

2022 - 2024 CCDF State Plan Public Hearing

May 17, 2021
10:00AM – 12:00PM



Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education



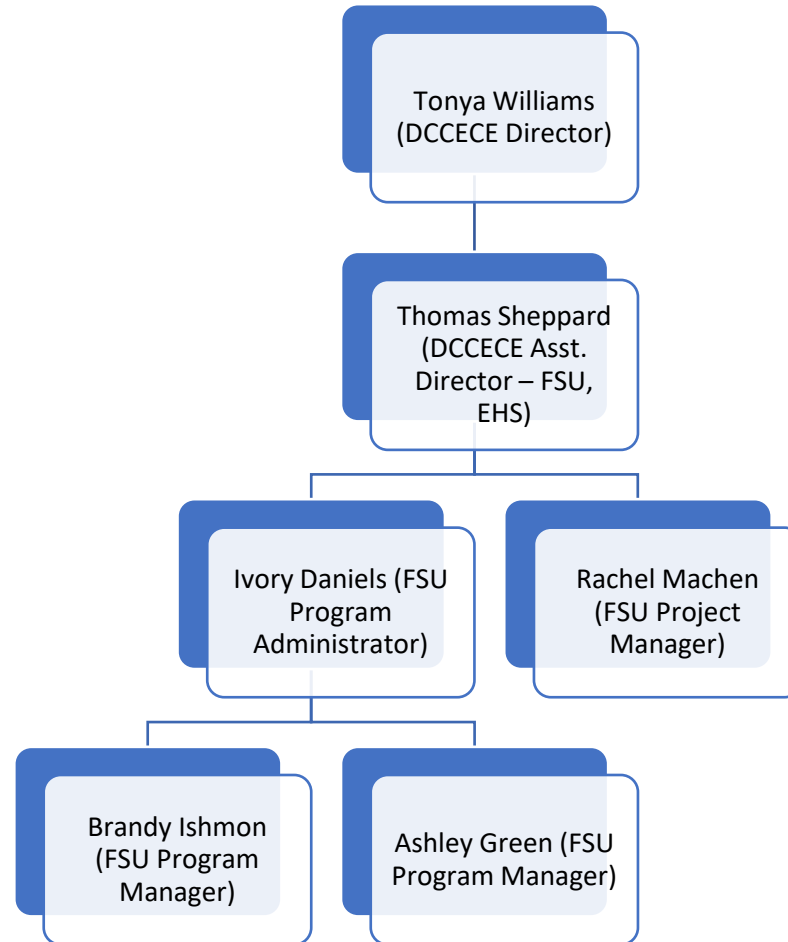
ARKANSAS
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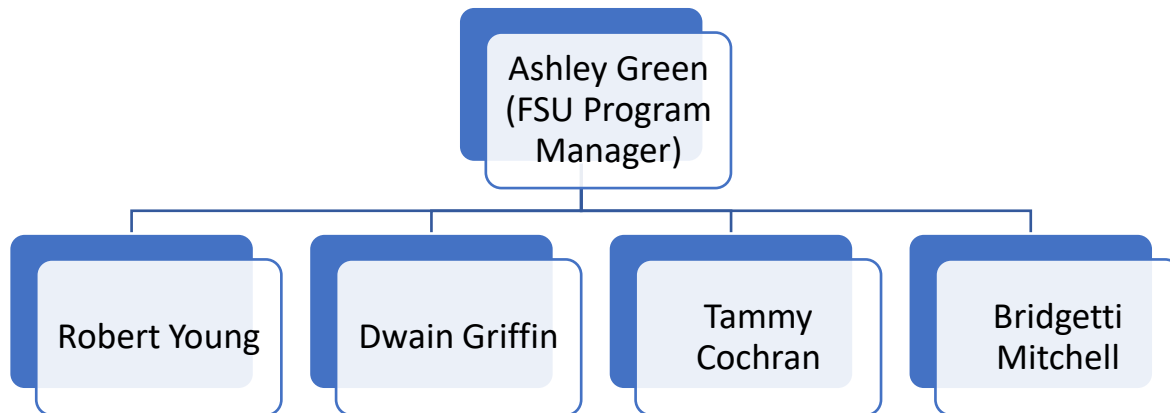
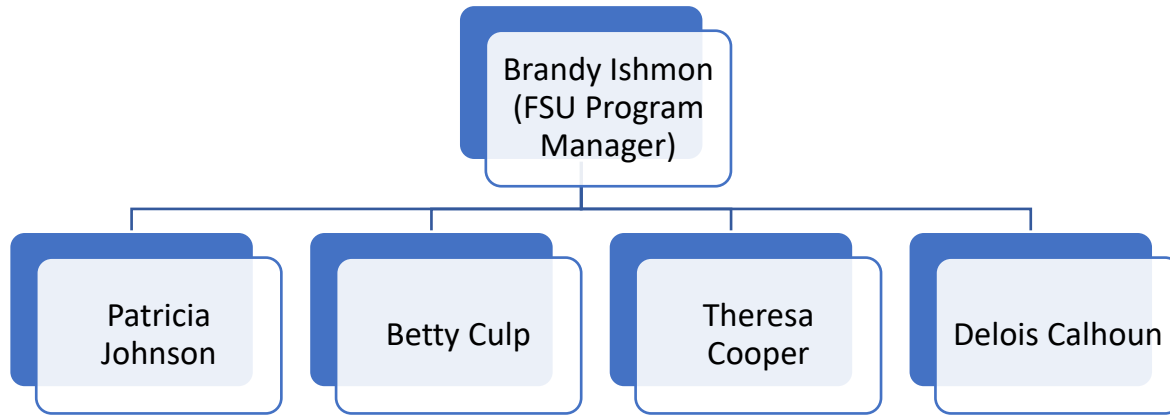
RULES

