



Child Care and Development Fund State Plan



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Wisconsin's CCDF State Plan

Overview and Updates



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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



Wisconsin's CCDF State Plan

Brief Overview of Federal Law & Recent Changes

- **Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and the Reauthorization Act of 2014**

Brief Overview of Proposed CCDF Rule Changes

- **2015 CCDF Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)**

Wisconsin's CCDF State Plan for 10/1/16 – 9/30/19

- **State Plan Timeline**
- **Current status**
- **Public Comments**
- **Impact of 2015 CCDF NPRM**

Questions / Open Discussion

Child Care and Development Block Grant

What is the CCDBG?

- Federal law authorizing the federal child care subsidy program known as the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)
 - Established in 1990
 - Reauthorized in 1996
 - Bipartisan legislation with significant changes passed in November 2014



CCDBG Reauthorization Act of 2014

What was the purpose of making expansive changes to the law?

- **Protect the health and safety of children in child care**
- **Promote continuity of access to subsidy for low-income families**
- **Better inform parents and the general public about the child care choices available to them**
- **Improve the overall quality of early learning and afterschool programs**

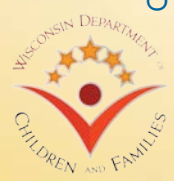


CCDBG Reauthorization Act of 2014

What changes impact licensed Head Start programs?

■ Criminal Background Checks

- New requirements apply to all regulated child care providers, employees and volunteers that have unsupervised access to children in care
- Comprehensive background check required every 5 years, including:
 - FBI Fingerprint Criminal Record Check
 - State Criminal Records (each state of residence in past 5 years)
 - State Child Abuse/Neglect (each state of residence in past 5 years)
 - State Sex Offender Registry (each state of residence in past 5 years)
 - National Sex Offender Registry
 - National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Record Check
- The State will conduct and approve all background checks for child care
- Approved background checks valid for 5 years (with a few exceptions)



CCDBG Reauthorization Act of 2014

What other changes *could* impact licensed Head Start programs?

- **Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Payments**
 - **Provider-friendly payment practices**
 - State payment policies reflect generally accepted payment practices for child care providers, including (to the extent practicable) paying for absence days and timely reimbursement for child care services
 - **Equal Access and Rates**
 - State conduct market rate survey and describe how payment rates are reflective of survey results and take into account cost of providing higher quality services



CCDBG Reauthorization Act of 2014

What about families participating in Wisconsin Shares and Head Start?

■ Increased Stability

- 12-Month Eligibility Periods
 - The Six-Month Review Form (SMRF) will be eliminated
- 90-Day Job Search
 - Eligible parents that discontinue participation in an approved activity (i.e. experience a job loss) will continue receiving assistance for a minimum of 90 days
- Increases maximum eligible income level to 85% of State Median Income (SMI) and graduated phase-out of assistance up to the maximum
- Requires states to have procedures for enrollment of homeless children pending completion of documentation, and training and outreach to promote access to services for homeless families
- Graduated phase-out of assistance for families when income increases after initial eligibility but remains below federal threshold



CCDBG Reauthorization Act of 2014

What about families participating in Wisconsin Shares and Head Start?

■ Transparent Consumer and Provider Information

- States must make monitoring and inspection reports available electronically
 - <http://childcarefinder.wisconsin.gov/>
- Provide an annual (aggregate) report of the number of deaths, serious injuries and instances of substantiated child abuse in a child care setting

Proposed CCDF Rules

What is the 2015 CCDF NPRM?

- Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Notice of Public Rule Making (NPRM)
- Issued December 18, 2015
- Revises existing rules and creates new rules that align, clarify and otherwise support the CCDBG Reauthorization Act of 2014
- Final regulations projected to be issued Summer 2016



2015 CCDF NPRM – Key Provisions

Background Checks

- Narrows FBI National Crime Information Center (NCIC) record search to the National Sex Offender Registry file only
- Clarifies background checks are required for child care staff and individuals 18 years of age and older residing in a regulated child care setting (typically family child care settings)
- Allows prospective staff to work on a provisional basis under supervision while the background check is processed



2015 CCDF NPRM – Key Provisions

Continuity of Care and Access to Subsidy for Low-Income Families

- Defines “temporary” to include: specific time-limited absences from work or school (such as seasonal work or a school break), any reduction in work, training or education hours, and other changes to work, education, job training status that do not exceed three months.
- Prohibits shorter authorization periods within the minimum 12-month eligibility period
- Lead Agency eligibility criteria on applies at time of initial determination or redetermination
- Families required to notify Lead Agency if income exceeds 85% State Median Income (SMI) – State option to require families to report non-temporary change in work, job training or education status



2015 CCDF NPRM – Key Provisions

Continuity of Care and Access to Subsidy for Low-Income Families (continued...)

