

Potential Eligibility

What is *Potential Eligibility*?

When you apply for child care services, you may not have enough information to complete the application. . If you need child care services right away, you can request a *Notice of Potential Eligibility (NOPE)*, which may allow you to select a child care provider and begin care immediately.

You will have 30 days to provide whatever information is necessary to complete the application process. If you do not provide the information or complete the application you will be responsible for ALL child care costs.

Does a *Notice of Potential Eligibility* guarantee payment?

No. If you use the *Notice of Potential Eligibility* and you are not eligible or fail to complete the application process, you will be responsible for the total cost of child care.

Are providers required to accept a *Notice of Potential Eligibility*?

No. Child care home providers and child care centers are not required to accept a Notice of Potential Eligibility – many do not. It is important for you to provide the necessary information and complete the application as soon as possible so that you have the widest selection of child care providers to choose from.

Once I complete the application process what happens?

If you provide all required information by the deadline date, your part of the application process is complete. Hamilton County Job & Family Services must then process your application. If you are eligible, you will receive a notice of approval and a temporary voucher until you select a child care provider.

To receive care, you should show your selected provider the notice of approval. As soon as you reach an agreement with your selected provider, you and/or your provider **MUST** report the new connection at www.hcjfs.org/ChildCareConnections.htm.

Without this child care connection, a child will not be authorized to the provider and you will not receive an Ohio Electronic Child Care (ECC) swipe card, which pays your provider a portion of the costs. The Ohio ECC swipe card will be mailed to you 7 to 10 business days after Hamilton County Job & Family Services approves the initial connection.