



# The TANF Child Care Protection: Definitions Used

As of October 1999

State	Definitions the TANF agency uses to determine whether a parent has a demonstrated inability to obtain needed child care
Alabama	<p>Appropriate Child Care: TANF policy considers child care services to be appropriate if they are rendered by a child care provider legally authorized under the applicable federal and state laws, regulations and requirements to provide such services and who has been selected to provide such services in accordance with parental choice safeguards.</p> <p>Reasonable distance: TANF policy considers employment to be suitable if a TANF recipient is not expected to commute more than two hours per day, inclusive of time required to transport the recipients child(ren) to and from child care.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: TANF policy considers informal child care to be suitable only to the extent such care is provided within the constraints of applicable federal and state laws, regulations and requirements.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements : TANF policy does not require recipients to engage in work activities unless child care is accessible and the Department subsidizes the cost of child care. The policy does not subject such recipients to a sanction or other penalty unless these criteria are met.</p>
Alaska	<p>Appropriate Child Care: Appropriate child care is defined at AS 47.27.035 and at 7AAC 45.260 as a case by a provider who is at a location that is within 30 minutes travel time, by public or private transportation, from the participant's home or activity site, who is willing to care for the child and who appears to have the ability to care for children of the same age and development level as the participant's child.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: See above. It is defined as a location that is within 30 minutes travel time by public or private transportation from the participant's home or activity site.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Care: See above. It is a provider who is not willing to care for the participant's child, does not appear to have the ability to care for children of the same age a development level as the participant's child and is not located within 30 minutes travel time by public or private transpiration from the participant's home or activity site.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: It is defined at AS 47.27.035 as care for which the family has sufficient income or access to assistance through a subsidy program.</p>

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Arizona	<p>Appropriate Child Care: Child care that is licensed or certified by the Arizona Department of Health Services or certified by the Arizona Department of Economic Security.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: This means child care that is available when the total travel time from a TANF participant's home to the child care provider and to a work activity is one and half hours or less one way or half an hour or less if the only mode of transportation is walking</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: This means child care that is available through a relative provider, but the recipients declares in writing that the provider is inappropriate based on factors such as, that the relative provider: a) Has a history of child neglect or abuse; b) Is experiencing domestic violence; c) Has a history of serious crime; d) Is a drug abuser; e) Has an emotional, mental, or physical condition which prevents the relative from providing safe care; or f) Resides in a home which is unsafe for children.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: This means child care that is available when the cost of care is equal to or less than the amount that DES will pay</p>
Arkansas	<p>Appropriate Child Care: Care that meets the health and safety standards and or guidelines established by the Division of Child Care.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: The travel time from the individual's home to employment will not be more than 30 minutes one way in order to take a child to child care.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: Care which does not meet the developmental needs of the child or care that has been determined not to be in the best interest of the child or parent.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: Quality care provided at no cost or a cost no more than 10% of a family's gross income.</p>

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California	<p>Appropriate Child Care: Appropriate child care is defined as child care chosen by the parent that meets the needs of the child and parents and is either licensed for the appropriate age group or special needs category or is license- exempt and meets TrustLine requirements unless the child care arrangement is exempt from the TrustLine requirements.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: Reasonable distance is defined as the distance customarily traveled by working families in accessing child care services in the community.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: Informal child care is unsuitable when the caregiver cannot be TrustLined in accordance with TrustLine regulations or who would not otherwise be denied payment for child care services that are exempt from licensure because of a violent felony conviction.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: Affordable child care is child care where the cost to the family does not exceed the regional market rate plus family fees established by the state in accordance with the family fee schedule.</p>
Colorado	<p>Appropriate Child Care: Care and supervision that maintains the health and safety of the child while encouraging growth and development. Appropriate care should strive to meet the developmental, physical, mental and emotional needs of the child.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: Distance between the child's home and the child care setting or the parent's place of employment and the child care setting that, when traveled using transportation resources available to the family, still allows the family to perform basic daily routines including meal preparation, personal care and grooming and meet the need for basic sleep.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: Care provided in a legally exempt setting that endangers the health of or safety of the child or that hinders the growth and development of the child.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: Care for the which the cost to the parent does not exceed 12% of the family's earned income.</p>
Connecticut	<p>SPDP does not have this information.</p>

