



Office of the
State Superintendent of Education

**Citizen's Guide
to the
District of Columbia
Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant
State Plan
2012- 2013**

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**Prepared By:
The Office of the State Superintendent of Education
Division of Early Childhood Education**

CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

I. OVERVIEW

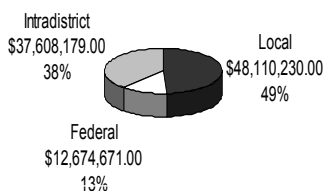
The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) serves as the lead agency in the District of Columbia responsible for administering the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). OSSE's goal is to provide resources, support, and accountability to ensure that all residents receive an excellent education for success in the 21st century. OSSE oversees education on all levels – beginning with our youngest constituents and continuing through adulthood. OSSE's Division of Early Childhood Education (ECE) provides leadership and oversight to ensure all District of Columbia children from birth to five have access to high quality early learning programs. ECE works to develop an effective early childhood education system by implementing high standards for programs and professionals, creating supports to meet standards, adhering to rigorous accountability measures, engaging community stakeholders and securing strong financial supports.

A key resource that enables OSSE to accomplish these responsibilities is the Child Care and Development Fund. The District of Columbia receives \$12.3 million dollars in federal funds through this federal grant. This Citizen's Guide to the District of Columbia Child Care and Development Fund (Citizen's Guide) explains the District of Columbia's plan for how these resources will be allocated to provide and support high-quality child care programs in FY 2012-2013.

The goal of the Citizen's Guide is to prepare community members for the upcoming public hearings where community members will have the opportunity to provide input for the 2012-2013 Child Care and Development Block Grant State Plan (State Plan). This Citizen's Guide highlights the major provisions, activities, and services of the Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Division of Early Childhood Education that are contained in the District of Columbia's FY 2010-2011 State Plan.

OSSE invites District of Columbia residents to attend two public hearings to offer feedback on the District's CCDF State Plan. The hearings will be held on April 20, 2011 and April 30, 2011. Additional information about how to attend and testify at the hearing can be found on pages 7-8. Included below is general information about the federal Child Care and Development Fund as well as specific details about the District of Columbia Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan.

Division Early Childhood Education
FY2011 Budget



The Federal Budget includes the Child Care and Development Block grant, the Head Start Collaboration grant, and the Early Childhood Advisory Council funding. The intra-District funding from the Department of Human services includes Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Social Services Block Grant, and Food Stamp Employment Training Fund. The local budget includes Pre-kindergarten funding.

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) is a federal grant that provides \$12.3 million in federal funds to the District of Columbia to assist low-income families in obtaining child care so they can work or attain training/education. The program also improves the quality of child care and promotes coordination among early childhood development and afterschool programs. The majority of the CCDF (a minimum of 70%) must be directly used for early care and education services for children. Another portion of the CCDF (a minimum of 4%) is used for activities to improve the quality of services and a small portion of the remaining funding (a maximum of 5%) is assigned to cover administrative costs.

Services offered through this grant include:

- child care subsidy
- out-of-school time programs
- professional development for early childhood professionals
- programs that develop literacy and math concepts
- activities to promote inclusive child care
- health promotion activities including those designed to promote healthy social and emotional development of children
- quality enhancing activities that increase parental choice and improve the quality availability of child care services

AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES

Through partnerships and agreements with community-based organizations and government agencies, OSSE administers and implements all services, programs, and activities funded under the CCDF in accordance with applicable D.C. laws and regulations as well as federal provisions outlined in the State Plan.

OSSE contracts with D.C. Child Care Connections to provide child care resource and referral information to parents about infant and toddler, preschool, out-of-school-time, and weekend/evening services available in the District of Columbia.