- All participants will be muted
- The DCCECE moderation team will try to answer questions asked in the chat box.
- However, Questions asked in the chat box will NOT be considered official “State Plan Comments”
- All State Plan Comments should be directed to CCDFStatePlanComments@dhs.arkansas.gov
- All State Plan comments must be submitted between May 17 and June 7, 2021.
- Comments not submitted via email during the allotted timeframe will not be considered.

CCDF Management Team



CCDF Program Coordinator Team



CCDF State Plan Section 1

Highlighted Sections:

Use of Combined Funds 1.5.1

Disaster preparedness and Response Plan 1.8

CCDF State Plan Section 1 (cont.)

Use of Combined Funds – 1.5.1

What is your purpose and expected outcomes for combining funds?

- Support communities in expanding high-quality early care
- Support the EHS program in making full-day services available
- Assist in moving children from the CCDF waitlist (when applicable)
- Provide comprehensive services that benefit children, families, and teachers
- Increase and improve overall quality

CCDF State Plan Section 1 (cont.)

Disaster Preparedness and Response – 1.8

DCCECE has demonstrated preparedness in the following ways:

1. DCCECE collaborated with others in the early care and education field to create a “Statewide Child Care Disaster Plan”.
2. The plan titled the “Arkansas Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (ARCEMP) can be found in section 1.8.3.
3. The DCCECE is actively working on finalizing a DCCECE wide disaster plan.

CCDF State Plan Section 2

Highlighted Section:
Consumer Education 2.3

CCDF State Plan Section 2 (cont.)

Consumer Education – 2.3

Website: Home → Divisions & Shared Services → Child Care and Early Childhood Education

The screenshot shows the website for the Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education (DCCECE) under the Arkansas Department of Human Services. The page features a navigation menu at the top with links for Divisions & Shared Services, News, Data & Reports, Careers, Find a County Office, File an Appeal, and Contact Us. The main content area has a large header image of children playing with blocks. The title "Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education" is prominently displayed. Below the title, a paragraph states: "The Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education knows that the earliest years are critical for brain development and learning so they work to ensure children and families have access to a safe, high-quality, and nurturing care." A blue button labeled "LEARN MORE ABOUT DCCECE" is positioned below the text. On the left side, there is a "Find Child Care" section with a red button labeled "FIND CHILD CARE". On the right side, there is a profile for the DCCECE Director, Tonya Williams, with a photo and a bio: "Director Williams oversees efforts to ensure children and families have access to high-quality child care through licensing, training, and funding." A blue button labeled "GET TO KNOW DIRECTOR TONYA WILLIAMS" is located below her bio. At the bottom of the page, a breadcrumb trail reads: "Home > Divisions & Shared Services > Child Care & Early Childhood Education".

