 196 | \$ 125 |
| Age 3 HT | | \$ 195 | \$ 125 |
| Age 4 HT | | \$ 195 | \$ 125 |
| Age 5 HT not in K'garten | | \$ 195 | \$ 125 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school HT | | \$ 150 | \$ 125 |
| | | | |
| LEVEL A CHILD CARE CENTERS (ERS) | | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 |
| | | Urban | Rural |
| Under age 1 FT | | \$ 254 | \$ 155 |
| Age 1 FT | | \$ 254 | \$ 155 |
| Age 2 FT | | \$ 250 | \$ 150 |
| Age 3 FT | | \$ 242 | \$ 140 |
| Age 4 FT | | \$ 242 | \$ 140 |
| Age 5 FT not in K'garten | | \$ 242 | \$ 139 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school FT | | \$ 242 | \$ 125 |
| | | | |
| Under age 1 HT | | \$ 180 | \$ 123 |
| Age 1 HT | | \$ 180 | \$ 123 |
| Age 2 HT | | \$ 177 | \$ 120 |

| LEVEL B+ CHILD CARE CENTERS (EPC) | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 |
|--|---|---|
| | Urban | Rural |
| Under age 1 FT | \$ 240 | \$ 150 |
| Age 1 FT | \$ 237 | \$ 150 |
| Age 2 FT | \$ 231 | \$ 140 |
| Age 3 FT | \$ 218 | \$ 135 |
| Age 4 FT | \$ 218 | \$ 135 |
| Age 5 FT not in K'garten | \$ 218 | \$ 135 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school FT | \$ 197 | \$ 120 |
| | | |
| Under age 1 HT | \$ 175 | \$ 121 |
| Age 1 HT | \$ 165 | \$ 121 |
| Age 2 HT | \$ 155 | \$ 112 |
| Age 3 HT | \$ 150 | \$ 105 |
| Age 4 HT | \$ 150 | \$ 105 |
| Age 5 HT not in K'garten | \$ 139 | \$ 105 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school HT | \$ 110 | \$ 85 |
| | | |
| LEVEL B CHILD CARE CENTERS (ECR) | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 |
| | Urban | Rural |
| Under age 1 FT | \$ 223 | \$ 145 |
| Age 1 FT | \$ 223 | \$ 140 |
| Age 2 FT | \$ 216 | \$ 135 |
| Age 3 FT | \$ 203 | \$ 130 |
| Age 4 FT | \$ 200 | \$ 130 |
| Age 5 FT not in K'garten | \$ 200 | \$ 130 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school FT | \$ 175 | \$ 115 |
| | | |
| Under age 1 HT | \$ 160 | \$ 105 |
| Age 1 HT | \$ 160 | \$ 105 |
| Age 2 HT | \$ 150 | \$ 105 |
| Age 3 HT | \$ 139 | \$ 100 |
| Age 4 HT | \$ 125 | \$ 100 |
| Age 5 HT not in K'garten | \$ 125 | \$ 100 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school HT | \$ 100 | \$ 80 |

| LEVEL C CHILD CARE CENTERS (LRC) | Maximum Weekly Payment | Maximum Weekly Payment |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | 10/1/2021 | 10/1/2021 |
| | Urban | Rural |
| Under age 1 FT | \$ 213 | \$ 135 |
| Age 1 FT | \$ 213 | \$ 135 |
| Age 2 FT | \$ 205 | \$ 130 |
| Age 3 FT | \$ 195 | \$ 127 |
| Age 4 FT | \$ 191 | \$ 125 |
| Age 5 FT not in K'garten | \$ 191 | \$ 125 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school FT | \$ 165 | \$ 110 |
| | | |
| Under age 1 HT | \$ 140 | \$ 100 |
| Age 1 HT | \$ 140 | \$ 100 |
| Age 2 HT | \$ 140 | \$ 100 |
| Age 3 HT | \$ 123 | \$ 95 |
| Age 4 HT | \$ 122 | \$ 85 |
| Age 5 HT not in K'garten | \$ 122 | \$ 85 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school HT | \$ 88 | \$ 75 |

| EXEMPT/WAIVERED Level A+ CHILD CARE CENTERS (TBD) | Maximum Weekly Payment | Maximum Weekly Payment |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | 10/1/2021 | 10/1/2021 |
| | Urban | Rural |
| Under age 1 FT | \$ 266 | \$ 142 |
| Age 1 FT | \$ 256 | \$ 142 |
| Age 2 FT | \$ 256 | \$ 140 |
| Age 3 FT | \$ 248 | \$ 135 |
| Age 4 FT | \$ 247 | \$ 135 |
| Age 5 FT not in K'garten | \$ 247 | \$ 135 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school FT | \$ 247 | \$ 117 |
| | | |
| Under age 1 HT | \$ 177 | \$ 113 |
| Age 1 HT | \$ 176 | \$ 113 |
| Age 2 HT | \$ 176 | \$ 113 |
| Age 3 HT | \$ 176 | \$ 113 |
| Age 4 HT | \$ 176 | \$ 113 |
| Age 5 HT not in K'garten | \$ 176 | \$ 113 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school HT | \$ 135 | \$ 113 |

| EXEMPT/WAIVERED Level A CHILD CARE CENTERS (TBD) | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 |
|---|---|---|
| | Urban | Rural |
| Under age 1 FT | \$ 229 | \$ 140 |
| Age 1 FT | \$ 229 | \$ 140 |
| Age 2 FT | \$ 225 | \$ 135 |
| Age 3 FT | \$ 218 | \$ 126 |
| Age 4 FT | \$ 218 | \$ 126 |
| Age 5 FT not in K'garten | \$ 218 | \$ 125 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school FT | \$ 218 | \$ 113 |
| | | |
| Under age 1 HT | \$ 162 | \$ 111 |
| Age 1 HT | \$ 162 | \$ 111 |
| Age 2 HT | \$ 159 | \$ 108 |
| Age 3 HT | \$ 154 | \$ 99 |
| Age 4 HT | \$ 152 | \$ 99 |
| Age 5 HT not in K'garten | \$ 152 | \$ 99 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school HT | \$ 113 | \$ 77 |

| EXEMPT/WAIVERED Level B+ CHILD CARE CENTERS (EBB) | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 |
|--|---|---|
| | Urban | Rural |
| Under age 1 FT | \$ 216 | \$ 135 |
| Age 1 FT | \$ 213 | \$ 135 |
| Age 2 FT | \$ 208 | \$ 126 |
| Age 3 FT | \$ 196 | \$ 122 |
| Age 4 FT | \$ 196 | \$ 122 |
| Age 5 FT not in K'garten | \$ 196 | \$ 122 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school FT | \$ 177 | \$ 108 |
| | | |
| Under age 1 HT | \$ 158 | \$ 109 |
| Age 1 HT | \$ 149 | \$ 109 |
| Age 2 HT | \$ 140 | \$ 101 |
| Age 3 HT | \$ 135 | \$ 95 |
| Age 4 HT | \$ 135 | \$ 95 |
| Age 5 HT not in K'garten | \$ 125 | \$ 95 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school HT | \$ 99 | \$ 77 |

| EXEMPT/WAIVERED Level B CHILD CARE CENTERS (EXB) | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 | | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 |
|---|---|--------------|---|
| | Urban | Rural | |
| Under age 1 FT | \$ 201 | \$ 131 | |
| Age 1 FT | \$ 201 | \$ 126 | |
| Age 2 FT | \$ 194 | \$ 122 | |
| Age 3 FT | \$ 183 | \$ 117 | |
| Age 4 FT | \$ 180 | \$ 117 | |
| Age 5 FT not in K'garten | \$ 180 | \$ 117 | |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school FT | \$ 158 | \$ 104 | |
| | | | |
| Under age 1 HT | \$ 144 | \$ 95 | |
| Age 1 HT | \$ 144 | \$ 95 | |
| Age 2 HT | \$ 135 | \$ 95 | |
| Age 3 HT | \$ 125 | \$ 90 | |
| Age 4 HT | \$ 113 | \$ 90 | |
| Age 5 HT not in K'garten | \$ 113 | \$ 90 | |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school HT | \$ 90 | \$ 72 | |
| | | | |
| EXEMPT/WAIVERED Level C CHILD CARE CENTERS (EXT) | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 | | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 |
| | Urban | Rural | |
| Under age 1 FT | \$ 192 | \$ 122 | |
| Age 1 FT | \$ 192 | \$ 122 | |
| Age 2 FT | \$ 185 | \$ 117 | |
| Age 3 FT | \$ 176 | \$ 114 | |
| Age 4 FT | \$ 172 | \$ 113 | |
| Age 5 FT not in K'garten | \$ 172 | \$ 113 | |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school FT | \$ 149 | \$ 99 | |
| | | | |
| Under age 1 HT | \$ 126 | \$ 90 | |
| Age 1 HT | \$ 126 | \$ 90 | |
| Age 2 HT | \$ 126 | \$ 90 | |
| Age 3 HT | \$ 111 | \$ 86 | |
| Age 4 HT | \$ 110 | \$ 77 | |
| | | | |
| Age 5 HT not in K'garten | \$ 110 | \$ 77 | |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school HT | \$ 79 | \$ 68 | |

| LEVEL A+ GROUP CHILD CARE HOMES (TBD) | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 | | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|
| | Urban | Rural | |
| Under age 1 FT | \$ 190 | \$ 140 | |
| Age 1 FT | \$ 190 | \$ 140 | |
| Age 2 FT | \$ 185 | \$ 140 | |
| Age 3 FT | \$ 180 | \$ 135 | |
| Age 4 FT | \$ 180 | \$ 135 | |
| Age 5 FT not in K'garten | \$ 178 | \$ 135 | |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school FT | \$ 160 | \$ 115 | |
| | | | |
| Under age 1 HT | \$ 162 | \$ 130 | |
| Age 1 HT | \$ 162 | \$ 130 | |
| Age 2 HT | \$ 162 | \$ 130 | |
| Age 3 HT | \$ 140 | \$ 130 | |
| Age 4 HT | \$ 140 | \$ 130 | |
| Age 5 HT not in K'garten | \$ 140 | \$ 130 | |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school HT | \$ 140 | \$ 100 | |

| LEVEL A GROUP CHILD CARE HOMES (TBD) | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 | | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|
| | Urban | Rural | |
| Under age 1 FT | \$ 180 | \$ 130 | |
| Age 1 FT | \$ 180 | \$ 130 | |
| Age 2 FT | \$ 175 | \$ 130 | |
| Age 3 FT | \$ 160 | \$ 127 | |
| Age 4 FT | \$ 160 | \$ 127 | |
| Age 5 FT not in K'garten | \$ 160 | \$ 127 | |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school FT | \$ 150 | \$ 110 | |
| | | | |
| Under age 1 HT | \$ 159 | \$ 126 | |
| Age 1 HT | \$ 159 | \$ 126 | |
| Age 2 HT | \$ 159 | \$ 126 | |
| Age 3 HT | \$ 138 | \$ 120 | |
| Age 4 HT | \$ 138 | \$ 120 | |
| Age 5 HT not in K'garten | \$ 138 | \$ 120 | |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school HT | \$ 121 | \$ 85 | |

| LEVEL B+ GROUP CHILD CARE HOMES (EGP) | Maximum Weekly Payment | Maximum Weekly Payment |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | 10/1/2021 | 10/1/2021 |
| | Urban | Rural |
| Under age 1 FT | \$ 170 | \$ 127 |
| Age 1 FT | \$ 170 | \$ 127 |
| Age 2 FT | \$ 165 | \$ 127 |
| Age 3 FT | \$ 150 | \$ 125 |
| Age 4 FT | \$ 150 | \$ 125 |
| Age 5 FT not in K'garten | \$ 149 | \$ 110 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school FT | \$ 145 | \$ 104 |
| | | |
| Under age 1 HT | \$ 150 | \$ 125 |
| Age 1 HT | \$ 150 | \$ 125 |
| Age 2 HT | \$ 150 | \$ 125 |
| Age 3 HT | \$ 137 | \$ 115 |
| Age 4 HT | \$ 137 | \$ 115 |
| Age 5 HT not in K'garten | \$ 137 | \$ 115 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school HT | \$ 120 | \$ 80 |

| LEVEL B GROUP CHILD CARE HOMES (EGP) | Maximum Weekly Payment | Maximum Weekly Payment |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | 10/1/2021 | 10/1/2021 |
| | Urban | Rural |
| Under age 1 FT | \$ 160 | \$ 126 |
| Age 1 FT | \$ 160 | \$ 125 |
| Age 2 FT | \$ 160 | \$ 125 |
| Age 3 FT | \$ 145 | \$ 119 |
| Age 4 FT | \$ 145 | \$ 119 |
| Age 5 FT not in K'garten | \$ 141 | \$ 111 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school FT | \$ 130 | \$ 111 |
| | | |
| Under age 1 HT | \$ 135 | \$ 123 |
| Age 1 HT | \$ 135 | \$ 123 |
| Age 2 HT | \$ 135 | \$ 123 |
| Age 3 HT | \$ 124 | \$ 110 |
| Age 4 HT | \$ 120 | \$ 110 |
| Age 5 HT not in K'garten | \$ 120 | \$ 110 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school HT | \$ 105 | \$ 78 |

| LEVEL C GROUP CHILD CARE HOMES (LRG) | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 |
|--|---|---|
| | Urban | Rural |
| Under age 1 FT | \$ 150 | \$ 125 |
| Age 1 FT | \$ 150 | \$ 120 |
| Age 2 FT | \$ 150 | \$ 110 |
| Age 3 FT | \$ 140 | \$ 105 |
| Age 4 FT | \$ 140 | \$ 105 |
| Age 5 FT not in K'garten | \$ 140 | \$ 105 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school FT | \$ 125 | \$ 100 |
| | | |
| Under age 1 HT | \$ 125 | \$ 120 |
| Age 1 HT | \$ 125 | \$ 113 |
| Age 2 HT | \$ 125 | \$ 113 |
| Age 3 HT | \$ 100 | \$ 100 |
| Age 4 HT | \$ 100 | \$ 100 |
| Age 5 HT not in K'garten | \$ 100 | \$ 100 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school HT | \$ 100 | \$ 75 |
| LEVEL A+ LICENSED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES (TBD) | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 |
| | Urban | Rural |
| Under age 1 FT | \$190 | 140 |
| Age 1 FT | \$190 | 140 |
| Age 2 FT | \$185 | 140 |
| Age 3 FT | \$180 | 135 |
| Age 4 FT | \$180 | 135 |
| Age 5 FT not in K'garten | \$178 | 135 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school FT | \$160 | 115 |
| | | |
| Under age 1 HT | \$162 | 130 |
| Age 1 HT | \$162 | 130 |
| Age 2 HT | \$162 | 130 |
| Age 3 HT | \$140 | 130 |
| Age 4 HT | \$140 | 130 |
| Age 5 HT not in K'garten | \$140 | 130 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school HT | \$140 | 100 |

| LEVEL A LICENSED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES (TBD) | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 |
|--|---|---|
| | Urban | Rural |
| Under age 1 FT | \$ 180 | \$ 130 |
| Age 1 FT | \$ 180 | \$ 130 |
| Age 2 FT | \$ 175 | \$ 130 |
| Age 3 FT | \$ 160 | \$ 127 |
| Age 4 FT | \$ 160 | \$ 127 |
| Age 5 FT not in K'garten | \$ 160 | \$ 127 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school FT | \$ 150 | \$ 110 |
| | | |
| Under age 1 HT | \$ 159 | \$ 126 |
| Age 1 HT | \$ 159 | \$ 126 |
| Age 2 HT | \$ 159 | \$ 126 |
| Age 3 HT | \$ 138 | \$ 120 |
| Age 4 HT | \$ 138 | \$ 120 |
| Age 5 HT not in K'garten | \$ 138 | \$ 120 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school HT | \$ 121 | \$ 85 |
| LEVEL B+ LICENSED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES (EPF) | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 |
| | Urban | Rural |
| Under age 1 FT | \$170 | \$ 127 |
| Age 1 FT | \$170 | \$ 127 |
| Age 2 FT | \$165 | \$ 127 |
| Age 3 FT | \$150 | \$ 125 |
| Age 4 FT | \$150 | \$ 125 |
| Age 5 FT not in K'garten | \$149 | \$ 111 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school FT | \$145 | \$ 111 |
| | | |
| Under age 1 HT | \$150 | \$ 125 |
| Age 1 HT | \$150 | \$ 125 |
| Age 2 HT | \$150 | \$ 125 |
| Age 3 HT | \$137 | \$ 115 |
| Age 4 HT | \$137 | \$ 115 |
| Age 5 HT not in K'garten | \$137 | \$ 115 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school HT | \$120 | \$ 80 |

| LEVEL B LICENSED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES (LFY) | Maximum Weekly Payment | Maximum Weekly Payment |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | 10/1/2021 | 10/1/2021 |
| | Urban | Rural |
| Under age 1 FT | \$ 160 | \$ 125 |
| Age 1 FT | \$ 160 | \$ 125 |
| Age 2 FT | \$ 160 | \$ 125 |
| Age 3 FT | \$ 145 | \$ 119 |
| Age 4 FT | \$ 145 | \$ 119 |
| Age 5 FT not in K'garten | \$ 141 | \$ 110 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school FT | \$ 130 | \$ 110 |
| | | |
| Under age 1 HT | \$ 135 | \$ 123 |
| Age 1 HT | \$ 135 | \$ 123 |
| Age 2 HT | \$ 135 | \$ 123 |
| Age 3 HT | \$ 124 | \$ 110 |
| Age 4 HT | \$ 120 | \$ 110 |
| Age 5 HT not in K'garten | \$ 120 | \$ 110 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school HT | \$ 105 | \$ 78 |

| LEVEL B+ REGISTERED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES (RFY) | Maximum Weekly Payment | Maximum Weekly Payment |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | 10/1/2021 | 10/1/2021 |
| | Urban | Rural |
| Under age 1 FT | \$ 157 | \$ 123 |
| Age 1 FT | \$ 157 | \$ 123 |
| Age 2 FT | \$ 157 | \$ 123 |
| Age 3 FT | \$ 143 | \$ 116 |
| Age 4 FT | \$ 143 | \$ 116 |
| Age 5 FT not in K'garten | \$ 138 | \$ 100 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school FT | \$ 105 | \$ 99 |
| | | |
| Under age 1 HT | \$ 132 | \$ 122 |
| Age 1 HT | \$ 132 | \$ 122 |
| Age 2 HT | \$ 132 | \$ 122 |
| Age 3 HT | \$ 111 | \$ 103 |
| Age 4 HT | \$ 111 | \$ 103 |
| Age 5 HT not in K'garten | \$ 111 | \$ 103 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school HT | \$ 102 | \$ 77 |

| LEVEL B REGISTERED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES (EFY) | Maximum Weekly Payment | Maximum Weekly Payment |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | 10/1/2021 | 10/1/2021 |
| Urban | | Rural |
| Under age 1 FT | \$ 153 | \$ 122 |
| Age 1 FT | \$ 153 | \$ 122 |
| Age 2 FT | \$ 153 | \$ 112 |
| Age 3 FT | \$ 142 | \$ 108 |
| Age 4 FT | \$ 142 | \$ 108 |
| Age 5 FT not in K'garten | \$ 142 | \$ 98 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school FT | \$ 103 | \$ 97 |
| | | |
| Under age 1 HT | \$ 128 | \$ 121 |
| Age 1 HT | \$ 128 | \$ 121 |
| Age 2 HT | \$ 128 | \$ 121 |
| Age 3 HT | \$ 102 | \$ 102 |
| Age 4 HT | \$ 102 | \$ 102 |
| Age 5 HT not in K'garten | \$ 102 | \$ 102 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school HT | \$ 101 | \$ 76 |

| LEVEL C LICENSED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES (LFH) | Maximum Weekly Payment | Maximum Weekly Payment |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | 10/1/2021 | 10/1/2021 |
| Urban | | Rural |
| Under age 1 FT | \$ 150 | \$ 121 |
| Age 1 FT | \$ 150 | \$ 120 |
| Age 2 FT | \$ 150 | \$ 110 |
| Age 3 FT | \$ 140 | \$ 105 |
| Age 4 FT | \$ 140 | \$ 105 |
| Age 5 FT not in K'garten | \$ 140 | \$ 105 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school FT | \$ 100 | \$ 95 |
| | | |
| Under age 1 HT | \$ 125 | \$ 120 |
| Age 1 HT | \$ 125 | \$ 113 |
| Age 2 HT | \$ 125 | \$ 113 |
| Age 3 HT | \$ 100 | \$ 100 |
| Age 4 HT | \$ 100 | \$ 100 |
| Age 5 HT not in K'garten | \$ 100 | \$ 100 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school HT | \$ 100 | \$ 75 |

| LEVEL C REGISTERED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES (RFH) | Maximum Weekly Payment | Maximum Weekly Payment |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | 10/1/2021 | 10/1/2021 |
| | Urban | Rural |
| Under age 1 FT | \$ 125 | \$ 121 |
| Age 1 FT | \$ 125 | \$ 95 |
| Age 2 FT | \$ 125 | \$ 95 |
| Age 3 FT | \$ 120 | \$ 90 |
| Age 4 FT | \$ 120 | \$ 90 |
| Age 5 FT not in K'garten | \$ 120 | \$ 90 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school FT | \$ 90 | \$ 75 |
| | | |
| Under age 1 HT | \$ 95 | \$ 70 |
| Age 1 HT | \$ 95 | \$ 70 |
| Age 2 HT | \$ 95 | \$ 70 |
| Age 3 HT | \$ 95 | \$ 65 |
| Age 4 HT | \$ 95 | \$ 65 |
| Age 5 HT not in K'garten | \$ 95 | \$ 65 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school HT | \$ 60 | \$ 50 |

