

Implementing the Child Care and Development Block Grant Reauthorization

April 15, 2015



Today's Webinar

- We will provide a broad overview of CCDBG reauthorization opportunities.
- We will discuss the context for CCDBG reauthorization in states.
- We will offer ideas and strategies to get started planning for CCDBG implementation.

Implementing the CCDBG Reauthorization: A Guide for States

- Detailed information on provisions in the new CCDBG law
- Recommendations and cautions for states
- State-specific information on key provisions of the law, CCDBG funding and children served
- Available at www.nwlc.org and www.clasp.org/CCDBG



Reauthorization Overview

- The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) governs the use of state and federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) dollars for child care assistance and quality improvement initiatives.
- CCDBG reauthorization establishes many new requirements for states, but also maintains state flexibility in many areas.
- The reauthorization does not guarantee new funding to comply with new requirements.

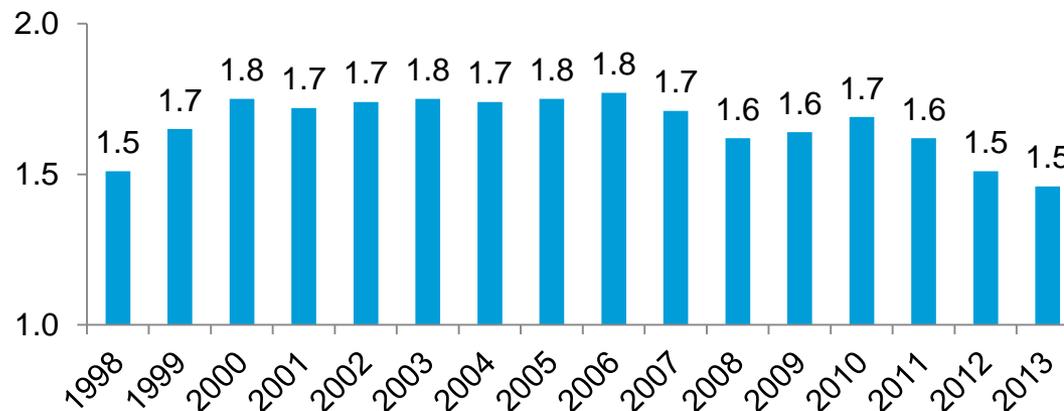
New Opportunities in the CCDBG Reauthorization

- Protect the health and safety of children in care through more consistent standards and monitoring of those standards.
- Allow families to more easily access child care assistance that supports stable and continuous child care, and that can be coordinated with other programs.
- Improve the quality of care, including through increased quality set-aside, support for child care providers and targeted initiatives for priority populations.

The Context for Implementation

- Spending on child care assistance through CCDBG and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is at an 11-year low.
- The number of children receiving CCDBG-funded child care assistance is at a 15-year low.

**Average Monthly Number of Children Served in
CCDBG in the United States
FY 1998-2013 (in millions)**



Source: HHS administrative data. FY 2013 data are preliminary.

The Context for Implementation

- Nearly one in five working mothers with very young children work in low-wage jobs.
- Over one-third of mothers who have very young children and work in low-wage jobs are poor.
- Low-wage workers increasingly navigate job schedules that are non-traditional, variable, and unpredictable—and make using formal child care extremely challenging.

Source: NWLC, *Nearly One in Five Working Mothers of Very Young Children Work in Low-Wage Jobs*, 2014.



The Context for Implementation

- Only one state (Oregon) set its payment rates at the federally recommended level, the 75th percentile of current market rates.
- In 34 states, payment rates for center care for a 4-year-old were at least 20 percent below the recommended level.
- 37 states pay higher rates to child care providers that meet specific quality standards. In most cases, the higher tiered rates are *still* below the 75th percentile.



Now is the Time to Get Started

- Don't wait—the time is **now** to get started.
- Reauthorization is an **opportunity**.
 - Reflect on program goals.
 - Assess what's working and what's not in the current system.
 - Collect data.
 - Consult with parents, providers, case workers, advocates, and other stakeholders.
 - Envision a new system.
- New requirements need new federal and state resources—it's important to start building support **now**.