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Delaware	<p>Appropriate Child Care: Care that meets the health and safety standards as defined by the State licensing guidelines, and that meets the age-appropriate needs of the child and the child care needs of the parents.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: Care that is located in proximity to either a parent's place of employment or near the parent's home (generally care that is within one hour's drive)</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: Informal care that would not meet the physical or psychological needs of the child.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: Care that would provide access to a full range of child care categories and types of providers and that would meet the needs of most children and their parents.</p>
Dist of Columbia	<p>Appropriate Child Care: Child Care must meet the parent's needs in terms of hours and location. The child care center or family child care provider must be licensed. An in-home or relative provider must meet the minimum requirements incorporated in the child care provider's agreement. The basic needs of the child(ren) must be met. These needs include: safety, developmental, social, cultural, and health.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: "Reasonable Distance" is defined as the travel time it takes for a resident of the District of Columbia to drop off the child at the child care facility and arrive on time at work. This travel time should not exceed one and one-half hour from home to work. For District of Columbia residents who work outside the city in Maryland or Virginia, the travel time is defined as the time it takes to drop off the child(ren) at the child care facility and arrive on time to work. This travel time should not exceed two hours from home to work.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: Unsuitable Informal Child Care is care that is not licensed or does not meet the programmatic criteria as included in the executed provider agreement with the Office of Early Childhood Development (OEC). Informal child care is defined as care provided by relative or in-home providers who are selected by the parents. Such providers must have official Provider Agreement with the parent and the OEC along with current health certificates for themselves and the child(ren) in their care.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: Affordable child care arrangements are terms of agreement between the parents and the provider, that meet the needs of the parents and the child(ren) by using the Child Care Subsidy with providers in the District of Columbia. Parents can obtain care for their child(ren) using the available subsidy, as long as they are participating with the District of Columbia's extensive provider system which includes all categories of care (infants preschoolers, school age), in all wards. The subsidy is available through the Office of Early Childhood Development.</p>

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Florida	<p>Appropriate Child Care: The care, protection and supervision of a child which supplements parental care, enrichment and healthy supervision of the child, in accordance with his or her individual needs.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: Reasonable distance is dependent on the geographical area. The worker will discuss and determine mileage and /or time needed to travel to and from the job site.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: A Florida Abuse Hotline Information Systems records check of all informal child care providers who receive funding to provide child care services through the subsidized child care program must be completed. If any individual in the household has one or more reports with some indication or verified findings, the clearance form and copies of the report are analyzed to determine whether the proposed provider will receive compensation. The central agency will notify the parent and provider of the decision by letter.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: A market rate survey is conducted annually to determine maximum department rates by age category and types of provider. Category rates are paid based on the cost of care up to a maximum level not to exceed the 75th percentile except in areas where care is very limited. The total population is surveyed by the Child Care Resource and Referral Network. The Florida Children's Forum is responsible for data analysis of CCR&amp;R - collected data. The Department of Children and Families geographic services districts, as established by state statute, are used as rate setting regions for the purpose of the study. Rates are also established for each county. Gold Seal Providers may be paid up to 20% above the district market rate but not above the private pay rate. The provider-negotiated rate shall not exceed the current prevailing market rate for the district or county in which services are provided.</p>
Georgia	<p>Appropriate Child Care: Care that meets States licensing/minimum health and safety standards, is available, and meets the needs of the family and child.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: Care that is within a forty-five minute radius of the parents home or work activity.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: Care that does not meet State's minimum health and safety standards.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: Care in which the State participates at a minimum of 50% of the cost of care for the family and the provider accepts the maximum DFCS rate.</p>

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Hawaii	<p>Appropriate Child Care: Defined as the provider meeting the licensing requirements or minimum health and safety standards established by the Lead Agency.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: This is defined as a maximum of one hour (each way) of travel from the provider to the participant/recipients place of employment or education/training.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: A provider who is not at least 18 years old; has been a perpetrator of child abuse or has members of his/her household who have been perpetrators of abuse; and or is unable to meet the minimum health and safety requirements established by the Lead Agency.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care: Child care with a co-payment for parents of no more than 20% of the Lead Agency's maximum child care payment rate.</p>
Idaho	<p>Appropriate Child Care: Exceptions will be made on a case by case basis by a reasonable person concept. Reasonable person is defined as whether the conduct would be that of a reasonably prudent person in the same or similar circumstances.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: Exceptions will be made on a case by case basis by a reasonable person concept. Reasonable person is defined as whether the conduct would be that of a reasonably prudent person in the same or similar circumstances.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: Exceptions will be made on a case by case basis by a reasonable person concept. Reasonable person is defined as whether the conduct would be that of a reasonably prudent person in the same or similar circumstances.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: Exceptions will be made on a case by case basis by a reasonable person concept. Reasonable person is defined as whether the conduct would be that of a reasonably prudent person in the same or similar circumstances.</p>
Illinois	<p>Appropriate Child Care: Affordable care that meets the child's needs and complies with all applicable state and local laws and regulations.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: The client's total travel time (from home to child care provider to job/activity, plus return trip) is not more than 25% of the client's total time on the job/activity, e.g. no more than 2 hours commuting for an 8 hour work day.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: Arrangements with family or friends to provide child care that do not meet the child's needs, are unreliable, and/or violate applicable state or local laws and regulations.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: Child care that is free or eligible for payment by the Department, and that do not exceed the Department's maximum rate for the type of care.</p>

