



MARCH 8, 2016

Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG)

Spring Into Action Conference



It's amazing what they absorb before they're five.





What is CCDF Reauthorization?

- The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 was signed into law **November 19, 2014**. It **reauthorizes** the CCDF program for the first time **since 1996**.
- It renews authority for CCDF through FY 2020 and represents a historic re-envisioning of the program because **it focuses on better balancing** dual purposes:
 1. To promote **economic self-sufficiency** for low-income families and
 2. To support healthy development and school readiness needs of **children**.



Enhanced Purposes of CCDF

- ✓ to allow each State maximum **flexibility**;
- ✓ to promote **parental choice**;
- ✓ to encourage States to provide **consumer education**;
- ✓ to assist States in delivering **high-quality** early childhood services;
- ✓ to assist States in improving the overall quality of child care services;
- ✓ to improve child care and development of **participating** children; and
- ✓ to increase the **number** and percentage of low-income children in high-quality child care settings.



Key Features of Reauthorization by 9/30/2016 or 2017

- Health and Safety
- Criminal Background Checks
- Monitoring
- Eligibility Policies
- Consumer Education
- Training & Professional Development
- Family Engagement
- Increased Quality Spending
- Infants and Toddlers
- Underserved Populations
- Tribal Provisions
- Payment Rates & Provider Payment Practices



Child Care Development Fund Plan (CCDF) FY 2016-2018

The CCDF Plan:

- Is the primary mechanism by which ACF will determine State and Territory compliance with requirements in the new law.
- Has been changed from a biennial to a triennial period by the CCDBG Act of 2014; thus, this Plan will cover a 3-year period.
- Required States and Territories to submit their FY 2016-2018 CCDF Plans by March 1, 2016
- Approved Plans will become effective June 1, 2016



State requirements to describe implementation plans

Illinois CCDF Plan - <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=82947>

- Define CCDF Leadership and Coordination with Relevant Systems
- Promote Family Engagement through Outreach and Consumer Education
- Provide Stable Child Care Financial Assistance to Families
- Ensure Equal Access to High Quality Child Care for Low-Income Children
- Establish Standards and Monitoring Processes to Ensure the Health and Safety of Child Care Settings
- Recruit and Retain a Qualified and Effective Child Care Workforce
- Support Continuous Quality Improvement
- Ensure Grantee Accountability



Define CCDF Leadership and Coordination with Relevant System

Section 1

- Implementation of the requirements of the CCDBG Act of 2014 will require leadership and coordination between the child care assistance program and other child- and family-serving agencies, services, and supports at the state and local levels.
- This section collects information to help ACF understand the stakeholders convened and consulted to develop the Plan, where authority lies to make policy decisions and program changes, and who is responsible for implementing the blueprint for action the Plan describes.
- Illinois DHS consulted with Early Learning Council, ISBE, Part C for infants and toddlers and Section 619 for preschool, 2 and 4 year institutions of higher education, DCFS – licensing), Head Start Collaboration Office, CACFP, McKinney Vento Liaisons, child care programs, MIECHV, Medicaid/Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment, public health, mental health, TANF, SNAP, workforce development, refugee and immigrant services



Statewide Child Care Disaster Plan

Compliance Date: 9/30/16 – Complete Rule Making Process

- The CCDBG Act of 2014 added a requirement that States and Territories must include a Statewide Child Care Disaster Plan for coordination of activities with the State/Territory human services agency, emergency management agency, child care licensing agency, State/Territory local resource and referral agencies, and the State Advisory Council.
- DHS has developed a Child Care provider guide. It confirms that provider emergency management plans have evacuation, relocation and reunification procedures in place. In the event of an emergency, licensing standards and family child care standards require providers to not only have emergency response drills but also have continuity plans in place.
- Exercises will be scheduled to test the plan; and trainings will be scheduled for child care providers and designated CCR&R staff.



