



**OEC**

**Connecticut Office of Early Childhood**

**Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)  
State Plan 2019-2021**

State Advisory Council Meeting

May 2018

## Goals of Meeting Today

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- Connect the Office of Early Childhood's priorities from Action Sessions to the goals of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan
- Reintroduce purpose and sections of the CCDF Plan
- Solicit feedback on proposed implementation of policies within the CCDF Plan

# Agenda

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## *Opening Remarks*

Child Care and Development Block Grant Act

Child Care and Development Fund Plan 2019-2021

Facilitated Discussion on CCDF Plan Strategies

# OEC Action Sessions: Priority Areas and High-Level Objectives

## Licensing Requirements and Enforcement

- Improve implementation of licensing program and increase support to providers to achieve compliance

## Access and Rates

- Balance investment between infant/toddler and preschool care to build foundation for 0-5 early care and education system
- Create a coordinated statewide preschool system
- Address the needs of all families with state funding and policies

## Workforce, Technical Assistance, and Training

- Increase child care rates to ensure providers can afford to deliver high quality care
- Simplify and reduce duplicative or ineffective requirements for providers

## Communication, Information, and Collaboration

- Build infrastructure for families to get the information they need and provide meaningful feedback to the OEC
- Build infrastructure for transparent communication to lead to collaborative direction setting

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# Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)

## Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014

CCDBG is the primary source of United States federal funding for child care subsidies for low-income working families and funds to improve child care quality

**Defines health and safety requirements for childcare providers**

**Outlines family friendly eligibility requirements**

**Expands quality improvement efforts**

**Ensures access to information about childcare choices**

## Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018



**\$2.4 Billion**

*Increase in discretionary funding for CCDF  
(approximately \$14.3 Million in Connecticut)*

- Additional federal funds with no state matching requirements
- Congress did not include new requirements for the funds in the appropriations language but expectations for the funds to be used to support the full implementation of the CCDBG Act of 2014
- Lead agencies have until September 30, 2019 to obligate the funds and September 30, 2020 to liquidate the funds

# Expectations for Increase in Discretionary Funding

## Support the full implementation of the CCDBG Act of 2014

- 1** Increase access to affordable, high-quality child care to low-income, working families
- 2** Make improvements to bring facilities into health and safety compliance
- 3** Improve professional development for the child care workforce
- 4** Meet the needs of families with nontraditional work hours
- 5** Invest in systems-building and infrastructure efforts



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# Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan

## Plan Objectives

1	<b>CCDBG Application</b>	The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan serves as the application for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funds by providing a description of, and assurance about, the grantee's child care program and all services available to eligible families.
2	<b>Enabling Access</b>	The CCDF program provides resources to state, territory, and tribal grantees that enable low-income families to work or pursue education and training so that they can better support their families while at the same time promoting the learning and development of their children.
3	<b>Compliance</b>	The CCDF Plan is the primary mechanism that the Administration for Children and Families uses to determine state and territory compliance with the requirements of the law and rule.

# Overview of CCDF Plan Sections

## Section 1

*Define CCDF leadership and coordination with relevant systems*

- New requirement for engaging larger stakeholder group
- Conducted interviews with 12 key state and local partners requiring access and continuity of care
- Related to Action Session Priority Area: **Communication, Information, and Collaboration**

## Section 2

*Promote family engagement through outreach and consumer education*

- Enhancing the consumer education website to include annual licensing inspection reports
- Related to Action Session Priority Area: **Access and Rates**

# Overview of CCDF Plan Sections

## Section 3

*Provide stable child care financial assistance to families*

- Implement graduated phase out using a two tiered eligibility threshold which allows families to gain economic stability
- Related to Action Session Priority Area: **Access and Rates**

## Section 4

*Ensure equal access to child care for low-income children*

- Reviewing the recently completed Market Rate Survey to increase rates across all age groups
- Related to Action Session Priority Area: **Access and Rates** and **Workforce, Technical Assistance, and Training**

# Overview of CCDF Plan Sections

## Section 5

*Establish standards and monitoring processes to ensure the health and safety of child care settings*

- Implementing portable finger printing and electronic tracking of results
- Related to Action Session Priority Area: **Licensing Requirements and Enforcement**

## Section 6

*Recruit and retain a qualified and effective child care workforce*

- Modify required orientation topics to align more closely with provider type and child's age
- Related to Action Session Priority Area: **Workforce, Technical Assistance, and Training**

# Overview of CCDF Plan Sections

## Section 7

*Support continuous quality improvement*

- Utilize data to further advance QRIS development
- Implement Family Child Care Networks and Shared Services Alliance
- Related to Action Session Priority Area: **Communication, Information, and Collaboration**

## Section 8

*Ensure grantee program integrity and accountability*

- Conduct ongoing improper payment review of Care 4 Kids
- Related to Action Session Priority Area: **Communication, Information, and Collaboration**

## Providing Input on Draft CCDF Plan

The Office of Early Childhood will hold three public hearings on the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan. The dates, times and locations are listed below. The public is encouraged to attend the public hearings and comment on Connecticut's draft state plan.

