



Child Care and Development Block Grant
(CCDBG) Act of 2014



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

What is the CCDBG Act of 2014?

- Grant given to the states and territories by the federal government
- Primary source of federal funding for child care subsidies
- November 2014 - was signed into law after receiving bipartisan and bicameral support in Congress
- Fully authorizes the child care program for the first time since 1996 - historic re-envisioning of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program
- Law makes significant advancements by defining requirements in four key areas



Key Focus Areas

- **Health and Safety Requirements for Child Care Providers**
- **Transparent Consumer and Provider Education Information**
- **Family-Friendly Eligibility Policies**
- **Activities to Improve Quality**

Health and Safety Requirements

- Requires states to establish health and safety requirements in 10 different topic areas.
 - Examples include: prevention of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), first-aid, and CPR.
- Child care providers receiving assistance through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program must receive training before being certified or licensed *and* ongoing training on such topics.



Health and Safety Requirements (cont.)

- Requires states 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 specifies disqualifying crimes. (changes our current definition of "caregiver")
- Requires states to confirm child care providers will comply with child abuse reporting requirements.



Health and Safety Requirements (cont.)

- Requires states to conduct an initial visit prior to granting regulation and annual unannounced inspections of all regulated CCDF providers.
- Requires states to conduct annual inspections of license-exempt CCDF providers.
- States must establish qualifications and training for regulatory staff and appropriate inspector-to-provider ratios.



Health and Safety Requirements (cont.)

- Requires states to have standards for CCDF providers regarding group size limits and appropriate child-to-provider ratios based on the age of children in child care.
- Requires emergency preparedness planning and statewide disaster plans for child care.



Transparent Consumer and Provider Education Information

- States must make available by electronic means, easily accessible provider-specific information showing results of monitoring and inspection reports.
 - As well as:
 - The number of deaths
 - Serious injuries
 - Instances of substantiated child abuse that occur in child care settings each year.



Transparent Consumer and Provider Education Information (cont.)

- Requires states to have a website describing:
 - Processes for regulating and monitoring child care providers
 - Processes for conducting criminal background checks
 - Offenses that prevent individuals from being child care providers.
- Funding set aside for ACF development of a national website for consumer education information that allows:
 - Search by zip code,
 - Referral to local child care providers
 - A national hotline for reporting child abuse and neglect.



Family-Friendly Eligibility Policies

- Establishes a 12-month eligibility determination period for CCDF families, *regardless of*:
 - Changes in income (as long as income does not exceed the federal threshold of 85% of SMI – state median income)or
 - Temporary changes in participation in an approved activity (work, training, or education activities)
- Allows states the option to terminate assistance prior to 12-month re-determination if a parent loses employment, however assistance (authorization) must be continued for at least 3-months to allow for job search



Family-Friendly Eligibility Policies (cont.)

- Eligibility re-determination should not require parents to unduly disrupt their employment.
- Provides for a graduated phase-out of assistance for families whose income has increased at the time of re-determination, but remains below the federal threshold.
- Requires procedures for enrollment of homeless children pending completion of documentation, and training and outreach to promote access to services for homeless families.



Activities to Improve Quality of Child Care

- Phases-in increase in minimum quality set-aside from 4% to 9% over a 5-year period.
 - In addition, requires states to spend minimum of 3% to improve the quality of care for infants and toddlers.
- Requires states to spend quality funds on at least 1 of 10 specified quality activities, which include:
 - Developing tiered quality rating systems (QRIS)
 - Supporting statewide resource and referral services (CCR&Rs).



Wisconsin's Child Care Quality Rating & Improvement System



Activities to Improve Quality of Child Care

(cont.)

- Requires establishment of:
 - Professional development and training requirements

AND

- Ongoing annual training and progression to improve knowledge and skills of CCDF providers
- Requires States to implement Early Learning and Development Guidelines describing what children should know and be able to do, appropriate from birth to kindergarten entry



Activities to Improve Quality of Child Care (cont.)

- Includes provisions on social-emotional health of children, including:
 - Providing consumer and provider education about policies regarding expulsions of children from early care

and

- Education programs and developmental screenings for children at risk of cognitive or developmental delays



Tribes

- New provisions require states to provide assurance that training and professional development is accessible to providers through Indian tribes and tribal organizations that receive CCDF funds.
- Establishes a set-aside of not less than 2% for Tribes (prior law said up to 2%).
- DCF/DECE must, at the option of the Tribe, collaborate and coordinate with Tribes in the development of the State CCDF Plan.



Tribal Administration of the CCDBG Act of 2014

- The law does not indicate the extent to which many of the new provisions apply to Tribes contracting for Wisconsin Shares and certification services.
- Tribal CCDF plans have been postponed one year.
- ACF will be working with Tribes to determine how the new provisions will be applied.



Equal Access and Supply-Building

- Equal Access

- 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

- Supply-building

- States must develop strategies for increasing supply and quality of services for:
 - Children in underserved areas
 - Infants and toddlers
 - Children with disabilities
 - Children in non-traditional hour care—which may include use of grants/contracts and alternative reimbursement



Payment Practices

- Provider payment practices
 - States must establish policies that reflect generally accepted payment practices for child care providers, including (to the extent practicable)
 - Paying for absence days
 - Timely reimbursement for child care services



Other Provisions for States

- Act includes funds to be set aside to:
 - Conduct research
 - Demonstration activities
 - Periodic, independent evaluations of the CCDF program
- The Act also establishes a set-aside of up to ½ of 1% for technical assistance for states on administering the CCDF program.
- CCDF Plan period changes from 2- to 3-year Plan cycle.
- HHS to extend provisions or penalties for up to 3 years to allow states time to come in to compliance.
 - States are allowed to request waivers and/or extensions, if needed.



Timeline and Effective Dates

States have been given effective dates for compliance with the CCDBG Act of 2014.

- Implementation dates span from September of 2016 through November of 2017
- Earliest implementation dates pertain to:
 - Quality Spending
 - 12-month eligibility
 - 3-month period before termination
 - Graduated phase-out
- Monitoring and Regulatory Requirements are to be implemented by November of 2016
- Background check requirements are to be implemented by September 2017
- DCF plans to request an extension for provisions that will require additional time to implement

Timeline of Effective Dates can be found on the ACF CCDF Reauthorization page at:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/ccdf-reauthorization>





CCDBG Communication Plan

- CCDBG PowerPoint Presentation
- DCF CCDBG web page
- ECAC Consultation
- Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA)
- Regional Subsidy, Licensing and Certification Meetings
- Tribal Outreach
- Child Care Program Committee (CCPC) Meetings
- Child care provider associations - meetings and conferences
- Newsletter article

CCDBG Act of 2014 Resources

Wisconsin CCDBG web page – DCF website

<http://dcf.wi.gov/childcare/ccdbg>

ACF – CCDF Reauthorization (CCDBG Act of 2014) website

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/ccdf-reauthorization>

- Summary of the law
- FAQs
- Implementation dates

Information and updates will be posted on the DCF CCDBG Act of 2014 web page at:

<http://dcf.wi.gov/childcare/ccdbg>



Thank You