Promote Family Engagement through Outreach and Consumer Education

Section 2; Best Practice in Child Development

- Information about the availability of the full diversity of child care services that will promote informed child care choices,
- Availability of child care assistance,
- Quality of child care providers
- Research and best practices in child development, including all domains of early childhood development, including social and emotional development, cognitive, and physical health and development (particularly healthy eating and physical activity), and meaningful parent and family engagement
- State/Territory policies regarding the social-emotional/behavioral and early childhood mental health of young children, which may include positive behavioral intervention and support models, and policies on expulsion of preschool-aged children



Website for Consumer Education

Compliance Date – 9/30/16

- Requires States to have a website describing the State processes for licensing and monitoring child care providers.
- Processes for conducting criminal background checks as required by law, and offenses that prevent individuals from being child care providers.
- Aggregate info on the number of deaths, serious injuries and child abuse in child care setting.
- Make public certain information about the results of such monitoring as required by law for both licensed and unlicensed providers receiving CCDF on a website in a way that is consumer-friendly and in an easily accessible format (easy to navigate, minimum number of clicks and in plain language).
- **DHS Plan:** DHS has a website with much of the required content. DHS will work to link additional sites (i.e. DCFS for licensing, injury and monitoring reports) to the lead agency's website.



Provide Stable Child Care Financial Assistance to Families

Section 3: Compliance Date: 9-30-16

- States are to develop child care financial assistance policies that make it easier to get and keep assistance support continuity of care and relationships between the child and child care provider and enable parents to stay employed or complete training/education.
- The CCDBG Act of 2014 included requirements to establish minimum 12-month eligibility and redetermination periods, requiring that States and Territories have a process to account for irregular fluctuations in earnings, a policy ensuring that families' work schedules are not disrupted by program requirements, policies to provide for job search of not less than three (3) months, and to describe policies for graduated phase- out of assistance.



Illinois Proposed Policy

Graduated Phase-out of Assistance – CCDF Compliance Date: 9/30/2016

- Any new applicant will have a 9 month reporting for renewal. If the family remains eligible, they will continue on the program for the next 12 months. During their next 12 month eligibility period, the family will have a reporting for renewal in the 9th month. If they are not eligible at the 9 month reporting for renewal, the family will get a 90 day phase-out period, and then the case would close at the end of 12 months. This will ensure anyone eligible will stay in the program. Those not eligible will leave the program after 12 months and allow a new family to enroll.



Improving Access for Homeless Children and Families

Compliance Date: 9/30/2016

- Requires procedures for enrollment of homeless children pending completion of documentation, and training and outreach to promote access to services for homeless families.
 - 1). Establish homeless children as categorically eligible for child care services and as a priority for CCAP
 - 2). Include homeless children and children needing care during non-traditional hours in the Protective Service definition for services
 - 3). Establish a systematic method for identifying families who experience homelessness both at the program level and at point of application (revise CCAP application)



Access for Homeless Families

Compliance Date – 9-30-16

- 4) Homeless families who apply for and use CCDF funds must be registered with an approved support program within 30 days in order to continue accessing child care
- 5) Grace period for homeless families to secure all documentation should be 90 days (in line with Head Start Regulations)
- 6) Families qualifying to the CCAP Homelessness Program should select licensed providers only during the first CCDF Plan period when licensed care is available
- 7) Child care provider and CCR&R training essential to success of serving families experiencing homelessness
- 8) ExceleRate Illinois incorporate in the 2016 official review the identification and creation of designated competencies that indicate programs are structured and staff trained to serve the highest need children including homeless, those involved in child welfare system, etc.



Access for Homeless Families

- DHS plans to utilize their homeless program expertise and outreach in the Office of Adult Services to develop a comprehensive plan to serve homeless families and children. A liaison within the Office of Adult Services Homeless Services program can work with CCAP to align those families with homeless providers and services.
- The **cost** of one staff person – the Homeless Services liaison to start and additional costs may be identified as the plan is further developed.
- Coordinate with McKinney-Vento providers to establish a system to identify families who experience homelessness both at the program level and at the point of application and align homeless families with needed services.



12 Month Eligibility

Compliance Date – 9-30-16

- The CCDBG Act of 2014 establishes a minimum 12-month eligibility and redetermination period for CCDF families. States and Territories are required to demonstrate in the Plan that no later than September 30, 2016 each child who receives assistance will be considered to meet all eligibility requirements for such assistance and will receive such assistance, for a minimum of 12 months before the State/Territory re-determines the eligibility of the child, regardless of changes in income
- Illinois Proposal: *Cases will report for renewal at 9 months.* If the family remains eligible, they will continue on the program for the next 12 months. Their next report for renewal will be after 9 months of the new eligibility period. If they are not eligible at the 9 month report for renewal, the family will get a 90 day phase-out period, and then the case would close at the end of 12 months. This will ensure anyone eligible will stay in the program.