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Indiana	<p>Appropriate Child Care: Care which is provided in accordance with Indiana law. Appropriate child care is either licensed, registered or licensed exempt.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: It is a round trip from home to day care setting of less than two hours in duration by automobile.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: It is care which has resulted in abuse or neglect of a child or care which is subject to licensure requirements, but is not licensed.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: This would be any care which is totally subsidized by the agency as TANF recipients are not expected to pay anything for child care.</p>
Iowa	<p>Appropriate Child Care: Appropriate child care means that the child care provider is a licensed center, a registered child care home, an exempt facility or someone who can pass child abuse and criminal record checks and can meet the minimum health and safety requirements for non-registered child care home providers.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: Reasonable distance means that the required travel time from home to the work related activity does not exceed one hour each way including the travel time necessary to take a child to a child care provider.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Care: Unsuitability of informal child care means a child care center who has not completed the licensing process or a nonregistered child care provider who cannot pass child abuse or criminal record checks or who cannot meet the minimum health and safety requirements for nonregistered child care home providers.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: Affordable child care arrangements means that child care for approved PROMISE JOBS components is provided at no cost, except for the Monitored Employment component which may include a co-pay. Co-payments are based upon a sliding fee schedule through the Child Care and Development Fund in accordance with 441--IAC130.4(234, 239B).</p>

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Kansas	<p>Appropriate Child Care: A regulated facility that meets or exceeds minimum licensing and registration regulations. A non-regulated legally exempt provider who has completed a Health and Safety Standards Checklist CC-1631 and maintains a facility that meets or exceeds minimum standards.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: Total daily transport time to and from home to the child care provider does not exceed 2 hours. If a longer transport time is generally accepted in the community , the round trip transport time shall not exceed the generally accepted community standards.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Care: Care for which SRS would not enter into a provider agreement: I.e. a relative with an unwillingness to care for the child; age inappropriateness; documentation of family services/protective services case histories.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: The ability of a family to pay the costs of care through sufficient income or assistance through the child care subsidy program.</p>
Kentucky	<p>Appropriate Child Care: An eligible child care provider as defined in 45 C.F.R. Part 98.2</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: The distance customarily available within a locality.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: Care not regulated under KY law which does not meet the quality child care needs as defined by the parent or health and safety requirements applicable to unregulated child care in the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: Appropriate child care at a reasonable distance which is suitable and with charges at or below the maximum provider payment rate under the Child Care and Development Fund plan.</p>
Louisiana	<p>Appropriate Child Care: Child care provided by any state licensed or state-registered facility or by a private party of the parents' choice if arrangements meet basic health and safety standards.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: 30 minutes from the individual's home or work site</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: Failure to meet basic health and safety standards</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: Arrangements in which the cost of child care does not exceed established maximum limits for state-administered child care programs</p>



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Maine	<p>Appropriate Child Care: Appropriate child care is affordable child care furnished by a child care provider who passed background checks as required by State Law.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: Reasonable distance means that the ASPIRE participant is required to commute no more than 15 additional miles between home and work in order to transport the child to the child care provider.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: Unsuitable child care is that provided by an individual who cannot pass a required background check or is unaffordable or would require the ASPIRE participant to travel an unreasonable distance.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: Affordable child care arrangements are those for which the participant incurs no cost or is reimbursed by another program such as ASPIRE or through a deduction for child care from income by the TANF program or by any combination of these methods.</p>
Maryland	<p>Appropriate Child Care: Child care that meets the parent's needs in terms of hours and location, meets the child's needs in terms of health and safety and is geared toward the healthy development of the child.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: Based on available transportation, a parent would be expected to travel to the child care provider no more than an hour each way.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: Informal care that does not meet the standards as stated in Section 6.3.2 of this plan, state law and Code of Maryland Regulations governing the child care subsidy program, including not posing a risk to the health and safety of a child.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: Those arrangements for which the parent fee charged by the provider is less than or equal to the assigned co-payment for a non-TANF family of the same size and income level who receive a subsidy.</p>
Massachusetts	<p>The terms are not defined. TANF regulations provide that lack of "suitable state standard child care" is good cause for failure to participate in education or training or the state's work program.</p>