Child Care Scholarship Program Maximum Payments Allowed FFY2022:
October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2025 Revised

| RELATED FAMILY, FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR CARE – PROVIDED IN THE CHILD'S HOME (FRI) | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 | | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 | |
|--|---|--------------|---|--|
| | Urban | Rural | | |
| Under age 1 FT | \$ 50 | \$ 50 | | |
| Age 1 FT | \$ 50 | \$ 50 | | |
| Age 2 FT | \$ 50 | \$ 50 | | |
| Age 3 FT | \$ 46 | \$ 46 | | |
| Age 4 FT | \$ 46 | \$ 46 | | |
| Age 5 FT not in K'garten | \$ 46 | \$ 46 | | |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school FT | \$ 46 | \$ 46 | | |
| | | | | |
| Under age 1 HT | \$ 30 | \$ 30 | | |
| Age 1 HT | \$ 30 | \$ 30 | | |
| Age 2 HT | \$ 30 | \$ 30 | | |
| Age 3 HT | \$ 30 | \$ 30 | | |
| Age 4 HT | \$ 30 | \$ 30 | | |
| Age 5 HT not in K'garten | \$ 30 | \$ 30 | | |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school HT | \$ 24 | \$ 24 | | |
| | | | | |
| UNRELATED FAMILY, FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR CARE – PROVIDED IN THE CHILD'S HOME (FNI) | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 | | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 | |
| | Urban | Rural | | |
| Under age 1 FT | \$ 50 | \$ 50 | | |
| Age 1 FT | \$ 50 | \$ 50 | | |
| Age 2 FT | \$ 50 | \$ 50 | | |
| Age 3 FT | \$ 46 | \$ 46 | | |
| Age 4 FT | \$ 46 | \$ 46 | | |
| Age 5 FT not in K'garten | \$ 46 | \$ 46 | | |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school FT | \$ 46 | \$ 46 | | |
| | | | | |
| Under age 1 HT | \$ 30 | \$ 30 | | |
| Age 1 HT | \$ 30 | \$ 30 | | |
| Age 2 HT | \$ 30 | \$ 30 | | |
| Age 3 HT | \$ 30 | \$ 30 | | |
| Age 4 HT | \$ 30 | \$ 30 | | |
| Age 5 HT not in K'garten | \$ 30 | \$ 30 | | |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school HT | \$ 24 | \$ 24 | | |

**Child Care Scholarship Program Maximum Payments Allowed FFY2022:
October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2025 Revised**

| RELATED FAMILY, FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR CARE – PROVIDED OUTSIDE CHILD'S HOME (FRO) | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 | | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 | |
|---|---|--------------|---|--------------|
| | Urban | Rural | Urban | Rural |
| Under age 1 FT | \$ 50 | \$ 50 | \$ 50 | \$ 50 |
| Age 1 FT | \$ 50 | \$ 50 | \$ 50 | \$ 50 |
| Age 2 FT | \$ 50 | \$ 50 | \$ 50 | \$ 50 |
| Age 3 FT | \$ 46 | \$ 46 | \$ 46 | \$ 46 |
| Age 4 FT | \$ 46 | \$ 46 | \$ 46 | \$ 46 |
| Age 5 FT not in K'garten | \$ 46 | \$ 46 | \$ 46 | \$ 46 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school FT | \$ 46 | \$ 46 | \$ 46 | \$ 46 |
| | | | | |
| Under age 1 HT | \$ 30 | \$ 30 | \$ 30 | \$ 30 |
| Age 1 HT | \$ 30 | \$ 30 | \$ 30 | \$ 30 |
| Age 2 HT | \$ 30 | \$ 30 | \$ 30 | \$ 30 |
| Age 3 HT | \$ 30 | \$ 30 | \$ 30 | \$ 30 |
| Age 4 HT | \$ 30 | \$ 30 | \$ 30 | \$ 30 |
| Age 5 HT not in K'garten | \$ 30 | \$ 30 | \$ 30 | \$ 30 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school HT | \$ 24 | \$ 24 | \$ 24 | \$ 24 |
| | | | | |

| UNRELATED FAMILY, FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR CARE – PROVIDED OUTSIDE CHILD'S HOME (FNO) | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 | | Maximum Weekly Payment 10/1/2021 | |
|---|---|--------------|---|--------------|
| | Urban | Rural | Urban | Rural |
| Under age 1 FT | \$ 50 | \$ 50 | \$ 50 | \$ 50 |
| Age 1 FT | \$ 50 | \$ 50 | \$ 50 | \$ 50 |
| Age 2 FT | \$ 50 | \$ 50 | \$ 50 | \$ 50 |
| Age 3 FT | \$ 46 | \$ 46 | \$ 46 | \$ 46 |
| Age 4 FT | \$ 46 | \$ 46 | \$ 46 | \$ 46 |
| Age 5 FT not in K'garten | \$ 46 | \$ 46 | \$ 46 | \$ 46 |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school FT | \$ 46 | \$ 46 |
| Under age 1 HT | \$ 30 | \$ 30 |
| Age 1 HT | \$ 30 | \$ 30 |
| Age 2 HT | \$ 30 | \$ 30 |
| Age 3 HT | \$ 30 | \$ 30 |
| Age 4 HT | \$ 30 | \$ 30 |
| Age 5 HT not in K'garten | \$ 30 | \$ 30 |
| Ages 5 thru 12 in school HT | \$ 24 | \$ 24 |

- Rates for children funded through special needs can be paid up to an additional \$20 per week per child.
- Rates for children funded through foster care will be paid at an additional \$30 per week per child.

Appendix 4 Urban / Rural County Designation

For the purpose of establishing the maximum payment rates paid by the Child Care Scholarship Program, each county is designated as either a rural or urban county. The maximum payment rates for urban counties are slightly higher than those for rural counties. A county is designated as either urban or rural based on specific criteria as identified by the SCDSS. The flowing urban/rural designations apply:

| Urban | | Rural | | |
|------------|-------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Aiken | Greenville | Abbeville | Greenwood | Saluda |
| Allendale | Horry | Calhoun | Hampton | Union |
| Anderson | Lexington | Chester | Jasper | Williamsburg |
| Bamberg | Marion | Chesterfield | Kershaw | |
| Barnwell | Marlboro | Clarendon | Lancaster | |
| Beaufort | Pickens | Colleton | Laurens | |
| Berkeley | Richland | Darlington | Lee | |
| Charleston | Spartanburg | Dillon | McCormick | |
| Cherokee | Sumter | Edgefield | Newberry | |
| Dorchester | York | Fairfield | Oconee | |
| Florence | | Georgetown | Orangeburg | |

Appendix 5

Glossary of Terms

ABC Quality: The entity that enrolls, monitors, and provides technical assistance to providers enrolled in the ABC Quality Child Care Scholarship Program, and makes all changes to a provider's file. There are two offices of ABC Quality; one located in Columbia and one in Greenville. www.abcquality.org

Absence:

Any time a child does not attend the facility.

Adjustments:

Adjustments are made to payments to a provider that has been over paid or under paid for a particular timeframe. There are four types of adjustments:

- **Receivable Adjustment:** The process of collecting an over-payment made to providers. In this case, funds will be taken back for the specific period requested. The connection will be deleted or shortened once adjustment is complete.
- **Partial Receivable Adjustment:** The process of collecting a portion of the over-payment made to providers. In this case one would actually process the adjustment for the difference between FT and HT care. The connection will not change; it will still reflect a FT connection but the difference between the FT and HT rate will be taken from the provider's payment.
- **Partial Payable Adjustment:** The process of paying a provider for under-payment. In this case one would actually process the adjustment for difference between HT and FT care. The connection will not change; it will still reflect a HT connection, but the provider would receive the difference between the HT and FT rate.
- **Payable Adjustment:** The process of paying a provider for services due that cannot be paid under the normal SVL payment process.

A/R:

Applicant/Recipient

Authorized Service Period:

The specific time frame that child care services are authorized to a client and a specific provider.

BBA:

Balanced Budget Act

Billing Rate:

The provider's weekly service rate minus any applicable copay, and any discount for a second child.

Care Type:

The age groups 0-1,1,2,3,4,5-12 not in kindergarten, 5-12 and 13-19 when special needs in which the provider has enrolled with the Child Care Scholarship Program. Providers cannot offer services to Child Care Scholarship clients or receive payment for service in a care type in which they have not been enrolled.

CCC:

Child Care Center

CCDF:

Child Care Development Fund

CCL:

Child Care Licensing

Center-based Care:

Facility licensed by SCDSS to serve 13 or more children.

Child:

The recipient of child care services.

Child Care Payables Department:

The area that is responsible for overseeing the receipt, tracking and processing of all child care payments for the Child Care Scholarship Program. This area is also known as Fiscal or Child Care Expenditures.

Child Name:

The first and last name of the child that is eligible to receive child care services.

Child Number:

The client's Social Security number plus the two-digit code 01, 02, etc. assigned to the child. It identifies the child for the purpose of payment and system activities. Providers should never change the assigned child number.

Client/Client Name:

An individual who has met the eligibility criteria and is funded for child care. The client is listed on the SVL by the initial of their first name and their last name. Example: S. Jones

Client Fee:

That portion of the provider's weekly service rate (cost) which is based on the client's family size and income and paid by the client directly to the provider. The fee amount is established by SCDSS on the basis of family size and gross family income.

Client Number/ID:

The client's Social Security Number (SSN). This number identifies all client activity in the system. The on-line SVL will list only the last four digits of the SSN.

CM:

Case Manager

Connection:

A start and stop date (linked to a specific provider) within the Child Care Scholarship Program.

Connection form:

The connection form or fax that must be completed by both the client and the child care provider and submitted to the Control Center for approval prior to the child starting the facility.

CPS:

Child Protective Services

CPS-In:

Child Protective Services child care identifier when the child remains in the home.

CPS-Out:

Child Protective Services child care identifier when the child placed with a caretaker relative out of the child's home.

DLL:

Dual Language Learner.

DIPR:

Division of Individual and Provider Rights

Drop/Transfer:

The date indicated by the provider of when a child stopped attending the facility or moved to another child care provider.

Eligibility Period:

The potential amount of time for which a client can receive child care services. Eligibility periods are for 12 months (52 weeks).

Emancipation Statement:

A NOTARIZED statement signed by both parents stating that the parents have entirely surrendered the responsibility of the care and custody of the minor and the right to the minor's earnings and is under no legal obligation to support the minor. The Child Care Scholarship Program uses this statement for eligibility purposes only. However, this information may be made available under the Freedom of Information Act.

End Date:

The last date of service authorization.

Enrollment

Defined as a child who is connected to a child care provider and is anticipated to attend.

Facility Cost:

The cost a provider charges all parents for a week of child care. Note: Parents are responsible for the difference between the facility cost and the amount paid by the Child Care Scholarship Program, plus any applicable copay.

Family Child Care Home (FCCH):

Home registered or licensed by SCDSS to serve no more than six children.

Family Household Unit:

Term used by the Child Care Scholarship Program to refer to a TANF Benefit Group (BG). Per the TANF Policy Manual, a BG is considered the group of individuals whose income, resources, and/or needs impact the eligibility and amount of benefits in a TANF case. BG members include sanctioned and disqualified individuals, as well as Family Cap children.

Family Independence (FI):

Child care assistance provided to current TANF stipend clients to encourage participation in approved employment, education, or training activities. These requirements are met through the Family Independence Program in South Carolina in an effort to emphasize parental responsibility and self-determination.

Family Independence Stipend:

A monthly payment made to a family who meets the required eligibility standards; previously referred to as Welfare or AFDC.

FEIN:

Federal Identification Number

FFN:

Family, Friend or Neighbor Provider.

FI CARES Program:

Family Independence Challenging Adults through Rehabilitation, Education and Services Program.

Fiscal/Child Care Expenditures:

The area that is responsible for overseeing the receipt, tracking and processing of all child care payments for the Child Care Scholarship Program. This area is also known as Child Care Payables.

FLSA:

Fair Labor Standards Act

FNO:

Family, Friend and Neighbor provider where child care is provided by a non-relative outside of the child's home.

FNI:

Family, Friend and Neighbor provider where child care is provided by a non-relative in the home of the child.

FOIA:

Freedom of Information Act

Foster Care (FC):

Children who are in the custody of SCDSS and placed out of their home by and/or under the supervision of SCDSS.

FRO:

Family, Friend and Neighbor provider where child care is provided by a relative outside of the child's home.

FRI:

Family, Friend and Neighbor provider where child care is provided by a relative in the home of the child.

Full-Time Care:

Twenty-five or more hours of child care service provided during one week. There is no outer limit for full-time care.

Funded:

Any child for whom dollars have been allocated in their name.

GED:

General Equivalency Diploma

Group Child Care Home (GCCH):

Home or building licensed by SCDSS to serve no more than 12 children.

Half-Time Care:

Less than thirty (25) hours, but more than fifteen (15) hours of child care service provided during one week.

HUD:

Housing and Urban Development

IFCCS:

Intensive Foster Care and Clinical Services

IIRIRA:

Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act

In Loco Parentis:

In the position or place of a parent.

IRS:

Internal Revenue Service

LES:

Leave Earning Statement

Less than Half-Time Care (LHT):

Less than fifteen (15) hours of child care services provided during a week. No registration fee is allowed for this care-type. This care-type only applies to Welfare Reform participants (FI, TCC1, TCC2, TCC/24, and TCC/FS) receiving subsidized child care and can be used in conjunction with a full or half-time connection and may be used alone. It cannot be used in conjunction with F/T or H/T to pay the same provider.

Letter 147-C

IRS Form; EIN Previously Assigned. The taxpayer and/or their authorized representative must call the IRS Business and Specialty Tax Line at 1-800-829-4933 to request the Letter 147-C, EIN Previously Assigned. A practitioner may call the Practitioner Priority Service (PPS) Line at 1-866-860-4259 for verbal confirmation. A faxed or written verification will not be provided to the practitioner calling PPS.

Level A:

Exemplary programs measured against rigorous quality standards.

Level B:

Programs measured against quality standards beyond basic state regulations.

Level C:

Programs meeting basic licensing regulations (health & safety).

Major Parent:

Parent in the home of a teen parent under the age of 18.

Maximum Rate:

Maximum weekly rates established by SCDSS on the basis the approved rate setting methodology.

OHAN:

Out-of-Home Abuse and Neglect

OnBase:

Imaging database that houses all child care applications and documentation except TANF child care cases which are in SCOSA.

Processed:

When a payment has gone through the payment process.

Prospective Payment:

Paying in advance of service delivery.

Provider:

An authorized child care group, home, or center-based facility or a non-regulated care arrangement provided by family, friends, or neighbors to care for eligible children with the Child Care Scholarship Program.

PROWA:

Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act

Provider Number:

The Federal Employer Identification Number [FEIN] or Social Security Number (SSN) of the provider. This number identifies the provider for purposes of payment, tracking and reporting.

Registration Fee:

A fee most providers charge to client's participating in a child care program. This fee covers program costs not included in the service rate i.e., insurance, materials, supplies. This fee may not exceed the fee charged to private-paying children in the child care program. Registration fees are automatically paid based on registration information submitted by the provider at initial enrollment. A provider is not eligible for a registration fee for clients receiving less than half-time care. The provider may require the client to pay the fee if the client has used up their allocation for registration fees.

Remittance Advice:

A document included with the provider's check. There are three different types:

- 1) Paid Remittance Advice: indicates what clients and weeks were paid.
- 2) Rejected Remittance Advice: indicates which clients and weeks were not paid and the reason.
- 3) Adjusted Remittance Advice: indicates if funds were deducted from the provider's check, the amount, and the reason. An Adjusted Remittance Advice is sent only when there have been adjustments to the provider's payment due to overpayments.

SCDE:

South Carolina Department of Education

SCDSS:

South Carolina Department of Social Services

Child Care Scholarship Program:

The South Carolina statewide child care assistance program funded by the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) and State match.

Child Care Scholarship Program Control Center (Control Center):

The authorized Child Care Scholarship system management center that is available to provide assistance to clients and providers, and to handle child care applications, funding and connecting.

Providers call:

1-800-262-4416 for notification requirements and/or questions concerning Child Care Scholarship Program procedures.

Parents call:

1-800-476-0199 for any questions.

Child Care Scholarship Program Database:

Automated child care eligibility system used to process the child care application, connect children to providers, and make payments to the providers.

Second Child Discount:

The second child discount is a discount that is determined by the provider at enrollment to apply to families with multiple children. The second child discount applies to all children in the family except the youngest.

Service Codes:

Those codes assigned to identify the type of payment being made to the provider, i.e. CS for client services, RF for registration fees, and GR for grants.

Service Cost:

The provider rate as reflected in the Child Care Scholarship Program.

Service Unit:

One week of child care [Monday - Sunday]. A service unit may be for half-time, full-time, or less than half-time child care.

Service Voucher Log [SVL]:

A pre-printed payment request form used to process payments to providers for eligible clients.

SNAP:

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

SSA:

Social Security Administration

SSBG:

Social Services Block Grant

SSI:

Supplemental Security Income

SSN:

Social Security Number

Start Date:

The date services are authorized to begin by SCDSS or the Child Care Scholarship Program/ Control Center staff.

Stop Date:

The last date of service authorization. Services are not paid past this date.

TANF:

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

TANF/CO:

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families – Child Only.

TCC:

Transitional Child Care

TCC/FS:

Transitional Child Care/Full Family Sanction.

Teen Parent:

Individual under the age of 20 who has parented or is pregnant.

Teen Parent/Adult:

Individual under the age of 20 whose primary role in the TANF Family is parent.

Two-Parent Family:

A Benefit Group (BG) in which two or more parents are included in the family as defined in the TANF Policy Manual.