- **May 15, 2018, 1-3PM @ Housatonic Community College – Bridgeport, CT**
- **May 17, 2018, 10-12 PM @ United Way of Greater New Haven – New Haven, CT**
- **May 17, 2018, 5-7PM @ Office of Early Childhood – Hartford, CT**

*If you have questions, please contact Laura Dunleavy, 860-500-4419, [laura.dunleavy@ct.gov](mailto:laura.dunleavy@ct.gov)*

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## Areas for Discussion

**Provider  
Reimbursement  
Rates**

**Allowable  
Employment and  
Education Activities**

**Family Co-Payments**

# Provider Reimbursement Rates

## 2018 Market Rate Survey

		Infants/Toddlers Full-Time		Preschool Full-Time		School Age Half Time	
		Weekly Rate	Percentile in 2018	Weekly Rate	Percentile in 2018	Weekly Rate	Percentile in 2018
<b>Centers Licensed and Exempt</b>	75th Percentile 2018 Rate Estimate	\$341	75%	\$283	75%	\$125	75%
	2017 Rate North Central Region	\$201	2%	\$160	7%	\$95	36%
	2017 Average Regional Rate	\$211	4%	\$167	7%	\$99	41%
<b>Family Child-Care Homes Licensed</b>	75th Percentile 2018 Rate Estimate	\$225	75%	\$210	75%	\$110	75%
	2017 Rate North Central Region	\$211	70%	\$163	17%	\$101	74%
	2017 Average Regional Rate	\$221	69%	\$171	22%	\$105	74%

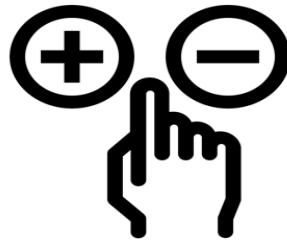
\*North Central is the most populous region

# Provider Reimbursement Rates

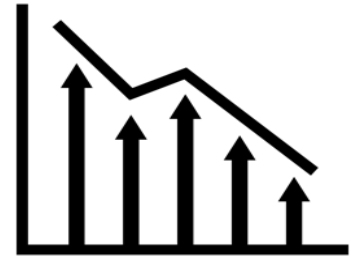
## Issues related to raising Care 4 Kids rates



**Breadth**



**Magnitude**



**Timing**

# Allowable Employment and Education Activities

## Care 4 Kids Eligibility

*To be eligible for Care 4 Kids, individuals must be working or attending a Jobs First Employment Services (JFES) approved education or training activity*

**20**

**+**

**10**

### Hours of Core Activities

1. Unsubsidized employment
2. Subsidized private sector employment
3. Subsidized public sector employment
4. Paid work experience
5. On-the-job training
6. Job search/job readiness
7. Vocational education training (12 months)
8. Community service
9. Providing child care for others doing community service

### Hours of Other Activities

After the 20 hours of core activities, individuals can engage in job skills or education directly related to employment or high school completion or its equivalent

# Allowable Employment and Education Activities

## Expanding the Definition of Eligible Activities

### Targeted Approach



Alignment with other federally funded programs, such as Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (**WIOA**) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (**SNAP E&T**)

### Blanket Approach



Implement **presumptive eligibility** for a short period of time when the family first enrolls and receives Care 4 Kids certificate

# Family Co-Payments

Increase Access for Lowest Income Families

**\$18,505**

Family of 3 at 20% State Median  
Income (SMI)

**\$432**

*Average Yearly Family Share for Child  
Care (Priority Group 1)*

**\$620**

*Average Immunization Costs in a Child's  
First Year*

## Family Co-Payments

Waiving 2% Family Share for Lowest Income Families

**1,200**

PG1 Families

**x**

**\$36**

Monthly Co-Payment

**x**

**12**

Months

**\$500,000**

Additional Yearly Expenditure

**Thank you!**

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