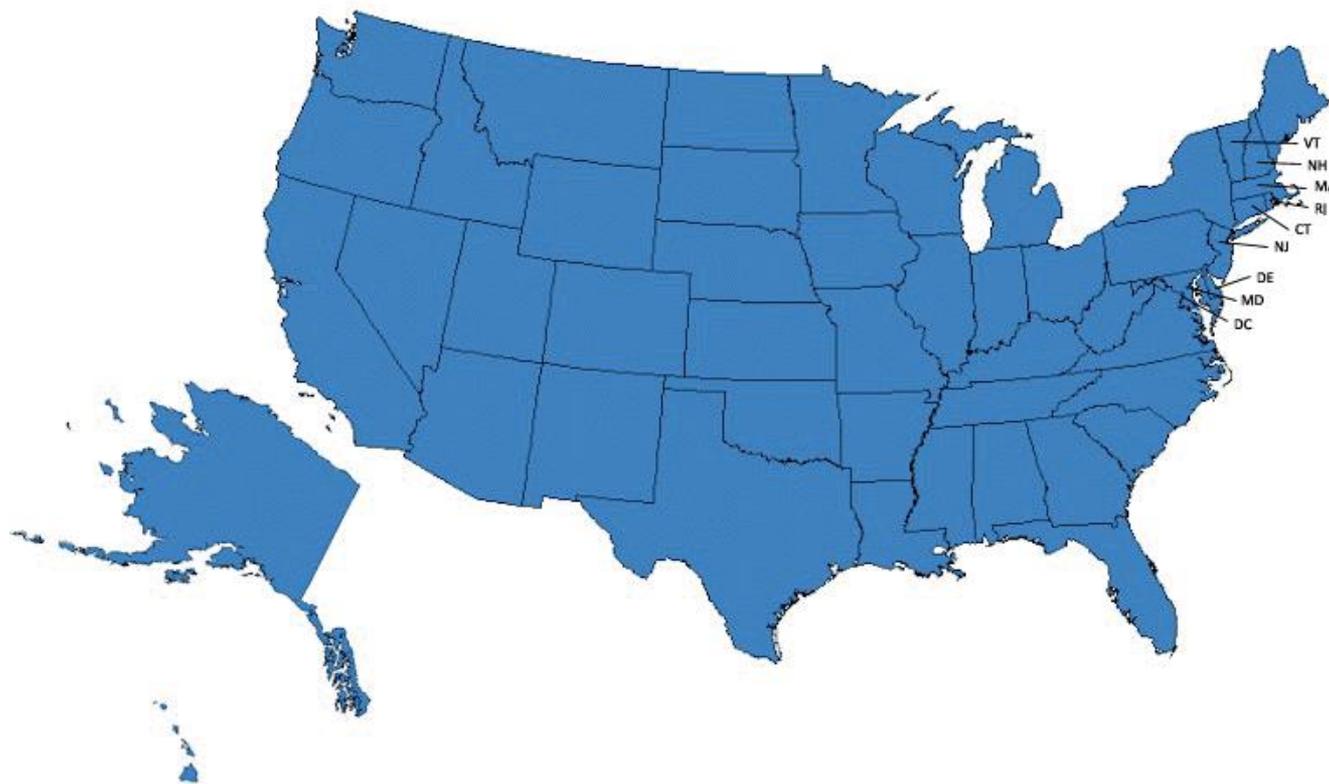
Now is the Time to Get Started

- Select provisions have delayed effective dates, all others effective on enactment
- State FY 2016-2018 CCDF Plan submission: March 1, 2016
 - State Plan effective: June 2016
 - States may submit state-specific implementation timelines in State Plan.

See Appendix II of Implementation Guide and

Office of Child Care Timeline of Effective Dates: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/ccdf-reauthorization>

Where You Start Depends on Your State



Getting Started

Plan for Policy Change:

- What changes require administrative, regulatory or legislative actions?

Estimate Costs:

- Are there cost estimates for your state?
- What information is needed to estimate costs?
- What is the advocacy strategy for increased investments?

Getting Started

Reflect on Program Goals:

- ❑ How can implementation support multiple goals for children and parents?
- ❑ Will changes make the program more child-focused, family-friendly, and fair to providers?

Getting Started

Understand your Subsidy Program: Who Is Served?

Focus on Children

- ❑ What are the ages of the children served?
- ❑ Has the number of children served declined?
- ❑ What settings are children in?



Focus on Parents

- ❑ What are the work patterns of parents?
- ❑ Who gets help?
- ❑ Are family co-payments affordable?