CCDF State Plan Section 2 (cont.)

Consumer Education – 2.3

Website: Child Care and Early Childhood Education → Child Care Vouchers → Help Paying for Child Care

[Home](#) > [Divisions & Shared Services](#) > [Child Care & Early Childhood Education](#) > [Help Paying for Child Care](#)

Help Paying For Child Care

How To Apply For Child Care Assistance

Every year the State of Arkansas helps low-income families cover the cost of high-quality child care and early childhood education for children ages birth to 12.

To Qualify

Do you...

- work at least 30 hours a week?
- attend school full time?
- spend at least 30 hours a week in a job training program?

A combination of the above qualifications equal to at least 30 hours a week will be considered.

If the answer is "yes," then you may qualify for child care financial assistance through the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF).

Please fill out the [application](#) for assistance. You can submit the application by emailing the caseworker you are working with, if you have one, or you can drop it by your local DHS county office. You can find your local DHS county office [here](#).

CCDF State Plan Section 3

Highlighted Sections:

Declaration of Assets 3.1.4

12-Month Eligibility 3.4.1

Job Search 3.4.1

CCDF State Plan Section 3 (cont.)

12-Month Eligibility – 3.4.1

The Lead Agency is required to establish a minimum 12-month eligibility and redetermination period. DCCECE practices the following:

- Child Care Assistance is authorized for a minimum of 12 months for each family (or longer according to the Better Beginnings Level of the facility):
 - 12 months for Levels 1 and 2
 - 24 months for Level 3.
- Families that have children at multiple facilities with different levels of Better Beginnings shall have all authorizations completed simultaneously and the timeframe for the lowest level facility will be applied.
- All TANF Extended Supportive Services (ESS) families are authorized for one (1) year.

CCDF State Plan Section 4

Highlighted Sections:

Rates and Hours of Care 4.3

Additional Amounts Families May be Charged 4.5.2

CCDF State Plan Section 4

Rates and Hours of Care – 4.3

	Infant						Toddler					
	Full Time	Part Time	Night/Wkd	SN1	SN2	SN3	Full Time	Part Time	Night/Wkd	SN1	SN2	SN3
Benton/Washington												
Level 1	\$ 40.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 38.00	\$ 19.00	\$ 43.00	\$ 38.00	\$ 57.00	\$ 57.00
Level 2	\$ 42.00	\$ 21.00	\$ 47.00	\$ 42.00	\$ 63.00	\$ 63.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00
Level 3	\$ 55.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 55.00	\$ 82.50	\$ 110.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 55.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 100.00
Urban												
Level 1	\$ 33.50	\$ 16.75	\$ 38.50	\$ 33.50	\$ 50.25	\$ 33.50	\$ 32.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 37.00	\$ 32.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 48.00
Level 2	\$ 35.00	\$ 17.50	\$ 40.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 52.50	\$ 52.50	\$ 34.00	\$ 17.00	\$ 39.00	\$ 34.00	\$ 51.00	\$ 51.00
Level 3	\$ 55.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 55.00	\$ 82.50	\$ 110.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 55.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 100.00
Rural												
Level 1	\$ 27.00	\$ 13.50	\$ 32.00	\$ 27.00	\$ 40.50	\$ 40.50	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.50	\$ 30.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 37.50	\$ 37.50
Level 2	\$ 29.00	\$ 14.50	\$ 34.00	\$ 29.00	\$ 43.50	\$ 43.50	\$ 26.50	\$ 13.25	\$ 31.50	\$ 26.50	\$ 39.75	\$ 39.75
Level 3	\$ 55.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 55.00	\$ 82.50	\$ 110.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 55.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 100.00



CCDF State Plan Section 4

Rates and Hours of Care – 4.3

Benton/Washington

Level 1
Level 2
Level 3
Urban
Level 1
Level 2
Level 3
Rural
Level 1
Level 2
Level 3

CCDF State Plan Section 4 (cont.)

Additional Amounts Families May be Charged– 4.5.2

Does the Lead Agency choose the option to allow providers to charge families additional amounts above the required co-payment in instances where the provider's price exceeds the subsidy payment?

