



OEC

Connecticut Office of Early Childhood

**Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)
State Plan 2016-2018**

State Advisory Council Meeting
January 8, 2016

Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act

In 2014, President Obama signed into law bipartisan legislation that reauthorizes the CCDBG Act for the first time since 1996.

The new law makes significant advancements focused on strengthening child care in this country to better support the success of both parents and children.



Section 1: Statewide Leadership and Coordination

- CT has an executive branch state agency dedicated to Early Childhood
- The OEC is working with Departments of Education, Public Health and Emergency Services and Public Protection to finalize a statewide emergency disaster preparedness plan for child care providers serving children birth to age 12



Section 2: Promoting Family Engagement through Outreach and Education

- Provide a consumer-friendly website with comprehensive information
- Provide educational materials to support families in making informed decisions when choosing a child care provider
- Provide up-to-date information on licensing inspections for families

Section 3: Provide Stable Child Care Financial Assistance to Families

- Support families by providing Care 4 Kids certificates for 12-months to ensure continuity of care
- Support families by providing a graduated phase-out period for 12 months
- Support families by providing a period of 3 months for job search in the event they lose their employment

Section 4: Ensure Equal Access to High-Quality Child Care for Low-Income Children

- OEC completed required Market Rate Survey and is also conducting an Alternative Methodology Study
 - Using the “Provider Cost of Quality Calculator”
 - Findings will help ensure equal access and choice
- OEC will increase the incentive for serving children with special needs (15% to 25%)
- OEC will continue to provide a 5% incentive for providers achieving national accreditation



Section 5: Establish Standards and Monitoring Processes to Ensure Health and Safety of Child Care Settings

- Limit license-exempt providers to:
 - Relatives, age 20 years or older, caring for children from birth to three years of age
 - Relatives, age 20 years or older, caring for children ages 3 to 12 during non-standard hours
 - Programs administered by a public school system or municipal agency

Section 5: Establish Standards and Monitoring Processes to Ensure Health and Safety of Child Care Settings

- Limit capacity of care by license-exempt relatives
 - Total of three children
 - No more than two children under age of 2
- All license-exempt providers must:
 - Comply with health and safety standards
 - Complete professional development requirements
 - Submit to a background check
- All license-exempt providers, except relatives, will undergo annual announced inspections

Section 5: Establish Standards and Monitoring Processes to Ensure Health and Safety of Child Care Settings

- Expand scope of background checks
- Require background checks of all providers to receive Care 4 Kids subsidy
- Require all licensed child care providers, staff and household members to submit to same expanded background check as license-exempt providers

Section 6: Recruit and Retain a Qualified and Effective Child Care Workforce

- All providers must complete 18 hours of orientation training within three months of participation in Care 4 Kids
- All Care 4 Kids providers must complete annual professional development as follows:
 - Licensed child care center/group child care home providers and license-exempt providers: 1% of hours worked annually: E.g. 40 hours worked weekly x 52 weeks = 2080 hours annually
Training hours requirement : $1\% \times 2080 \text{ hours} = 21 \text{ hours annually}$
 - Licensed family child care providers: 18 hours annually



Section 7: Support Continuous Improvement

- OEC is developing a Quality Improvement System (QIS) to serve as an umbrella for all professional learning and technical assistance
 - To meet orientation and annual professional development requirements
 - Technical assistance for programs to become licensed
 - Technical assistance to achieve NAEYC and NAFCC accreditation

Section 8: Ensure Grantee Program Integrity and Accountability

- OEC will maintain overall responsibility for the administration of the CCDF program and continue to monitor vendor performance
- OEC will continue to set policies consistent with Connecticut's CCDF plan

Providing Input on Draft CCDF Plan

- Online survey tool
- Public forums
 - January 11, 2016, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Northwestern Connecticut Community College
 - January 11, 2016, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM, Three Rivers Community College
 - January 12, 2016, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM, Quinebaug Valley Community College
 - January 13, 2016, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Norwalk Community College
 - January 14, 2016, 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM, Gateway Community College
 - January 14, 2016, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM, Capital Community College
- Survey tool and forum details can be accessed at www.ct.gov/oec/ccdf2016

