

# CHILD CARE CERTIFICATE

## **Program Description:**

The Child Care Certificate Program (CCCP) oversees financial assistance with child care costs for eligible children in twelve counties. The Program Staff is responsible for assisting eligible clients in finding quality child care for their children. In addition Program Staff conduct outreach to providers, determine & continue eligibility, accept referrals, counsel & distribute consumer education materials, issue certificates, provide training as needed, and monitor unregulated providers. Program Staff provide case management services to its clients as well.

## **Who is Eligible?**

Parents who need assistance with child care costs in order to work or go to school must meet eligibility criteria. Mid-Cumberland Human Resource Agency serves several funding sources including Families First, Transitional Families First, Low Income Parents and referrals from the Department of Children's Services (DCS). Eligibility for most of these funding sources are determined and referred to us by local Department of Human Services (DHS) & DCS offices.

▪Families First Child Care Assistance - Parents participating in the Families First program who need child care to complete the work activities in their personal responsibility plan receive first priority assistance. Eligibility is based on Families First income guidelines and work/activity requirements. Eligibility is determined and referred to the Certificate Program by local DHS offices.

▪Transitional Child Care Assistance - Parents on the Families First program whose cases are closed may qualify for 18 months of transitional child care to assist in the transition from welfare to self-sufficiency. The initial eligibility for this second priority program is completed and referred by DHS. The Certificate Program is responsible for verifying eligibility under the activity requirements. Eligibility is also based on an income scale with a limit at about 60% of the state's median income.

▪Low Income Working Parent Assistance - Eligibility for this third priority program is controlled by the Certificate Program. This funding source includes a work requirement and income scale as well. Due to funding shortages, there has been a long waiting list for this program. This waiting list was recently closed with no new applications being accepted at this time.

▪Children in foster care and protective services may receive child care assistance with all eligibility requirements determined by DCS and referred to the Certificate Program.

**Funding Source:**

The Child Care Certificate Program (CCCP) is funded in its entirety by the Tennessee Department of Human Services.

**What was done in 2003-2004?**

The Child Care Program served 7,801 children and approximately 670 providers.

**Child Care Resource & Referral:**

The Child Care Certificate Program Staff provide education to clients regarding quality child care through consultation, literature and referral. Among these referral sources is the Child Care Resource & Referral Centers which helps child care providers improve their child care practices, encourages them to include children with disabilities in their programs and improve the health outcomes of children entrusted to their care. The Centers also provide our parents referrals and resources for child care at the local level.

**Mid-Cumberland CCR&R**

1-866-446-6006

Service Area: Cheatham, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, Montgomery, Robertson, Rutherford, Stewart and Williamson counties

**Upper-Cumberland CCR&R**

1-888-621-5753

Service Area: Sumner, Trousdale and Wilson counties

**Child Care Complaints**

All Child care complaints are received centrally and then dispatched to the local area for investigation. If you have any concerns or would like to report a violation regarding a child care provider you may contact the Complaint Hotline at 1-800-621-5753.

•Parents who are interested in receiving services through Families First should contact their local DHS office to determine eligibility. Click on the link below to locate the office in your area.

•Individuals who need assistance locating a child care facility in their area can visit:

 [http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/st\\_map.htm](http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/st_map.htm)

•Individuals who need assistance locating a facility in their area can visit:

 <http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/childcare/providers-map.htm>

For additional information regarding child care regulations and/or services within the State of Tennessee please visit:

 <http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/childcare.htm>