

DHS Responses to Public Comments Regarding Community Services Block Grant State Plan

Debbie Whitman

Madison Co.:

Comment: I sat in on the zoom meeting this morning, July 14th. Could you tell me how rates for areas are calculated? I saw a chart that showed Urban and Rural areas being paid significantly less than city areas. If the qualifications of each Daycare are the same, it seems more fair that they are all paid the same.

There is a \$14.48 dollar difference per child for city areas vs. rural. We are doing the same work, and have the same qualifications, pay should be the same, regardless of location. Thank you

Response: The Community Services Block Grant does not provide funding for Day Care Centers or regulate the rates that providers are paid.

Many of the Community Action Agencies (CAA) operate Head Start Centers for young children.

The Head Start Program is a federally funded program through the Department of Health and Human Services.

Head Start programs promote the school readiness of infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children from low-income families. Services are provided in a variety of settings including centers, family childcare, and children's own home.

The Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Childcare and Early Childhood Education can be contacted for explanation and clarity on Financial Assistance and Resources for Arkansas Day Care Providers at 501-682-8590 or 700 Main Street, Slot S-160, Little Rock, AR 72201-1473.