State and Territory option to terminate assistance prior to 12 months

Compliance Date: 9-30-16

- The CCDBG Act of 2014 provides States and Territories the option – but does not require them – to terminate assistance prior to re-determination at 12 months if a parent loses employment or if he or she stops attending a job training or education program
- However, prior to terminating the subsidy, the State/Territory must provide a period of continued child care assistance of at least 3 months to allow parents to engage in job search, resume work, or to attend an education or training program as soon as possible.
- Illinois Policy: DHS recommends the families report when activity has ended during the 12 month eligibility period. 90 day job search will start at the point the family stopped their activity participation. Based on the date of cessation eligibility may need to be extended past the 12 months in order to fulfill the 90 day job search minimum.



Ensure Equal Access to High Quality Child for Low-Income Children

Section 4

- Parental Choice in Relation to Certificates, Grants or Contracts
- Assessing Market Rates and Child Care Costs
- Setting Payment Rates
- Summary of Facts Used to Determine that Payments Rates Are Sufficient to Ensure Equal Access
- Payment Practices and Timeliness of Payments
- Supply Building Strategies to Meet the Needs of Certain Populations



Supply Building Strategies to Meet the Needs of Certain Populations

Compliance: 9-30-16

- The CCDBG Act of 2014 added a provision that the State/Territory will develop and implement strategies to increase the supply and improve the quality of child care services for children in underserved areas, infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children who receive care during non-traditional hours.

DHS Action Plan

- 1) Evaluate barriers to reaching and serving families
- 2) Consider how to incentivize providers/agencies to go into these communities and provide services
- 3) Build capacity; reach and serve
- 4) Form Action Plan by other relevant findings and initiatives including but not limited to: The Blended Braiding Report; Innovation Zones; Head Start and Preschool for All Community Needs Assessment; Preschool Expansion Grants; ELC All Families Served Committee



Continued Strategies to Reach Vulnerable Populations

Expanded Recommendations

- DHS has already implemented the TANF/Child Care Pilot and will evaluate and assess expansion statewide.
- Under Human Services strategic planning, will also include WIC, TANF, SNAP and other programs for low income populations in the action plan.



Establish Standards and Monitoring Processes to Ensure the Health and Safety of Child Care Settings

Section 5

- The CCDBG Act of 2014 makes child care safer by defining minimum health and safety requirements for child care providers. This includes both the standards that must be established and the pre-service/orientation and ongoing minimum training required.
- Pre-licensure and annual unannounced inspections of licensed CCDF providers and annual inspections of license-exempt CCDF providers are now required
- It also requires States and Territories to conduct criminal background checks for all child care staff members, including staff members who don't care directly for children but have unsupervised access to children and lists specific disqualifying crimes.
- States and Territories must certify that all child care providers comply with child abuse reporting requirements of Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), mandatory reporting of Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), mandatory reporting of known and suspected instances of child abuse and neglect).



New Health and Safety Requirements

Compliance Date: 9-30-16; Illinois requesting waiver to comply by 9-30-17

- The CCDBG Act of 2014 added a new provision specifying that States and Territories must 1) establish health and safety requirements for providers serving children receiving CCDF assistance relating to matters included in the topics listed on next slide, and 2) have pre-service or orientation training requirements, appropriate to the provider setting, that address these health and safety topics. This requirement is applicable to all child care providers receiving CCDF regardless of licensing status (licensed or license-exempt).
- Illinois Plan requires all new centers and homes to complete the training before they are paid. Exempt homes must complete the training within 45 days of being eligible for CCAP.
- DHS will work with DCFS Licensing to revise DCFS Licensing rules to require centers and homes to complete the training.



