

ABBOTT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

What new requirements or changes has DHS made to the Abbott Wraparound Program for 2008-2009 for families who need or want before/after school and/or summer child care services?

Beginning September 1, 2008, new applicants will need to meet a lowered income threshold of 250% of the Federal Poverty Level to be determined eligible for a subsidy. If a family wishes to utilize summer care during July and August 2008, the child can be served as long as the family income does not exceed 300% of the FPL. If the family is interested in continuing care past September 1, 2008, the family must then meet the 250% threshold to be eligible for Abbott wraparound.

If a child is currently enrolled and is receiving a voucher for Abbott Wraparound child care and is eligible for another year of preschool, they will be grandfathered into the program based on their initial eligibility of 300% of the Federal Poverty Level. If the family has an additional child entering Abbott for the 2008-2009 school year that child will also be grandfathered in under the 300% FPL rule. The additional child must be added to the system by the CCR&R using page 2 of the Abbott application. The family ID number should also be included on the form.

Families will not be required to submit re-determination applications but are required to report any change regarding their home address or the center that their child attends.

What is the status of the family worker position?

The status of the Family Worker position for the 2008-2009 school year remains unchanged and is a full time, 12-month position (10 months funded through DOE and 2 months funded through DFD).

Beginning July 1, 2008, DHS is currently proposing to transfer dollars to the Abbott Family Worker Managing Agencies for family worker summer salary costs for July and August.

There are no changes planned affecting contracts with the Abbott Family Worker Managing Agencies.

Will DHS continue to limit providers who are eligible to receive Abbott wraparound voucher payments to school districts and contracted providers participating in the Abbott Preschool Program?

Yes, eligible Abbott Wraparound providers must have a contract with the district and in all circumstances the contracted providers MUST have a current license in order to receive voucher payments for wraparound services.

Does DHS require providers to offer 10 hour days, 245 days per year?

No, current district contracts indicate a 180 day, 6 hour program. However, DHS will continue to make voucher payments on behalf of Abbott eligible families with children enrolled in these programs needing or wanting full day full year services through the Abbott Wraparound program.

However, during district wide school closings (i.e. teacher's convention, teacher in-service) if the Abbott center remains open for 10 hours, the provider can charge the parent the cost of the additional 6 hours the voucher does not cover. The provider MUST ensure this policy is written in their parent handbook and they have consulted with their district before putting such a policy in place.

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Can providers charge Abbott families for the cost of other child care related services?

Yes, DHS policy does not prohibit providers from charging parents other fees (i.e. registration or activity) charged by the provider. However, Abbott contracted centers MUST consult with their district before implementing such a policy.

Will families that move between centers have to re-register for Abbott Wraparound?

No, families that change Abbott centers within the same county do not have to re-register for Abbott wraparound. However, if a family transfers to another Abbott center in a different county, they MUST reapply for Abbott Wraparound as a new family and the 250% FPL rule would apply. The Child Care Resource and Referral Agency (CCRR) must issue a new Parent Applicant Provider Agreement (PAPA) when the family moves to another county.

Will DHS pay for non-child attendance days whenever schools and centers are closed?

DHS pays 100% of child attendance if the child has 80% attendance during the month or if one of the following circumstances occur:

A- Unexcused absence

The child did not attend care and the provider was not notified regarding the absence due to illness.

S – Sick/Illness of the child or parent

The child did not attend care and the parent contacted the provider indicating an illness as a reason for the absence. After five consecutive days, an original doctor's note must be submitted with the voucher.

H – Approved Holiday

The child did not attend care due to an approved holiday on which the provider does not render care.

C- Closed- The home/facility of the provider was closed; child care services were not provided to all families yet there was a charge for the service.

E – Emergency Closing

The child did not attend for all or part of a day due to an unusual event or a state of emergency declared by state or local officials. Payment will be made for that day of service though the child did not attend, provided that the following conditions have been met in situations involving:

- An emergency closing that is of short term due to inclement weather and the local school district in which the child care provider is located has also announced a school closing.
- An extraordinary circumstance or unusual event that is of short term, such as an outbreak of a communicable disease and the Department of Health orders the center to be closed, or instances of fire, flood, loss of heat or other problems relating to the physical plant.

In an effort to continue to support the needs of working families, centers cannot be compensated for more than 2 closing days per month, as defined in the Child Care Operations Manual, and no more than 12 holidays per year.

In all cases, copies of required supporting documentation must be attached to the voucher and maintained in the provider's files for program monitoring or audit purposes.

What is the deadline for providers to submit their Abbott wraparound applications for September 2008?

Providers must submit all Abbott wraparound applications no later than September 30, 2008 in order to receive

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timely vouchers. Applications for September 1, 2008 submitted beyond September 30, 2008 will only be paid if determined eligible beginning the effective date of submission.

Note: All vouchers for payment for the 2008-2009 school year must be submitted within 60 days of the end of service date. If the voucher is not submitted within 60 days, it will be considered "expired" and will not be honored for payment.

Should DHS implement other accountability and performance measures?

Yes, as a condition for receiving Abbott wraparound voucher payments, all eligible child care providers MUST annually submit a 12-month program year calendar to the CCR&R indicating dates of closings for State holidays, in-service training days and other non child attendance days when the program is closed.

All eligible child care providers must also maintain an audit trail of all financial accounting reports and transactions associated with child care voucher payments. Supporting documentation may include child attendance and enrollment records, Child and Adult Care Food Program records, and/or parent/guardian sign-in/out sheets in accordance with center policy on the release of children. These should be used to verify or reconcile with completed New Jersey Cares for Kids vouchers that have been submitted for processing and payment.

Provider records must be maintained and kept current and retained on file or in storage for not less than four years.