- Yes, DCCECE allows child care providers to charge a maximum of 15% over the designated subsidy payment rate. However, a provider CANNOT charge a family receiving CCDF subsidy a higher daily rate than private pay families.
- Example: ***\$33.50 (Subsidy Payment) X 1.15 = \$38.53***, the provider may charge the family an additional \$5.03 per day
- Providers may also charge reasonable fees such as registration, late-pick up, late payment, and materials (all reasonable fees must be fully disclosed in writing to families and available to DHS upon request).
- If a provider gives a discount to private pay families for enrolling more than one child the same will apply to children receiving subsidy (DCCECE will pay the base subsidy rate, but the family cannot be charged an additional rate if a discount rate structure is in place for private pay families).



CCDF State Plan Section 5

Highlighted Section:

Licensing Standard vs. CCDF Standard 5.3.11

CCDF State Plan Section 5 (cont.)

CCDF Safety Requirements

- Prevention and control of infectious diseases
- Immunizations
- SIDS prevention and use of safe sleep practices
- Proper administration of medication
- Prevention/response to emergencies due to food or allergic reactions
- Building and physical safety
- Prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma, and child maltreatment
- Emergency preparedness and response planning
- Handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio-contaminants
- Transportation safety
- Pediatric First Aid and CPR
- Recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect
- Appropriate child development practices



CCDF State Plan Section 5 (cont.)

Licensing Standard vs. CCDF Standard – 5.3.11

LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

- The Director, Assistant Director or Site Supervisor, and fifty percent (50%) of the facility staff that are on site at any given time shall have a certificate of successful completion of first aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) from an approved organization. If the facility serves infants and toddlers, this training shall include infant and child CPR. (Infant and child CPR may be included in the basic course or in a separate course.)

CCDF REQUIREMENTS

- Pediatric First Aid for all direct caregiver staff (licensing staff will be monitoring this requirement)
- Direct caregiver staff is defined by the federal Office of Child Care as teachers, caregivers, and directors.

CCDF State Plan Section 6

Highlighted Section:

Training and Professional Development of the Child Care Workforce
6.3.1 (b) (iv)

CCDF State Plan Section 6 (cont.)

Training and Professional Development of the Child Care Workforce – 6.3.1 (b) (iv)

CCDF has invested in the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.) initiative outlined below:

- Any teacher who would like to attend an approved in-state college/university to enroll in coursework in early Childhood Education who is employed fulltime (30 hrs/wk minimum) in a licensed child care facility or a licensed large family child care home is eligible to apply for a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship.
- Teachers are expected to contribute 5% of tuition and 10% of book costs per semester and the employer-sponsor must contribute 5% towards the cost of tuition and agrees to provide release time for school related activities.
- As part of the T.E.A.C.H contract teachers promise to teach at their sponsoring center for another year in return for a salary increase or bonus.

CCDF State Plan Section 7

Highlighted Section:

Coordination with Mental Health Consultants 7.4.1 (j)

CCDF State Plan Section 7 (cont.)

Coordination with Mental Health Consultants 7.4.1 (j)

CCDF has contracted with UAMS ProjectPLAY in the implementation of the state's BehaviorHelp Support System:

- ProjectPLAY assists child care providers and families in supporting a child who has challenging or severe behaviors
- ProjectPLAY provides consultation services for a three (3) month period and then leaves the provider with a behavior plan to follow
- The main goal of this program is to prevent and ultimately reduce the number of suspensions and expulsions of children under the age of 5 in Arkansas

CCDF State Plan Section 8

Highlighted Section:

Training on CCDF Requirements 8.1.3 (b)

CCDF State Plan Section 8 (cont.)

Training on CCDF Requirements– 8.1.3 (b)

DCCECE requires all providers and/or designees to complete the online CCDF Participant Agreement refresher course and attend a minimum of one face-to-face training (pending pandemic requirements) per every twelve (12) month period to ensure compliance and program integrity.

American Rescue Plan (ARP)

DCCECE received approximately 464 million dollars in COVID relief funding through the American Rescue Plan (ARP). DCCECE is presently working on a plan to effectively disseminate funding to child care providers in Arkansas to make a positive impact on our child care landscape for the future. Once the DCCECE is able to finalize plans, the public will be notified.

Comments or Questions

All State Plan Comments must be submitted
to the following email address:

CCDFStatePlanComments@dhs.arkansas.gov

thank you!



We Care. We Act. We Change Lives.

