

**The State of New Jersey
Department of Human Services
Division of Family Development**

Child Care Provider and Information Meeting

**What is New in Child Care?
Presentation 2015**

Child Care Development Fund

CCDF – is the primary Federal funding source devoted to providing low-income families who are working or participating education and/or training addition.

CCDF also provides funds to improve child care quality.

Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Overview

The CCDBG is the law that authorizes the federal child care subsidy program known as Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program.

Child Care Development Fund Update

CCDF – 2015 proposed regulatory changes in response to the new CCDBG law is up for public comment.

The proposed rules will update the existing CCDF regulation to address changes made by the CCDBG Act of 2014.

New Jersey CCDF Program Overview

Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development (DHS/DFD) is the Lead Agency for CCDF.

DHS/DFD contracts with the local Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&Rs) to administer the statewide child care subsidy assistance program.

DFD Child Care Subsidy Program

Provides financial assistance and child care services for:

- Low-to moderate-income families that are either employed, attending school and/or training
- Work First New Jersey (WFNJ)
- Post-WFNJ
- Child Protective Services (CPS)
- Kinship



DFD sQuality Initiatives and Collaborations

- NJ Inclusive Child Care Program
- First Steps
- Professional Development and Scholarships (CDA, Health and Safety, Ages and Stages Questionnaire ASQ)
- Professional Impact New Jersey Registry
- EHS/CC Partnership Initiative





Quality Initiatives and Collaborations

- Strengthening Families
- Family Child Care Registration
- New Jersey School-Age Child Care Coalition
- Technical Assistance Centers - New
- Grow NJ Kids



New Landscape of Child Care Early Learning and Development Programs

- Child Care Development Block Grant Reauthorization (CCDBG) Act 2014 outlines new federal laws to increase health and safety standards and raise the quality for the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) program.
- Significant federal investment in early learning and development programs over the past years.
 - More than \$1 billion in Race to the Top- Early Learning Challenge projects in 20 states, including New Jersey.
 - In addition, millions in federal funds for Early Head Start and Child Care Partnerships.

CCDBG Reauthorization Act

November 2014 Overview

The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 (P.L.113-186) is the federal law signed November 19, 2014 that authorizes the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Program.

Summary of Key Features of CCDBG Reauthorization

Monitoring

Comprehensive Criminal Background Check

Training & Professional Development

Family Protection and Eligibility Policies

Consumer Education

Increased Quality Spending

Focus on Infants and Toddlers

Provider Payment Practices

NJ Providers Impacted by CCDBG

- License Centers
- Private and Public School Providers
- License Exempt Providers
- Summer Camps
- Registered Family Child Care Providers
- Approved Homes
- In-home Providers

Key Health and Safety Provisions

Monitoring Provisions

- Annual monitoring requirements for CCDF licensed and licensed-exempt providers; and
- A pre-licensure inspection for licensed CCDF providers

Comprehensive Background Checks

- Comprehensive background checks for child care staff members (including prospective child care staff members;
- Individuals with unsupervised access to children) of all licensed and CCDF-eligible providers (which includes licensed providers who do not receive CCDF funds).

Comprehensive Background Checks

Must include the following:

1. State criminal and sex offender registry;
2. State child abuse and neglect registry;
3. National Crime Information Center (run by the FBI);
4. FBI fingerprint check using Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System; and
5. National Sex Offender Registry (operated by DOJ)

Comprehensive Background Checks

A search of the following registries or databases during the preceding 5 years:

- State criminal registry or repository using fingerprints;
- State sex offender registry or repository; and
- State-based child abuse and neglect registry and database.

Disqualifying Crimes

- Murder;
- Child abuse or neglect;
- A crime against children, including child pornography;
- Spousal abuse;
- Rape or sexual assault;
- Kidnapping;

Disqualifying Crimes Continued

- Arson;
- Physical assault or battery;
- A drug-related offense committed during the preceding 5 years, or;
- Has been convicted of a violent misdemeanor committed as an adult against a child.

Health and Safety Trainings and Standards

Minimum health and safety training topics to be completed pre-service or during an orientation, including requirements to prepare child care staff to recognize and report child abuse and neglect.