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Michigan	<p>Appropriate Child Care: Appropriate child care means child care that is appropriate to the child's age, disabilities and other conditions, where the provider meets the applicable state and local standards.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: This occurs when the total commuting time to and from work and the child care facility does not exceed three hours per day.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: This occurs when the provider does not meet Michigan Family Independence Agency's enrollment guidelines.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: Child care services provided at the rate of payment or reimbursement by the Michigan Family Independence Agency.</p>
Minnesota	<p>Appropriate Child Care: 1) The provider of care is a licensed or legal non-licensed provider according to state standards; 2) the provider of care is able to meet a demonstrated need for language-specific care; and 3) that the care is appropriate to the child's age and special needs. Special needs means disabilities as defined in Minnesota Statutes 125A.02, subd. 1. Counties should also accommodate demonstrated needs for culturally specific services as resources allow.</p> <p>Reasonable distance: Reasonable distance is the total commute time to the child care provider and to work. It should not exceed two hours round trip.</p> <p>Unsuitability of informal care: If a provider does not meet standards regarding health and safety of the child that would be applied to legal, non-licensed provider, then they are unsuitable.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care: The provider does not charge in excess of the maximum amount the county is allowed to pay, as established in a rate schedule set each year by the Department of Children, Families and Learning.</p>

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Mississippi            Appropriate Child Care: A licensed child care center, family day care home or individual ( 18 years or older) chosen by the parent to care for the child

Reasonable Distance: The distance shall be considered reasonable if the day care center is within a 20 mile radius of the parent's home or worksite.

Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: Reasons for unavailable or unsuitable child care will be reported by the parent to the case manager (CM). Complaints involving abuse, neglect must be reported to the MS Health Department, Division of Child Care Facilities Licensure. If the parent refuses to take the child to a particular day care center, the individual must inform the CM of the reason for the refusal. The CM must investigate and verify the parent's claim of unsuitable child care. The CM must contact the OCY designated agent to discuss the problem and determine what other child care services are available to them in the area. The CM will determine good cause for non-participation based on the information gathered.

Affordable Child care Arrangements: Child care that is equal to or less than the established rates for the type of care according to the OCY Child Care Policy Manual.

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Missouri                      Appropriate Child Care: Appropriate child care in formal and informal settings include: Child care that is consistently available; child care that is available during the participant's hours of employment, education, training and/or work activity; child care that addresses the specialized needs of the child (I.e. a child with a disability); child care that is developmentally and age appropriate. This determination will be based on the information provided by the parent when demonstrating that the care available to them does not meet the developmental and/or age appropriate skills of their child. Child care by a full time, year round primary provider who is at least eighteen (18) years of age. Child care by a provider who has undergone a Child Abuse and Neglect background screening and a Tuberculosis test.

Reasonable Distance: A determination of whether child care is within reasonable distance should include, but not be limited to, the following factors:  
When the participant has no independent transportation, they can be expected to use public transportation if: It is available at the appropriate time for the participant's schedule of work or work participation; it is not cost prohibitive for the participant; and the time involved in getting to public, child care and then to work is reasonable in relation to the participant's actual hours of work or work participation activity.  
If the participant has an independent means of transportation, the transportation must include the following: the vehicle or other transportation is reliable; the recipient is able to afford the transportation costs, including the costs involved in maintaining and ensuring the reliability of the transportation; the commuting time for the individual's home to their child care provider and their work site ( or work participation activity) is no more than an hour each way.

Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: Families are not required to accept care with providers who are not licensed or registered. There are certain circumstances that may exist that will deem a child care provider as "inappropriate" or "unsuitable" to a parent. Examples of such care are as follows: child care provided by religious-exempt facilities when the parent state it infringes upon the families beliefs; child care provided by any caregiver when the parent states that their child is at risk of abuse or neglect. Child care provided by anyone who refuses to agree to a Child Abuse and Neglect Screening are considered an unsuitable provider to parents seeking child care.

