



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**



# **A New Era for Child Care: Child Care and Development Block Grant Reauthorization**

*Connecticut State Advisory Council*

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## Overview

- View from the Federal Level
- Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Reauthorization
  - Opportunity
  - Key Components of the Law
  - Implementation Timeline
  - Data Reporting changes
- Discussion



“In today's economy, when having both parents in the workforce is an economic necessity for many families, we need affordable, high-quality child care more than ever. It's not a nice-to-have -- it's a must-have. It's time we stop treating child care as a side issue, or a women's issue, and treat it like the national economic priority that it is for all of us.”

President Barack Obama  
State of Union Address, January 28, 2015





# Working Together for Children & Families

- State Advisory Councils
- Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge
- Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships
- Preschool Development Grants
- Federal TA Redesign



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## What is CCDBG Reauthorization?

- Congress reauthorized the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-186) on a bipartisan basis and President Obama signed it into law November 19, 2014.
- The statute renews authority for the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) through FY 2020 and represents an historic re-envisioning of the program.
- States have until March 1, 2016 to submit new three year CCDF plans (application for funding) and to describe their implementation plans.



## CCDF Reauthorization Opportunity

- Re-envision child care to better support two generations
- Think across early childhood systems
- Engage federal, state and local partners
- Advance the goals of reauthorization



## Added Purposes of CCDF

- Promoting involvement by parents and family members in the development of their children in child care settings;
- Delivering high-quality, coordinated early childhood care and education services to maximize parents' options;
- Improving the overall quality of child care services and programs;
- Improving child care and development of participating children;
- Increasing the number and percentage of low-income children in high-quality child care settings.



## Potential Implementation Partners

- **State Advisory Councils**
- Licensing, QRIS, CCR&R
- Programs for preschool children (State-funded pre-k, Head Start, etc.)
- IDEA Part C early intervention and B programs for children with special needs
- Medicaid and mental health services
- Tribal early childhood programs
- CACFP, WIC, TANF, LIHEAP, SNAP
- Nutrition and obesity prevention programs
- Higher education & PD
- Child welfare
- Refugee or immigrant family services
- Private sector





## Key Features of Reauthorization

- Health & Safety Minimums in Licensing/Training
- Criminal Background Checks
- Monitoring
- Minimum 12-month Eligibility Policies
- Payment Rates & Provider Payment Practices
- Consumer Education & Family Engagement
- Training & Professional Development
- Increased Quality Spending
- Infant & Toddler Quality Set-aside
- Supply-building for Underserved Populations
- Tribal Provisions



## States must **establish health and safety policies and provide training** in the following areas for CCDF providers\*: (658E(c)(2)(I))

1. Prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunization);
2. SIDS and safe sleep practices;
3. Administration of medication;
4. Prevention/response to food allergies;
5. Building and physical premises safety, including identifying electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic;
6. Shaken baby syndrome and head trauma;
7. Emergency preparedness and response planning, for natural or man-caused event;
8. Storage of hazardous materials and bio contaminants;
9. If applicable, precautions in transporting children; and
10. First-aid and CPR.

\*States continue to have the option to exempt relatives from CCDF health and safety requirements.



## Monitoring and Inspections (658E(c)(2)(K))

- *Licensed Providers* – 1 pre-licensure inspection for health, safety, and fire standards and annual, unannounced inspections.
- *License-Exempt CCDF Providers* – Annual inspections for compliance with health, safety, and fire standards.
- States must ensure licensing inspectors are qualified and have received training in related health and safety requirements.
- Ratio of inspectors to providers must be sufficient to ensure visits occur in a timely manner.



## Criminal Background Checks (658H)

- Required for all child care providers and their staff members.
  - Relative caregivers excluded.
  - Includes child care staff members who don't care directly for children but have unsupervised access to children.
- Must include check of listed state and national databases for criminal, sex offender, and child abuse and neglect.
- Look at previous five years, including if lived in other states.
- Includes list of disqualifying crimes, with discretion on felony drug offenses. Must have appeals process for providers.



## Provide Stable Child Care Assistance to Families

### Eligibility Policies(658E(c)(2)(N)):

- Establishes minimum 12-month eligibility periods.
  - CCDF families remain eligible and receive services for no less than 12 months as long as income doesn't exceed 85% SMI.
  - States have option to terminate assistance prior to re-determination if a parent loses employment or ceases education, but must allow for a 3-month period for job search.



## Provide Stable Child Care Assistance to Families

- At re-determination, must provide for a graduated phase-out of assistance for families whose income has increased beyond the initial State threshold, but doesn't exceed 85% of SMI.
- Eligibility re-determination should not require parents to unduly disrupt their employment.