USCIS:

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services

USDA:

United States Department of Agriculture

VISTA:

Volunteers in Service to America

Week:

Monday through Sunday

Appendix 6

Glossary of Forms

THE FOLLOWING FORMS AND LETTERS ARE FOR REFERENCE ONLY

Please consult the Master Forms Index for the original form

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| DSS Form 1105-1 | Authorization Agreement and Enrollment Form for Electronic Vendor Payment and Remittance Advice |
| DSS Form 1245 | Request for Wage Information |
| DSS Form 1245 Spanish | Request for Wage Information (Spanish version) |
| DSS Form 1247 | Medical Release/Physician's Statement |
| DSS Form 127-SPA | Medical Release/Physician's Statement (Spanish version) |
| DSS Form 1269 | Request for Support Services |
| DSS Form 3004 | CPS/Foster Care Child Care Referral Form |
| DSS Form 3772 | Client Rights and Responsibilities |
| DSS Form 3772 SPA | Client Rights and Responsibilities (Spanish Version) |
| DSS Form 3774 | FFN Child Care Enrollment and Agreement Form |
| DSS Form 3775 | Non-Related FFN Application for Consideration of Enrollment |
| DSS Form 3776 | FFN Child Care Certification |
| DSS Form 3778 | Health and Safety Grant Reimbursement Grant |
| DSS Form 3791 | Child Care Scholarship Program Application |
| DSS Form 3791-SPA | Child Care Scholarship Program Application (Spanish version) |
| DSS Form 3791 A | Child Care Scholarship Program Special Needs Addendum |
| DSS Form 3792 | Client Connection Form |
| DSS Form 3792 SPA | Client Connection Form (Spanish Version) |
| | |

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| DSS Form 37101 | ABC Quality – Provider Agreement |
| DSS Booklet 37103 | Policy Manual for FFN Providers |
| DSS Booklet 37104 | Parent Handbook |
| DSS Booklet 37104 SPA | Parent Handbook (Spanish Version) |
| DSS Form 37107 | Provider Rate Form |
| DSS Form 37108 | Provider Enrollment Form |
| DSS Form 37109 | Fair Hearing Process |
| DSS Form 37110 | Client Eligibility Worksheet |
| DSS Form 37117 | Guardianship/In Loco Parentis Verification |
| DSS Form 37124 | FFN Central Registry Release of Information and Consent Form |
| DSS Form 37126 | Out of State Enrollment and Agreement Form |

What's New (Revisions)

VOLUME 039 – Revision Date 2/9/2026

| Change | Section Title/Number | Change |
|--------|--|---|
| 1. | Title Page | Updated volume and revision date. |
| 2. | Entire Document | Reformatted sections and made grammatical, punctuation and formatting changes. |
| 3. | General Information Page | Added effective 12/1/2025, the Child Care Scholarship placed a pause on accepting any new applications unless the families fall within a protected category. |
| 4. | Table of Contents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reformatted entire Table of Contents Removed 6.10 -Desk Reviews -moved to Program Integrity Removed 6.11 – Monthly Child Care Caseload <p>**Moved to Program Integrity section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renumbered 6.12 to 6.10 Termination of services. Renumbered 6.12.1 to 6.10.1 – Termination of a client and written notification. Renumbered 6.12.2 to 6.10.2 Termination of a client and written notification. Renumbered 6.12.3 to 6.10.3 Notifying client and provider of termination. Renumbered 6.13 Client Complaints to 6.11 Renumbered 6.14 to 6.12 End of Service Notification Renumbered 6.15 to 6.13 Close Outs Renumbered 6.16 to 6.14 System Generated Letters Created Chapter 9 |
| 5. | Updated Chapter 9 | Updated Chapter 9 in Table of Contents from Fraud/Improper Payments to Program Integrity |
| 6. | §1.7 Child Care Payables | Added personal or business account language. And added “valid” checking account. |
| 7. | §1.9 Child Care Scholarship Benefits Portal | Adjusted language to indicate the portal is used for the majority of the child care applications submissions. Removed the reference of it being primarily for CCDF 85% and Strong Start – 85%. |
| 8. | §2.1.1 Residency | Added current copy to the proof of residency. |
| 9. | §2.1.2 Age | Added “both” parents of the minor must sign an emancipation statement. |
| 10. | §2.1.3 Citizenship | Added clarification that being a legal resident of the United States and is not the same as being a citizen or qualified non-citizen. |
| 11. | §2.1.3 Citizenship | Added “Qualified” |
| 12. | §2.1.4 Establishing Need | Added note “This means a parent may be working 10 hours, adding 5 hours of travel, equals 15 hours which |

| Change | Section Title/Number | Change |
|--------|--|--|
| | | meets the need requirement of 15 hours. |
| 13. | §2.1.5 Establishing Full Time or Part Time Care | Added clarification on how full time and half time is determined. |
| 14. | §2.1.5 Establishing Full Time and Half Time | Added Note: When calculating the hours worked, follow the mathematical rule of rounding and always round to the nearest whole number. Also added an example. |
| 15. | §2.1.6 Travel Time | Removed may be given and added should be given. |
| 16. | §2.1.7 Family Definition | Removed language from bullet point 1 "or who has assumed full physical responsibility for a child with, or without custody. |
| 17. | §2.1.8 Calculating Income | Added under calculating income how to compute when a family is paid semi-monthly but we only have the hours and rate of pay. |
| 18. | §2.1.8 Calculating Income | Added clarification on why the formulas of 4.33 and 2.16 are used when calculating income. |
| 19. | §2.1.8 Calculating Income | Added definition of earned vs unearned income. |
| 20. | §2.1.14 Income Inclusions | Added under alimony how to calculate and what information should be used when listed in CHIP vs. the application. |
| 21. | §2.1.14 Income Inclusions | Added under Social Security how to calculate and what information should be used when listed in CHIP vs. the application. |
| 22. | §2.1.14 Income Inclusions | Added under Veterans Pension how to calculate and what information should be used when listed in CHIP vs. the application. |
| 23. | §2.1.14 Income Inclusions | Added under Unemployment Compensation how to calculate and what information should be used when listed in CHIP vs. the application. |
| 24. | §2.1.14 Income Inclusions | Added under Workers Compensation how to calculate and what information should be used when listed in CHIP vs. the application. |
| 25. | §2.1.14 Income Inclusions | removed the words tax forms under self-employment and added schedule c. |
| 26. | §2.1.14 Income Inclusions | Added under Self-Employment (non-Farm) information about the newly self-employed form and removed the information about other documentation that clients could submit. |
| 27. | §2.1.14 Income Inclusions | Added information about the newly self-employed form and removed the information about other documentation that clients could submit. |
| 28. | §2.2.2 Acceptable Methods of Verification | Added pay stubs are required when a client has been employed over 60 days. |
| 29. | §2.2.2 Acceptable Methods of Verification | Under Leave Earning Statement -Added clarification that if paid monthly, one LES is needed. If biweekly or semi-monthly two LES' are needed. |

| Change | Section Title/Number | Change |
|---------------|--|---|
| 30. | §2.2.2 Acceptable Methods of Verification | Under Self-Employment, added newly self-employment form and removed all information about accepting ledgers, logs, etc. |
| 31. | §2.2.2 Acceptable Methods of Verification | Added newly self-employment form. Removed ledgers and logs being accepted. |
| 32. | §2.2.2 Acceptable Methods of Verification | Added wage forms are not accepted as proof of employment. Was originally removed in 2024. |
| 33. | §2.2.3 Verification of Absent Parent | Removed legal papers verifying marital status "may also be used" and changed to legal papers are preferred. |
| 34. | §2.2.3 Verification of Absent Parent | Added legal papers verifying marital separation is preferred. Removed may also be used. |
| 35. | §2.2.3 Verification of Absent Parent | Updated language that when parents have a newborn baby under 10 months of age and have not listed the absent parent, proof of separate residences will be requested. Removed may be. |
| 36. | §2.2.3 Verification of Absent Parent | Updated language that if a parent is unable to provide proof of separate residences, the application will be denied. Removed may be. |
| 37. | §2.2.3 Verification of Absent Parent | Updated language that the absent parent form should always be the last resort to obtain information about the absent parent. |
| 38. | §2.2.4 Work | Added how the 15-hour minimum is calculated. |
| 39. | §2.2.4 Work | Added detailed explanation of how full time and part time is calculated. |
| 40. | §2.2.5 Verification of Work | Added example of when we receive only three pay stubs and they are representative, how to calculate. |
| 41. | §2.2.6 Verification of School | Added labs, practicums and seminars may be counted. |
| 42. | §2.27 Verification of Training | Added how to calculate full time or part time training hours. |
| 43. | §2.2.8 Verification of Self-Employment | Added the Newly Self-Employment form under acceptable verification for self-employed clients that have not yet filed taxes. |
| 44. | §2.2.8 Verification of Self-Employment | Removed the allowance of ledgers and logs for self-employment. Added language about S Corporation and K1 Partnerships. |
| 45. | §2.2.8 Verification of Self-Employment | Added SPARK drivers to the list of independent contractors. |
| 46. | §2.2.8 Verification of Self-Employment | Added what documents should be submitted for UBER, LYFT, etc. when employed less than a year. |
| 47. | §2.2.10 Verification of Disability | Added If disability is temporary, indicate the duration of the temporary disability. Also added that a return-to-work letter should be submitted when coming off of temporary disability. |

| Change | Section Title/Number | Change |
|---------------|---|--|
| 48. | §2.2.10 Verification of Disability | The amount of disability income may be self-attested and clarified when information from CHIP or the application should be used. |
| 49. | §2.3.3 Use of 10 Day Termination Policy | Added When clients exceed 85% SMI after a non-temporary change. |
| 50. | §2.4.1 Protective Services Definition | Added the title of Protective Services Definitions/Categories and added Special Needs under the protected categories. |
| 51. | §2.6 Transitional Child Care | Added how to calculate full time and half-time care. |
| 52. | §2.6 Two Parent Family | Added language that travel time is also added when determining the number of hours worked. Removed considered. |
| 53. | §2.11.1 Exception Criteria for CPS/FC | Removed in writing and changed to via email. |
| 54. | §2.11.1 Exception Criteria for CPS/FC | Removed "staff with their supervisor" and added coordinate with their supervisor to ensure the arrangement is appropriate. |
| 55. | §2.11.3 CPS-In | Added language about \$1 under maximum income or entering \$0 for clients that do not have income. |
| 56. | §2.11.3 CPS-IN | Added for the purpose of supporting family stability. |
| 57. | §2.11.4 CPS-Out | Added language about \$1 under maximum income or entering \$0 for clients that do not have income. |
| 58. | §2.11.4 CPS-Out | Added for the purpose of supporting family stability. |
| 59. | §2.11.6 Foster Care Criteria | Added foster children are given a 90 days grace period to provide proof of immunization. |
| 60. | §2.11.7 Adopt CC | Added Adopt CC is for the child being adopted only. Other children will be approved only when CCDF funding is available. |
| 61. | §2.11.9 CC for baby of a foster child | Added the funding category for this type of child care is foster care funding. |
| 62. | §2.11.11 KinGap | Added this funding is limited to one year. |
| 63. | §2.11.11 KinGap | Added language about \$1 under maximum income or entering \$0 for clients that do not have income. |
| 64. | §2.15 First Steps | Added language about \$1 under maximum income or entering \$0 for clients that do not have income. |
| 65. | §2.16 Special Needs | Added language about \$1 under maximum income or entering \$0 for clients that do not have income. |
| 66. | §2.16 Special Needs | Added IEP, IFSP and 504 Plans must have current begin and end date. Signature page is not required. Addendums must also have current dates and must be signed by the early interventionist. Added only the |

| Change | Section Title/Number | Change |
|--------|---|---|
| | | special needs child will be funded unless CCDF funding is available. |
| 67. | §2.17 Homeless | Removed 12 weeks of presumptive and changed to 12 months of child care. |
| 68. | §2.17 Homeless | Added information around using chip to verify homeless status when available and information around when a client changes addresses for the purpose of obtaining child care. |
| 69. | §2.20 General CCDF/DISC Funding | Added the word General to title |
| 70. | §2.22 CCDF-CR | Added clarification that child care will only be approved for the nieces, nephews or grandchildren of the relative caretaker. The biological children will not be approved unless the program is accepting applications from the general public. |
| 71. | §2.23 4K Plus Siblings | Removed language about email being sent with link to application. Child care portion of application included with FS 4K app. Added income for this category is \$0. |
| 72. | §2.23 4K Plus Siblings | Added that when 4K Plus apps are submitted and existing services do not expire for over 6 months, no change will be made until that original funding has ended. Added exception to adding a child. |
| 73. | §2.24 Starlight | Added income for this category is \$0. |
| 74. | §2.25 SNAP E&T | Added we do not make direct referrals. Listed email address clients can email if they want to apply. |
| 75. | §2.26 Strong Start – 85% | Added Pause on application intake 12/1/2025. |
| 76. | §2.27 Strong Start – 85% | Added temporarily or permanently disabled. |
| 77. | §3.2.2 Pseudo Social Security Numbers | Added note: Changes to names and social security numbers must be coordinated with designated staff to avoid payment rejections. |
| 78. | §3.2.4 Custody Verification | Removed signed, notarized statements and added legal court documents showing custody or guardianship. Added when custody is split between mother and father, whichever parent has 51% of physical custody should apply. When parents have never been married, custody defaults to mother. |
| 79. | §3.3.1 Applicant Rights | Added funding is not an appealable issue. |
| 80. | §3.3.2 Applicant Responsibilities | Added any change reporting in the above information should be reported to the Child Care Scholarship Control Center or to scchildcare@dss.sc.gov |
| 81. | §3.2.4 | Added language indicating that the applicant must have |

| Change | Section Title/Number | Change |
|--------|--|--|
| | Custody Verification | physical and legal custody of the child and information regarding if the child is in an open SNAP case under someone else. |
| 82. | §3.5 Eligibility Worksheet | Added CHIP should be checked on all applications regardless of fund source. CHIP screens are required for only seamless cases. |
| 83. | §4.1 Provider Authorization/Connection | Added services could be backdated up to three months when there is no discrepancy between providers. |
| 84. | §4.1.6 Funding and Connecting Under Appropriate Age Group | Added language that the child remains under the originally funded age group for the entire 12-month eligibility unless the child is within six months of being in another age group and the provider is not authorized. |
| 85. | §5.2.4 Provisional Licenses | Added P providers. |
| 86. | §5.2.7 When New/Updated Paperwork Required | Added P providers. |
| 87. | §5.4.3 Recoupment of Grant Funding | Added note that recoupment of grant funds is not appealable. |
| 88. | §5.7.2 Enrollment Process | Added we can no longer accept printouts from the Social Security Administration. |
| 89. | §5.7.3 Family, Friend and Neighbor Care | Added we can longer accept printouts from the Social Security Administration. |
| 90. | §5.7.3 For Non-Related FFN | Removed Once Child Care Scholarship Program Staff receive the completed documents and the SLED/FBI, Central Registry and sex offender checks are satisfactory, the potential FFN provider will then receive a full enrollment packet, minus the SLED questionnaire, to become enrolled. Added we can no longer accept printouts from Social Security Administration |
| 91. | §5.7.5 Family Friend and Neighbor Care | Added cousins or other relations not previously listed are not considered related for the purpose of child care. |
| 92. | §5.7.6 Out of State Providers | Added provider team will verify through out of state child care websites that the provider participates in the state's subsidy program. |
| 93. | §5.17.3 Final Notification | Added P providers. |
| 94. | §5.18.1 Fraud and ABC Quality | Added the complaint line number. |
| 95. | §5.19 Amendments to a Providers File | Added P providers. |
| 96. | §5.19.1 Adding or Deleting Age Groups | Updated section and removed on-site assessment to add age groups and added process of ensuring the provider meets regulatory requirements. |
| 97. | § 6.2 Breaks in Work, School or Training | Added if clients become employed during the 90-day period, they must submit documentation to SCChildcare@dss.sc.gov with the subject of |

| Change | Section Title/Number | Change |
|---------------|--|--|
| | | “termination reversal”. And process for when a client submits updated information. |
| 98. | §6.4 Transfers from One Provider to Another | Added section on prospective payments and transfers. |
| 99. | §6.5 Early Releases | Added language around early releases and prospective payment. |
| 100. | §6.6 Transfers of Foster and CPS Clients | Added language around transfers and prospective payments. |
| 101. | §6.7 Notifying Clients and Providers of Transfers | Added language around early releases after prospective payment. |
| 102. | §6.9 Situational Changes | Clarified language that situational changes do no lessen the 12 months of eligibility. |
| 103. | §6.9 Situational Changes | Situational changes will not be processed during the child care pause except for protected categories. |
| 104. | §6.9 Situational Changes | Clarified services will not be reduced to half time. |
| 105. | §6.10 Desk Reviews | Moved to chapter 9 – Program Integrity New 6.10 is Termination of Services to Clients |
| 106. | §6.11 Monthly Child Care Caseload | Moved to chapter 9 – Program Integrity New 6.11 is Client Complaints |
| 107. | §6.12 End of Service Notification | Added note: Applications submitted more than 60 days prior to services ending will be denied for applying too early. |
| 108. | §7.1 Payment Information | Removed reimbursement is mailed. |
| 109. | Chapter 9 | Renamed to Program Integrity |
| 110. | §9.0 | Program Integrity definition |
| 111. | §9.1 Desk Review Process | Moved from chapter 6 |
| 112. | §9.2 Improper Payments | Moved from Chapter 6 |
| 113. | §9.3 Reporting/Investigating Misuse | Updated section number. |
| 114. | §9.4 Misuse of Services | Moved to new program integrity section. Added situations of misuse. |
| 115. | §9.5 Determination of Misuse | Gave new section number. |
| 116. | §9.6 Fraud | Gave new section number. Added suspected fraud or misuse will be referred to the Office of Inspector General. |
| 117. | §9.7 System Reports | Updated entire reports sections and listed common reports worked. |
| 118. | §9.8 Internal Audits and Client Calls | New section created to detail new process of internal audits making calls to clients. |
| 119. | §9.9 | New section created to detail a new process of |

| Change | Section Title/Number | Change |
|---------------|--|--|
| | Attendance Audit | monitoring provider attendance. |
| 120. | §9.10 Collection of Attendance by Child Care Licensing | New section created to detail a new process of collection of attendance records by child care licensing staff at unannounced visits. |
| 121. | Appendix 1 Child Care Income Standards | Updated Dates and Income |
| 122. | Appendix 2 Child Care Fee Scale | Updated Dates and Amounts |
| 123. | Appendix 3 Maximum Allowable Rates | Updated dates |
| 124. | What's New Section | Reformatted |

What's New (Revisions)

VOL 038-Revision 01/13/2025

1. Updated volume number and date
2. Added note regarding client fees 10/01/2024.
3. 1.7 removed language about absences and reason codes and added language around enrollment.
4. 2.1.9 bullet 5, added language on how to calculate income when reviewing a schedule C.
5. 2.1.12 Added clarification on how many pay stubs needed to have overtime if weekly, bi-weekly and semi-monthly.
6. 2.15 Head Start Wrap Around Child Care Services – reworded and removed work, school, training criteria.
7. 2.27 Strong Start-85% - Added language the client under 150% of federal poverty level are not assessed a copay.
8. 3.3.2 Applicant Responsibilities – Updated to language provided by OCC. Limits changes to what is allowed under CCDF.
9. 5.7.3 Family Friend and Neighbor – Changed “Provider Business Procedure” to Policy manual for Family, Friend, and Neighbor.
10. 5.13.1 Attendance – Removed language about absences and hours attended needing to be recorded on the SVL. Changed documenting attendance and absences to enrollment.
11. 5.13.2 Service Voucher Log – Added payment validation.
12. 5.15.3 Removed Failure to Maintain LAN Phone Service
13. 5.15.3 Changed to Misuse of Child Care Scholarship Program Grant Funds
14. 5.15.4 Changed to Fraud/Misrepresentation
15. 5.15.5 Changed to Verbal or Physical Abuse by a Provider
16. 5.18.2 Falsified Documents – Added enrollment records and removed attendance records).
17. 5.19.6 Working telephone – Updated language per child care licensing and ABC Quality. Removed requirements of a LAN line.
18. 6.0 Allowable absences – Removed entire section.
19. 6.1.1 Waiver of Absences – Removed entire section.
20. 6.1– Changed to Stop and Start Dates
21. 6.1 language updated from 10 consecutive absences to 3 consecutive weeks of non-enrollment. Remove all language around absences.
22. 6.9 Situational Changes within the Eligibility Period. Removed lead in about reporting changes and reworded per OCC for compliance.
23. 6.12.1 removed language from bullet one regarding “child displays disruptive behavior”.
24. 7.1 Payment Information – Added language around paying prospectively as well as paying on enrollment vs. attendance.
25. 7.1.2 Requests for Payment – Added language about prospective payment and when a provider should drop a child. Removed all language about reporting attendance and hours and

removed the 10 consecutive days of absence language when dropping a child. Removed the provider must hold the SVL before submitting.

