

SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Ashe COUNTY LOCAL POLICY

Ashe County will prioritize the placement of children in care when there are insufficient funds, insufficient child care providers, or insufficient staff.

I. Priority Populations Served

Ashe County will prioritize services to the following populations in the **order** below when there are insufficient funds, staff or child care spaces:

1. Children who need child care assistance to support Child Protective Services.
2. Children in Foster Care that have a need for day care services.
3. Children with special needs.
4. Children whose families are experiencing homelessness.
5. Children of Work First participants who need child care in order to meet mandatory participation hours.
6. Children who need child care to support Child Welfare Services.
7. Children whose teen parents are attending high school or its equivalent.
8. Children whose parents (or other responsible adults) need child care to maintain employment.
9. Children whose parents (or other responsible adults) need child care to attend school or job training activities.
10. Children who are school-age and do not meet the criteria of categories 1 through 7.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.

II. How Families Will be Pulled from the Waiting List

When funding, staff or child care spaces become available, Ashe County plans to serve families using the following option or options (such as but not limited to chronologically, using the priority order above or another method):

In the instance that a waiting list is established, Ashe County plans to serve families using the priority order as noted above. Ashe County will continue to serve children in categories 1 through 7 as long as funding is available. Families in categories 8 through 10 may be wait listed and will be pulled from the wait list in chronological order as funding becomes available. Funding will be reviewed monthly to determine the feasibility of pulling additional families / children from the waiting list.

NOTE: If the county chooses to serve children using the priority list, the Department of Social Services (DSS)/Local Purchasing Agency (LPA) must also have a plan to serve non-prioritized families.

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III. Vulnerable Populations Set-Aside (select one of the options below)

Ashe County will set aside the required 4% set-aside funds to serve families with children identified as a vulnerable population, which includes children with special needs and families experiencing homelessness. Ashe County will not add to the required set-aside amount.

OR

_____ County will set-aside more than the required 4% amount and will set aside ___ % for vulnerable populations (Please indicate total including the 4%. For example, if your county will set aside and additional 2%, you will enter 6%).

If the set-aside amount is depleted, vulnerable populations already receiving services will continue to be served with the regular subsidy allocation. Ashe County will continue to prioritize new children who apply and are in one of these vulnerable populations in the order that Ashe County chooses, as long as the regular subsidy allocation is not at risk of being overspent. If necessary, children in one of these vulnerable populations will be placed on the waiting list and served as soon as vulnerable populations funds are available or according to the local prioritization with regular subsidy funds.

IV. Reducing Services

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

This policy is passed and adopted by the governing board (Social Services Board or County Official) Ashe County, State of North Carolina, this ___ day of _____ (month) of (year) 20__.

Tracie McMillan
DSS Director (Printed Name)

DSS Director (Signature)

Date

Todd McNeill
Governing Board Chair (Printed Name)

Governing Board Chair (Signature)

Date