

UCPC Special Needs Childcare Subsidy: (Eligibility, Referrals and Renewals)

Melissa Anderson
CCEP Statewide Director
UCP Huntsville
manderson@ucphuntsville.org

Objectives:

- ▶ Define the UCPC Special Needs Childcare subsidy
- ▶ Outline eligibility criteria and required documentation for the referral process
- ▶ Discuss the Childcare Enhancement With A Purpose program (funded by DHR) and their role in collaboration with the UCPC subsidy
- ▶ Frequently asked questions

What is the UCPC childcare subsidy?

- ▶ The UCPC childcare subsidy is designed to assist with the cost of tuition at a DHR licensed center/home for families of children with special needs who meet the eligibility criteria as outlined and defined in the Child Care Subsidy Program Policies and Procedures Manual.
- ▶ There are currently only 500 total spaces statewide.



Families approved for any other childcare subsidy program within the last year are not eligible to apply.

Who is Eligible?

- ▶ Is your child in Early Intervention?
- ▶ Does your child receive speech, occupational, and/or physical therapy?
- ▶ Does your child have a diagnosis or a significant medical or psychological impairment?
- ▶ Is your child medically fragile?
- ▶ Does your child have an IEP and receive two or more services two times per week onsite at a DHR licensed childcare program?
- ▶ Does your child receive two or more outpatient services two times per week onsite at a DHR licensed childcare program?

If yes, you may be eligible!

Is there a waiting list?

- ▶ There are currently only 500 total spaces available statewide.
- ▶ There is no waiting list.

How will I know when spaces are available?

- ▶ Updates on availability and eligibility are posted on our social media and website:
 - ▶ Facebook: Childcare Enhancement With A Purpose
 - ▶ Instagram: ccep_ucp
 - ▶ Website: www.ucphuntsville.org

How do I apply?

- ▶ UCPC referrals must be completed by the parent or legal guardian over the phone by calling Melissa Anderson at 256-859-4900.
 - ▶ All calls will be directed to voicemail and returned in the order received.
- ▶ Parents must email required documentation (current therapy plan, proof of medical diagnosis, etc.) to manderson@ucphuntsville.org for confirmation of eligibility and to determine Tier level reimbursement.
 - ▶ Space cannot be confirmed until all required documentation has been received.
 - ▶ New referrals will expire after 30 days if eligibility documentation has not been received.
- ▶ Once confirmed, parents will receive their completed referral by email along with instructions to establish an account on the Arise Family Portal. Parents **must** upload all documentation to Arise in order to be approved.

How will I know if my child has been approved?

- ▶ The Childcare Management Agency (CMA) in your region will reach out by mail once your paperwork has been processed and approved. In addition, parents will have the ability to check their approval status on the Arise family portal.

Tier Level	Eligibility	Weekly Payment Amount
1	Children who are delayed and receiving therapy services (speech, occupational and/or physical) in addition to being medically fragile as documented by a physician's letter or documentation outlining accommodations needed.	\$275
2	Children who are delayed and receiving therapy services (speech, OT and/or PT) in addition to a qualifying diagnosis or significant medical or psychological impairment requiring accommodations as determined by a physician or psychologist.	\$250
3	Children who are Birth - 3 years old with a minimum of 25% delay and are enrolled in Early Intervention (speech, PT, OT and/or special instruction)	\$220
4	Children who are delayed and are eligible for IEP services. Must be a combination of 2 or more therapies (ST, OT, PT) received a minimum of 2 times per week in the childcare setting.	\$170
5	Children who are delayed and are receiving outpatient therapy services onsite at a licensed childcare center. Must be a combination of 2 or more therapies (ST, OT, PT) received a minimum of 2 times per week.	\$180

How long is the enrollment period?

- ▶ Once approved, the UCPC enrollment period is a full calendar year.

What is the criteria to renew my UCPC subsidy after the initial year?

- ▶ There are no employment or income requirements for the first year.
- ▶ For a second year renewal, families must continue to meet all initial eligibility requirements in addition to proof of employment.
 - ▶ A minimum of 26 hours per week to qualify for full time childcare
 - ▶ Both parents in the household must be employed
- ▶ For a third year renewal, families must continue to meet all initial and second year eligibility criteria as well as the State of Alabama income requirements for childcare subsidy.
 - ▶ <https://dhr.alabama.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/CHILD-CARE-FACT-SHEET-Jan2025.pdf>

What is Childcare Enhancement With A Purpose (CCEP) and how can we help?

- ▶ Our CCEP Project Coordinators and Inclusion Consultants support early childhood educators in creating inclusive, accessible, and developmentally appropriate environments for all children.
- ▶ CCEP is available to provide FREE (funded by DHR) onsite training, technical assistance and parent resource events for DHR licensed/exempt centers and family/group homes in all 67 Alabama counties.
- ▶ In addition, CCEP Inclusion Consultants work in collaboration with all centers who are enrolled and accepting the UCPC special needs childcare subsidy.
 - ▶ CCEP has funding available specifically to help ensure that all classrooms are equipped with the materials needed to support inclusion--based on recommendations observed by CCEP staff and guided by the Inclusion Classroom Profile.

CCEP Team Contact Information

UCP Huntsville	Madison, Morgan, Jackson, Dekalb, Marshall, Cullman, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Colbert, Franklin, Marion, Winston	Melissa Anderson, Statewide Project Director manderson@ucphuntsville.org 256-859-4900
United Ability	Walker, Jefferson, Blount, St. Clair, Shelby, Chilton	Kelli Gerchow, CCEP Project Coordinator kgerchow@unitedability.org 205-944-3969
East Central Alabama UCP	Calhoun, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, Coosa, Etowah, Randolph, Talladega	Morgan Bowman, CCEP Project Coordinator morgan@ecaucp.org 256-237-8203
UCP of West Alabama	Lamar, Fayette, Pickens, Tuscaloosa, Bibb, Hale, Greene, Sumter, Choctaw	Paula Peacock, CCEP Project Coordinator pfpeacock@charter.net 205-535-9834
UCP Mobile	Mobile, Washington, Clarke, Marengo, Wilcox, Baldwin, Monroe, Escambia, Conecuh	Katasha Hughes, CCEP Project Coordinator khughes@ucpmobile.org 251-479-4900
UCP Mobile - Troy satellite	Henry, Dale, Pike, Houston, Coffee, Geneva, Covington	Jessica Adair, CCEP Project Coordinator jadair@ucpmobile.org 334-372-7444
UCP Mobile - Auburn satellite	Tallapoosa, Chambers, Lee, Macon, Russell, Bullock, Barbour	Shea Thompson, CCEP Project Coordinator sthompson@ucpmobile.org 334-663-3981
UCP of Central Alabama - Montgomery	Perry, Dallas, Autauga, Elmore, Montgomery, Butler, Crenshaw, Lowndes	Sherry Speake, CCEP Project Coordinator sspeake@ucpcentralalabama.org 334-271-2280

QUESTIONS