26.7.1.4 Payment Instructions – Added payment validation.

27.9.1.2 Misuse of Services – Updated language about what we can require to be reported in order to be in compliance with CCDF.

28. Appendix 5 Scales of Allowable Absences removed and replaced with Glossary.

29. Appendix 6 – Definition of absence updated removed and changed to Appendix 6.

30. Appendix 7 changed to Glossary of form.

31. Removed link to letters as we do not have canned versions to display, and they are also in the process of being updated.

Vol 037-Revisions 10/01/2024

1. Effective 10/01/2024 all clients at or below 150% of federal poverty will not be assessed a copay, regardless of funding source.
2. Correct grammatical, spelling and formatting errors.
3. 2.1.6 Effective 10/01/2024 the number of hours to qualify for full-time care is reduced from 30 to 25. Travel time may be included. Half time care is now 15-24 hours per week.
4. 2.1.13 Added time period of typically three months to the average period of time.
5. 2.2.3 Verification of Absent Parent – Updated language
6. 2.2.4 Effective 10/01/2024 the number of hours to qualify for full-time care is reduced from 30 to 25. Travel time may be included. Half time care is now 15-24 hours per week.
7. 2.2.5 Added note If a client reports changes that would make them eligible for only part-time care only when they were originally given full-time care, no changes are made. The child care services continue at the original level of services approved. Example: If a client was approved for full-time services initially but reports a reduction in hours of work, etc that would qualify for half time based on hours, the services will not be reduced to full time. The client will continue to receive the full-time child care service that was originally approved.
8. 2.2.6 Added clarification to Self-Paced/Distance Learning
9. 2.2.8 Added language: any independent contractor, social media influencer.
10. 2.5.3 Updated part time hours to 15-24
11. 2.5.4 Updated part time hours to 15-24
12. 2.6 Updated part time hours to 15-24
13. 2.19 Updated part time hours to 15-24 and full-time hours to 25 or more
14. 3.4.1 Added language about clients at or below 150% of federal poverty, regardless of funding source, will not be assessed a copay.
15. 3.4.2 Added language about clients at or below 150% of federal poverty, regardless of funding source, will not be assessed a copay.

16. 5.13 Updated retention to 5 years plus current year
17. 5.13.2 Updated retention to 5 years plus current year
18. 6.10 Situational Changes Within the Eligibility Period – clarified language
19. 6.13.1 Removed a provider has a right to stop serving a client or child if either is disruptive to the program or does not comply with the provider's established policies. (per anti-expulsion regs)
20. Appendix 1 – Replaced with new income guidelines.
21. Appendix 2 – Replaced with new fee scale.
22. Appendix 3 – Updated dates

Vol 036-Revisions 07/22/2024

1. Updated volume number and revision date.
2. Updated email address for policy related questions from SC Policy
3. **Strong Start – 85% Child Care was effective 10/01/2023. This category is the only category with a co-pay at this time. **Note:** There was a system glitch for the dates of 10/01/2023- 11/07/2023 where co-pays were not being assessed by the system. Our IT staff resolved this issue on 11/07/2023.
4. Added effective 06/18/2024, all eligibility for all child care categories will be based on 85% State Median Income
5. 1.8 Accessing the Child Care Scholarship Program - Added Interested families may also apply through the Child Care Scholarship Program Benefits Portal.
6. 2.1.3 Citizenship/Alien Status changed to Citizenship/ Qualified Non-Citizen. Language was condensed non-citizen groups and acceptable forms of verification added.
7. 2.1.10 Graduated Phase Out - The Child Care Scholarship Program sets the initial eligibility threshold at 85% of SMI and therefore not required to provide a graduated phase out.
8. 2.1.11 Child Support – Language updated. Child Support Written verification of child support is not required. However, the applicant should disclose all applicable sources of income. The amount is listed on the application will be used to calculate the child support amount. If the applicant indicates that they are not receiving the child support on a regular basis, you may not count the CS income. Eligibility workers will use only what is listed on the application for counting child support. Since the TANF/SNAP database is not always current, we will not include any child support listed in an open case if it is not included on the application submitted by the client.

Note: Child support is calculated the same way as gross income. If paid weekly, multiply the amount by 4.33, bi-weekly by 2.16, etc.
9. All references to CHIP have been replaced with TANF/SNAP.
10. 2.1.15 Income Inclusions – Added Armed forces pay, BASE pay and any Special Duty Pay

11. 2.1.15 Income Inclusions – Self-Employment (non-farm) Added language that a Schedule C is the acceptable verification of income for someone who has been self-employed over a year.
12. 2.1.16 Income Exclusions – Added income from AmeriCorps.
13. 2.1.17 Asset Limit – Added if the client does not indicate yes or no on the question, staff are to call to get verbal confirmation and will document on the application.
14. 2.2.1 Verification Requirements – Deleted Child care eligibility workers also have access to the Participation and Tracking System (PATS), which shows a TANF client's participation in the Family Independence Program.
15. 2.2.2 Acceptable Methods of Verification – Added Clients Paid in Cash - If a client is paid only in cash and does not receive pay stubs, a letter on company letterhead or from the employer must be submitted. Calls must be made by staff to verify these letters.
16. 2.2.2 Acceptable Methods of Verification – Leave Earning Statement – Updated language to for an applicant in the military, a Leave Earning Statement (LES) is the only acceptable method of verification. When determining the pay, use only the BASE pay and any special duty pay (bonus) when calculating the income. For determining the hours of employment, use what the applicant indicated on their application.
17. 2.2.3 Verification of an Absent Parent – Language added on acceptable methods of verification.
18. 2.2.5 Presumptive Eligibility Process for New Employment and Job Search Categories – cleared up language around how to process presumptive applications.
19. 2.2.6 Verification of School – Added a copy of their schedule and proof of payments made towards registration/tuition for the term in which they are applying must be submitted to the Child Care Scholarship Program.
20. 2.2.8 Self-Employment – Added If the spouse of the self-employed parent is working for the company, pay stubs are required as proof of employment. A statement from the self-employed spouse is not acceptable verification of employment for the other parent. If an IRS 1040 can be provided that shows the income from the schedule C for the self-employed parent as well as separate income from the other parent, the tax documents may be used. If the applicants cannot provide proof of separate income, the application will be denied as both parents must be working, in school or in training. The burden of proof is on the client.
21. 2.2.10 Verification of Disability – added If the disability form indicates the applicant can work, they must provide proof of employment or school in order to be considered for eligibility. If they can work but are not employed or otherwise in school or training, the application may be denied.
22. 2.2.10 Verification of Disability – added Military disability will be handled the same way. The DSS 1247 form must be completed and must indicate that the parent cannot work. Military statements that indicate percentages of disability are not accepted as verification. If the applicant is disabled and determined by the physician that they cannot work, full time care will be given.

23. 2.3 Child Care Assistance Requirements – removed language Once a child has been determined eligible for child care assistance, the child is eligible for
24. 2.3.1 Temporary Changes – Reworded to read exactly as written in the CCDF regulations.
25. 2.3.2 Non-Temporary Changes – Updated the language from “can be” to “may be”
26. 2.3.3 Use of the 10-day Termination Policy – Removed Child on no connection report (never connected to a child care provider), Child on excessive absence report, Child no longer needs care or stops attending facility and parent voluntarily withdraws. Added client is determined to have intentionally committed fraud.
27. 2.3.4 Added section - When a Client Wants to Voluntarily Withdraw or Indicates Services are No Longer Needed -If a parent indicates that they want to voluntarily withdraw from the Child Care Scholarship Program or indicates that no services are needed, the child care database will be updated with a status code 20- Services on Hold Per Client and the memo field documented to reflect that the parent indicated that services were no longer needed or wants to voluntarily withdraw. Services are not to be terminated. Any connected services should be ended with proper notice to the child care provider and the provider notified of the ending of the services. The case will remain in the 20- Services on Hold Per Client status for the remainder of the client's 12-month eligibility. At any point, if the client comes back in during that eligibility period, the status may be updated to 57-Active and the client may resume services until the ending of their eligibility period.
28. 2.4 Specific Child Care Eligibility Categories – Added a section that defines the agencies definition of “children who receive or need to receive protective services: The Child Care Scholarship Program extends eligibility to specific populations of children, otherwise not eligible, by including them in the agency’s definition of “children who receive or need to receive protective services”. The categories identified under protective services for the purpose of not requiring a co-pay and/or (one or both) not requiring a parent to meet the work, school, or training criteria. Those categories are: children in foster care, kinship care, under court supervision or any child welfare category. Children in head start programs, families experiencing homelessness, and families affected by natural disasters. Additionally, families that qualify under dual language learners, children eligible for the 4K program to include siblings (4K+siblings), First Steps evidence-based program initiative, child care after adoption (AdoptCC), Kinship Guardianship (KinGap), child care after reunification (Reunify CC), CCDF-Caretaker Relative (CCDF-CR), Dual Language Learners, Family Literacy, Head Start, SNAP E&T, Starlight and Criminal Domestic Violence.
29. 2.5 Applicant Child Care (ACC) – Removed entire section as we are no longer doing ACC.
30. 2.5.1 Application Process for Applicant Child Care – Removed entire section as we are no longer doing ACC.
31. 2.5.2 Removed entire section as we are no longer doing ACC.
32. Section 2.6 TANF changed to Section 2.5
33. Section 2.6.1 CARES changed to 2.5.1

34. Section 2.6.2 TANF Two-Parent Program changed to 2.5.2
35. Section 2.6.3 TANF/CO Changed to 2.5.3. Also deleted the family must comply with the Child Care Scholarship Program attendance policies.
36. Section 2.6.4 TANF/CO-PS changed to 2.5.4. Added There is no copay for this category. Removed The family must comply with the Child Care Scholarship Program attendance policies.
37. Section 2.7 TCC changed to 2.6. Added There is no copay for this category.
38. Section 2.8 changed to 2.7 (TCC1). Added If the client does not apply in the month immediately following the closure date of TANF, the 12 months will start when the client applies and is determined eligible.
39. Section 2.9 – TCC2 changed to section 2.8
40. Section 2.10, 2.10.1 and 2.10.2 changed to Section 2.9, 2.9.1, and 2.9.2
41. Section 2.11, 2.11.1, and 2.11.2 changed to Section 2.10, 2.10.1 and 2.10.2
42. Section 2.12 Child Welfare Child Care changed to 2.11
43. Section 2.12.1 changed to 2.11.1
44. Section 2.12.2 changed to 2.11.2 Also, added: A CPS client will receive 12 months of child care.
45. Section 2.12.3 CPS-In changed to 2.11.3 Added there is no copayment for this category, but income will be captured for reporting purposes. Added CPS clients who are not working, in school, or training will receive full time care. Deleted The family must comply with the Child Care Scholarship Program attendance policies.
46. Section 2.12.4 CPS-Out changed to 2.11.4. Added there is no copay for this category. Added CPS clients who are not working, in school, or training can receive up to full-time child care, as needed. Deleted: the family must comply with the Child Care Scholarship Program attendance policies.
47. Section 2.12.5 ICPS changed to 2.11.5
48. Section 2.12.6 Foster Care changed to 2.11.6. Changed language to gross income shall not exceed 85% SMI.
49. Section 2.12.7 Child Care After Adoption (AdoptCC) changed to 2.11.7 – Added the is no copay for this category.
50. Section 2.12.9 Child Care for Baby of a Foster Child changed to 2.11.10 – Added no copay for this category.
51. Section 2.12.10 Reunification Child Care changed to 2.11.9. Added no copay for this category.
52. Added Section 2.12 Kinship Guardianship (KINGAP)
53. 2.13 Non-Welfare Low Income Families – Removed ACC. Also changed language from shall not exceed 55% SMI to 85% SMI
54. Section 2.14 Criminal Domestic Violence – Changed 55% SMI to 85% SMI and added there is no copay for this category.

55. Section 2.15 Head Start – Added Head start clients are funded for a full 12 months and are given age-appropriate care based on the age of the child. However, when enrolled in the head start program, the Child Care Scholarship Program pays only part time in order to extend the head start day. Full time may be given when the head start programs are closed and child care is need for full day if the client is otherwise eligible for full time care based one work, school, or training hours. Also added are allowed to do job search, changed 55% SMI to 85% SMI and added does not have a copay.
56. Section 2.16 – First Steps - Added there is no copay for this category.
57. Section 2.17-Special Needs – Changed 55% SMI to 85% SMI and added no copay for this category.
58. Section 2.18-Homeless – Added must be at or below 85% SMI.
59. Section 2.19 Family Literacy – Changed 55% SMI to 85% SMI and added no copay for this category.
60. Section 2.20 Dual Language Learner – Changed 55% SMI to 85% SMI.
61. Section 2.21 CCDF/DISC Funding – Changed 55% SMI to 85% SMI.
62. Section 2.22 Early Head Start CCP – Changed 55% SMI to 85% SMI and added no copay for this category. Also added if eligible, 12 months of child care given.
63. Section 2.23 CCF-CR Funding – Removed income will be used to determine co-pay. Added if income is provided, we will calculate the income. Also added that there is no co-pay for this category. Added if approved 12 months of child care given.
64. Section 2.24 4K Plus Siblings - Clients are funded for a full 12 months and are given age-appropriate care based on the age of the child. However, when enrolled in the 4K+ Siblings program, the Child Care Scholarship Program pays only part time in order to extend the 4K day. Full time may be given when the schools are closed and child care is need for full day.
65. Section 2.25 Starlight (Recovery) – Added new funding category.
66. Section 2.26 SNAP Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) – Added funding category.
67. Section 2.27 Strong Start – 85% - Added funding category.
68. 3.2.2 Child Care Application – removed Amend section and moved it to Situational Changes section.
69. Section 3.2.2 Pseudo/Temporary Social Security Numbers – added the same applies to situations where there is already an existing ssn in the system with the same pseudo.
70. Section 3.2.5 Signature Requirements – Added Note: When applying through the benefits portal, the system records a submission date along with the printed name of the client. This satisfies the signature requirements.
71. Section 3.3.2 Applicant Responsibilities – Added “when applicable” to paying a weekly fee. Removed Give advance notice before terminating services. Choose a child care provider within 15 calendar days from the date of the notification of eligibility. Comply with Child Care Scholarship Program attendance policies in using child care services. Deleted **NOTE:** Failure to comply with these responsibilities could result in services being denied or terminated.

72. Added Section 3.3.3 Verbal Abuse by a Client - Added
73. Section 3.4 Child Care Income Standards – Removed all entrance and exit language around the SMI limits without breaks in services. Changed 55%SMI to 85%SMI.
74. 3.4.1 Assessment of Fees – changed client fee to copay. Added if applicable to copay. Added The CCDF regulations require that copayments cannot be set above 7% of the family income. The Child Care Scholarship Program copayments are currently 2% or less. Also added Note: Clients that are under the protective service definition per the CCDF State Plan do not have co-pays. If a copayment is assessed for a family, the copayment amount will not be increased at any time during the 12-month eligibility regardless of the changes in the household. If the change in the household would decrease the client fee, the fee may be reassessed since a lower copayment would benefit the family.
75. Section 3.4.2 Client Fees. Updated to Client Copayments. Also added that the copay is to be collected from the parent. Removed the COVID statement on waived copays. Added Families that meet the agency definition of “protective services” do not have a co-payment. If a copayment is assessed for a family, the copayment amount will not be increased at any time during the 12-month eligibility regardless of the changes in the household. If the change in the household would decrease the client fee, the fee may be reassessed since a lower copayment would benefit the family.
76. 3.4.3 Registration Fees Change ABC Program to Child Care Scholarship.
77. 4.1.1 Parental Choice – Added Note: For family preservation (CPS and FC cases), client may choose only licensed child care programs unless a waiver has otherwise been approved.
78. 4.1.6 Funding/Connecting a Child Under the Appropriate Age Group -Added The child will remain under the originally approved age group for the duration of the 12-month eligibility.
79. Section 4.1.9 Children Who Do Not Connect or Reconnect to a Provider – Deleted entire section per Michele Bowers.
80. Section 5.1 Child Care Provider Definitions - Added All program specific eligibility criteria, processes and policies for child care providers for approval and participation in the ABC Quality Program may be found by visiting www.abcquality.org
81. Sections 5.2.5 Providers Not Eligible for Enrollment or ReEnrollment in ABC Quality. Deleted content. Added All program specific eligibility criteria, processes and policies for child care providers for approval and participation in the ABC Quality Program may be found by visiting www.abcquality.org

82. 5.3 Health and Safety Pre-Services – added the 15-hour preservice areas and added that 10 hours of annual ongoing training was required.

83. 5.4.1 Provider Grants – removed Federal requirements prohibit the use of grant funds for start-up costs for a child care provider.

84. 5.7.2 Provider Level and Process for Enrollment – Deleted Provider Level language, added the link to ABC Quality Manual

85. 5.7.3 - FFN – Added the FFN policy manual and added the 15-hour health and safety topics

86. Section 5.7.3 Inspections for licensed-exempt in-home care. Added Child Care Licensing as who does the monitoring.

87. Section 5.8 Provider Enrollment Agreement. – Added Please see ABC Quality Center-Based Manual 9.23 (scchildcare.org) for more information. Deleted sections on One-year agreements and 90-day agreements.

88. Section 5.9 Expiration of the Provider Enrollment Agreement – Deleted as it's covered in the ABC Quality Manual.

89. Section 5.10 Criteria for Renewal of Provider Enrollment – Deleted

90. Section 5.11 Process for Reenrollments – Deleted

91. Section 5.12 History of Compliance changed to section 5.10. Added ABC Quality Center-Based Manual 9.23 (scchildcare.org)

92. Section 5.12.1 History of Compliance Definition – Deleted.

93. Section 5.12.2 Definition of Terms – Deleted

94. Section 5.12.3 History of Compliance for License-Exempt Providers – Deleted

95. Section 5.11 Process for Determining History of Compliance, 5.11.1 Process for Determining Compliance for Enrollment, Section 5.11.2 Process for On-going Monitoring, 5.11.3 Process for Offering a Quality Improvement Plan, Section 5.12 Corrective Action, ALL DELETED.

96. Section 5.15 Maximum Payment Rates changed to 5.10. Updated language that The Child Care Scholarship Program establishes the maximum payment rates based on the approved rate setting methodology.

