

# ACC Child Care Grant (title of page)

## **What is it?**

The ACC Child Care Grant is a grant funded by the state of North Carolina to assist currently enrolled students with their daycare expenses. It is meant to serve as partial and temporary child care funding while the student is enrolled in classes and is meeting the grant requirements. Funds are paid directly to state licensed day care centers for children between the ages of birth-12 years old. The grant can cover up to \$300 per month towards child care for a student enrolled 6-8 credit hours and up to \$600 per month for students enrolled in 9 or more credit hours. The grant covers the months of September through the last day of the spring semester as long as the student is enrolled. Please read below to learn more about grant requirements and how to apply.

## **Am I Eligible?**

To be eligible for the grant, you must meet the following requirements:

- Minimum GPA of 3.0
- Minimum Completion Rate of 75%
- Must be currently enrolled in an degree or Title IV eligible diploma program
- Must be enrolled at least 6 credit hours with ACC
- At least half of your credits must be on campus (not online)
- Must have completed one semester at Alamance Community College
- Must be a NC resident

## **How Do I Apply?**

To apply for the NC Child Care Grant, a student must complete the following:

- FAFSA Application with ACC
- Complete the FAFSA verification process with the ACC Financial Aid Office
- Admissions Process for a curriculum program at ACC
- Child Care Grant Application
- Attach to the Child Care Grant Application proof that you have applied for DSS day care assistance: a copy of the DSS voucher amount, the denial letter for DSS, or a letter verifying you are on the waiting list

(I would like the following to be links)

## **Child Care Grant Application**

### **FAQ**

### **Policies and Procedures**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Am I required to apply for the grant?**

No. You are not required for the grant. If you received a letter from the financial aid office indicating you needed to apply, it is NOT a requirement. You are simply being informed that there is a child care grant available and that you could be eligible if you are interested. Applying for the grant is NOT a requirement to receiving financial aid.

### **How will I be notified if I am awarded the grant?**

Yes. You will be sent an award letter in the mail notifying you that you have been selected to receive funding. The letter will include a list of documents you must bring to the financial aid office to turn in to the Child Care Grant Coordinator. You will be given a deadline to reply. If you have not replied by the stated deadline, your child care funds will be awarded to the next student on the waiting list.

### **Will I be notified if I am not eligible?**

Yes. You will be sent a denial letter indicating why your application was denied or cannot be processed. You cannot submit a second application until the following semester.

### **What happens if there is not enough funding?**

If you are eligible for the grant, but there is not any funding left, your name will be placed on the waiting list. Your name will remain on the waiting list for the year as long as you maintain your GPA, Completion Rate, and enrollment requirement. If funding becomes available, the Child Care Grant Coordinator will begin contacting students on the waiting list in order of eligibility and need. Generally, the grant is able to cover 8-13 students per year.

### **Will the grant cover all of my daycare expenses?**

Probably not. The Child Care Grant will not cover any registration fees, application fees, health assessments, or other expenses not directly part of the monthly rate charged. For students enrolled 6-8 credit hours, the grant will pay up to \$300 per month. For students enrolled 9 credit hours or more, the grant will pay up to \$600 per month. If your day care costs more than

your awarded monthly amount, YOU will be responsible for paying the difference and working out with your child care center WHEN the your portion is due. The grant will not cover any “Over the Market” charges above your DSS Voucher amount. If you are currently receiving DSS day care assistance, the ACC Child Care Grant will only be allowed to pay your assigned “Parent Fee” as stated by your voucher. You will be responsible for any charges over the amount. If your child does not attend the day care at least 80% of the month, the Child Care Grant will only pay for the days the child attended, and YOU will be responsible for the days they were absent. The Child Care Grant Coordinator will contact you if there is a balance owed due to your child’s absences.

**Can I receive the grant while taking online classes?**

Yes, BUT at least HALF of your credits must be ON CAMPUS courses. If more than half of your credits are online, the Child Care Grant will be removed and awarded to the next student on the waiting list. Your spot cannot be held for the grant if you are not meeting the requirements.

**Do I have to use the ACC Child Care Center?**

No. The ACC Child Care Grant will cover any state licensed day care center in North Carolina. Church and home daycares are eligible as long as they are state licensed and can provide a copy of their state license.

**Can I use a relative/ friend to keep my child?**

Only if they have been recognized and licensed by the state as a child care facility and can provide documentation to prove it.

