

I. CHAPTER OVERVIEW

The reasons that families may receive child care services are described in this chapter. In addition, requirements related to each reason for care are explained, along with the steps to follow when evaluating each family's circumstances.

II. MANDATORY CHILD CARE SERVICES

Child care is a critical supportive service for many children and families. The provision of subsidized child care funding plays an important role in helping families maintain economic self-sufficiency and ensuring that children receive high quality child care.

If funds and resources are available, local purchasing agencies (LPAs) **must** provide child care services for children whose parents, foster parents, or other adults responsible for the care of the child need care for one of the following reasons:

- A. **To maintain or seek employment;**
- B. **To support [child protective services \(CPS\)](#) in order to remain in their own homes;**
- C. **To attend school or job training activities that lead to employment;**
- D. **To meet the [developmental needs](#) of children whose emotional, cognitive, social or physical development is delayed or at risk of delay; or**
- E. **To support [child welfare services \(CWS\)](#) (to prevent or remedy problems that may result in the neglect or abuse of children, to prevent foster care placement, to support family reunification, and to provide support in times of crisis).**

NOTE: Special needs is not one of the five (5) need categories listed above, and therefore is not a reason for child care assistance. For more information, refer to [Chapter 6: Serving Children with Special Needs](#).

III. AUTHORIZING CARE ACCORDING TO THE NEED FOR CARE

When the family identifies the specific reason that child care services are needed, the child care worker must determine if the family qualifies. In situations where a parent or family meets both the education and employment categories, the need category is assigned based on the activity in which the individual spends the majority of the number of hours. If it is fifty-fifty, the need category is assigned to employment.