

11.3.3.1.2 Demonstrating an Inability to Obtain Child Care

An inability to obtain child care must be based on the following reasons:

Child Care Type	Reason
<p>Formal Child Care:</p> <p>Provided by a certified or licensed child care facility.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child care is not available in a reasonable distance*. • Child care facilities in the area do not have space available for the child. • Certified or licensed child care facilities, including a W-2 agency with certified or licensed on-site child care, must not be considered available if there is documentation that the facility would be harmful to the health or safety of the child.
<p>Informal Child Care:</p> <p>An arrangement where the child care provider is not licensed or certified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child care by a relative or under other arrangements is unavailable or unsuitable. <p>Any W-2 participant can use informal child care, but a participant cannot be required to use informal child care. (See Child Care Policy Manual, Chapter 1)</p>

*A reasonable distance is defined as 60-minute one-way travel time from the parent's home or work site. Travel time may be extended up to 90 minutes one-way if there is a good placement opportunity for the participant and the participant is willing to enter this arrangement.

The FEP will work with the participant to determine what a reasonable distance is on a case-by-case level. The FEP must document the decision that is made and reason(s) in PIN comments.

If the participant is unable to demonstrate an inability to obtain child care, they may face payment reductions for nonparticipation.

An inability to obtain appropriate child care may be indicative of a shortage of child care providers in the community (including sick child care, evening and weekend care, culturally competent child care, and care for disabled children) and W-2 agency management should be alerted.

19.2.1 Transportation Services

The **W-2** agency must provide transportation assistance services to applicants and participants when it is necessary to ensure participation in W-2 activities.

Transportation services provided may vary by agency based on the options in the area that are both available and reasonable. W-2 agencies must work together with applicants and participants to determine the types of transportation options that are reasonable to each individual's needs. A reasonable transportation option must meet all of the following criteria:

- The transportation option is safe;
- All out-of-pocket transportation costs are reasonable with respect to the individual's income;
- The one-way travel time between home, childcare, and work or activities is **reasonable, as determined by the FEP and participant on a case-by-case basis** no more than 60, or in some cases, 90 minutes (See 11.3.3.1.2); and
- All relevant factors have been considered, (e.g., whether the option is the most convenient and reliable one that also meets the other criteria).