Getting Started

Understand your Subsidy Program: Providers, Policies and Processes

Focus on Providers

- ❑ What are provider payment rates?
- ❑ What are provider payment processes and practices?

Focus on Administration

- ❑ Who determines eligibility?
- ❑ What does the eligibility/redetermination process look like?

Select CCDBG Provisions for Consideration

Pre-service and Ongoing Training

- Pre-service and ongoing training requirements are established for all providers in 10 topic areas.
 - ❑ Who is subject to training requirements now and in what topic areas?
 - ❑ Is training accessible for providers?
 - How is it delivered?
 - What are the costs?
 - Are trainings available in multiple languages?
 - ❑ Are there opportunities for cross-sector trainings?

On-site Inspections

- Requires pre-licensure and annual unannounced inspections for all licensed providers and annual visits for non-relative license-exempt providers.
 - ❑ Who is currently subject to inspections?
 - ❑ Who conducts inspections? Are there community-based alternatives?
 - ❑ How can inspections be used as a technical assistance opportunity?
 - ❑ Can inspections offer resources to providers?
 - ❑ Can visits through other systems (CACFP, home visiting, others?) be leveraged?
 - ❑ What fees related to monitoring and licensing are currently charged to providers?

Licensing Requirements and Background Checks

- Mandates that states have ratio and group size requirements:
 - ❑ What are current licensing requirements? Does the state have ratio and group size regulations?
 - ❑ For what age groups?
 - ❑ Do ratio and group size requirements reflect best practices in child development?
- Requires comprehensive background checks:
 - ❑ Who is subject to background checks and what is required now?
 - ❑ Who currently is not subject to background checks?
 - ❑ What fees related to background checks are currently charged to providers?

Investments in Quality

- Quality set-aside increases to 9 percent along with a 3 percent infant-toddler set-aside.
 - ❑ How does that compare to your state's current quality investments?
 - ❑ What activities/programs do the quality funds support now?
 - ❑ How will the state invest in building quality for providers at all levels of quality?
 - ❑ How will the state increase access to high-quality child care for underserved populations and in underserved areas?

Quality Set-Aside by Year			
Federal Fiscal Year	Quality Set-aside	Infant-Toddler Set-Aside	Total Quality Set-Aside
2016	7%	--	7%
2017	7%	3%	10%
2018	8%	3%	11%
2019	8%	3%	11%
2020 (and beyond)	9%	3%	12%

Infant-Toddler Quality

- Establishes an expanded 3 percent set-aside to improve the supply and quality of infant-toddler care.
 - ❑ What activities/programs do the infant-toddler quality funds support now?
 - ❑ How can these funds support quality improvements, increasing the supply of quality care and access to high-quality infant-toddler care?



Family-Friendly Policies

- Helps families retain child care assistance through temporary changes in employment/education/training and increases in income (until 85 percent of SMI).
 - ❑ Does your state currently have the law's required minimum 12-month eligibility periods for all children?
 - ❑ Are there different eligibility periods for different families?
 - ❑ How long do families currently receive subsidies?
 - ❑ Does your state currently have the law's required minimum of 3 months of job search before ending assistance?
 - ❑ Does your state currently have the law's required graduated phase out of assistance at redetermination for families above income eligibility (but below 85 percent SMI)?
 - ❑ What does the eligibility/redetermination process look like?

Provider Payment Rates

- States must conduct statistically valid and reliable market rate studies every three years *or* use an alternative methodology such as a cost estimation model.
- States may differentiate rates based on various characteristics of care.
 - ❑ Does your state currently differentiate rates? Based on what characteristics?
 - ❑ How will your state establish base rates at a level that ensures providers have sufficient resources?
 - ❑ How will your state commit to regular increases in rates to reflect regular increases in the costs of providing care?
 - ❑ What are your state's provider payment policies? How do they ensure payment for absent days and timely payments?

Moving Forward

- Implementation will be challenging—it's complex, with many new requirements and time constraints.
- Seizing opportunities will require resources—now is the time for budget advocacy.
- It's an opportunity to think broadly—not just about compliance with requirements.
- Remember CCDBG's two-generation goals for children and parents.
- Let us help!
 - What provisions are most challenging in your state?
 - What information is needed?

Q&A

Submit questions via the Chat Box.



Implementation Guide & Assistance

- *Implementing the Child Care and Development Block Grant Reauthorization: A Guide for States.* Available at www.nwlc.org and www.clasp.org/CCDBG
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