List of Required Trainings

- Prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunization)
- Prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices
- Administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent
- Prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions
- Building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic
- Prevention of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma
- Emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster, or a man-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility), within the meaning of those terms under section 602(a) (1) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195a(a)(1))
- Handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants
- Precautions in transporting children (if applicable)
- First aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification



Training Requirements and Costs

- Once licensing requirements are implemented, current providers will have a reasonable time frame to complete the training.
- Providers will need to pay for their CPR training in order to be a provider in the program.



Monitoring Requirements

Licensed Programs – Compliance Date: 11-19-16

- The State/Territory certifies that the State/Territory has in effect policies and practices to ensure that providers for children receiving assistance and their facilities comply with applicable State or local licensing and health and safety requirements.
- Illinois has policies and practices regarding inspections for licensed CCDF providers.
- Licensing representatives of the Department or supervising agency shall visit the program or facility for the purpose of determining its continued compliance with the Child Care Act and licensing standards or compliance with a protective plan or corrective plan. Monitoring visits may be announced or unannounced during the hours of operation, whether or not children are currently present or in care.



Monitoring Requirements

License Exempt Facilities – Compliance Date: 11-19-16, Illinois Requesting Waiver: 11;19;17

- State will have policies and practices that require licensing inspectors (or qualified monitors designated by the Lead Agency) of child care providers and facilities to perform an annual monitoring visit of each license-exempt CCDF provider.
- DHS will work with Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to ascertain Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act funds to develop a training and employment program for CCAP monitors.
- DHS will define qualifications of the inspectors and training requirements to meet federal requirements; build training program around these requirements; modify Gateways scholarships to support a career pathway for monitors; explore modifying IES (Integrated Eligibility System) to incorporate a child care component to better track; work with DCFS to ensure all standards and training requirements for licensed and license-exempt inspectors are consistent.



Inspections for Licensed Providers

Compliance Date: 11-19-16; Illinois Waiver Request: 11-19-17

- Requires States to conduct annual inspections of licensed CCDF providers. Requires licensing inspectors to perform inspections, with not less than one pre-licensure inspection, for compliance with health, safety and fire standards of each such child care provider and facility in the State. Will Require licensing inspectors to perform not less than annually, one unannounced inspection of licensed CCDF providers for compliance with all child care licensing standards, including compliance with health, safety and fire standards.
- Waiver sought to allow DCFS to further plan for 100% reviews of licensed providers.



License Exempt Relatives

Compliance: 11-19-16; Waiver Requested: 11-19-17

- Relatives must follow the CCDBG definition of relative – exempt relatives from inspections; require background check and health and safety training. Illinois must change CCAP policy to match definition of “relative” to CCDBG definition.
- Definition: A child care provider that is 18 years of age or older who provides child care services only to eligible children who are, by affinity or consanguinity, or by court decree, the grandchild, great grandchild, sibling (if such provider lives in a separate residence), niece, or nephew of such providers.”
- License Exempt Relatives must clear background checks and complete training
- Illinois is undecided about monitoring of these homes.



Criminal Background Checks

Compliance Date: 9-30-17

- States are required to conduct criminal background checks for all child care staff members, and prospective staff members of child care providers. States must have requirement, policies and procedures in place to conduct criminal back ground checks for staff members of child providers (other than relatives) that are licensed, regulated or registered under State law or receive CCDF funds. For family child care homes,(other than relatives) this includes the caregiver requesting a check of him/herself as well as other adults in the household that may have unsupervised access to children.
- Current statute, rule and policy states no criminal history background checks on relative caregivers. We do conduct Sex Offender Registry and Child Abuse and Neglect checks on relatives. All others are subject to criminal background checks.



Recruit and Retain a Qualified and Effective Child Care Workforce

Section 6

- The CCDBG Act of 2014 added a requirement that the State/Territory develop training and professional development requirements designed to enable child care providers to promote the social, emotional, physical and cognitive development of children and to improve the knowledge and skills of the child care workforce. Such requirements shall be applicable to child care providers caring for children receiving CCDF across the entire age span from birth through age 12. Training and professional development should be accessible and appropriate across settings and types of providers, including family child care home providers and child care center staff.
 - Training and Professional Development Requirements
 - Supporting Training and Professional Development of the Child Care Workforce with CCDF Quality Funds
 - Early Learning and Developmental Guidelines