Required Health and Safety Training Topics

- Building and Physical Premises Safety)
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning
- CPR & First Aid
- Transporting Children
- Handling of storage, hazardous materials
- Prevention & control of Infectious Disease
- SIDs and Safe Sleep
- Shaken Baby Syndrome and Head Trauma
- Administration of Meds
- Prevention & Response to food allergies

Professional Development Requirements

Training and professional development designed to:

- promote the social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development of children
- improve the knowledge and skills of the child care workforce

Professional Development Requirements

Training and professional development

- conducted on an ongoing basis
- provided for a progression of professional development (which may include encouraging the pursuit of post secondary education)

Consumer Education and Transparency

Information to be made public via website

- Provider-specific quality information through a quality rating and improvement system;
- Results of monitoring reports;
- Information to support child development; and
- Annual number of deaths, and serious injuries.

Family Protection Policies

Establishment of twelve-month eligibility periods - regardless of a temporary change in the ongoing status of the child's parent as working or attending a job training or educational program or a change in family income for the child's family.

Family Protection Policies

Required to establish a graduated phase out period for families who, at redetermination exceed initial State income thresholds.

Quality Investments Allocation

- Raising the minimum quality spending from 4% to 9% over 5 years starting FFY 2016 - (October 2015) to 7% to improve quality.
- A 3% quality set-aside for infants and toddlers starting FY 2017 – (October 2016) – to improve quality and increase supply.

Payment Practices

Must 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 taking into account cost of providing higher quality services.

Payment Practices

Must establish policies that reflect generally accepted payment practices for child care providers, (to the extent practicable), paying for absence days, and timely reimbursement for child care services;

CCDBG Critical Effective Dates

- Compliance with pre-service/orientation health and safety trainings **October 2016**
- Monitoring of licensing and regulatory requirements for CCDF providers **Nov. 19, 2016**
- Criminal Background Checks for all providers **September 30, 2017**
- Posting results of monitoring and inspection reports on public website **November 19, 2017**

Child Development Block Grant Reauthorization Act of 2014

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



New Jersey's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)

Quality Rating Improvement System



QUALITY: Evidence-based quality efforts, activities, and support designed to help programs continuously advance from good, to better, then BEST!



RATING: Easy to understand visual symbol that indicates high quality programs



IMPROVEMENT: Activities, efforts, supports, resources, and assessments working together to yield positive child outcomes



SYSTEM: Process and framework of interrelated parts working together to support healthy development and school readiness

Grow NJ Kids – Core Elements



Grow NJ Kids Process

- 1) Register with Professional Impact New Jersey (PINJ) and complete the enrollment form
- 2) Online Director's Orientation
- 3) Self-Assessment
- 4) Quality Improvement Plan
- 5) Rating

Register with Professional Impact New Jersey (PINJ)

- Grow NJ Kids enrollment is electronic through the registry.
- It is a three-step process
 - 1st enroll in the registry
 - 2nd obtain administrative access
 - 3rd fill out the Grow NJ Kids enrollment form
- Continue to work with staff to complete registry enrollment to access scholarships and training.

Complete Online Director Orientation

- Grow NJ Kids Director's Orientation is online and it allows the Director/administrator to dialogue with peers and engage with an instructor.
- It provides a deeper dive into Grow NJ Kids and the standards.
- It is a requirement to participate in Grow NJ Kids.

Conduct Self-Assessment

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Categories

Safe, Healthy Learning Environment
Curriculum and Learning Environment
Family and Community Engagement
Workforce/Professional Development
Administration and Management

Grow NJ Kids – Quality Improvement Plan

- Develop a Quality Improvement Plan after you complete the Self-Assessment based on the standards the program/provider wants to improve upon.
- Once the self assessment and Quality Improvement Plan is completed, apply for incentives to address areas to be strengthened.
- You will be provided with support through the process development and implementation of your Quality Improvement Plan.

Ratings

- Is a combination of portfolio review and assessment scores completed by NJ Center for Quality Ratings at William Paterson University
- 3, 4, or 5 Star Rating will have assessment score requirements, curriculum training, ERS scores and CLASS Assessment in the higher levels for toddler classrooms (4 and 5) plus a range of points to achieve
- Each standard will be given a point value-range of points to obtain the star rating

What are the benefits of enrolling?

Incentives

- Professional Development Training
- Teacher Supports
- Scholarships
- Classroom Enhancements
 - Classroom materials and supplies
 - Verification of the request that it is related to quality improvement plan is required
 - Requests can be done in stages
- Grow NJ Kids Campaign and Marketing to Families

Next Steps

1. Complete enrollment form on PINJ
2. Register in Professional Impact New Jersey's (PINJ) Registry at www.pinjregistry.org
3. Check www.GrowNJKids.com regularly for new information/announcements

For Additional Grow NJ Kids Questions

Andrea Breitwieser
Grow NJ Kids Coordinator
Division of Family Development
info@grownjkids.com

