



Meeting:	State Early Childhood Development Coordinating Council (SECDCC)	
Date/ Time:	March 25, 2021 3-4:30 p.m.	
Location:	Microsoft Teams	
Agenda Items		
I. Welcome	Shana Young Interim State Superintendent of Education Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)	
II. Child Care and Development Fund— Seeking input on State Plan development	Sara Mead Assistant Superintendent of Early Learning OSSE	
III. Update on federal funding and financial assistance for child care sector in COVID	Sara Mead	
IV. Planning for summer and upcoming school year	All	
V. Announcements and public comment	Open	
VI. Wrap-Up/Next Steps/Adjourn	Shana Young	



State Early Childhood Development Coordinating Council (SECDCC)

March 25, 2021

Agenda

- Child Care and Development Fund—Seeking input on State Plan development
- Update on federal funding and financial assistance for child care sector in COVID
- Planning for summer and upcoming school year
- Announcements and comment
- Wrap-up, next steps and adjourn

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Development of the District's FY 2022-2024 Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan

Goals for this presentation:

- Briefly review the federal child care legislation
 - Child Care and Development Block Grant Reauthorization Act of 2014
 - Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan
- Discuss CCDF in the District of Columbia
 - Highlights of DC's CCDF State Plan
 - Implementation Highlights
- Learn about your top child care priorities
 - SECDCC small group breakouts
 - Glows and Grows in Child Care (what's working, where are the gaps, who needs to be at the table)
- Outline Next Steps for the CCDF State Plan Development
 - Status of CCDF Consultation
 - Public Hearing and Collecting Public Comments





Federal Child Care Legislation

CCDF Overview

- The Child Care and Development Block Grant Reauthorization Act of 2014 (CCDBG Act) requires each state to submit a **detailed state plan** that explains how the state will use its CCDF dollars to meet the federal requirements.
- The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) “provides **resources to states** to enable low-income parents to work or pursue education and training so that they may better support their families while at the same time promoting the learning and development of their children.”
- The CCDF provides “**funding to enhance the quality** of child care for all children.”





CCDF in the District of Columbia

The District's CCDF State Plan

- The District is in the **third and final year of the current CCDF State Plan**
 - The current plans covers the period Oct. 2018 through Sept. 30, 2021 (FY2019-2021).
- The next CCDF State Plan will cover the period Oct. 1, 2021 through Sept. 30, 2024 (FY2022-2024).
- Throughout the three-year plan cycle, the District may **submit a request to amend the State Plan** to reflect any changes that affect CCDF administration and policies such as policy changes to program eligibility or payment rates.



Section 1 defines the CCDF leadership and describes the coordination in development of the CCDF State Plan and with other agencies for child care services

- Partner with DC Department of Human Services (DHS) to conduct child care eligibility
- Managing IDEA Part C for infant and toddlers and Part B 619
- Coordination with DC Health and OSSE's Health and Wellness
- MOU with Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) for Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation
- DC Child Care Connections runs DC's Child Care Resource and Referral
- Leverage CCDF funds for the Pre-K Enhancement and Expansion Program
- **COVID-19 Response:** Expanded partnership with local foundation to expedite sub-grants from federal COVID-19 relief funding



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Section 2 lists guidelines related to consumer and provider education information and interactions with parents to help them make the best child care choice for their families.

- Targeted outreach to dual language families and those with children with special needs
- Clear process for responding to parental complaints
- My Child Care DC 2.0
- Sharing information on other supports and services to families
- Resources to promote social, emotional, and behavioral issues
- **COVID-19 Response:** Transition Strong Start services to a telehealth model



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Section 3 includes provisions for providing more stable child care financial assistance to families, including extending eligibility, parent fees and increasing access.

- Increased the timeframe for parents in ESL or GED classes from one to two years
- Expanded the eligibility criteria for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) families seeking subsidized child care
- Prioritizing access to child care for certain populations, including families with very low incomes, families experiencing homelessness
- **COVID-19 Response:** Expanded category of eligible families to essential workers, expanded timeframe to conduct redeterminations for families whose 12-month eligibility expired during COVID-19



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Section 4 presents the market rate survey requirements, setting payment rates and timely payments to providers and includes an overview of grants and contracts.

- Increased CCDF provider reimbursement rates based on the District's 2018 Cost Model
- New hold harmless policy for full implementation of Capital Quality
- Increased local investment to expand quality child care slots for infants and toddlers
- Leveraged child care supply and demand study
- **COVID-19 Response:** Established Public Health Emergency Rate



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Section 5 contains information about establishing standards and monitoring processes to ensure the health and safety of child care settings, including ratios and group sizes, child abuse reporting and background checks.

