

DSS

Serving Children and Families

V. SUSAN ALFORD
STATE DIRECTOR

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Dear Special Education Directors:

The SC Voucher Child Care Program would like to provide you with information on the expanded policy for the Special Needs child care funding category to pass on to the teachers and parents. Child care may be provided, as funding is available, to children who have disabilities and whose family meets the child care program criteria. Child care assistance may be provided to a parent who has a child with a documented disability or special need and is available to children from birth to age 19.

Many of our referrals come from one of the following entities:

- A. County Department of Disabilities and Special Needs offices
- B. BabyNet offered through the SC First Steps to School Readiness
- C. Children's Rehabilitative Services offered through DHEC
- D. SC School for the Deaf and Blind
- E. Easter Seals
- F. Bright Start
- G. SC Autism Society
- H. Child's school via 504 Plan or Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

Note: Child care applications for children who have 504 Plans or IEPs can be obtained by the parent calling SC Voucher Program Special Needs at 1-803-898-9735.

An applicant may be determined eligible under this category if the following criteria is met:

- A. Must be working, in school, in training, or disabled
- B. Must have a child with a documented disability or special need and be referred from one of the above entities
- C. Eligible children must be under the age of 19 years old
- D. Must need child care a minimum of 15 hours per week
- E. Must be 18 years old or an emancipated minor AND
- F. Must be at or below 150% of poverty.

Thank you for passing on this information to better serve the families of children with special needs. If you have questions in reference to this memo, please contact the SC Voucher Special Needs program at 1-803-898-9735 or the SC Voucher Control Center at (800)476-0199.