97. Section 5.16 Second Child Discounts changed to 5.11

98. Section 5.17 Provider Rates Changed to 5.12

99. Section 5.17.1 Rate Increases Changed to 5.12.1

100. Section 5.17.2 Rate Increases for All Levels Changed to 5.12.2

101. Section 5.17.3 Rate Increases for FFNS changed to 5.12.3

102. Section 5.17.4 Rate Decreases changed to 5.12.4

103. Section 5.18 Records changed to 5.13. Changed retention schedule from three years to 5 years plus current year.

104. Section 5.18.1 Attendance changed to 5.13.1

105. Section 5.18.2 Service Voucher Log changed to 5.13.2

106. Section 5.18.3 Client/Child Records changed to 5.13.3
107. Section 5.18.4 tracking Sheets – Deleted as it's covered in the Child Care Licensing manuals.
108. Section 5.18.5 Receipts for Grant Purchases – Deleted as it's covered in ABC Quality
109. Section 5.19 -Adverse Actions by ABC Quality. Section changed to 5.14 Content deleted and added link to ABC Quality manual.
110. Sections 5.19.1 Failure to Meet Regulatory Requirements, Section 5.19.2 Failure to Maintain History of Compliance, 5.19.3 Failure to maintain required Program Assessment Scores all deleted and referred to ABC Quality manual.
111. Created Section 5.15 to read General Information Regarding Child Care Providers.
112. Section 5.19.4 Use of Corporal Punishment changed to 5.15.1
113. Section 5.19.5 OHAN Findings and 5.19.6 Failure to Submit Required Corrective Action were deleted and referred to ABC Quality Manual.
114. Added section 5.15.2 Failure to Provide Child Care Services an Enrolled Address and/or Providing Services at a Location Not Enrolled
115. Deleted section 5.19.9 Failure to Respond to Attempts by SCDSS, 5.19.10 Failure to Operate During Stated Hours of Operation,
116. Section 5.19.11 Failure to Maintain LAN Phone Services changed to 5.15.3
117. Section 5.19.12 Misuse of Child Care Scholarship Program Funds changed to 5.15.4
118. Section 5.19.13 Fraud/Misrepresentation changed to 5.15.5
119. Deleted section 5.19.14 Owner/Operator or Director Guilty of Fraud in a State-Funded or Federally Funded Program.
120. Deleted sections 5.19.16 Refusal to Allow Representative Access to the Facility, 15.19.17 Smoking, Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages or use of non-prescription Narcotic or Illegal Substances on Premises
121. Section 5.20.1 Life Threatening or Substantial Threats of Harm changed to subsection.
122. Section 5.20.2 Non-Life Threatening Situations changed to subsection
123. Added Complaint section 5.17
124. Section 5.20.3 Notification to Child Care Staff changed to 5.17.1
125. Section 5.20.4 First Notification to Provider from ABC Quality deleted
126. Section 5.20.5 Appeals changed to 5.17.2
127. Section 5.20.6 Final Notification to Provider section deleted.
128. Section 5.20.7 Final Notification to the Clients and Provider from the Child Care Scholarship Program changed to 5.17.3
129. Section 5.20.8 Referral Resources to Asist Clients changed to 5.17.4. Added telephone number and email address for SCR&R
130. Section 5.20.9 Provider Files deleted.

131. Section 5.21 Exceptions to the Process for Terminating a Provider Enrollment deleted
132. Section 5.1757 is now Facility Ownership Changes
133. Section 5.17.6 is now Child Care Licensing Closes a Provider File
134. Section 5.22 Reclassification Deleted as it's covered in ABC Quality Manual.
135. Section 5.23 Voluntary Termination by the Provider changed to 5.18
136. Sections 5.24 Re-Enrollment, 5.24.1 Waiting Period for Re-Enrollment and 5.24.2 Exemption of Waiting Period deleted as it's covered in ABC Quality manual.
137. Section 5.25 Enrollment/Re-Enrollment Exceptions and 5.25.1 Deleted as it's covered in the ABC Quality manual.
138. Section 5.25.2 Fraud changed to 5.18.1. Kept some language but deleted ABC Quality's process as it's covered in the ABC Quality manual.
139. Section 5.25.3 Falsified Documents changed to 5.18.2
140. 5.25. Ineligibility to Participate in Publicly Funded Programs deleted as it's covered in ABC Quality Manual.
141. Section 5.26 Amendments to a Providers File changed to 5.19
142. Section 5.26.1 Adding or Deleting Additional Age Groups changed to 5.19.1
143. Section 5.26.2 Change in Facilities Regulatory Status changed to 5.19.2
144. Section 5.26.3 Change in Name of Child Care Facility changed to 5.19.3
145. Section 5.26.4 Change in Director of Child Care Facility changed to 5.19.4
146. Section 5.26.5 Change in Mailing/Payment Address or Phone Numbers changed to 5.19.5
147. Section 5.26.6 Working Telephone hanged to 5.19.6
148. Section 6.1.1 Allowable Absences
 - Deleted Services may be terminated if the child exceeds the allowable number of absences.
149. Section 6.1.2 Waiver of Absences – removed mention of terminating as we no longer terminate based on excessive absences.
150. Section 6.5 Transfers from One Provider to Another – Added Note: Emails satisfy the written notification.
151. Section 6.6 Early Releases added “regardless of the reason” to the note.
152. 6.9 Client Moves to Another County changed to TANF Client Moves to Another County. Removed language around termination.
153. Section 6.10 Changed Changes Within the Eligibility Period to Situational Changes Within the Eligibility Period – Section completely updated to address new policy.
154. Added Section 6.13.2 Termination of a Client and Written Notification.
155. Section 6.13.3 Notifying Client and Provider of Termination – cleaned up language

157. Section 6.17 System Generated Letters – Added under Transfer Letter that the letter is manually generated by staff.
158. Section 7.1.2 Requests for Payment – Added Note Payments for services over one year old will not be honored.
159. Section 7.1.3 Hand-Delivered SVL's – Added "that received a paper SVL"
160. Section 8.1.2 Appeals/Fair Hearings – Added the word enrollment. Added Note: to include contact information.
161. Section 8.1.4 Connecting Clients During an Appeal – Added Exception: If a child needs to be backdated to a start date prior to the appeal date, the Program Manager or designee may connect the child.
162. Appendix 1 and 2 CC Income Standards/Fee Scale – Updated to 85% SMI
163. Appendix 6 ABC Quality – Added www.abcquality.org. ACC – Deleted ACC, CHIP – Deleted, Eligibility Period – added 12 months and deleted and may be shortened based on the client's individual eligibility needs.

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

Vol 035-Revisions 01/02/2024

1. COVID Section of manual updated to add co-pays were reinstated for Strong Start -85% on 10/01/2023.
2. Added language that CHIP checks print outs were not required for COVID related child care categories (COVID-CARES, COVID-FC, COVID-19, COVID-300%, CCDF-85% and Strong Start-85%).
3. Added all funding threshold charts for COVID-300%.
4. Added effective 9/22/2022 a waiver of calling for employment verification for COVID and COVID umbrella funding sources was approved when all information was present on the letter of employment. Staff completed one form with the information from the letter.
5. Added that effective 11/14/2023 the form staff completed for the verification was no longer needed. Staff could just use what was on the letter.
6. Section 1.1.6 Added language “that it is the responsibility of all” and SCDSS child care staff will be held accountable for ensuring proper application of policy.
7. Added 1.6.1 Websites and Common Emails
8. Added 1.9 Child Care Scholarship Benefits Portal
9. Added 2.1.6 Establishing if the Applicant is eligible for full or part time care
- 10.2.1.7 Updated to indicate that additional documentation should be added to file if more than the standard 5 hours of travel time per week is needed.
- 11.2.1. Family Definition: Added if a child is between 18-21 years of age and in school, the child is counted. If not in school, not counted.
- 12.2.1.11 Child Support: Removed if child support is listed in CHIP, we use that. Added, effective 11/15/2023 only use what is listed on the application and calculate based on how often they receive the information.
13. 2.1.14 Treatment of Shift Premium, Shift Differential and Paid Time Off: Added to count all pay but only count hours for regular time, paid time off, and holiday hours.
- 14.2.1.17 Asset Limit – Added If any applicant indicates that their assets exceed \$1,000,000 the application will automatically be denied.
15. Added Section 2.2.2 Acceptable Methods of Verification. If working, pay stubs are preferred. Letters of employment only accepted when a client has started a new job, has a documented commitment of employment to begin within 2 weeks or is returning to work after being on leave. If employed over 60 days, pay stubs will be required. Offer letters from brand new employment will be accepted only if signed by the employee confirming acceptance of job. LES-Only acceptable

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

verification of military. Use BASE pay only. Self-Employment-Schedule C only. If newly employed and tax info not available, ledgers and logs may be accepted.

16. Added IRS tax transcripts may be used to verify profit/loss.

17. Tax forms will be accepted only for self-employed applicants unless otherwise approved by management.

18. 2.2.4 Work – If verification of long term assignments cannot be provided for PRN employment, the application will automatically be denied.

19. 2.2.5 Verification of work. Removed: If pay stubs are not available, a wage form, a letter on company letterhead indicating the hourly rate of pay and the number of hours worked may be submitted. These statements from employers will be verified by the child care eligibility worker. Tax forms may also be submitted when pay stubs are not available. Information from CHIP or other data bases may be used to verify employment., such as PATS, or other available data base.

20. 2.2.7 Verification of Self-Employment – A schedule C is the only acceptable method of verification if the applicant has been self-employed for over a year. UBER/LYFT or other similar types of work, schedule C if employed over a year. Or printouts of active time and actual working time with gross pay and any relevant tips should be submitted. Removed If tax documentation is not available, they may submit a copy of the ledger books, receipts or statements from their fares in order for eligibility to be determined. The client must be able to provide proof of steady, consistent work hours and wages earned. Hours worked, gross pay and amounts are required in order to calculate income. In the event that this information is not available, the applicant may be given three months of child care services to allow time to show work history.

21. 2.2.9 Verification of Disability: Added if the disability form indicates that that applicant can work, they must provide proof of employment or school to be considered for eligibility.

22. 2.3 Child Care Assistance Requirements: Added “or other income thresholds if stabled for certain funding sources”.

23. Added 2.12.7 Child Care After Adoption – AdoptCC.

24. Removed If a foster child was receiving child care while in foster care and is subsequently adopted, child care will end after the adoption is finalized. Should the adoptive family qualify for another type of funding and are income eligible and if funding is available, they may apply for child are at that time. Child Care Scholarship are not continued for foster children after the finalization of adoption.

25. Added 2.12.10 Reunification Child Care

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

26.2.17 Special Needs. Added Other children listed on the application will not be approved for services under the special needs funding but may be funded under general eligibility category if applicable at the time of the application.

27.3.1 Intake and Application – Added Benefits portal

28.3.2 Child Care Application – Added Benefits portal

29.3.2 Removed 3-5 working day turn around. Revised to indicate if a client requests a change from part time to full time.

30.3.2 Child Care Application: Added benefits portal language. Added upload language when we reference paper processes.

31.3.2.4 Custody Verification – Added Verification of custody/guardianship via CAPSS

32.3.4 Child Care Income Standards: Added “unless otherwise indicated by specific funding thresholds”

33.3.4.2 Client Fees – Added language that all client fees were waived effective 4/14/2021. As of 10/01/2023 only Strong Start – 85% is assigned a client fee.

34.4.1 Provider Authorization/Connection – added “email” to note.

35. 4.1.5 Memo Field Documentation – Added to add date, what actions taken, funding, connections, information provided, who you spoke with, etc. Break down of dates for both full and part time care and always sing the memo.

36. 4.1.9 Children Who Do Not Connect or Reconnect to a Provider – Added note: no terminations for clients not connecting or reconnecting to a provider nor are we enforcing the 15 days to select a child care provider.

37.5.7.3 Family, Friend and Neighbor – Added: Client or interested provider may call. Added The provider must be related to the child in one of the following ways: An aunt or uncle, first generation only, sibling, grandparent or great grandparent, all of whom do not reside in the same household as the child. Added language for what forms are sent. Removed duplication.

38.5.17.1 Rate Increases: Added effective 06/26/2024 rate increases effect all children. Removed The initial rate structure change from the old grouping to the new structure will be effective for all children. Subsequent rate increases, once under the new structure, will not automatically go into effect for all children. Those rate increases will only apply to:

39.6.1.1 Allowable Absences - Note: Effective March 2020, the Child Care Scholarship Program has not terminated clients for excessive absences.

40. Updated appendix

Vol 034-Revisions 12.1.22

1. **Changed all sections of the manual to change program name from the SC Voucher Program to the Child Care Scholarship Program.**
2. **Revised all sections that said 52 weeks to say 12 months of child care.**
3. **2.1.4 added a section on how to enter an application when the child is a citizen, but the parent is not.**
4. **2.2.4 Updated presumptive language to add when eligibility is redetermined that the client will receive another 12 months of child care from the redetermination.**
5. **2.2.5 Added “tuition” language to school verification.**
6. **2.2.7 Added language that an IRS Schedule C may be requested for self- employment.**
7. **2.2.7 Added language to Uber, Lyft, Instacart and taxi drivers to indicate that the proof of employment must show hours, rate of pay and how often paid.**
8. **2.16 Updated First Steps section to remove the old child care slots that were purchase by the county partnerships to the new evidence based first steps funding.**
9. **5.1.7 Added language on provider rates around once per year, the new rate structure and who is affected.**
10. **4.1.6 Funding and Connecting under Appropriate Age Groups; updated language to include the new age structures.**
11. **6.10 Changes within Eligibility – Added when an application is amended, the client will get a full 12 months of child care. Also, added that whatever level of services a family is approved for, they will not receive less than what they were originally approved for.**
12. **Added the connection forms email address and language that staff may connect over the phone when needed.**
13. **Clarified age groups v actual age breakdown and the change as of 10/21/2021.**

Vol 033- Revisions 3.22.22

1. Updated COVID-300% income guidelines
2. Removed all work, school, and training requirements around foster parents.
3. Added 4K Plus Siblings criteria

Vol 032- Revisions 9.7.21

1. Added 5.7.3(a) Inspections for license-exempt in-home careNon-related FFNs (care in both in/out of the child's home) are monitored for compliance with background checks, CPR/First Aid certification and Health and Safety Pre-service training. These providers receive an annual unannounced visit.
2. Section 4.2 was updated to add "or children in foster care" to the Exception note.
3. Added 2.12.16 Child Care Licensing works in coordination with SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) as necessary to help obtain needed immunization records for foster children. Child care providers contact their regional licensing office when assistance is needed with obtaining immunizations and/or other health and safety paperwork. Child care licensing works with the foster care case manager as needed to obtain this information.

Vol 031 – Revisions 04.14.21

1. Added Policy Change/Staff Alert to COVID-19 Section – Parent co-pays have been suspended effective 4/14/2021 for all funding categories until further notice.
2. Added COVID-300% language with income guidelines.

Vol 030- Revisions 09.01.20

1. Added COVID-19 Information
2. Added SCDSS Mission Statement
3. Manual section 1.2.1 was revised to add language about the process to request FOIA requests, the address where to send requests and the fee schedules.
4. Manual section 1.3 was revised to include language that staff should refrain from searching for or researching cases on staff, co-workers, friends, relatives and acquaintances.

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

5. Manual section 2.1.7, a bullet was added indicating that if only the yearly salary is provided, use the yearly salary and divide by 12 to get the gross monthly income.
6. Deleted Work Number from all identified sections of the manual as Work Number is no longer an available resource.
7. Manual section 2.1.9 Language added: If the applicant indicates that they are not receiving the child support on a regular basis, you may not count the CS income.
8. Manual section 2.1.4 under Presumptive eligibility changed six weeks of full time care to 12 weeks of full time child care to allow them time to obtain the wage information from their new employer.
9. Removed all manual sections and references to STARS as STARS is no longer a valid program.
10. Changed all Family Independence and FI language to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and TANF.
11. Manual Section 2.13, added language: Cases in the investigative phase are not eligible to apply for child care. The case must be in an open/active status.
12. Added Section 2.1.8 Graduated Phase Out
13. Added Section 2.13.7 Child Care After Adoption
14. Added to section 2.13.9 of the manual: If the minor foster child (in the case of a teen parent) is in a group home or shelter and has an open/active foster care case, services may be provided if the foster child is working, attending school or is working in conjunction with attending school. The application would be entered in the teen parent's name and their income would be counted.
15. Added language to section 2.19 Homeless Child Care that limits a maximum of 2 consecutive years of funding at the same address. Exceptions to policy may be made on a case by case basis with approval from the Program Manager.
16. Added section 2.22 CCDF/DISC Funding category.
17. Added section 2.23 Early Head Start Child Care Partnership category.
18. Added section 2.24 CCDF-CR Funding.
19. Section 3.2.2 added language on coordinating changes of pseudo social security numbers e with the designated staff to update the pseudo social security number to the actual number in order to align the changes with the SVL.

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

20. Section 3.6. added Help Me Grow Health Screening brochure form
21. Section 4.1.6 Dual Funding. Added language It is the responsibility of the person determining the most recent eligibility to process the case as dual funded.
22. Section 4.2 – Added Exception to immunization requirement: Families that are experiencing homelessness are given a 90-day grace period to provide proof of immunization.
23. All of section 5 was aligned with the policies and procedures of ABC Quality
24. Section 6.6 Early Releases added note: If the provider refuses to allow the child to attend, connections will be ended and the children will be given an early release.
25. Added to section 6.7 Control Center staff may complete the transfer in Child Care Scholarship Program Plus but should follow-up with an email to the appropriate CPS/FC eligibility worker informing them of the transfer request. The CPS/FC eligibility worker will then notify the county case manager of the request for transfer in order for the new referral form to be sent.
26. Section 6.9 Added language to clarify that when a client moves from one county to another, a new application is required only when the client is receiving TANF.
27. Section 6.12 – Removed the TANF to PATS and TCC to CHIP report.

Vol 029- Revisions

1. Updated manual language to change from FI to TANF
2. Manual Section 1.3 Conflict of Interest
Added Child care staff, to include supervisors, should refrain from searching for and researching cases on staff, co-workers, friends, relatives, and acquaintances.
3. Manual Section 2.13 and 2.13.6 Child Welfare
Child Care Added in school, training, or documented disability
4. Manual Section 2.1.5 Establishing the Need for Child Care Broke travel time into its own section.
New section 2.1.5.1

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

5. Manual Section 2.1.6 Family Definition.
Added Foster child is included when in a family case that is applying for non- foster care services for their own children
6. Manual Section 2.1.7 Income Definition and Calculations
Added If child support is listed in an open CHIP case, the CHIP CS amount should be used. If not in CHIP, and an amount is listed on the application, you should use that amount.
NOTE: Child support is calculated the same way as gross income. If paid weekly, multiply the amount by 4.33, bi-weekly by 2.16, etc.
7. Manual Section 2.1.10 Treatment of Shift Premium, Shift Differential, and Paid Time Off
Added For initial child care determination and redetermination of eligibility, shift premium, shift differential and paid time off are counted. Shift premium and shift differential is pay that an employee receives for working the least desirable hours at a business. Paid time off is pay that an employee receives as part of having available sick or vacation time. The hours and pay for each of these categories will be counted when determining income if listed on any of the pay stubs.
8. Manual Section 2.6 Family Independence
Title changed to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
9. Manual Section 2.6.2 TANF Two-Parent Program
Added note about both parents needing to be in an approved component.
10. Manual Section 2.7 JUMMP Child Care Deleted entire section as JUMMP is no longer a program.
11. Manual Section 2.7.1 Child Care
Authorization/Approval Process Deleted entire section as JUMMP is no longer a program.
12. Manual Section 2.7.2 ACC/JUMMP
Deleted entire section as JUMMP is no longer a program.
13. Manual Section 2.7.3 FI/JUMMP
Deleted entire section as JUMMP is no longer a program.
14. Manual Section 2.7.4 TCC/JUMMP
Deleted entire section as JUMMP is no longer a program.
15. Manual Section 2.7.5 JUMMP Non-Compliance
Deleted entire section as JUMMP is no longer a program.

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

16. Manual Section 2.7.6 Client Curing Sanction
Deleted entire section as JUMMP is no longer a program.
17. Manual Section 2.7.7 FI Benefit Case
Closure/Denial Deleted entire section as
JUMMP is no longer a program.
18. Manual Section 2.7.8 JUMMP Participant Transferred to the County
DSS Office Deleted entire section as JUMMP is no longer a program.
19. Manual Section 2.15 Criminal Domestic Violence
Removed funding for this category is limited and is for only a lifetime
maximum of 52 weeks.
Added bulleted list of criteria
20. Manual Section 2.20 Family Literacy Child Care Expanded
description and added bulleted list of criteria
21. Manual Section 2.21 Dual Language Learner Added section and
criteria
22. Manual Section 2.7.9 Transitional Child Care Removed the status
code and sending to TCC unit
23. Manual Section 2.9 Transitional Child Care Changed 60 days to
30 days
Added what CHIP screen are to be included with the Seamless case.
24. Manual Section 3.2.1 Client and Recipient Social Security
Numbers Added “but cannot require”
25. Manual Section 4.1.2 Provider Selection Removed
specific staff names
26. Manual Section 4.1.6 Registration Fees
Changed language in the note that said ABC Program will pay to SC
Voucher Program may pay.
27. Manual Chapter 5 Provider Information
All mention of ABC Quality providers has been updated to be in
compliance with the new Quality Standards with ABC Quality.
28. Manual Section 5.2.4 Provisional Licenses
Updated language to remove Level A or B and changed to “as an
ABC Quality Provider”

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

29. Manual Section 5.2.5 Providers Not Eligible to be Enrolled in the SC Voucher Program

Title changed to Providers Not Eligible for Enrollment/RE-enrollment in ABC Quality.