# Equal Access to High Quality for Low-income Children

## **Equal Access and Rates (658E(c)(4)):**

- Requires States to conduct a market rate survey, or use an alternative methodology, such as a cost estimation model, and describe how payment rates will be established based on results of the survey or alternative methodology, taking into account cost of providing higher quality services.

## **Provider Payment Practices (658E(c)(2)(S)):**

- States must establish policies that reflect generally accepted payment practices for child care providers, including (to the extent practicable) paying for absence days, and timely payment for child care services.



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## Promote Consumer Education & Family Engagement

Must provide information (through resource and referral agencies or other means) to parents receiving CCDF, the general public, and, where applicable, child care providers.

- Availability of services provided through CCDF and, if feasible, other child care services and other programs
- Research and best practices concerning children's development
- Policies regarding the social-emotional behavioral health of young children, including expulsion policies





## Consumer Education & Family Engagement (cont'd)

- Other financial assistance programs that families might be eligible for, including TANF, Head Start and Early Head Start, LIHEAP, SNAP, WIC, CACFP, Medicaid, and SCHIP
- Programs carried out under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA)
- Information on developmental screenings
  - A description of how a family or provider may use these resources to obtain developmental screenings for children who may be at risk of developmental delays.



## Consumer Education Required Online

### **Transparent Consumer Education(658E(c)(2)(D)&(E)):**

- States must make available by electronic means provider-specific information showing results of monitoring and inspection reports.
- Report on the number of deaths, serious injuries and instances of child abuse in child care settings each year.
- States must have a website describing licensing and monitoring requirements, and processes for background checks (including offenses that prevent individuals from becoming providers).



## Establishing a Professional Pathway for Providers

- Requires establishment of professional development and training requirements to improve knowledge and skills of CCDF providers and the child care workforce.
- Professional development requirements should:
  - Include ongoing, annual training and a progression of professional development (which may include postsecondary education)
  - Include focus on social-emotional behavioral intervention models
  - Incorporate State's Early Learning and Development Guidelines describing what children should know and be able to do.

(658E(c)(2)(G))



## Increased Focus on Improving Quality (658G(a))

- Phased-in increase quality set-aside from 4% to 9% over a 5-year period.
- New minimum of 3% to improve the supply and quality of care for infants and toddlers.
- Must establish outcome measures and evaluate progress of quality activities.
- Must spend quality funds on at least 1 of 10 specified quality activities, including option of “other measurable quality activities as determined by the State.”



## Improving Access for Underserved Populations

- *Supply-building* – States must develop strategies for increasing supply and quality of services for children in underserved areas, infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children in non-traditional hour care—which may include use of grants/contracts and alternative payment. (658E(c)(2)(M))
- *Homeless families* – Requires States to establish procedures for enrollment of homeless children pending completion of documentation, and use of CCDF funds for training and outreach to promote access to services for homeless families. (658E(c)(3)(B))

# Effective Dates (Quality)

Federal Fiscal Year	% Quality Set-aside	% Infant and Toddler	Total Quality Set-aside
FFY 2016	7%	--	7%
FFY 2017	7%	3%	10%
FFY 2018	8%	3%	11%
FFY 2019	8%	3%	11%
FFY 2020 (and ongoing)	9%	3%	12%

# Effective Dates

		CCDF State & Territory Plan (3-yr) FY 2016-2018			CCDF State & Territory Plan (3-yr) FY 2019-2021		
New CCDF Program Requirements	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
	10/01/14 – 9/30/15	10/01/15 – 9/30/16	10/01/16 – 9/30/17	10/01/17 – 9/30/18	10/01/18 – 9/30/19	10/01/19 – 9/30/20	10/01/20 – 9/30/21
Criminal Background Checks	<i>Planning/Implementation</i>			<b>Compliance by 9/30/2017</b>			
Monitoring of Licensing and Regulatory Requirements	<i>Planning/Implementation</i>		<b>Compliance by 11/19/2016</b>				
Posting Results of Monitoring and Inspection Reports (Website)	<i>Planning/Implementation</i>			<b>Compliance by earlier of 11/19/2017 or 1 year after monitoring in place.</b>			
State compliance with Priority for Services	<i>Planning/Implementation</i>		<b>Compliance by 9/30/2016</b>				





## Changes in Data Reporting

The new law requires the following new data reporting:

- Number of child fatalities occurring among children while in care of CCDF providers (ACF-800)
- Whether or not a CCDF child is homeless (ACF-801)
- Reporting on quality funds, activities, and measures

In addition other elements proposed (ACF-801):

- Provider quality and Date of most recent inspection
- Home language
- Child disability
- Military service
- Provider and family zip code





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Thank you for all you do for children  
and families in Connecticut.

For more information on the CCDF Plan and  
Data Reporting and how to comment go to CCDF  
Reauthorization Resource Page:

[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/ccdf-  
reauthorization](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/ccdf-reauthorization)