Affordable Child Care Arrangements: Available child care is affordable when the cost of care does not exceed ten percent (10%) of a family's gross income less medical insurance premiums. This ten percent (10%) includes a family's sliding fee and any additional co-payment a family is required to pay. This ten percent (10%) does not include federal, state or local child care subsidy.

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Montana	<p>Appropriate Child Care: The child care provider meets applicable state standards</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: If the family is without either their own ( or arranged) transportation , and there is no public transportation, then their home or work site must be no more than 3 miles from the child care provider. If the family has their own (or arranged) transportation, their home or work site is within one hour travel distance one-way, from the child care provider.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: Care that does not meet applicable state licensing standards, although it may be the parent's choice.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: The total parental (caretaker relative or person acting in loco parentis) co-payment and "above and beyond" obligation does not exceed 25% of gross family income.</p>
Nebraska	<p>Appropriate Child Care: Care that is or can be licensed or approved by HHS.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: A round trip of two hours or less from home to the site of child care. If a normal round trip commuting time in the area is more than two hours, that is considered the generally accepted community standard.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Care: Unpaid care or personally arranged care by a friend or relative that would be unsafe or harmful to the child.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care: Care at no cost to the client.</p>
Nevada	<p>Appropriate Child Care: Child care chosen by the parent that offers developmentally appropriate practices that meet the needs of the parent and the child.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: A parent should not have to travel more than 30 minutes dropping their child off at the provider's location and 30 minutes picking up their child.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: Informal child care is unsuitable if; it is not being provided legally, or does not meet basic health and safety standards as outlined in the State Child Care Plan; circumstances exist that may cause possible abuse, neglect or harm to children as outlined in county and/or state statutes; the arrangements do not support the working schedule of a parent, are not affordable, not easily accessible, or do not meet quality standards as defined by the parent.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: Child care that does not exceed 10 to 15% of the parents gross income.</p>
New Hampshire	SPDP does not have this information.

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New Jersey	<p>Appropriate Child Care: This means the child care provider is open for the hours and days the parent would need child care in order to comply with work requirements and the provider is able and willing to provide child care services including any special needs of the child(ren) and meets DHS requirements.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: This means the provider is located within a distance that is en route from the parent's home and work activity and that the parent can get the child to care and then to the activity within 90 minutes.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Inform a Child Care: Informal child care is defined as "Approved Home caregivers in New Jersey." It is unsuitable if the provider cannot meet the minimum requirements defined in the DFD. The minimum requirements for approval of the home are an inspection of the home using the "Self-Arranged Care Inspection and Interview Checklist," and standard interview procedures with the provider and family members.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: Those child care arrangements which do not exceed the DHS maximum child care reimbursement rates. In addition, parent co-payment fees do not exceed the DHS co-payment schedule for subsidized child care services.</p>
New Mexico	<p>Appropriate Child Care: A facility which is licensed or registered with Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD); provides care and supervision to a child that meets the health and safety standards established by the CYFD; is able to address the special needs of a child; provides care which meets the child's age and development ; and which is available during the recipient's hours of work, education or training.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: Taking into account parental or caretaker choice, travel to a facility which takes into account the availability of transportation and is located in the community or surrounding community in which the TANF recipient resides.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: Informal child care will be deemed to be unsuitable where the CYFD has determined that the care and supervision does not meet minimum health and safety standards established by the CYFD.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: Those arrangements which are subsidized by CYFD; or taking into account parental or caretaker choice, arrangements made by the parent or caretaker directly with the facility and which are not subsidized.</p>

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New York

**Appropriate Child Care:** Appropriate means the child care provider(s) is open for the hours and days the parent or caretaker relative would need care in order to comply with the applicable work requirements and the provider(s) is able and willing to provide child care services to the applicable child(ren) including any special needs of the applicable child(ren).

**Accessible Child Care:** Accessible means the parent or caretaker relative is able to, by public or private transportation, get the applicable child(ren) to and from the child care provider(s) taking into consideration the age and any special needs of the child(ren).

**Reasonable Distance:** Reasonable distance means the child care provider is located within a reasonable distance from the parent or caretaker relative's home and work activity, based on locally accepted community standards, as defined by the social services district in the district's consolidated services plan.

**Unsuitability of Informal Child Care:** Unsuitability of informal child care means the physical conditions of the home in which care would be provided or the physical or mental condition of the informal provider would be detrimental to the health and welfare or safety of the applicable child(ren).