Added: Programs Who are on a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) with Child Care Licensing or have an open OHAN investigation - Programs who are on a CAP with Child Care Licensing are not meeting the History of Compliance to Licensing Regulations and thus cannot enroll until the completion of the CAP. Any facility that has an open OHAN investigation cannot enroll until the case has been successfully resolved.

Programs Whose Primary Business is not Child Care – Programs who want to enroll, but their primary business is not child care, e.g. karate/martial arts, dance studios, gymnastics and tutoring facilities will be staffed on a case-by-case basis, and ABC Quality reserves the right to deny enrollment. Existing programs in ABC Quality can remain enrolled.

Family Child Care Home Operators who are Employed Outside the Home during the Hours of Operation - the primary operator is the person whose name is on the Registration/License. They cannot be employed at another job during the hours they indicate their family child care home is in operation.

Programs Operating in Strip Malls or Buildings which do not have a Designated Safe Outside Play Area for children – the program must provide a designated safe area away from vehicular traffic or other possible hazards. If cars are present, the program must provide secure barriers for protection against bodily injury.

Programs With at Least Two Occurrences of an Adverse Action Taken Against them and/or Have Not Been Offered Another Agreement by ABC Quality – If there have been at least two instances whereby the provider was either terminated by ABC Quality and ABC was upheld or if ABC Quality could not offer the provider another Enrollment Agreement, the provider cannot re-enroll. This can be two instances of the same or a combination.

Provider Received A Grant And Did Not Comply With The Terms And Conditions Of The Grant - the provider did not meet the terms and conditions of the grant,

i.e. provider did not stay enrolled for the stated amount of time, and the funds were not paid back.

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

Two Programs Within The Same Physical Structure Or Address – When an existing provider wants to enroll a second program, and the program is housed either within the same structure or property, and is not covered under separate DSS License or Approvals, then the second program cannot be enrolled. Example: a licensed program is enrolled to serve ages 6 weeks to age 6. Provider wants to enroll an exempt program for ages 6 to 12 years of age at the same location or address, then this is not allowed.

Providers who Have Operated Illegally – 1) Providers who have been cited as an illegal operation by Child Care Licensing prior to applying with ABC or 2) if an existing ABC provider is either found to be operating illegally at the enrolled site (e.g. a License-Exempt is operating more than 4 hours per day), or if the provider is operating another location that is deemed an illegal operation.

Providers who Have Been Terminated Previously for an offense that could have impacted the health & safety or well-being of the child(ren) - If a provider was denied their Agreement was not renewed for the following reasons, but not limited to, then ABC Quality reserves the right to deny the provider the opportunity to re-enroll: a Significant Event as defined under History of Compliance, hiding children from DSS employees so as to not be cited for being out of ratio/over capacity, or were serving children at locations unknown to DSS employees.

NOTE: Upon receiving a provider's application for enrollment in the ABC Quality, if it is known by ABC Quality that the provider purchased the facility from a provider whose enrollment was terminated due to Numbers 1 through 4 above, then the new owner shall submit legal documentation verifying the change of ownership and provide a notarized statement that the previous owner has no financial or personal interest or association with the child care facility.

30. Manual Section 5.2.6 Dual Employment Changed SC Voucher to ABC Quality Updated form number
31. Manual Section 5.2.7 When New/Updated Provider Paperwork is Needed Removed new paperwork is required every three years thereafter. Changed waiting period for reenrollment to one year from 6 months. \ Added “when a provider moves” and “when a facility changes its name”

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

32. Manual Section 5.3 Health and Safety Pre-Service Training.
Bullet 3 deleted within 90 days of hire and change to all caregiving staff prior to enrollment and after enrolment, new staff must complete within 90 days of hire.
33. Manual Section 5.3 Health and Safety Pre-Service Training
Under Pediatric First Aid, added as long as funding remains available. Added all caregiving staff prior to enrollment and after enrolment, new staff must complete within 90 days of hire.
Added Note: On-line CPR/First Aid training is not accepted. Deleted training topic tables
34. Manual Section 5.4.1 Provider Grants Entire section reworded.
35. Manual Section 5.4.2 Non-Compliance with Grant Terms Entire section reworded
Note moved from 5.4.3 regarding failure to use grant funds. Changed SC Voucher to ABC Quality
36. Manual Section 5.4.3 Recoupment of Grant Funding Title changed to Exceptions to Grant Funding.
37. Manual Section 5.7 Provider Selection and Types Removed Level A and B
Changed to enrolled ABC Quality providers. Added the scchildcare.org website.
38. Manual Section 5.7.1 Reports of Abuse and Neglect
Changed Level A, B and C to Regulated facilities –report to Child Care Licensing, Exempt providers, report to ABC Quality, FFN Provider – report to SC Voucher Control Center.
39. Manual Section 5.7.2 Level A and B Providers Title change to Provider levels and Process for Enrollment Entire section rewritten to include levels A, B and C
40. Manual Section 5.7.3 Level C Providers
Deleted the entire section as it's been combined in other areas.
41. Manual Section 5.8 Three Year Provider Agreement Title Changed to Provider Enrollment Agreement Entire section rewritten.
42. Manual Section 5.9 Expiration of Three Year Enrollment
Agreement Title changed to Expiration of the Provider Enrollment Agreement Entire section re-written

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

43. Manual Section 5.10 Subsequent Enrollment Criteria
Title changed to Criteria for Renewal of Provider Enrollment
Agreement Entire section re-written
44. Manual Section 5.11 Subsequent Enrollment Process Title changed to Process for Re-Enrollment
Entire section reworded
45. Manual Section 5.12 History of Compliance Entire section reworded
46. Manual Section 5.12.3
New Section Added: History of Compliance for License-Exempt Providers
47. Manual Section 5.13.1 Process for Determining Compliance for Enrollment for Levels A and B
Title change to Process for Determining Compliance for Enrollment
Changed Quality Monitoring to ABC Quality
48. Manual Section 5.13.2 Process for On-going Monitoring for Levels A and B Title change to Process for On-going Monitoring
Removed A and B levels Added referral to SCCCRRN
Changed corrective action plan to Quality Improvement Plan (QIP)
49. Manual Section 5.13.3 Process for Offering a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) Title change to Process for Offering a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) Entire section reworded
50. Manual Section 5.14 Corrective Action Removed “during monitoring visit
Changed SC Voucher Program to ABC Quality Updated wording to A
51. Manual Section 5.17.2 Rate Increases for Level A and Be Child Care Providers. Title changed to Rate Increases for All Levels.
Change QRIS Quality Monitoring Staff to ABC Quality Changed Level A and B Provider Rate form to Rate Form
Added Exception: FFN providers call the SC Voucher Control Center.
Added: Any provider who has not submitted all corrective action will not be allowed to receive a rate increase. Upon satisfactory correction, they may request a rate change.
52. Manual Section 5.17.3 Rate Increase for Level C and Family, Friend and Neighbor Child Care Provider.
Title changed to Rate Increases for Family, Friend and Neighbor Child Care Provider.

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

53. Manual Section 5.18.4 New section
54. Manual Section 5.18-5 New section
55. Manual Section 5.18.6 New section
56. Manual Section 5.19 Adverse Actions by the SC Voucher Program Title changed to Adverse Actions by ABC Quality
Changed SC Program to ABC Quality
57. Manual Section 5.19.5 Failure to Maintain Required Program Assessment Scores
Entire section reworded
58. Manual Section 5.19.3 Failure to Meet Regulatory Requirements.
Changed Child Care Services Director to the Director of Early Care and Education.
59. Manual Section 5.19.4 Failure to Maintain History of Compliance. Deleted number 3 regarding CPR.
60. Manual Section 5.19.6 Failure to Maintain National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accreditation (Level A only).
Per ABC Quality, this section has been deleted.
61. Manual Section 5.19.7 Use of Corporal Punishment.
Change wording from The SC Voucher Program defines... to ABC Quality defines.
Removed Note that A Level C provider must comply with CCL regulations in regard to corporal punishment as it's included with all enrolled providers.
62. Manual Section 5.19.8 OHAN Findings.
Changed SC Voucher Program to ABC Quality and changed Child Care Services Director to the Director of Early Care and Education.
63. Manual Section 5.19.9 Failure to Submit Required Corrective Action. Changed SC Voucher Program to ABC Quality and removed "three year".
64. Manual Section 5.19.11 Failure to Provide Child Care Services at Enrolled Address
Combining 5.19.11 and 5.19.12 to title change of Failure to Provide Child Care Services at Enrolled Address and/or providing services at a location that is not enrolled and or which the Child is not connected
Entire section reworded.

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65. Manual Section 5.19.19 Failure to Maintain SC Voucher Program Documentation Entire section deleted.
66. Manual Section 5.19.22 Smoking in a Facility Title changed to Smoking/Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages/Use of Non- Prescription Narcotic or Illegal Substances on the Premises
67. Manual Section 5.19.13 Failure to Respond to Attempts by SC Voucher Program Staff to Reach the Provider Title has been changed to Failure to Respond to Attempts by SC DSS Staff to Reach the Provider.
68. Manual Section 5.19.15 Failure to Maintain LAN (Local Area Network) Phone Service. Added Verification can be made by any SCDSS staff.
69. Manual Section 5.19.17 Fraud. Title has been changed to Fraud/Misrepresentation.
70. Manual Section 5.19.19 Failure to Maintain SC Voucher Program Documentation Requirements. Per ABC Quality, this section is being deleted.
71. Manual Section 5.19.20 Verbal or Physical Abuse of SC Voucher Staff. Title has been changed to Verbal or Physical Abuse by a Provider. Changed all SC Voucher Program language to SCDSS.
72. Manual Section 5.19.21 Refusal to Allow SC Voucher Program Representative Access to the Facility. Title has been changed to Refusal to Allow SCDSS Representatives Access to the Facility. Changed all SC Voucher Program language to SCDSS.
73. Manual Section 5.20.1 Life-Threatening or Substantial Threat of Harm. Changed all SC Voucher Program language to ABC Quality. Changed Child Care Services Director to the Director of Early Care and Education.
74. Manual Section 5.20.2 Non-Life-Threatening Situations Deleted "notices should be effective the first Monday after 10 working days (excluding weekends and holidays) from the date the final termination notice is mailed to the provider, unless a different time frame is otherwise noted in this document. This allows for mail delivery

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

of the notices and time for the families to make other child care arrangements.”

Added “shall follow normal procedures outlined in section 5.20.4”.

75. Manual Section 5.20.3 Notification to Child Care Staff
Changed QRIS Quality Monitoring Designee to ABC Quality Designee. And Control Center to SC Voucher Program Control Center.
76. Manual Section 5.20.4 First Notification to Provider from SC Child Care Program Monitoring.
Title Changed to First Notification to Provider from ABC Quality. Changed QRIS Quality Monitoring Designee to ABC Quality Designee. Changed Child Care Services Director to ABC Quality Program Manager
77. Manual Section 5.20.5 Appeals
Changed QRIS Quality Monitoring to ABC Quality
Deleted The SC Voucher Program System Liaison will notify the QRIS Quality Monitoring office if a Level C provider files an appeal.
Changed Child Care Services Director to the Director of Early Care and Education.
78. Manual Section 5.20.6 Final Notification to Provider from SC Voucher Quality Monitoring.
Title changed to Final Notification to Provider from ABC Quality. Changed SC Voucher Program to ABC Quality.
Changed Quality Monitoring to ABC Quality.
79. Manual Section 5.20.7 Final Notification to the Clients and the Provider from the Control Center
Changed title to Final Notification to the Clients and the Provider from the SC Voucher Program.
Changed Quality Monitoring to ABC Quality
Changed SC Voucher Program facility to ABC Quality Program facility
80. Manual Section 5.20.8 Referral Resources to Assist Clients
Added: Additionally, parents can be referred to the South Carolina Child Care resource and Referral Network.
81. Manual Section 5.22 Reclassification Entire section reworded

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

82. Manual Section 5.23 Voluntary Termination by the Provider Change SC Voucher Program to ABC Quality
Changed reenrollment waiting period from six months to one year.
83. Manual Section 5.24.1 Waiting Period for Re-Enrollment of Terminated Enrollments
Title change to Waiting Period for Re-Enrollment Entire section rewritten.
84. Manual Section 5.24.2 Waiting Period for Provider Who Voluntarily Terminates Deleted entire section
85. Manual Section 5.24.3 Waiting Period When Provider is not Eligible for Subsequent
Deleted entire section
86. Manual Section 5.24.4 Exemption of Waiting Period
Changed SC Voucher Program management to the Director of Early Care and Education
Changed Program Monitoring Staff to ABC Quality
87. Manual Section 5.26 Amendments to a Provider's File Changed Quality Monitoring to ABC Quality
88. Manual Section 5.26.1 Adding or Deleting Additional Age Groups Added Level C in with level A and B
Added Receive an on-site assessment from ABC Quality as needed for level A, B or C.
89. Manual Section 5.26.2 Change in Facilities Regulatory Status
Removed NOTE: The provider must notify the appropriate program area immediately if their registration or license is revoked or the application for renewal is denied by CCL.
90. Manual Section 5.26.3 Change in Name of Child Care Facility
Removed "the appropriate program area in writing or by phone." And changed to "notify ABC Quality".
Changed 2. To Submit new enrollment paperwork provided by ABC Quality reflecting the new name.
91. Manual Section 5.26.4 Change in Director of Child Care Facility Removed "the appropriate program area in writing or by phone." Added must notify ABC Quality.
Also removed Level A and B providers must: 1. Submit documentation [i.e. degree, CDA, diploma, etc.] showing that the new director meets the qualifications outlined in the Child Care Standards 2. If needed, submit

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

signed educational plan indicating the director will obtain approved credential, certificate, diploma, or degree within three years. An educational plan can be obtained from ABC Quality Monitoring.

- 92. Manual Section 5.26.5 Change in Mailing/Payment Address or Phone Numbers Removed “the appropriate program area in writing or by phone.” And changed to “notify ABC Quality”.
- 93. Manual Section 5.26.6 Working Telephone
Removed “the appropriate program area in writing or by phone.” And changed to “notify ABC Quality”.
- 94. Manual Section 6.1.1 Allowable Absences Added hazardous weather absence code
- 95. Manual Section 6.13.3 Termination of a Client Removed must wait for 6 months before reapplying.
- 96. Manual Section 6.16 Close Outs
Added A letter is not generated when a close out is done.
- 97. Manual Section 7.1.4 Payment Instructions Removed debit card transfer
- 98. Manual Section 8.1.3 Provider Appeals Updated Quality Monitoring to ABC Quality
- 99. Glossary of Forms
Removed DSS Form 1027 JUMMP Communication Form
Removed DSS Form 3773 Level C Provider Rate Certification Form Removed DSS Form 3781 Pre-Authorization Form
Renamed DSS Form 37101 from Level C Provider Enrollment Form and Agreement to ABC Quality – Provider Agreement
Removed DSS Form 37106-1 and 37106-2
Renamed DSS Form 37108 to Provider Enrollment Form

Vol 028- Revisions 06.01.18

1. Changed “Connection card” to “Connection form” throughout manual.
2. Updated all language to remove Liz Smith and replaced with Shelah Strange.
3. Updated all sections that indicated 150%-175% of poverty to 55%-85% SMI
4. Manual Section 1.4 Voluntary Program language change
5. Manual Section 1.6 The SC Voucher Program Control Center language change
6. Manual Section 1.7 Child Care Payables additions
7. Manual Section 2.1. Citizen/Alien Status bookmark added
8. Manual Section 2.1.7 Income Definitions changed title
9. Manual Section 2.1.7 Income Definition and Calculations added Gross to definitions and adjusted gross income information for self-employed.
10. Manual Section 2.1.7 Income Definition and Calculations added Work Number to database list
11. Manual Section 2.2.4 Verification of Work added information on pay stubs
12. Manual Section 2.2.5 Verification of School changed language and added a note
13. Manual Section 2.2.7 Verification of Self-Employment added language for UBER, LYFT, and taxi drivers
14. Manual Section 2.2.9 Verification of Disability added language
15. Manual Section 2.6.2 FI Two-Parent Program changed language
16. Manual Section 2.8 Transitional Child Care (TCC) added Federal Time Limits
17. Manual Section 2.13.5 The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) added language
18. Manual Section 2.14 Non-Welfare Low-Income Families added language
19. Manual Section 2.16 Head Start changed and added language
20. Manual Section 2.17 changed language
21. Manual Section 2.18 Special Needs changed language
22. Manual Section 2.18 Special Needs changed language concerning IEP's
23. Manual Section 3.2 Child Care Application changed language
24. Manual Section 3.5 Eligibility Worksheet changed language
25. Manual Section 3.6 Notification of Eligibility added Health Screening Form
26. Manual Section 4.1.1 Parental Choice changed language
27. Manual Section 6.1 Absences added Religious Holidays
28. Manual Section 6.1.2 Waiver of Absences removed language
29. Manual Section 6.3 Breaks in Work, School or Training changed language
30. Manual Section 6.4 Retention Schedule changed language
31. Manual Section 6.7 Transfers of Foster and Child Protective Service Clients added note

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

32. Manual Section 6.13 Termination of Services to Clients removed language
33. Changed all old "What's New" Titles from What's New to Revisions
34. Appendix 1 Update
35. Appendix 2 Update
36. Updated Forms Section

Vol 027- Revisions 11.01.16

1. Manual Section 5.3 becomes the section to outline the policy in the Health and Safety Pre-Service Training Certificate.
2. The section numbers had to be re-numbered.
3. Appendix 1 Updated to income the new child care income guidelines for October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017
4. Appendix 2 Updated to include the new fee scale for October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017

Vol 026-Revisions 08.01.16

1. Manual Section 2.1.12 Section added to include new asset limit per CCDF Regulations

Vol 025-Revisions 05.01.16

1. Manual Section 2.1.8 Section revised to include policy for the treatment of overtime income.
2. Manual Section 2.1.9 Section revised to include policy about treatment of irregular fluctuations of income.
3. Manual Section 2.2.1 Deleted reference to searching Facebook, etc. for verification of a client's eligibility since blocked by the agency.
4. Manual Section 2.2.4 Revised to give six weeks of presumptive eligibility instead of 30 days.
5. Manual Section 2.3 Revised to include policy based on the new CCDF law and proposed regulations for providing child care assistance for 12 months regardless of temporary changes. Defined temporary and non-temporary changes.
6. Manual Sections 2.3 through 2.17 re-numbered.

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

7. Manual Section 2.13 items 2, 3 and 4 have been updated to allow CPS-IN and CPS-OUT cases to get up to 52 weeks of child care.
8. Manual Section 2.19 This section added to provide information about the Homeless child care category.
9. Manual Section 2.20 This section added to provide information about the Family Literacy child care category.
10. Manual Section 4.1 Revised to include that connections, from connection cards received, are also made for dates indicated in the memo field by eligibility staff.
11. Manual Section 6.11 Revised to include a time limit of 5 days for correcting desk review errors/improper payments.
12. Appendix 1 Updated to include new income guidelines for 2015 – 2016 and revised the exit guidelines effective May 1, 2016 to coincide with 85% State Median Income (SMI).
13. Appendix 2 Update to include the new income guidelines for 2015 – 2016 and revised the exit guidelines effective May 1, 2016 to coincide with 85% State Median Income (SMI).
14. Appendix 3 Updated to reflect the provider rate increases which were effective February 1, 2016.

