

Subsidized Child Care Assistance Changes to Program Policy: Blended Rates and Provider Closings with Pay

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Produced by the DCDEE Team

These policies will take effect as NC FAST is rolled out across the state. When the first payment is made through NC FAST the blended rates and provider closings with pay will be used. Counties continuing to use SCCRS to complete payment will not implement these policies.

Changes to Blended Rates and Provider Closings with Pay

Blended Rates Policy

- During the months in which school closes for the summer and school re-opens in the fall, a school-age child could have two plans of care, one for the days for before and/or after-school care and one for the days for full-time care
- During out-of-school days during the school year, a differential payment is made if the child receives care for the full day
- Payment rates for some preschoolers and school age children are changed to a blended rate: 83% of the provider's full-time approved subsidy rate, taking into account...
 - ◊ 15 school holidays
 - ◊ 10 teacher work days
 - ◊ 15 emergency closure days
- Preschool age children attending a part-day program receiving before, after, or before and after care also needing care at the 100% level in summer and on closure days will be paid at the blended rate for their age group for the entire year
- School age children who need care for wraparound and full time summer care will receive the blended rate for the entire year
- School age children who need less than 100% care in the summer months will be paid at 75% for the entire year
- Children who need before, after, or before & after school care only during the school year who do or do not need care on closure days are paid at the 75% rate
- Certified Developmental Day Centers operating 12 months a year are subject to the blended rate policies

Blended Rates Procedures

- As providers enroll in the NC FAST Provider Portal, they will be asked to provide blended rates
- Providers need to calculate their blended rates based upon their individual circumstances
- An 83% approved rate column is present on the approval notice
- Student evidence is required to determine which children are to be paid at this rate

Provider Closings with Pay

- As a result of the implementation of NC FAST, a Subsidized Child Care Assistance Program policy change is being made to how facility closings (vacation, emergency and inclement weather) are managed
- Current policy allows the local purchasing agency to pay for up to 10 days in a month when the facility is closed but not for any days that private paying parents are not required to pay
- Current policy also allows local purchasing agencies to set limits on the number and type of closure days during the contract period that the facility can be closed and still receive payment for subsidized child care
- New policy allows providers to choose 15 days a calendar year for automatic approval for holidays and vacation days, and five calendar days per month for inclement weather and emergencies
- In the Provider Portal, providers will not have to list their closure days during enrollment/re-enrollment; instead, they will indicate closings on their attendance rosters
- NC FAST will pay the first 15 days

If you have questions about the information in this flyer, or other Subsidized Child Care Assistance Program questions, please contact dcdee.subsidy.policy.help@dhhs.nc.gov to reach technical assistance and policy consultation