**Affordable Child Care:** Affordable child care means the parent or caretaker relative would have sufficient income to pay the family share of the child care services if required according to State regulations and/ or to pay the cost of care above market rate if applicable. If the potential provider is a caregiver of informal child care who would be providing care in the child(ren)'s home, affordable also means that the parent or caretaker relative would have sufficient income to provide the caregiver with all required State and Federal employment benefits .

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North Carolina	<p>Appropriate Child Care: Care in a regulated child care center or family care home that has a license or care in an informal child care arrangement that meets the minimal health , safety and criminal record check standards required of informal providers for reimbursement through North Carolina's child care subsidy program.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: In evaluating "reasonable distance," counties consider the total time it takes for parents to travel one-way from home to the child care provider then to work or work related activity. Because of differences in North Carolina's geography and highway/road system, county departments of social services have maximum discretion to decide what is "reasonable" for individuals based on their resources (I.e. whether they have a vehicle in working order or family resources available for transporting the family) and local transportation considerations. As a guideline, counties should consider that it may not be reasonable to require families receiving Work First to travel more than 99 minutes one-way to child care and work. Ninety-nine minutes is five times the average one-way commute time in North Carolina(not including stops at child care arrangements), as reported by the US Census Bureau based on the 1990 decennial census. This does not preclude exemptions from sanction based on a shorter commute if the county considers the commute an obstacle to children's healthy development or the family's self-sufficiency goals.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: The unsuitability of an informal child care arrangement is determined on a case-by-case basis. An informal child care provider is considered "unsuitable" for a particular family if one of the following exists: The informal child care arrangement does not meet the health, safety, and criminal records check standards required by of informal providers to receive subsidy reimbursements from the State of North Carolina or; A parent does not want his/her child(ren) cared for by the informal child care provider.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: When a child care subsidy is available to the family, child care is deemed affordable.</p>
North Dakota	<p>Appropriate Child Care: The inability to obtain appropriate child care which includes licensed center-based provider, licensed family home child care providers, self-certified home child care provider under North Dakota Century Code 50-11.1 or relative child care providers who are not required to be licensed or registered.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: Child care is unobtainable at a location such that the usual commuting time from the parent's home to the location at which child care is provided and on to the parent's work site is one hour or less.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: Suitable child care is unobtainable either from a relative, from a child care provider licensed or registered under North Dakota Century Code 50-11.1 or from a child care provider who is not required to be licensed or registered;</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: Child care is unobtainable, from a child care provider licensed or registered under North Dakota Century Code chapter 50-11.1, at a rate equal to or less than 1.1 times the market survey average rate for child care provided to children of the age of the parent's child in the region in which the parent lives.</p>



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Ohio	<p>Appropriate Child Care: Availability of a licensed or certified child care provider.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: Reasonable distance is defined by each individual county Department of Human Services and is based on availability of transportation.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: This is a decision by the parent or child protective service agency based on findings during an investigation of an abuse or neglect complaint.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: All OWF(TANF) participants are guaranteed eligibly for child care subsidy with co-payments based on family size, income and number of children receiving subsidized child care.</p>
Oklahoma	<p>Reasonable Distance: A "reasonable distance" is a distance determined and agreed upon by the parent and the social worker and is dependant on the individual needs of the parent and children.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: Unsuitability of informal child care is an arrangement that does not:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. afford the child(ren) adequate care and supervision. Supervision of a child(ren) means the function of observing, overseeing and guiding a child;</li><li>2. encourage social development or stimulate the child(ren)'s mental capabilities; and</li><li>3. Afford the child(ren) a safe and stable environment that provides for learning opportunities.</li></ol>
Oregon	<p>Appropriate Child Care: This means both the provider and the place where care is provided meet the AFS health and safety and provider requirements defined in administrative rule; the care accommodates the parent's work schedule; the care meets the specific needs of the child, such as age and special needs requirements.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: This means that the parent's total travel time from home to the child care provider and workplace or JOBS activity will be no more than one hour either way unless a longer commute time is customary in the community.</p> <p>Unsuitability Informal Child Care: AFS uses the same standard for informal care as for regulated care. Care that does not meet the criteria described above in "Appropriate Child Care" would not be considered unsuitable.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: Arrangements where the expense to the parents is 10% or less of family income for families at 120 % of the FPL or lower.</p>