Vol 024-Revisions 07.01.15

1. Manual Section 2.1.6 Added section C and re-lettered the section to allow for same sex marriages to be considered when determining the family household unit when determining eligibility for child care.
2. Manual Section 2.9 May 2015 transitional child care, year 2 (TCC2) policy was restored to allow families working full-time to get full-time child care, previous policy only allowed for part-time child care. All cases that were currently receiving TCC2 were reviewed. If the eligibility worksheet indicated that the families were eligible for full-time child care then the child care services were reconnected to begin receiving full-time child care on or around June 1, 2015.
3. Manual Section 2.12.3 Section deleted since information is in the following two sections. Reminder of 2.12 has been re-numbered.
4. Manual Section 2.12.5 Foster care child care policy has been expanded to allow for the foster parent to be working, in school/training, or disabled.

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

5. Manual Section 2.12.6 Foster care child care policy has been expanded to allow for the foster parent to be working, in school/training, or disabled.
6. Manual Section 2.12.7 Foster care child care policy has been expanded to allow for the foster parent to be working, in school/training, or disabled.
7. Manual Section 3.4.2 Revised to add that as of July 1, 2015 CPS-Out clients do not pay a client fee. CPS-Out clients determined eligible for child care on or after July 1, 2015 will not have a client fee assessed.
8. Manual Section 4.1.6 Effective July 1, 2015, the registration fee paid for children via voucher system will be increased from \$50 to \$100 per year.
9. Manual Section 5.6.7 Revised to reflect change in out-of-state providers reimbursement rate. Reimbursement changed effective July 1, 2015 from Level B Rural to Level B Urban.

Vol 023-Revisions 10.01.14

1. Throughout the policy manual, references to ABC Child Care program have been removed and replaced with SC Voucher program to reflect name changes within the Division.
2. Manual Section 2.5.3 Section revised to provide clarification to the FI/CO child care policy.
3. Manual Section 2.5.4 Section created to provide new policy for a new category of child care, Family Independence/Child-Only – Protective Services (FI/CO-PS).
4. Appendix 1 Child Care Income Standards updated to reflect the October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015 income guidelines.
5. Appendix 2 Child Development Fee Scale updated to reflect the October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015 income guidelines.
6. Appendix 3 Child Care Maximum Payment chart updated to reflect the Quality Incentive Bonus increase for Level A Child Care Centers.

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

Vol 022-Revisions 03.01.14

1. Manual Section 1.8 Section revised to delete the old child care website address.
2. Manual Section 2.1.8 Section revised to add under the wage or salary section, items to include shift differential, holiday, and leave pay. No change in policy. This is just for clarification.
3. Manual Section 2.2.5 Section has been revised to give direction on how to handle school verification of a dependent child age 18-21.
4. Manual Section 6.13.3 Removed an old reference to the county child care workers.
5. Manual Section 7.1.2 Section has been revised to indicate when a child is absent from a facility for two consecutive weeks (Monday – Friday) but returns on any day of the third week, the provider can continue to bill and be paid for that time period for the child.

Vol 021-Revisions 01.01.14

1. Manual Section 2.1.8 Beginning with this section and sections throughout the manual, clarification has been made to reflect the child care eligibility workers ongoing practice of using 30 consecutive check stubs when processing a child care application. References to “recent” have been removed to avoid confusion.
2. Manual Section 2.12.2 Section clarified to reflect the child care eligibility workers ongoing practice of using agency databases as verification for child care eligibility.
3. Manual Section 5.11 Section clarified policy effective 06/01/13 to include that Child Care Licensing bi-annual inspections of child care providers are used by ABC Quality to determine health and safety compliance.
4. Manual Section 5.13 Operating procedures have been clarified effective 06/01/13 to reflect practices for notification of providers that corrective action is needed.

Vol 020-Revisions 11.01.13

1. Manual Section 2.1.7 Section has been revised to show an example on how unusual pay amounts should be calculated when determining an applicant's gross monthly income. Also removed the definition of employment out of this section that discusses income. Employment definition is already in Section 2.2.3.
2. Manual Section 2.1.9 Section has been updated to change the name of the Income Exclusion listed under letter 'M' from Special Service Supplemental Benefits for Adoption to Adoption Subsidy.
3. Manual Section 2.2.3 Section has been revised to state that substitute teaching, along with other as needed job employment or job assignments, are not considered employment unless they are long-term placements.
4. Manual Section 2.2.4 Section has been revised to clarify that when verifying employment, paystubs showing employment for 30 consecutive days are preferred. However, if the applicant submits paystubs covering less than 30 days, and there is a year-to-date amount included on the paystubs, the year-to-date amount may be used to calculate gross monthly income.
5. Manual Section 2.2.5 Section has been updated to reflect that post-secondary institutions have criteria to determine if a student based on their registration is considered a full or part-time student.
6. Manual Section 2.6 Any references to CJU have been changed to CERCU. Also, verbiage was added to indicate that child care can be approved for five weeks in order for a client to cure an FI sanction.
7. Manual Section 2.6.2 Effective October 1, 2013, the number of weeks approved for ACC/JUMMP child care changed from seven to six weeks.
8. Manual Section 2.6.3 Revised to indicate JUMMP contractors can send the DSS 1027 directly to the child care eligibility unit via SCOSA when child care continues to be needed.
9. Manual Section 2.6.4 Item B has been updated to reflect how to determine child care start date for TCC/JUMMP child care in those rare cases in which the FI benefit was denied for income from the job found by JUMMP.
10. Manual Section 2.7 No new policy, just clarifies that a TCC client that becomes temporary disabled due to pregnancy, injury, etc. and unable

11. as they remain employed and has verification that their job is being held for them.
12. Manual Section 2.8.1 Section revised to give guidance when switching FI or FI/JUMMP child care to transitional child care. Also, section clarified when a new child care application is needed.
13. Manual Section 2.12.6 Section has been clarified for foster care child care to indicate employment verification can be made using one check stub containing year-to-date income. This has been the process just needed to clarify.
14. Manual Section 3.4 Section has been revised to state that if there is a gap in the eligibility period of a week or more when a client submits a new application, the family must have monthly income below the entrance guidelines to qualify for assistance.
15. Manual Section 5.6 Clarified the Note
16. Manual Section 5.6.7 Section clarified to state out-of-state FFN provider can be approved only for CPS and Foster Care child care cases and only with prior approval of the arrangement by the designated program staff and human services worker.
17. Manual Section 6.10 Section has been updated to state that a new application is required and a re-determination is necessary when a change within a client's household causes the client to change from one eligibility category to another, unless the change can be processed according to seamless eligibility policy.
18. Appendix 1 has been updated to reflect the Child Care Income Standards which are effective from October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014.
19. Appendix 2 has been updated to reflect the Child Development Fee Scale which is effective from October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014.
20. Appendix 3 has been updated to reflect the Maximum Payment Allowed rates which are effective from October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2015.

Vol 019-Revisions 05.01.13

1. Manual Section 2.2.3 Section has been revised to state that when an applicant is in a long-term substitute teaching assignment, verification of the assignment is required. An applicant who has a new commission-only job may receive three months of child care in order to establish a work history. Continued eligibility will be re-determined at the end of this time period. A Note has also been added to state that travel time may be considered when determining the number of hours worked per week. Furthermore, verbiage also has been added to clarify that an FI parent may not be required to participate a minimum of 15 hours.
2. Manual Section 2.2.4 Section has been updated to clarify that when pay stubs are not available to verify work, a letter on company letterhead may be submitted which indicates the hourly rate of pay and the number of hours: however, these statements from employers will be verified by the child care eligibility worker. Policy regarding the presumptive eligibility process for new employment has been moved from Section 2.5.4 to 2.2.4. Verbiage regarding the procedures that the FI CM must follow has been removed.
3. Manual Section 2.2.5 Section has been revised to state that, except for FI recipients, applicants may submit proof of paid school registration for the term in which they are applying for child care assistance as verification that they are participating in an educational program. Units of service for school participation may also be used. The Note has been revised to clarify that actual class instruction time issued for programs that do not use a credit hour system will also be considered, along with travel time. Furthermore, when determining whether an applicant qualifies for part-time or full-time child care assistance, an applicant who is registered to attend nine or more credit hours of graduate school is considered attending school full-time; therefore, full-time child care may be authorized.
4. Manual Section 2.2.7 Section has been updated to state that the most current copy of a self-employed applicant's individual income tax return and the profit/loss statement may be used to obtain an accurate estimate of income. If the applicant is newly self-employed, an applicant may be given three months of child care services to allow time to show a work history. Continued eligibility will be determined after this time period.

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

5. Manual Section 2.2.9 Section has been revised to state that eligibility criteria in some child care categories may not allow the applicant to be disabled.
6. Manual Section 2.4.1 Section has been updated to state that the FI CM or designated county staff can complete the ABC Child Care Application when an FI applicant applies for ACC.
7. Manual Section 2.4.2 Section has been revised to state that when an FI benefit case is approved, the FI CM will meet with the client at the Family Plan appointment. If child care is needed, a new DSS Form 1269, Request for Support Services, and the DSS Form 3791, ABC Child Care Application, may be sent via SCOSA to the ABC Mailbox to the FI child care unit. If the FI benefit application is denied, the child care will be allowed to end in accordance with termination policy and the memo field in the ABC Voucher System may be documented.
8. Manual Section 2.5 Section has been updated to reflect that the purpose of child care through FI is to provide the necessary child care for a family to participate in approved employment, education, training or to comply with their Family Plan.
9. Manual Section 2.5.1 Section has been revised to add that if child care assistance is needed for an FI client in the CARES Program, the FI CM will send the FI child care unit via the ABC Mailbox in SCOSA the DSS Form 1269, Request for Support Services, and the DSS Form 3791, ABC Child Care Application, and other documentation as appropriate to request child care.
10. Manual Section 2.5.3 Section has been updated to state that in an FI Child Only case, if a parent/caretaker has a verified permanent disability, a physician's statement indicating the inability of the patient to care for their own children or children in their custody will be provided.
11. Manual Section 2.6.1 Section has been updated to state that income data from CHIP or SCOSA imaging may also be used when determining eligibility.
12. Manual Section 2.6.4 Section has been revised to include a Special Note stating that for the period of June 2012 through August 2012, the ABC Program operated under original JUMMP policy to allow

transitional child care when the FI benefit case was denied due to earned income. This policy was later clarified to reflect the current policy notated in this section.

- 13. Manual Section 2.7 Section has been updated to state that when determining eligibility for transitional child care, travel time is also considered when calculating the number of hours worked each week.
- 14. Manual Section 2.7.1 Section has been updated to state that when determining eligibility for transitional child care in a two-parent family, travel time is also considered when calculating the number of hours worked each week.
- 15. Manual Section 2.8 Section has been revised to state that when establishing eligibility for TCC1, the child care eligibility worker will use CHIP to determine that the FI benefit case has been closed for a transitional closure reason and to determine the effective date of FI benefit closure to ensure that the appropriate number of service weeks are given to the client.
- 16. Manual Section 2.8.1 Section has been updated to state that when the FI Child Care Unit becomes aware that an open FI child care case needs to go seamless, the TCC Unit will determine the effective date of closure in CHIP to ensure that the appropriate number of weeks are approved, starting from the effective date of closure.
- 17. Manual Section 2.9 Section has been revised to state that the TCC2 eligibility category is for an individual whose first year of transitional eligibility time limit is ending. If the parent is currently receiving TCC1, the ABC Voucher System sends an automated notification to the parent and to the provider 60 days prior to the services ending. The policy stating that TCC2 cannot be retroactive and the participant cannot be reimbursed for any payments made prior to the established date of eligibility has been removed. To receive child care through TCC2, the individual must not be receiving an FI benefit and the FI benefit closed for a transitional reason.
- 18. Manual Section 2.11 Section has been updated to remove the verbiage which states that the child care worker must also attach a copy of the mini-budget and a copy of the CAP2 screen to the DSS Form 1269 when determining eligibility for TCC/Full Family Sanction-1.

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

19. Manual Section 2.12.2 Section has been revised to remove verbiage stating that there may be situations in which the child care worker in the county where the child resides and the county of case management will need to work together to secure services needed for the child has been removed. A CPS child may also receive child care up to 26 weeks, with a possible extension up to 26 additional weeks. The Note has been revised to state that when a CPS case is closed or no longer active, the child care case will be terminated according to ABC Program termination policy upon notification from the HS worker.
20. Manual Section 2.12.6 Section has been updated to state that exceptions to the work requirement for foster parents may be made by the Child Care Director/designee on a case-by-case basis.
21. Manual Section 2.12.7 Section has been revised to include additional procedures that the referring Foster Care CM is responsible for, including requesting authorization from State Office to approve child care for a child in specialized or intensive foster care (E) and for submitting a waiver request, as appropriate, for use of a child care facility that is not licensed (F). Verbiage stating that the child care worker in the county of case management is responsible for determining eligibility for child care and that coordination is essential has been removed.
22. Manual Section 2.14 Current policy has been updated to state that parents must meet the basic ABC Program criteria and verify participation with a state-funded domestic violence program as required.
23. Manual Section 2.15 Section has been clarified to state that a parent applying for Head Start child care must meet basic ABC Program funding criteria, as funding is available. If approved for services, the child must attend the Head Start approved child care site for a minimum of two weeks prior to transferring to another provider. Failure to attend for two weeks may result in the termination of services, unless otherwise approved by the grantee.
24. Manual Section 2.16 Section has been updated to state that parents applying for child care assistance through First Steps must meet the basic ABC Program criteria. Furthermore, provider selections may be limited for this category of child care.

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

25. Manual Section 3.2 Section has been revised to state that agency databases such as CHIP, PATS and CAPSS, and documentation from SCOSA imaging, may be used in conjunction with the ABC Child Care Program Application to determine eligibility for child care services. A Note has been added which states that an ABC application is not used for a family moving from FI to the first year of transitional child care or from ACC/JUMMP to FI/JUMMP and TCC/JUMMP.
26. Manual Section 3.2.5 Section has been updated to state that while it is recommended that the child care application be signed and dated by the applicant, that it is not required if all other eligibility criteria is met.
27. Manual Section 3.3 Section has been revised to state that the parent/caretaker receives a copy of their rights and responsibilities in an eligibility packet that is mailed to them and it is provided on the last page of the application.
28. Manual Section 3.3.1 The Note has been updated to state that a client receiving services under CPS or FC may only choose a licensed facility or program, unless otherwise approved for a waiver to policy.
29. Manual Section 3.4 Section has been revised to state that if there is a gap in services of a week or more when the client submits a new application, the family must have monthly income below the entrance guidelines to qualify.
30. Manual Section 5.6.5 Section has been updated to state that an individual receiving ABC vouchers for their own child, grandchild, foster child, or other child in their custody cannot become an FFN provider for someone else.
31. Manual Section 5.6.7 Section has been updated to state that although out-of- state providers are primarily enrolled to allow payment of child care costs for children in CPS or FC, that this option can be used for all child care categories. Specific procedures regarding out-of-state providers are thoroughly outlined in this updated policy.
32. Manual Section 6.10.1 Section has been added to explain the process that a child care eligibility worker should follow when amending an ABC application.
33. Manual Section 6.12 Section has been revised to include a synopsis of the monthly child care caseload monitoring reports.
34. Glossary Definitions for Major Parent, Teen Parent and Teen Parent/Adult have been added.

Vol 018-Revision 02.01.13

1. Manual Section 1.3 Section has been revised to include policy regarding conflicts of interest when determining eligibility for child care services. Sections 1.3 through 1.7 were renumbered sequentially.
2. Manual Section 2.5.4 Section has been added to include policy regarding the presumptive eligibility process for an FI client who has obtained employment and is in the process of verifying their employment.
3. Manual Section 2.5.5 Section has been added to include policy regarding the process for amending an ABC Child Care Application due to a change that causes a new eligibility period to be determined.
4. Manual Section 2.7 Section has been updated to clarify that a parent who works from 15 to 29 hours a week is considered working part-time with determining eligibility under Transitional Child Care (TCC).
5. Manual Section 2.7.1 The Note has been revised to clarify that in a two-parent household where one parent works at least part-time and the other attends only school, the household is eligible to apply for TCC. Also added is a new TANF Closure Code, JE, which is used for a JUMMP participant whose earned income exceeds the FI benefit income limit.
6. Manual Section 2.8 Section has been updated to clarify eligibility requirements for a TCC1 applicant and to include a link to policy regarding the criteria a two-parent family must meet to be eligible for TCC1.
7. Manual Section 2.8.1 Section has been revised to clarify ongoing policy regarding seamless eligibility for first year transitional child care.
8. Manual Section 2.12.6 Section has been revised to update policy regarding verification of working hours for foster parents.
9. Manual Section 4.1.7 Section has been revised to include an Exception regarding registration fees that the ABC Program will pay to for a client when a facility closes and the client is forced to find another provider.
10. Manual Section 5.6.7 Section has been added to clarify policy regarding out-of-state providers approved for the ABC Program.

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

Vol 017-Revision 10.01.12

1. Manual Section 2.11 Section has been revised to update the verbiage in the Note regarding child care assistance for Child Welfare cases and to reiterate that it is the sending state's responsibility to provide assistance to the child when a child is placed in South Carolina from another state.
2. Manual Section 5.1.2 Section has been revised to state that as of September 1, 2009, a GCCH provider must meet the same fire codes as a CCC provider, and that some county zoning offices no longer allow GCCH providers. Also, a provider who resides in a mobile home needs to contact the State Fire Marshal's Office to determine if the structure meets fire codes.
3. Manual Section 5.6 Section has been revised to state that a child care payment may be made for a CPS/Foster child who requires an out-of-state placement where the care is provided by a child care center. Out-of-state family, group or informal child care arrangements will not be authorized.
4. Manual Section 6.7 Section has been revised to state that a child care payment may be made for a CPS/Foster child who requires an out-of-state placement where the care is provided by a child care center.
5. Appendix 1 The Child Care Income Standards chart has been updated to reflect the current income limits which are effective October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013.
6. Appendix 2 The Child Development Fee Scale has been updated to reflect the current participation fees which are effective October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013.

Vol 016-Revision 08.01.12

1. Manual Section 1.4 Section has been revised to include a Note which states that child care staff should refer any questionable situations regarding suspected abuse or neglect of a child to a supervisor.
2. Manual Section 2.1.1 Section has been revised to include a Note which states that notarized statements from friends or relatives are not acceptable methods for verification of residency.

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

3. Manual Section 2.1.6 Section has been revised to clarify the Note by adding that the loco parentis form or other documentation must be available to verify why a dependent child who is not in the FI or SNAP budget is in the home when determining who is in the family household unit.
4. Manual Section 2.1.7 Section has been revised to state that the child care worker may use CHIP information to verify income information when other documentation is not provided.
5. Manual Section 2.2.1 Section has been revised to clarify policy regarding the use of internet and social networking sites when researching cases, verifying information and determining eligibility.
6. Manual Section 2.2.2 Section has been revised to include a Note which states that notarized statements from friends or relatives are not acceptable methods for verification of an absent parent.
7. Manual Section 2.2.7 Section has been revised to state that child care may be denied or closed for a client who has been employed in the same self- employment business for at least one year without any substantial changes and is not making at least minimum wage.
8. Manual Section 2.4.1 Section has been revised to state that the ABC Child Care Application, DSS Form 3791, should be completed with the client by the FI CM, and not by the child care worker.
9. Manual Section 2.5 Section has been revised to state that an FI parent is responsible for paying the difference in what the ABC Program pays and what the provider charges, if applicable. Likewise, FI child care may be authorized up to 26 weeks at a time; additional weeks may be added up to 52 weeks per application.
10. Manual Section 2.5.1 Section has been revised to state that FI-CARES child care may be authorized up to 26 weeks; additional weeks may be added up to 52 weeks per application.
11. Manual Section 2.5.3 Section has been revised to state that in FI/CO two-parent families, both parents/caretakers must be working at least part-time.
12. Manual Section 2.8 Section has been revised to include a Note which states that only part-time children may be authorized for the second year of Transitional Child Care (TCC2) regardless of the client's work schedule.