- Reduced caseload for licensing inspectors to align with the recommended national average
- Restructured licensing division to create a new Licensing Quality Manager position
- Increasing licensing staff capacity to provide on-the-spot TA when conducting inspections
- **COVID-19 Response:** Implemented desk audit and virtual inspections to maintain compliance with federal requirements



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Section 6 presents requirements related to the professional development of the child care workforce and a discussion of early learning and developmental guidelines.

- Implements various models for ECE professional development, including Professional Development Information System (PDIS), ECE Help Desk, Quorum Online learning, Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.).
- In FY20, OSSE provided approximately 794 face-to-face and synchronous online training opportunities for approximately 26,419 participants.
- **COVID-19 Response:** Extended deadline for providers to obtain their Child Development Associate (CDA) to December 2023. Moved training and professional development opportunities to virtual settings and provided support to both the workforce and trainers.



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Section 7 provides an overview of the requirements to improve the quality of child care services and includes elements of quality improvement, description of funding requirements, and the options states have for quality activities.

- Transitioned all subsidized providers to the redesigned Quality Rating and Improvement System, Capital Quality, and completed the first Capital Quality rating and designation process for facilities with two years of observation data in fall 2019.
- Awarded \$9 million to expand the supply of infant and toddler care.
- **COVID-19 Response:** Leveraged federal CARES Act funding to continue subsidy payments to providers regardless of open/closed status. Transitioned Capital Quality program services to virtual services and provided continued and ongoing supports.



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Section 8 includes information about funding and the use of funds, required reporting, accountability and program integrity, and waivers.

- Increased engagement with DHS Child Care Services Leadership.
- Participated in DHS Business Reengineering Program to enhance partnership and expand knowledge across agency teams.
- Successfully findings for DC's CCDF Improper Payment Audit by the federal Office of Child Care.
- **COVID-19 Response:** Initiated disaster preparedness and response protocols to ensure continuity of care and timely monthly payments for providers.



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SECDCC Small Group Breakouts

Breakout Group 1 will discuss sections 1, 3 and 4

Discussion Prompts

- 1) What can we learn from our successful public-private partnerships to improve child care?
- 2) How can the District ensure equal access, especially during and after the pandemic?
- 3) Now that the Access to Quality Child Care program has ended, how can the District continue to increase the supply of child care?

Breakout Group 2 will discuss sections 6 and 7

Discussion Prompts

- 1) What are your suggestions on improving the District/OSSE's supports for the early childhood workforce?
- 2) How do you see your agency/organization supporting the District's/OSSE's work toward a high-quality child care sector?





CCDF Next Steps

CCDF State Plan Milestones and Timeline

Month	Milestones
March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue CCDF State Plan stakeholder engagement strategies• Consult with the SECDCC and gather input• Launch consultation on the Cost Model Alternative Methodology
April – May 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Publish notice of public hearing and• Release CCDF DRAFT State Plan for public comment• Hold a public hearing and community engagement sessions
June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update CCDF State Plan• Final reviews and approvals of State Plan• Submit final CCDF State Plan to Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post final CCDF State Plan on OSSE's website (30 days after submission)• Post Alternative Cost Methodology (30 days after it is completed)





Update on federal funding and financial assistance for child care sector in COVID-19

Earlier this month Mayor Bowser announced the District's plans to use CRRSA funds to support child care

- **These funds come from two different funding streams within the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act:**
 - \$16.6 million in CCDF funds
 - \$2.5 million in Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funds
- **>85 percent of funds will provide direct relief to child development facilities**
 - \$10.7 million for early childhood emergency relief grants (administered by Wacif)
 - \$3 million for targeted relief grants (administered by LIIF)
 - \$5.8 million for DC Child Care Road to Recovery Fund (includes \$2.8 million in previously announced CARES funds and \$3 million in new funding)
- **Funds will also support system-level investments to strengthen the child care sector:**
 - Deep cleaning
 - Shared Services expansion and other business supports
 - Social-emotional and mental health
 - CCR&R enhancement



The District expects to receive additional child care funding through American Recovery Plan

- **Congress appropriated \$39 billion to support child care, divided between two purposes:**
 - \$15 billion for CCDF
 - \$24 billion for new Child Care Stabilization Fund
 - **90 percent of these funds must be used to make subgrants to child care providers**
- **District of Columbia is projected to receive \$64 million:**
 - \$24 million for CCDF
 - \$39 million for child care stabilization
- **Both CCDF and Child Care Stabilization Funds can be spent through the end of fiscal year 2023 (FY23)**



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Planning for summer and upcoming school year



Announcements and Public Comment



Wrap-Up, Next Steps and Adjourn