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Pennsylvania	<p>Appropriate Child Care: Care operating in accordance with PA State Day Care Regulations and meeting the requirements of CCDGB regulations. This includes licensed center-based and group home care, registered family day care and informal care. Informal care includes care in the child's home in the caregiver's home.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: A TANF client will have good cause for not participating in a work or work-related activity if travel time to the work-site, including travel time to the child care provider, is more than two hours, round trip, by reasonably available public or private transportation.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: Any care is unsuitable/inappropriate if it is reasonably expected to result in physical or serious emotional harm to the child.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: Any care which costs less than or equal to the Department's established child care daily maximum allowances for payment of child care services.</p>
Rhode Island	<p>Appropriate Child Care: This is defined as care which meets the standards for providers as specified in Sections 0818.20, 0818.20.5 and 0181.20.10 of the DHS Policy and Procedures Manual.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: Is treated in the context of transportation under good cause in the conciliation process.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: Is defined as care which does not meet the standards for providers as specified in Sections 0818.20, 0818.20.5 and 0818.20.10 of the DHS Policy and Procedures Manual.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: FIP recipients pay no co-payment to providers.</p>

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South Carolina	<p><b>Appropriate Child Care:</b> Appropriate child care must be determined by parental choice to insure that the development and nurturing needs of a child(ren) are met. Child care facilities must comply with all South Carolina Code of Laws addressing regulatory requirements and procedures. Informal child care arrangements are not subject to Child Day Care statutory and regulatory requirements, however parents are required to complete a Self-Arranged Child Care Certification form to ensure health and safety requirements are being met.</p> <p><b>Reasonable Distance:</b> Reasonable distance is defined by the TANF agency as the fair and reasonable travel distance to a child day care facility that will not interrupt Family Independence participation. Parents must be given parental choice to select the child care facility that meets the needs of the child. Judgement of "reasonable distance" will be determined by the Supportive Services Specialists in collaboration with the FI Case Manager.</p> <p><b>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care:</b> Informal child care arrangements must meet the needs and parental choice rights of the FI participant. Informal child care arrangements must comply with policy and procedures developed by the Department of Health and Human Services, ABC Child Care Voucher System. To address health and safety issues a Self-Arranged Child Care Certification form must be completed by the informal providers and reviewed by Support Services Specialist. The FI participant will complete the informal facility checklist addressing safety and the informal caregiver's ability to care for the child(ren).</p> <p><b>Affordable Child Care Arrangements:</b> Affordable child care arrangements are determined by a market rate survey conducted by Clemson University for the Department of Health and Human Services.</p>
South Dakota	<p><b>Appropriate Child Care:</b> Appropriate child care means the provision of care that meets minimal health, safety and developmental needs of children.</p> <p><b>Reasonable Distance:</b> The child care provider is located in close enough proximity to the parent's home or workplace to allow children to be transported without risk of harm.</p> <p><b>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care:</b> The provision of informal care is determined unsuitable when the health and safety or developmental needs of children are at risk.</p> <p><b>Affordable Child Care Arrangements:</b> Affordable child care arrangements ensure equal access can be maintained without undue financial hardship to the family.</p>

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Tennessee	<p>Appropriate Child Care: Appropriate child care is that which meets the minimal state child care registration rules, licensing standards or health and safety guidelines established by the state for each of the types of care as listed in the CCDF state plan.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: The distance from the participant's home to the child care arrangement is considered reasonable travel when the care location is within walking distance or access to personal, private or public transportation is available to the parent in order to commute to the child care location.</p> <p>Unsuitability if Informal Child Care: Informal care that does not accommodate the parent's schedule for work or training or does not meet the state's minimal health and safety guidelines.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: Affordable care is provided by agencies/individuals who participate in the state's reimbursement program and the arrangement is acceptable to the parent.</p>
Texas	<p>Under the Achieving Change for Texans Waiver to federal TANF work requirements, Texas does not use standard definitions to these terms. Rather the need for and availability of, child care is determined on a case-by-case basis. Single custodial parents who need care for a child under the age of four until January 1, 2000, under the age of three from January 1, 2000 until September 1, 2000, under age two from September 1 until September 1, 2001, and then under age one are exempted from participation in the TANF employment program or are only required to participate 20 hours per week if no child care is available.</p>
Utah	<p>Appropriate Child Care: Appropriate child care is determined by the parent. The parent chooses the care setting that best meets the child's developmental needs. "Finding" appropriate child care will be counted as parent participation in the State TANF program.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: Travel that requires a two hour round trip unless the commute time for the community is generally longer.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: A care setting chosen by the parent that is operating illegally as defined by Utah law or setting where substantiated evidence of child abuse exists.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: An available provider in the community whose charge for services does not exceed the LMR established at the 75 percentile.</p>

