

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