

III. GOALS OF THE SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE PROGRAM

- A. Enable parents to maintain or seek employment in order to support their family and achieve economic independence.
- B. Provide child care to children receiving protective services.
- C. Enable parents to participate in job training or educational programs that will lead to their employment.
- D. Provide child care to children in need of early intervention to enhance their development.
- E. Facilitate the reunification of families, aid families in crisis, and prevent foster care.

IV. DEFINITION OF CHILD CARE

Subsidized child care services provides for the protection, care and developmental experiences for children ages birth through 17, for a portion of a day but less than twenty-four hours. Care may be provided in the child's own home, in the home of a caregiver, or in a child care facility. Each type of care arrangement must be licensed or meet all applicable DCD requirements for the type of arrangement.

The local purchasing agency (LPA) which administers the Subsidized Child Care Program should provide information to families and the community about what constitutes a good child care experience for a child as well as assist eligible families with the cost of child care services according to state policies. Child care services should include the provision of facilities and the essentials of daily living, a daily program of care, educational and recreational activities, remedial care and services appropriate to the age and developmental level of the child, and health supervision. Transportation may also be included as a component of services.

NOTE: Although child care licenses in North Carolina typically only extend through age 12, children 13 through age 17 may receive subsidized child care in facilities or homes under certain circumstances. For further information, refer to [Chapter 4: Application, Eligibility Determination and Documentation](#). (The LPA should verify that providers are authorized to provide care for children over age 12 before approving subsidy payment.)

V. WHO MAY RECEIVE SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE SERVICES

The goals previously listed are also reasons that subsidized child care services can be provided to families. Parents, foster parents or the adult responsible for the care of the child must apply for subsidized child care services. In some cases, a worker designated by the county director of social services can apply for services

for the child (refer to [Chapters 4: Application, Eligibility Determination and Documentation](#) & [5: Establishing Need and a Plan of Care](#) for more information). Parents usually apply for child care services at the county department of social services. In some counties, another agency is designated as the LPA such as a child care resource and referral agency. Families must be income eligible to receive child care services with exceptions as described in [Chapter 5: Establishing Need and a Plan of Care](#).

VI. HISTORY OF NORTH CAROLINA CHILD CARE AND THE SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE PROGRAM

Federal support for child care came into being in the 1930's when President Franklin Roosevelt authorized emergency nursery schools to provide work for adults on relief and to serve children of families with low incomes. In 1935, Title V of the Social Security Act authorized grants-in-aid to public welfare agencies for child services which included child care and research in child care. In 1936, the Works Progress Administration for child care authorized money to provide jobs for women during the Depression. The Farm Security Administration built child care centers for the children of migratory farm workers. In 1943, the Lantham Act provided money for child care for the children of mothers employed in the war effort. When the federal funding was no longer available, many of the child care centers that were opened during the war were closed.

In 1962, Title IV-B of the Social Security Act provided child welfare services that included child care. In 1964, Project Head Start under the Economic Opportunity Act recognized the inequalities of opportunities among preschool children and organized programs which were similar to nursery schools but would compensate for opportunities that poor children did not have.

North Carolina has maintained a program to subsidize the cost of child care services for eligible families since 1964. First administered by the Department of Public Welfare, the program used Title IV-B and IV-A funds primarily for child care for children in Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) households needing child welfare services. In 1968, the Subsidized Child Care Program was expanded through the federally legislated Work Incentive program which provided funds to pay for child care for current recipients of AFDC who were employed or in training and participating in the Work Incentive program.

At the same time, child care was provided for eligible families who were former recipients of AFDC or who were potential recipients of AFDC. Federal Interagency Day Care Requirements were enacted and payment for services was limited to facilities which met these very strict requirements. Providers voluntarily chose to do this under the guidance of the Department of Public Welfare, which later became the Division of Social Services.