

Child Care and Development Block Grant

Background

The Reauthorized Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (CCDBG) was signed into law by President Obama on November 19, 2014.

This reauthorization provides child care assistance to families and funds the expansion of quality initiatives for child care. The passage of the reauthorized Act, for the first time since 1996, is the result of bi-partisan efforts that significantly advances health and safety requirements for child care programs and provides parents and the public with increased access and information to guide their selection of quality child care.

The passage of this law marks a historic revisioning of the CCDBG program and is great news for children and families. Through this legislation, we celebrate as a nation increased standards that outline progress in safety, health, and quality across the nation.

Significant Changes

- Transparency and information to guide parental choice on available child care options
- Improved child care safety regulations requiring all providers to comply with health, safety, and fire standards
- Required annual child care program inspections
- Increased program and provider quality with reserved funds designed to enhance workforce training opportunities and design more effective program and provider practices leading to better quality services to children to improve the quality of care provided to children, enhancing states' ability to train providers and develop safer and more effective child care services

"Every working parent with children, no matter their income level, worries about child care. What's affordable? What's accessible? Will my child be safe? Where can I get the best care for my 'child'? The CCDBG program has given many families over many years peace of mind, but we can and should be doing more to improve child care for children, parents and providers alike. It is long past time to revitalize, refresh and reform this vitally important program."

- Senator Mikulski (MD)



Implications for States

Under the amended law, states are required to:

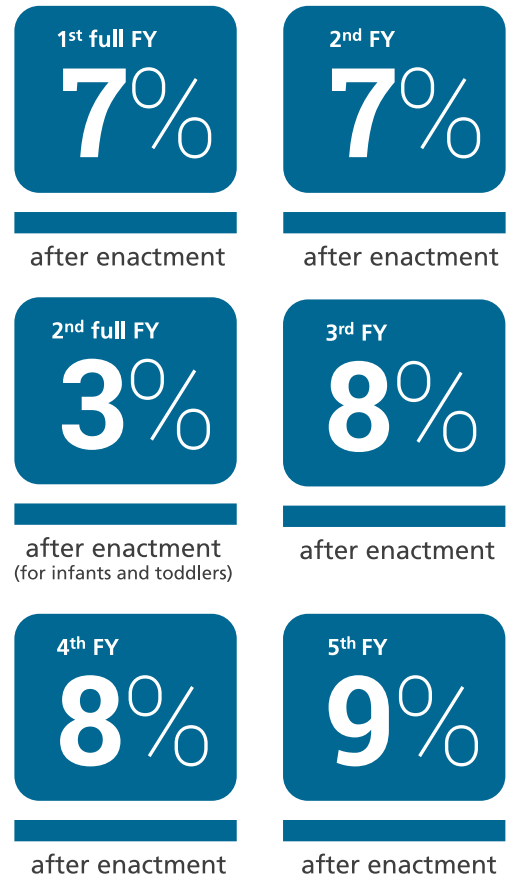
- Conduct comprehensive background checks
- Inspect programs prior to licensing
- Conduct an annual unannounced inspection of licensed & unlicensed providers receiving (subsidy) funds
- Annual unannounced visits should include Fire, Health, and Safety inspection
- Implement professional development standards as part of licensing
- Raise the amount of funds set-aside for quality improvement activities
- Raise the eligibility period to 12-months
- Designate a national toll-free hotline and website for referrals, quality information, and consumer complaints



Allowable Quality Improvement Activities

1. Training and Professional Development
2. Early Learning and Development Guidelines
3. Tiered Quality Rating System
4. Infant and Toddler Care Supply and Quality
5. Establishing/Expanding Child Care Resource and Referral System in State
6. Compliance with State requirements for inspection, monitoring, training, health and safety, and licensing standards
7. Evaluations of quality and outcomes of care
8. National accreditation for high quality
9. Supporting State or local efforts to develop or adopt high-quality program standards relating to health, mental health, nutrition, physical activity, and physical development.
10. Carrying out other activities determined by the State to improve the quality of child care services provided in the State, and for which measurement of outcomes relating to improved provider preparedness, child safety, child well-being, or entry to kindergarten is possible.

