

I. CHAPTER OVERVIEW

North Carolina (NC) has a state-supervised, county-administered Subsidized Child Care (SCC) Program. Various state agencies and the county department of social services (DSS) or other local purchasing agencies (LPAs) share responsibility for the program. This chapter describes how these agencies play a role in providing child care services for children in North Carolina.

II. ROLE OF THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The legislative branch of government, composed of the NC Senate and the NC House of Representatives, determines the state laws that govern the SCC Program and licensing of child care facilities. Much of the legislative work of the NC General Assembly is done in committees composed of members of both chambers. There are several committees in each chamber that work on issues relating to children. The [NC General Assembly](#) is responsible for the following actions regarding the SCC Program:

Establishing the standards for child care arrangements interested in participating in the SCC Program.

Appropriating state and federal funds for subsidized child care.

Determining the formula to allocate non-categorical state and federal child care funds to the 100 counties.

Establishing the payment rates for subsidized child care.

Establishing the income eligibility limits and fee schedule for subsidized child care.

Approving the state fiscal year budget for the SCC Program.

III. ROLE OF THE NORTH CAROLINA CHILD CARE COMMISSION

Although not directly involved in administering the SCC Program, the [Child Care Commission](#) is responsible for the child care rules which affect providers participating in the SCC Program. The Child Care Commission is responsible for developing rules to implement the child care laws set forth by the NC General Assembly. Rules are established by the Commission for the operation of child care facilities, including procedures for application, approval, renewal, and the revocation of licenses. Rules for administrative actions taken against child care facilities, such as written warnings or special provisional licenses, are also established by the Child Care Commission. The Commission also develops standards for the Star Rated License.