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

13. Manual Section 2.9.2 Section has been revised to include a Note which states that only part-time child care may be authorized for the second year of Transitional Child Care (TCC24-2).
14. Manual Section 2.10.2 Section has been revised to include a Note which states that only part-time child care may be authorized for the second year of Transitional Child Care (TCC/FS-2).
15. Manual Section 2.13 Section has been revised to state that funding for the criminal domestic violence category is limited and is only for a lifetime maximum of 52 weeks.
16. Manual Section 3.2.2 Section has been revised to state that staff should document the memo field as soon as possible once an actual SSN has been received.
17. Manual Section 3.2.4 Section has been revised to state that when custody is in question, CHIP screens may be used as verification.
18. Manual Section 3.2.5 Section has been revised to indicate that a signed application is not required for a family moving from JUMMP/ACC to JUMMP/FI and JUMMP/TCC1 as these are treated as seamless eligibility.
19. Manual Section 3.6 Section has been revised to state that the parent handbook contains the options sheet for choosing a child care provider, a holiday schedule, and a copy of the client's rights and responsibilities.
20. Manual Section 4.1 Section has been revised to include the ABC Program website addresses: childcare.sc.gov, abcqualitycare.org, and scchildcare.org as resource guides that a client may use to help find quality child care.
21. Manual Section 4.1.10 Section has been revised to state that the Authorization/ Connection letter includes the client name and the last four digits of the client's SSN.
22. Manual Section 4.1.11 Section has been revised to clarify that the termination policy relating to children who do not connect to a provider also applies to children who do not reconnect to a provider.

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

23. Manual Section 5.2.5 Section has been revised to include a person who is employed by SCDSS within the State, Regional or County offices as an individual who is not eligible to be enrolled in the ABC Program.
24. Manual Section 5.6.5 Section has been revised to include a person who is employed by SCDSS within the State, Regional or County offices as an individual who is not eligible to be a Family, Friend, or Neighbor provider in the ABC Program.
25. Manual Section 5.16.3 Section has been revised to include the Child Care Enrollment and Agreement Form, DSS Form 3774, as a form that a Level C Family, Friend or Neighbor provider may request from the ABC Child Care Control Center when wishing to increase their rates.
26. Manual Section 5.18.2 Section entitled 'Process for Incomplete Applications' has been added to clarify policy regarding the time frame in which a potential client or provider must follow when applying for enrollment in the ABC Program.
27. Manual Section 5.18.3 Section entitled 'Denials for Incomplete Applications' has been added to clarify policy regarding the denial of child care services when a client or provider fails to submit a completed application package within the deadline.
28. Manual Section 6.3 Section has been renamed from 'Interrupted Activities' to 'Breaks in Work, School or Training' and has been revised to clarify the termination policy relating to when a client stops working or attending school or training.
29. Table of Contents has been updated to include a Forms sections.

Vol 015-Revision 04.01.12

1. Manual Section 2.16 Section has been revised to clarify the policy regarding the Special Needs application process for parents whose child has a documented disability or special need. Child care may only be authorized for the child with the disability or special need; other children who are listed on the application who do not have a documented disability or special need will not be approved for services under the special needs funding.
2. Manual Section 2.7 Section has been revised to add a new CHIP closure code for transitional child care (first year).

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

3. Please review Chapter 5, Provider Information, in its entirety for significant revisions, specifically Manual Section 5.6.4, which relates to Central Registry and Sex Offender checks required for Family, Friend and Neighbor providers.
4. Manual Section 5.6.4 Section has been updated to include a Note which clarifies policy regarding the use of internet and social networking sites when researching cases, verifying information and determining eligibility.
5. Manual Section 6.1.1 Section has been revised to state that when a waiver has not been granted for an allowable absence, the absence will count and the child will be terminated when the number of allowable absences is exceeded. A second Example is also provided to illustrate what is considered an allowable absence when a parent/child is authorized for half-time care.
6. Manual Section 6.1.2 Section has been revised to clarify the policy when a client/child is terminated for excessive absences and the client or the provider wishes to submit documentation which may show that the absences in question should be allowed. Documentation submitted after the termination date will not be reviewed.
7. Manual Section 9.1 Section has been updated to clarify the reporting process when potential fraud is suspected.

Vol 014-Revision 10.01.11

1. Manual Section 2.1.4 Section has been revised to clarify the Note to state that when a child care worker is entering a case for a child(ren) where the parent is not a legal citizen, but the child(ren) is, a pseudo SSN must be created for the parent in order to process the application. The child care worker must no longer use the oldest child's SSN.
2. Manual Section 2.10.1 Section has been added to clarify that eligibility for TCC/FS-1 begins the first month of FI benefit ineligibility due to full family sanction.
3. Manual Section 2.10.2 Section has been added to clarify that a client who completes TCC/FS-1 may reapply for an additional 12-month period based on the availability of child care funding. The child care category for the second year is TCC/FS-2.

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

4. Manual Section 2.11.4 Section has been revised to state that in a CPS-In case, a family can receive only 26 weeks of child care. An additional 26 weeks may be granted if approved by the County Director (not to exceed 52 weeks). A Note has also been added to state that CPS clients who are not working, in school, or training can receive up to full-time child care as needed. Finally, if the family's income is above the maximum exit income in a CPS-In case, the fee is assessed at a dollar less than the maximum exit amount.
5. Manual Section 2.11.5 Section has been revised to state that in a CPS-Out case, a client who is not working, in school, or training can receive up to full-time child care as needed.
6. Manual Section 4.1.7 Section has been revised to state that registration fees are automated and paid on a provider's SVL~ after a child has had three consecutive paid weeks of services.
7. Manual Section 5.1.4 Section has been retitled and revised to state that Self- Arranged Child Care (SAC) is now referred to as Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care (FFN) and to clarify the two types of FFN care: 1) Child care provided in the home of the family member, friend or neighbor is coded as FNO in the ABC Voucher System; 2) Child care provided in the home of the child is coded as FNI in the ABC Voucher System. Policy regarding In-home Child Care (IHC), unregulated child care provided in the child's home, now falls under FNI criteria. All references to SAC have been changed to FFN; all references to IHC have been changed to FNI.
8. Manual Section 5.6.4 Section has been retitled and revised to state that Self- Arranged Child Care (SAC) is now Family, Friend and Neighbor Care (FFN).
9. Manual Section 5.6.5 Section has been retitled and revised to reflect that former policy regarding the denial of SAC arrangements applies to the denial of FFN arrangements.
10. Manual Section 5.6.6 Section has been retitled and revised to state that policy regarding In-Home Care (IHC) applies to Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care (In the Child's Home) (FNI).
11. Manual Section 5.8 Section has been revised to state that when a second child discount is applied, it will remain in effect until the connection ends, the child transfers to another provider, or eligibility ends.

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

12. Manual Section 6.9 Section has been added to clarify termination procedures a child care worker should take when a client moves to another county.
13. Manual Section 6.10 Section has been revised to add that when a client moves to another county, a new application is required and a re-determination is necessary.
14. Manual Section 6.11.3 Section has been revised to state that when a client or child is no longer eligible for services, the county child care worker must request the termination by documenting the request in the memo field and 67 the case.
15. Appendix 1 has been updated to list the current Child Care Income Standards which are effective October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012.
16. Appendix 2 has been updated to list the current Child Development Fee Scale which is effective October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012.

Vol 013-Revision 09.01.11

1. Chapter 3, Application Process, has been reformatted to provide a clearer understanding of the application process and its relevance to the program purpose.

Sections are entitled as follows:

- 9.1 Intake and Application
- 9.2 Child Care Application
- 9.3 Applicant Rights and Responsibilities
- 9.4 Child Care Income Standards
- 9.5 Eligibility Worksheet

2. Chapter 4, Provider Authorization, is a new chapter which incorporates policy previously found in Chapter 3. Sections are entitled as follows:

- 4.1 Provider Authorization/Connection
- 4.2 Immunizations

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

3. Chapter 5, Provider Information, includes policy previously found in Chapter 4. Sections are entitled as follows:
 - 5.1 Child Care Provider Definitions
 - 5.2 Required Regulatory Status
 - 5.3 Grants
 - 5.4 ABC Parent/Caretaker/Guardian Who Owns a Child Care Program
 - 5.5 Licensing/Registration Requirements
 - 5.6 Provider Selections and Types
 - 5.7 Maximum Payment Rates
 - 5.8 Second Child Discounts
 - 5.9 Provider Rate Changes
 - 5.10 Records
 - 5.11 Termination of a Provider's Enrollment
 - 5.12 Re-enrollment
 - 5.13 Amendments to a Provider's File
4. The remaining chapters have been renumbered as follows: Chapter 6, Case Management
Chapter 7, Payment
Information Chapter 8,
Fair Hearings
Chapter 9, Fraud/Improper Payments

Vol 012-Revision 08.01.11

1. Manual Section 3.2 Section has been revised to change the link for Pseudo/Temporary Social Security Numbers.
2. Manual Section 2.1.9 Section has been revised to state that children's earnings are excluded when computing gross income for eligibility purposes UNLESS the child is emancipated or is a teen parent with an FI benefit case in his/her own name.
3. Manual Section 2.1.9 Section has been revised to add the Montgomery GI Bill to the list of loans or grants which are excluded when calculating an undergraduate student's income for eligibility purposes.
4. Manual Section 2.6.1 Section has been revised to clarify the criteria a Two- Parent Family must follow in order to qualify for part-time child care assistance.
5. Manual Section 2.11 Section entitled Low-Income Applicant Child Care (LIACC) has been deleted as the agency no longer has funding available for this eligibility category.
6. Sections 2.12 through 2.17 are now 2.11 through 2.16.
7. Manual Section 2.11.6 Section has been revised to state that a foster care case must be entered using the foster child's actual income. If there is no income, then a zero-dollar amount (\$0) should be entered.

8. Manual Section 3.4.2 Section has been revised to change the acronym for
9. less-than half-time care from LTHT to LHT. The Glossary has also been updated to reflect this change.
10. Manual Section 4.6.4 Section has been revised to remove verbiage stating that the ABC Program authorizes services to an eligible client who chooses an SAC provider and that the name, address, and telephone number of the local SCDSS office will be given to those clients who are interested in using an SAC provider.
11. The section has also been revised to include verbiage stating that a client's request for an SAC provider for all funding sources is processed through the ABC Control Center, except CPS/FC cases, unless an exception is approved.
12. Manual Section 4.6.5 Section has been revised to state that a potential SAC provider(s) must be denied when he/she resides in the same household as the child approved for child care services. The verbiage

stating that if a child care worker cannot validate the need for child care services, the arrangement will not be approved has been removed.

Vol 011-Revision 11.01.10

1. Please review Chapter 2, specifically Sections 2.5.3 and 2.9, for important changes to the following eligibility categories: FI-Child Only (FI/CO) and Transitional Child Care (TCC24).
2. Manual Section 2.5.3 Item C has been revised to remove verbiage regarding a parent/caretaker relative's temporary or permanent disability and how the disability related to FI/CO child care eligibility.
3. Manual Section 2.7 Item A has been revised to state that with regards to TCC1 eligibility, an individual's case must be closed (rather than terminated) from FI due to earned income exceeding FI income guidelines. The CHIP Closure Code chart has also been updated to clarify the CHIP codes and reasons for closure/denial actions.
4. Manual Section 2.8 Item A has been revised to state that the eligibility category TCC2 is for an individual whose first year of TCC and TCC/FS (no longer TCC24) is ending.
5. Manual Section 2.9 Section has been revised to remove verbiage regarding TCC24 employment criteria and to distinguish between TCC24-1 and TCC24-2.
6. Manual Section 3.7 Section has been revised to include information about the use of the DSS Form 3781, Pre-Authorization Notice.
7. Manual Section 4.6.6 Section has been revised to clarify that an in-home child care provider must be at least 21 years of age and cannot live in the same household as the child. Additionally, the ABC Program will not pay for child care services to any member of the household in which the child(ren) reside(s).
8. DSS Form 3781 has been revised. It is a Pre-Authorization Notice for use by the child care workers in the county, if necessary, to give child care providers a child care start date. Frequently, providers ask for written approval that a child(ren) has been approved for child care services through the ABC Program. If the provider requires written authorization prior to receipt of the official Authorization/Connection

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

Letter generated by the ABC Voucher System, then this notice may be used. This should be helpful when providers need to accept a child(ren) for emergency placement, such as CPS or Foster Care child care arrangements.

9. The new ABC Child Care Application, DSS Form 3791, will be in the master forms index November 1, 2010. This application will be used for all child care categories entered into the ABC Child care Scholarship System.
10. The DSS Form 37110 and DSS Form 37111, Eligibility Worksheets, are being merged into one form. Effective November 1, 2010, all child care staff will use the DSS Form 37110, Client Eligibility Worksheet.
11. DSS Form 3782 is no longer available.

Vol 010-Revision 10.01.10

1. References to Protect-In and Protect-Out have been changed throughout the manual to CPS-In and CPS-Out, respectively, to correlate with changes recently made to the ABC Voucher System
2. Appendix 1 The Child Care Income Standards chart has been updated to reflect the effective dates of October 1, 2010, through September 30, 2011. Please note the federal government extended the 2010 Federal Poverty Guidelines; therefore, the income guideline amounts did not change this year.
3. Appendix 2 The Child Development Fee Scale has been updated to reflect the effective dates of October 1, 2010, through September 30, 2011. Please note the federal government extended the 2010 Federal Poverty Guidelines; therefore, the income guideline amounts did not change this year.

Vol 009-Revision 09.01.10

1. Manual Section 1.2.1 Section has been revised to clarify the length of time a worker is to maintain client and provider case files.
2. Manual Section 2.1.2 Section has been revised to clarify that the age an applicant must be in order to apply for the ABC Program does not apply to FI and FI/CO fund sources.

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

3. Manual Section 2.1.5 Section has been revised to clarify the specific requirements an applicant must meet before being determined eligible to receive child care assistance.
4. Manual Section 2.1.6 Section has been revised to clarify family definitions with regards to the following:
 - D: A Note has been added to clarify policy relating to a dependent child(ren) who is in either the FI, FI/CO or TCC category.
 - G: A teen parent living with his/her own parent/caretaker who has his/her own FI benefit case.
 - I: A foster parent's employment status when determining the eligibility of a foster child to receive child care assistance.
 - J: The age a minor may be considered emancipated and that an emancipated minor is not included in the FI or SNAP budget.
5. Manual Section 2.12.3 Section has been revised to clarify that in a CPS case, the parent/caretaker is responsible for paying to the provider the difference between what the provider charges and what the ABC Program pays for.
6. Manual Section 2.12.4 Section has been revised to clarify that in a CPS-In case, if the parent/caretaker refuses to provide income verification, the child care worker must enter income in the Voucher System at \$1.00 below entrance maximum in order to assess the client fee. Also, the HS CM must sign the application if the parent/caretaker refuses.
7. Manual Section 2.12.5 Section has been revised to clarify that in a CPS-Out case, if the parent/caretaker refuses to provide income verification, the child care worker must enter income in the Voucher System at \$1.00 below entrance maximum in order to assess the client fee. Also, the HS CM must sign the application if the parent/caretaker refuses.
8. Manual Section 5.4 Section has been revised to clarify which documents in a case file need to be maintained by the child care worker.
9. Glossary The acronym for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) has been added.

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

Vol 008-Revision 06.01.10

1. Manual Section 4.4 Section has been revised to clarify that a parent/caretaker or guardian who owns a registered FCCH, licensed GCCH, or center will not receive child care assistance for any child in his/her custody.

Vol 007-Revision 03.01.10

1. Manual Section 2.1.7 Note has been revised to state that overtime will be counted when it appears on at least half of the paystubs submitted with a child care application, even if the overtime pay amounts vary with each paystub.
2. Manual Section 2.2.5 A paragraph has been added to clarify the policy used to determine full-time and part-time child care assistance for a parent/guardian who attends school.
3. Manual Section 3.4.2 Section has been revised to state that less-than-half-time care (LTHT) may be used in conjunction with a full-time or half-time care arrangement or it may be used alone; however, it cannot be used to pay the same child care provider.
4. Manual Section 7.1.1 Section has been revised to state that an appeal hearing will be dismissed if the reason for the appeal is due to either lack of funding or the natural ending of services at the end of the eligibility period.
5. Less than Half-Time Care (LTHT): A Glossary entry has been added to define less-than-half-time care.

Vol 006-Revision 02.01.10

1. Manual Section 2.6 Section has been revised to state that an individual whose FI benefit ends due to the 24-month FI time limit may apply for Transitional Child Care (TCC) and if eligible may be authorized for up to two years.
2. Manual Section 2.7 Section has been revised to add a Note which states that TCC1 may be authorized for up to 52 weeks. The CHIP closure reason for the CHIP closure code 'TL' has also been changed to 'Closed due to FI time limit'.

Appendix 8: What's New (Revisions)

3. Manual Section 2.9 Section has been revised to state that an individual who qualifies for TCC24 for 12 months may reapply for an additional 12-month period if funding permits.
4. Manual Section 2.10 Section has been revised to state that an individual who qualifies may receive TCC/FS for 12 months and may reapply for an additional 12-month period if funding permits.
5. Manual Section 2.12.6 Section has been revised to state that employment verification may be provided on company/business letterhead indicating that the foster parent is employed and his/her work hours. Actual wages do not have to be provided.
6. Manual Section 3.3.3 Section has been revised to replace Appendix 6 with DSS Form 37117, Guardianship/In Loco Parentis Verification.
7. Manual Section 4.4 Section has been updated to reflect that an ABC parent/foster parent who owns a licensed/registered center will not receive assistance to provide care for his/her own child or foster child. This is not a change in policy. The word 'center' was inadvertently omitted in previous volumes.
8. Manual Section 4.6.5 Section has been revised to clarify that an SAC arrangement must be denied when the provider is a member of the same FI/FS family household unit as the parent applying for child care, even if a member of the FI/FS household unit has been disqualified and is not in the FI/FS budget.

Vol 005-Revision 12.01.09

1. Manual Section 2.1.7 Section has been revised to clarify types of employment defined as income.
2. Manual Section 4.12 Sections 4.12 and 4.12.1 have been revised to clarify that a terminated provider may not re-enroll in the ABC Child Care Program at any level.

Vol 004-Revision 11.01.09

1. Manual Section 3.3.3 A Note has been added to state that the Guardianship/In Loco Parentis Form must be notarized.
2. Manual Section 4.6.4 Section has been revised to clarify that if an SAC provider wants to care for more than one unrelated family, the provider must become licensed or registered in order to continue receiving payments for child care services.
3. Manual Section 4.6.5 List has been revised to add that an individual receiving ABC vouchers for his/her own child(ren) cannot become an SAC provider.
4. Manual Section 5.10.1 Section has been revised to clarify that a provider has the right to stop serving a client or child, rather than terminating services. Only the ABC Program can terminate child care assistance for a client.
5. Appendix 3 The Maximum Payment Allowed chart has been revised to reflect the effective dates from October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2011.

Vol 003-Revision 10.01.09

1. Manual Section 2.4.1 Section has been revised to include the application process for Applicant Child Care.
2. Manual Section 2.4.2 Section was created to clarify the process used to enroll a provider in the ABC Program.
3. Manual Section 2.4.3 Section has been revised to clarify policy regarding determining eligibility for FI for a client receiving ACC.
4. Manual Section 2.12 A Note has been added to clarify those children who are not eligible for child care services through the ABC Program.
5. Manual Section 2.12.5 Section has been revised to include the specific information the Human Services worker must give to the child care worker.

Vol 002-Revision 09.01.09

1. Manual Section 2.1.1 The military identification card listed under Residency (#E) has been removed as acceptable proof of residency for child care applicants.
2. Manual Section 2.5.3 The following Exception (under # B) has been added as this verbiage was inadvertently omitted in the initial version of the ABC Policy Manual effective August 1, 2009: EXCEPTION: A parent(s) who receives SSI may be eligible for child care assistance if he/she is either employed at least part- time or participating in an activity (training or education) that will enable him/her to become employed in the future.
3. Manual Section 2.12.8 Policy regarding child care assistance for the baby of a foster child has been revised to state the following: "The foster parent(s) must be employed and the foster child must be attending school or be employed in conjunction with school attendance."