

Administration for Child Services (ACS) – Childcare Financial Assistance

SUBSIDIES

Overview

The ACS provides subsidies for ACS sponsored or funded childcare programs to eligible families. There are over 300 childcare centers, 60 family childcare networks, and over 250 Head Start programs funded by ACS. Subsidies provided by the ACS provide free or low cost childcare for eligible families living in New York City. Childcare is available for children 6 weeks through 12 years. Children with special needs may be able to receive childcare through age 18. Subsidies do not usually have waitlists unlike vouchers (see below). For a list of ACS centers, see an application.

Eligibility

-Family income (Effective May 1, 2011)

*Income is your **gross income** (pre-tax income).

Family Size	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Income Must Be Less Than	\$40,464	\$47,256	\$50,280	\$58,872	\$67,476	\$76,080	\$84,672	\$93,264

-AND meet one of the following requirements:

-Working OR in an approved training or educational program

-Child OR family is receiving services from either ACS or the Human Resources Administration (HRA) or a social services agency.

*If a child is not a United States citizen, eligibility for childcare must be determined in person at a resource area. The patient must call to make an appointment and bring proof of legal residency (immigration department form I-94), alien registration card, naturalization papers, or lawyer's letter).

*An eligibility wizard is provided online at:

http://www.nyc.gov/html/acs/childcare_eligibility/wizard.html

How to Apply

The client should directly contact childcare programs funded by the ACS in their area to discuss availability. For contact information, call 311. Once the client has chosen a specific ACS-funded child care center, they must then apply and submit the required documentation directly to that childcare program.

More Information

http://www.nyc.gov/html/acs/html/child_care/child_care_eligibility.shtml

*You may also use subsidies for other childcare options such as Head Start, Universal Pre-K (UPK), and Out of School Time (OST).

VOUCHERS

Overview

The ACS offers vouchers for clients who are receiving public assistance or welfare. Vouchers can only be applied to childcare programs that are NOT sponsored by the ACS. A voucher permits families to receive subsidized care for childcare services outside of the ACS-funded program and payments are sent directly to the childcare provider. Voucher size is based on income and household size, and a client must re-certify each year. Once a client has started the application process, they will be put on the waiting list. However, while on the waiting list parents may still use ACS subsidies at ACS sponsored childcare centers until they receive the vouchers. The vouchers are associated with the Human Resource Administration and treated in conjunction to public assistance, whereas subsidies are directly from the ACS. Therefore, the amount given by HRA in vouchers may be different than the amount given by ACS in subsidies. In this case, it may be better for a client on public assistance to use an ACS sponsored childcare center if they receive more money from the ACS.

Eligibility

- Must have children under the age of 13
- Must have a qualifying income (see website below)
- Receive services such as cash assistance, TANF, or public assistance
- AND meet one of the following requirements
 - Work 20 hours or more per week
 - Attend an approved school (High School, GED program, or 2 year college) or training program
 - Receive preventative or protective services for the child

How to Apply

Clients must first call 311 and tell the operator they are interested in ACS childcare vouchers. If the client is qualified, they will be put on a waiting list. For those clients who have already established public assistance or welfare, the application then goes directly to the client's job center where they applied for public assistance. The job center then submits payments directly to the childcare center.

Contact Information

Administration for Child Services 212-341-0900

For information on programs not funded by ACS, call the NYC Child Care Resource and Referral Consortium at 888-469-5999.

http://www.nyc.gov/html/acs/html/child_care/child_care_information.shtml

HOME CHILDCARE (CHILDCARE NETWORKS)

Overview

The ACS also offers in-home childcare, which accepts both subsidies and vouchers. Childcare Networks are the most common and take place at a certified provider's home with a small group of other children. Most programs are for children 6 months to 12 years of age, but there are a few programs that will take children as young as 6 weeks. In certain circumstances, such as physical or mental disability, where children cannot be in a group setting, the Human Resources Administration (HRA) will grant individualized home care directly in the client's home. There are **family child care homes** in which a provider cares for up to 6 children, and **group family child care homes** in which a provider and an assistant may care for as many as 10 to 14 children.

Eligibility

See above requirements

How to Apply

To apply for subsidies and/or vouchers for these programs, follow the process for childcare center subsidies and vouchers listed above.

Contact Information

See above contact information