CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT 2015: Changes in the federal child care law and opportunities for state legislators

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NCSL Early Learning Fellows

Christine Johnson-Staub, CLASP
Karen Schulman, NWLC
CCDBG Overview and Context for Reauthorization
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), the primary federal child care program, governs the use of state and federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) dollars for child care assistance to help families pay for care and for quality improvement initiatives.

• Under CCDBG, states determine policies—eligibility criteria, provider payment rates, and other policies that affect families’ access to assistance and the level of assistance they receive—within federal parameters.

• 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 16-year low.

Source: HHS administrative data. FY 2014 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.

Timelines

• Most provisions 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.

• Criminal background checks by September 2017

• Monitoring and inspection reports public by November 2017

Select Provisions of the Law, and Your Role as a State Legislator
Health and Safety

- **Pre-Service** (or orientation) training, including basic health and safety
- **Ongoing** training for all providers in 10 topic areas
- **On-Site Inspections** for licensed and license-exempt providers
- **Licensing requirements** for group size limits and appropriate provider-to-child ratios
- **Comprehensive background checks** for all providers, including those who are license-exempt
Family-Friendly Policies

• Expands consumer education and outreach requirements.
• Establishes a minimum 12-month eligibility period for all families (as long as income remains below the federal eligibility limit).
• Requires redetermination processes that do not unduly disrupt parents’ employment.
• Requires an graduated phase-out of assistance for families no longer eligible at redetermination.
• Encourages states to take steps to meet the needs of underserved populations.
Provider Payment Rates and Policies

• 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.

• States must establish payment policies and practices that reflect generally accepted payment practices for child care providers.
Important Questions for Legislators

Plan for Policy Change:
- What changes require legislative actions?
- Who in the state is developing the CCDBG plan?
- How are they engaging stakeholders? Who is involved?

Estimate Costs:
- Are there cost estimates?
- How will implementation affect the state budget?
- What are the state options to identify new resources?
Implementation Guide & Assistance

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

- Contact us:
  - Christine Johnson-Staub, cjohnsonstaub@clasp.org
  - Karen Schulman, kschulman@nwlc.org