- Requires Lead Agency to allow child to retain eligibility until family exceeds 85% SMI or extend assistance for a minimum of 12-months after family income exceeds Lead Agency income threshold
 - Currently 200% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) in WI

Enhance Provider Payment Rates

- Requires states to conduct valid market rate survey at least every 3 years and set rates based on survey results
- Set rates that provide parental choice for CCDF families to access care of comparable quality available to families with income above 85% SMI
- Prohibits charging parents fees above the family co-payment and sets a new benchmark of 7% of family's income



2015 CCDF NPRM – Key Provisions

Consumer Education Website

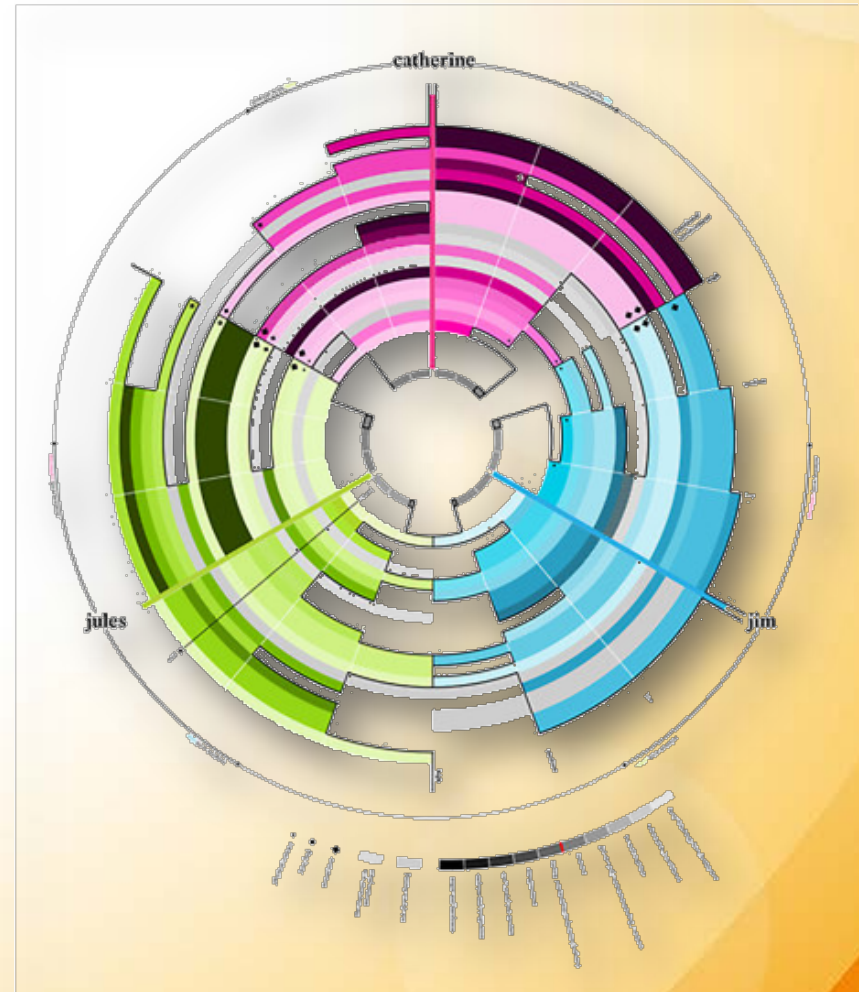
- Provide 5 years of monitoring and inspection reports for providers, post new reports within 90-days
- Include level of quality (YoungStar rating) and the number of serious injuries and deaths that occurred at that provider



Wisconsin's State CCDF Plan

Wisconsin's CCDF State Plan

- State Plan Timeline
- Current status
- Public Comments
- Impact of 2015 CCDF NPRM



Wisconsin's State CCDF Plan

Timeline

- Public Draft Plan published for comment December 4, 2015
- Public Hearing Held January 5, 2016
- Comment Period closed January 6, 2016
- Final Plan Submittal to Administration of Children and Families Due March 1, 2016



Wisconsin's State CCDF Plan

Current Status

- Public Comments have been compiled and will be reviewed January 20th by the Lead Agency, which is the Department of Children and Families (DCF)
- The Department Secretary makes final decisions on what changes, if any, will be made to the State Plan based on comments and the proposed federal rules
- Final plan submitted on March 1, 2016 to the Administration of Children and Families (ACF) for review and approval
- CCDF State Plan covers three-year period starting October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2019



Wisconsin's State CCDF Plan

Public Comments

- DCF received 78 specific comments from 13 individuals/agencies
- Consistent feedback regarding the necessity to increase Wisconsin Shares reimbursement rates
 - Necessary to retain highly qualified staff, reduce turnover
 - Necessary to sustain high-quality
- Concerns regarding EBT implementation
- Support for 12-month eligibility and payment for periodic absences
- Opportunity to improve reimbursement levels for high-needs children and non-traditional hours of care (2nd & 3rd shift)





CCDF Web Resources

CCDBG Act of 2014

- Overview of Law:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/resource/ccdbg-of-2014-plain-language-summary-of-statutory-changes>

- CCDBG Act of 2014 FAQs:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/resource/ccdf-reauthorization-faq>

CCDF Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)

- Overview of NPRM:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/resource/overview-of-ccdf-2015-nprm>

- NPRM FAQs:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/resource/ccdf-reauthorization-faq>

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- State Plan Website:

<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/ccdf.htm>

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Thank you!

Questions / Comments

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