Identifying and Serving Homeless Children

Compliance Date: 9-30-16

- State must use CCDF for activities to improve the quality or availability of child care, including training and technical assistance to providers on identifying and serving homeless children and families.
- Work with ISBE to revise ISBE's McKinney-Vento training for appropriateness with child care providers; work with Head Start and DHS Homeless Services Program, DHS Policy and DHS local offices (Family Community Resource Centers) in establishing the referral process for homeless services assistance and participation while receiving CCAP assistance
- Establish a liaison position in the DHS Office of Adult Services responsible for referrals and training; create online training; train CCR&R staff on provision of technical assistance; and ensure cultural and linguistic appropriateness in training curriculum and resources



Support Continuous Quality Improvement

Section 7

- Lead Agencies are required to reserve and use a portion of their Child Care and Development Block Grant funds for activities designed to improve the quality of child care services and increase parental options for, and access to, high-quality child care.
- States and Territories will report on these quality improvement investments through CCDF in three ways:
 - 1) ACF will collect annual data on how much CCDF funding is spent on quality activities using the expenditure report
 - 2) In the Plan, States and Territories will describe the types of activities supported by quality investments over the three-year period; and
 - 3) For each three-year Plan period, States and Territories will submit a separate annual report that will show the measures used by the State/Territory to evaluate its progress in improving the quality of child care programs and services in the State/Territory.



Illinois Quality Improvement Plan

- DHS' overarching goal is to work in collaboration with and support providers to embed continuous quality improvement practices within their programs and ensure children receive healthy and safe care as well as care that will help them succeed in school.
- Quality activities in Illinois are interconnected to provide a coordinated and comprehensive system of supports. These supports assist providers in the quality improvement of their programs and assist practitioners in the workforce with education, credential attainment, training and ongoing professional development.
- The Lead Agency's efforts are being implemented in collaboration with the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development, ISBE and Head Start specifically Illinois cross-sector quality rating and improvement system and professional development framework.



Illinois' Use of Quality Set-Aside Funds

- Developing, implementing or enhancing a tiered quality rating system.
- Improving the supply and quality of child care services for infants and toddlers.
- Establishing or expanding a statewide system of CCR&R services.
- Facilitating compliance with State/Territory requirements for inspection, monitoring, training, and health and safety standards
- Supporting accreditation.



How Will Illinois Evaluate Progress?

- **Current Measures**
- % of licensed child care centers, family child care homes and group homes caring for CCAP children working for higher levels of quality in ExceleRate Illinois
- % of licensed child care centers, family child care homes and group homes caring for CCAP children achieving, maintaining and advancing to higher levels of quality in ExceleRate Illinois
- % of CCAP children enrolled in programs that are licensed or at higher levels of quality in ExceleRate Illinois



Ensure Grantee Program Integrity and Accountability

Compliance Date: 9-30-16

- Once all rules, policies and procedures have been updated to be compliant with the new regulations, an in depth review of the monitoring procedure and tools will be conducted by the Program Integrity Manager.
- The manager will work with the CCAP Policy and Training managers to ensure all elements have been addressed. Training on the new policies and procedures as well as the revised monitoring tool will be provided to all monitoring staff to ensure that there is a full understanding of the process.
- Regular check-in to monitor the implementation of policies will be accomplished through automated production reports from the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Child Care Management System (CCMS) as well as field review of contracted sub-recipients.
- All contracted sub-recipients would be reviewed a minimum of once every three years. Sub-recipients not found to be implementing new policies would be required to follow a corrective action plan which would be closely monitored.
- Program Integrity Manager will closely review all monitoring reviews to ensure review staff are using the new tool and interpreting correctly the new policies.



Minimum Quality Spending Requirement

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

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



Future Steps

CCDF Plan Submitted: 3-1-16

- Stakeholder input invited:
- Develop a Suspension/Expulsion Policy
- Monitoring Plan for License-Exempt Providers
- A plan to implement strategies to increase the supply and improve the quality of child care services for children in underserved areas, infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children who receive care during non-traditional hours
- Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) – Proposed regulatory changes to CCDF – comments were due 2-23-16



Contact Information

Gail Nourse

Vice President, Illinois Policy

Ounce of Prevention Fund

312-256-8873

gnourse@ounceofprevention.org