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Vermont	<p>Appropriate Child Care: A child care slot available with a licensed or registered provider which is located within five miles of the caretaker's residence or within five miles of the normal route to a program activity or employment and which corresponds to the days and hours when care is needed and which is appropriate to the age and needs of the child(ren) needing care.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: Within five miles of the caretaker's residence or within five miles of the caretaker's normal route to a program activity or employment.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: If the only available child care is with a legally exempt child care provider, the parent or caretaker is not required to use it.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care: Not currently defined.</p>
Virginia	<p>Appropriate Child Care: Child care must be arranged: (a) by the participant, or (b) if the participant cannot arrange for the child's care, it must be arranged by the local department of social services with a legally operating provider.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: Travel time from the child's home to the child care provider and the work site is generally no more than one hour, based on transportation available to the parent.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: Arrangement does not meet the requirements for relative care in the Virginia Department of Social Services Child Day Care Services policy.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: The cost of child care is less than or equal to the payments amounts specified in the Virginia Department of Social Services Child Day Care Services policy.</p>
Washington	<p>Appropriate Child Care: Licensed, certified or approved under state laws and regulations that apply to the type of child care that you use and that you may make your own choice among child care options that are available in your area.</p> <p>Reasonable Distance: You can reach the child care site without travel that exceeds normal expectations in your community.</p> <p>Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: By implication, anything that is not allowable as a reimbursable child care option as defined in WAC 388-15-170, WAC388-290-020, and WAC388-290-035 would constitute unsuitable informal child care and could not be reimbursed with CCDF funding.</p> <p>Affordable Child Care Arrangements: At or below your share of the child care costs circulated by the Working Connection Child Care Program.</p>

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West Virginia      Appropriate Child Care: Child care is available during work or activity placement hours. Regulated or certified child care is suitable for special needs children.

Reasonable Distance: Travel to access child care is in excess one hour one way.

Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: Determination is made on a case by case basis. Family Support Specialist has discretion to determine unsuitability.

Affordable Child Care Arrangements: Can access and be eligible for child care subsidy(CCDF). Provider(regulated or informal) is eligible to receive child care subsidies.

Wisconsin            Appropriate Child Care: Child care as determined by the parent to meet the needs of the family. The child care provider must be regulated in order to receive child care assistance.

Reasonable Distance: Child care which is available within a reasonable geographic area as determined by the local W-2 agency. If child care is not available within a reasonable geographic area, the family may choose to request in-home child care. The provider coming into the home will be required to be certified.

Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: Under W-2, child care providers must be licensed or certified. Licensing laws and rules remain unchanged under W-2, except for a requirement for criminal records check. Licensing is administered at the state level. Licensing includes extensive health and safety standards, staff qualification standards and ongoing monitoring. Providers who are not required to be licensed are required under W-2 to be certified to receive public funding. Certification is intended to ensure basic protections for children when public funds pay for child care. Certification standards include criminal records check, references and simple health and safety standards. Certification requires a site visit to ensure compliance with standards. Child care providers are not required to be certified in order to be reimbursed when:

1. The care is an arrangement for parents in training or counseling programs and child care is provided at that training or counseling site;
2. The care is a short term arrangement when a child is ill and not able to receive care from a regulated child care provider or the provider has an emergency due to illness or other circumstances.

Affordable Child Care Arrangements: Individual county/ tribal maximum weekly rates are established for licensed group and licensed family child care providers by surveying these providers in the fall of each year. Payment rates authorized to child care providers are calculated using these maximum rates and comparing them to the providers reported weekly price. Maximum hourly rates are established for part time care. Rates are established to cover the cost of care for at least 75 percent of the slots available within each county/tribe. This affords the family a wide choice of providers within each category of care whose prices are within the maximum rates.

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Wyoming                      Appropriate Child Care: Child care meeting Wyoming's licensing standards or if legally exempt from child care licensing requirements meeting minimum health and safety requirements as outlined by the CCDF. All providers and adults in the facility with access to children must also receive a favorable Central Registry and criminal history prescreen check.

Reasonable Distance: The distance from home to work does not exceed two hours per day, not including the transportation of a child to the and from a child care facility.

Unsuitability of Informal Child Care: Child Care which does not meet minimum health and safety requirements or fails to pass the Central Registry and criminal history prescreen check.

Affordable Child Care Arrangements: An available child care provider in the community whose charge for services does not exceed the local market rate established at the seventy-fifth (75th) percentile.