Funds Reserved for Quality Improvement Activities:



Important Implementation Dates

Fiscal Year 2016 (Starting October 1, 2015) Start of First Full Fiscal Year

- Funding Authorized: \$2.478b for Fiscal Year 2016
- State plans due for Fiscal Years 2016-2018
- State plans now set to cover 3 years, as opposed to 2 previously
- Must include certification of compliance (or movement towards compliance) with licensing requirements, and how they are enforced.) Including, but not limited to:

- ✓ Training requirements
- ✓ Consumer education requirements
- ✓ Technical assistance
- ✓ Child to Staff Ratios
- ✓ Basic Health and Safety requirements

Fiscal Year 2016 (Starting October 1, 2015) Start of First Full Fiscal Year

- States must ensure that 7% of expenditures for child care are reserved for quality improvement activities (Quality Set-Aside)
- Beginning in FY16, and each Fiscal Year following states must provide assurance that state complied with Quality Set-Aside reservations and provide a description of how funds were used in State for preceding fiscal year in an annual report containing:
 - ✓ Amount of funds reserved
 - ✓ Activities carried out
 - ✓ Measures of evaluation for State's progress in improving quality
 - ✓ Not later than July 31, 2016 (and every 2 years after) HHS must provide summary and analysis of aggregated data on families and the subsidy program

1 Year From Enactment (Assumed December 1, 2015)

Not later than 1 year after enactment of this bill, HHS must provide to Congress an interdepartmental review of all early learning and care programs for children less than 6 years of age.

Fiscal Year 2017 (Starting October 1, 2016) Start of Second Full Fiscal Year

States must ensure that 7% of expenditures for child care are reserved for quality improvement activities (Quality Set-Aside)



2 Years From Enactment (Assumed December 1, 2016)

- Licensing inspectors are qualified to inspect providers and have received health and safety training.
- Pre-licensing inspections
- Annual inspections
- “Maintaining a sufficient” ratio between inspections and programs – “fixing caseloads”
- Annual Fire, Health, and Safety inspection of license-exempt providers
- HHS is required to provide report to Congress on studies regarding lists to determine number of families that are eligible that have applied for assistance and have been placed on a waiting list for the assistance

Prior to the end of the Second Full Fiscal Year (September 30, 2017)

- States must ensure that an additional 3% of funds are reserved for quality improvement activities targeted for infants and toddlers
- States must ensure compliance with comprehensive background check component of S.1086 prior to the end of the second full Fiscal Year after enactment.
- 1-year extension allowable with waiver granted by HHS if State’s efforts are believed to be in “good faith”

Approximately 3 Years From Enactment (Assumed December 1, 2016)

1 year after coming into compliance, but no later than 3 years after enactment, States must have inspection reports posted publically

Fiscal Year 2018 (Starting October 1, 2017)

- Funding Authorized: \$2.603b for Fiscal Year 2018
- States must ensure that 8% of expenditures for child care are reserved for quality improvement activities (Quality Set-Aside)

Fiscal Year 2019 (Starting October 1, 2018)

- Funding Authorized: \$2.668b for Fiscal Year 2019
- States must ensure that 8% of expenditures for child care are reserved for quality improvement activities (Quality Set-Aside)

Fiscal Year 2020 (Starting October 1, 2019)

- Funding Authorized: \$2.749b for Fiscal Year 2020
- States must ensure that 9% of expenditures for child care are reserved for quality improvement activities (Quality Set-Aside)

September 30, 2020 Authorization of CCDBG expires

PCG can assist your organization meet the new federal mandates:

- Strategic and federal plans development
- QRIS and quality supports planning
- Differential monitoring planning
- Market rate reviews
- IT planning to increase public access to licensing information
- Training and professional development developed by PCG’s Early Childhood Institute

For more information, please contact us at:

1-800-210-6113 or at info@publicconsultinggroup.com