**How long can I receive the grant?**

Two Years. A student is allowed to receive the ACC Child Care Grant for up to two school years while working on their degree.

**Can I receive the grant AND daycare assistance from the Department of Social Services?**

Yes. However, priority is given to students who have no other outside assistance to pay for their child care. If you are awarded DSS daycare assistance AFTER you have been awarded Child Care Grant funds, you will still be allowed to stay on the grant, provided you are meeting the grant requirements.

**How do I get a letter from the Department of Social Services to attach to my child care grant application?**

You will need to contact the Department of Social Services for the county in which you live to ask for directions of how to apply for day care assistance. Be sure to get a letter from them proving you have applied since you are required to attach it to the child care grant application. If you were already on the DSS waiting list BEFORE you applied for the child care grant, you

should be able to contact your case worker, or the DSS office to request a copy of your waiting list letter.

**Do I have to reapply for the ACC Child Care Grant each year?**

Yes. You are guaranteed a spot for up to two years as long as you remain continuously enrolled and meet the grant requirements. Applying each year, allows the Child Care Grant Coordinator to see that you are still interested in receiving funding for the upcoming year.

**What if I fall below the required GPA or Completion Rate while on the grant?**

Your child care grant will be terminated effective immediately the week you become ineligible and you will lose your spot on the grant. You will become responsible for your day care costs.

**Can I switch day care centers while on the grant?**

Yes. You are allowed to switch day care centers 2 times per year.

**Will the grant cover After School Care?**

Yes, as long as it is a state licensed after school program.

**Do I have to be the parent of the child receiving the grant?**

You must be the custodial parent or legal guardian of the child you are applying for services.

**Will the grant cover more than one child?**

Yes. There is not a limit to the number of children covered. The amount of the grant is based on your enrollment. For example, if you are a full time student, you can receive up to \$600 per month no matter how many children you have requested be covered by the grant. We cannot award extra for additional children.

**If both parents are students, can they both apply for the grant?**

Yes. If both parents are currently enrolled and are meeting the grant requirements, both parents can apply. A total of \$600 will be awarded for the child.

**Will the grant pay during the summer months?**

No. Typically, there is not enough funding to cover beyond the month of May. If there is additional funding, the Child Care Grant Coordinator will notify students. This is usually not the case. Parents are responsible for their child care expenses for June, July, and August. If a student completes the spring semester and is not enrolled for the summer term, the grant will end the last week of spring exams. If a student completes the fall semester, but is not enrolled for the spring, the grant will end the last week of fall exams.

**Will the grant cover the registration fees for my day care center?**

No. The grant can only cover the monthly rate charged.

**What if I need to drop a class while on the grant?**

Anytime you think you may be failing a class or need to drop a class, you **MUST** speak with the Child Care Grant Coordinator as soon as possible. Dropping or failing classes could cause you to become ineligible for the Child Care Grant. It is important, that you discuss any drops or failing grades with the Grant Coordinator so they can determine how it will affect your eligibility for the grant.

**What if I fail a class while on the grant?**

To continue to remain eligible for the Child Care Grant, you must maintain a cumulative GPA of a 3.0 or higher. If failing a class does **NOT** cause you to drop below a 3.0 GPA, you will be remain eligible for the grant. If a failing grade causes your GPA to drop below a 3.0, you will be suspended from the Child Care Grant as of the week you became ineligible and your funds will be awarded to another eligible student.

**Can I get the grant if I transfer to a new school?**

The state of North Carolina awards Child Care grant funding to many colleges throughout the state. Receiving the Child Care grant at ACC, **DOES NOT** guarantee a spot on the grant at another college. You must apply for Child Care Grant Funds at each college separately. Having the grant at a previous college does **NOT** prioritize you for the grant at another college. You will have to contact your new school to find out the application and qualification process for Child Care Grant funds at that specific school.

**If I didn't get the grant in the fall, do I have to reapply for the spring?**

Yes. If you were not awarded the Child Care Grant in the fall semester because of GPA or Completion Rate, you are welcome to apply again at the end of fall if you are now meeting qualifications. If you were placed on the waiting list in the fall, you will automatically remain on the waiting list for the spring term as long as you are still enrolled and meeting eligibility requirements.

**Does the grant pay during holidays and breaks when the college is closed?**

Yes. The Child Care Grant **WILL** cover holidays and school breaks (fall break, spring break). The grant will also cover the Christmas break as long as the student is enrolled for the fall and spring semesters.