2022 - 2024
CCDF State Plan Public Hearing

May 17, 2021
10:00AM – 12:00PM

humanservices.arkansas.gov
• 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

Tonya Williams (DCCECE Director)

Thomas Sheppard (DCCECE Asst. Director – FSU, EHS)

Ivory Daniels (FSU Program Administrator)

Rachel Machen (FSU Project Manager)

Brandy Ishmon (FSU Program Manager)

Ashley Green (FSU Program Manager)
Highlighted Sections:
Use of Combined Funds 1.5.1
Disaster preparedness and Response Plan 1.8
Use of Combined Funds – 1.5.1

Which funds will you combine?

1. Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership
2. Foster Care
3. Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)
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
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.
Highlighted Section:
Consumer Education 2.3
Consumer Education – 2.3

Website: Home → Divisions & Shared Services → Child Care and Early Childhood Education
Consumer Education – 2.3

Website: Child Care and Early Childhood Education → Child Care Vouchers → 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:
Declarations of Assets 3.1.4
12-Month Eligibility 3.4.1
Job Search 3.4.1
Declaration of Assets – 3.1.4

Lead agencies are required to ensure children receiving CCDF funds do not have family assets in excess of $1,000,000
  
  • Families are asked to declare assets on the CCDF Program Application (see below)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOUSEHOLD ASSETS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you have assets in excess of $1,000,000? □ Yes □ No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Authorized Representative: If you want to choose someone to represent you, please complete the following information. If you name an authorized representative, this person will be able to talk to the DHS worker on your behalf. |
|***CCDF Program Participant (child care provider) CANNOT be listed as authorized representative***|
| Name of Authorized Representative: | Home or Cell Phone # |

DCCECE Application 10-01-20
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.
Job Search – 3.4.1

Lead Agency may not terminate assistance prior to the end of the 12-month period if a family experiences a temporary job loss or temporary change in participation in a training or educational activity. DCCECE practices the following:

- Temporary is defined as three (3) months or less

- Job search may be provided for up to three (3) months to allow a case head or eligible household member to actively seek employment following a cessation of employment, education or, a job skills training program.
Highlighted Sections:
Rates and Hours of Care 4.3
Additional Amounts Families May be Charged 4.5.2
### Rates and Hours of Care – 4.3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Infant</th>
<th>Toddler</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Full Time</td>
<td>Part Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benton/Washington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 1</td>
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<td>$20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>$42.00</td>
<td>$21.00</td>
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<td>Level 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
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<td>Level 3</td>
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<td>$35.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$14.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>$55.00</td>
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## Rates and Hours of Care – 4.3

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Preschool</th>
<th>School Aged</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Full Time</td>
<td>Part Time</td>
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<td><strong>Level 1</strong></td>
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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) × 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).
Highlighted Section:
Licensing Standard vs. CCDF Standard 5.3.11
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
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.
Highlighted Section:
Training and Professional Development of the Child Care Workforce
6.3.1 (b) (iv)
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.
Highlighted Section:
Coordination with Mental Health Consultants 7.4.1 (j)
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 the prevent and ultimately reduce the number of suspensions and expulsions of children under the age of 5 in Arkansas
Highlighted Section:
Training on CCDF Requirements 8.1.3 (b)
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.
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!