



MECKLENBURG COUNTY

Department of Social Services

The Wallace H. Kuralt Centre

Kimberly Henderson

Director

Child, Family and Adult Services

Mecklenburg County Child Care Financial Aid Priority Populations

2024

I. Mecklenburg County will:

1. Monitor placement of children in care when there are insufficient funds, insufficient child care providers, or insufficient staff by prioritizing the services for all eligible families.
2. Maintain the waiting list in NC FAST.
3. Conduct a waiting list survey in March and September of each year and allow thirty (30) calendar days for a response.
4. Will notify families in writing when funding is available.
5. Will contact DCDEE for guidance if child care services are in jeopardy of termination due to potential lack of funding.
6. Will prioritize services to the following populations in the order listed below:

Child Protective Services:

Child/ren receiving child protective services and in need of child care in order to remain in their own home that have a written referral from Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services (MCDSS) justifying child care as part of the Family Services Agreement. Child care must be necessary to alleviate risk factors in a CPS, CPS In-Home, Kinship, or Foster Care case.

Teen Parents:

Teen parents enrolled in and working toward graduation from Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools, Central Piedmont Community College High School, or a Mecklenburg County Charter School (within the local public school system).

Siblings:

A parent/responsible adult who is already receiving services and later requests care for another child who is now a member of the income unit.

Employment:

1. Customer participating in at least thirty (30) hours per week of Work First Employment Services activities, justifying need for child care as part of the customer's Mutual Responsibility Agreement.

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2. Child/ren in the custody of MCDSS of who reside in a licensed foster home where all adults are employed an average of thirty (30) hours per week.
3. Child/ren placed by MCDSS in a non-licensed home where all adult/s are employed an average of thirty (30) hours per week and continue to receive services from MCDSS Youth and Family Services Division.
4. Non-Work First Non-Child Child Protective Services customer residing in one of the listed shelter settings (Salvation Army Center of Hope, Charlotte Family Housing, Hope Haven Inc. and Safe Alliance) and working.
5. Child and the child's family is experiencing homelessness or is in a temporary living situation and all Responsible Adults are employed (until such time as set-aside allocations for vulnerable populations are exhausted).
6. Child/ren, under three-years of age, identified as having special needs (until such time as set-aside allocations for vulnerable populations are exhausted).
7. Customer receiving Work First Cash Assistance payments and employed an average of thirty (30) hours per week.
8. Customer employed an average of thirty (30) hours per week.
9. Customer employed at least twenty (20) hours per week and in post-secondary school at least ten (10) hours per week.
10. Customers employed less than thirty (30) hours per week.

Post-Secondary Education:

Parent/RA enrolled in post-secondary education, skills training program or a GED program.

Developmental Needs:

Child/ren whose social, emotional, physical or cognitive development is delayed or at risk of delay and whose family is income eligible.

Child Welfare Services:

Child Welfare Service without referral from MCDSS.

II. VULNERABLE POPULATION SET-ASIDE

Mecklenburg County will set aside the required 4% of allocated funds to serve families with children identified as a part of a vulnerable population including children with special needs and families experiencing homelessness. If the set-aside amount is encumbered, populations already being served will be served with funds in the regular subsidy allocation. Mecklenburg County will continue to serve new children who apply and are in one of these vulnerable populations, as long as the regular subsidy allocation is not at risk of being over-spent. If necessary, children in one of these vulnerable populations will be placed on a separate waiting list.

III. REDUCING SERVICES

If child care services are in jeopardy of termination due to potential lack of funding, Mecklenburg County will contact DCDEE for further guidance.

This policy is passed and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, State of North Carolina, this ____ day of _____ of 20_____.