Highlights of new quality initiatives for 2010 include:

Number of children served:

- 20,856 children are served by the Child Care Subsidy Program
- 516 children are served by the Pre-kindergarten Program

Number of providers offering early childhood education services:

- 478 providers are licensed to provide early education services in the District

- 201 child development center providers and 84 child development home providers participate in the Child Care Subsidy Program

Accreditation of early care and education providers:

- 10 child development centers were newly accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- 2 child development homes were newly accredited by the National Association for Family Child Care

Professional development trainings conducted by ECE:

- Provided 327 Child Development Associates (CDA) scholarships
- Trained 201 child care provider staff for CDA credential
- Provided training opportunities to over 1,590 ECE professionals in various ECE subject areas including, but not limited to, child maltreatment (child abuse and neglect); First Aid/ CPR; Emergency Preparedness; and other various ECE subject areas
- Developed a Certified Trainer Registry

Regulation and Oversight:

- According to the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRA) report, “*We Can Do Better: 2009*”, the District of Columbia was ranked 2nd in the nation for State Child Care Center Regulation and Oversight. (D.C. scored higher than all 50 states and ranked only behind the Department of Defense.)
- The Compliance and Integrity Unit developed new Child Development Facility licensing regulations that will affect all child development facilities in the District. The enhanced rigor and research-based requirements will facilitate improvements in the quality of services provided. Additionally, tighter regulation will reduce fraud and payment errors.
- ECE revised our Level I, Level II, and Home Provider Child Care Subsidy Program issuances and agreements. The complete overhaul eases the process by which Providers enter contracts with ECE and helps Providers understand the responsibilities, obligations, and rights included in their contract with OSSE.

New Federally Funded Quality Enhancement Initiatives:

- OSSE is developing a new Early Childhood Education Information Management System (EIMS). The EIMS will provide web-based access to the database for both ECE staff and

child care providers. This new EIMS will provide real-time data and create a universal platform for information about the children OSSE serves across programs.

- T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Higher Education Scholarship Program will provide scholarships for teachers to attain associate's and bachelor's degrees as well as increases in compensation for participants and incentives for employer participation.
- The ECE was awarded nearly \$700,000 over FY2011 - FY2013 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families to implement the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC).
- ECE is currently redesigning our Quality Rating and Improvement System, Going for the Gold. The revised QRIS will serve as a method to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early and school-age care settings. The revised system will provide meaningful incentives and targeted support for ascending the subsidy reimbursement tiers.
- ECE awarded \$500,000 in infant and toddler expansion grants.. The grants will help Providers gain knowledge of ways to increase and sustain their businesses by expanding their infant and toddler programs.

ACCESSIBILITY OF SERVICES

The OSSE offers families a wide range of child care options. The variety of schedules and types of programs enable families to choose the setting that best meets their needs. Child Development Centers and Child Development Homes are licensed by OSSE's Compliance and Integrity Unit to ensure they meet minimum health and safety requirements. Providers must sign an agreement with OSSE's School Preparedness Unit to participate in the Child Care Subsidy Program. The five types of Child Care Providers are described below.

	Selection of child care done by	Eligibility determined by	Place of care	Provider of care
Level I Child Development Center-Based Provider	parent/guardian	DHS	center	center staff
Level II Child Development Center -Based Provider	parent/guardian	Level II Center-Based provider	center	center staff
Child Development Home-Based Provider	parent/guardian	DHS	home of provider	provider

Relative Care Provider	parent/guardian	DHS	home of relative	relative of child
In-Home Care Provider	parent/guardian	DHS	home of child	provider chosen by parent/guardian

1. **Level I Child Development Center-Based Provider:** accepts children who are referred for subsidized care after eligibility determination and intake at the Department of Human Services (DHS), Child Care Services Division.
2. **Level II Child Development Center-Based Provider:** conducts child care eligibility determination as well as intake on behalf of OSSE using OSSE eligibility requirements. Level II Center-Based Providers are located throughout the District.
3. **Child Development Home-Based Provider:** accepts children who are referred for subsidized child care after eligibility determination and intake at the DHS.
4. **Relative Care Provider:** parent or guardian selects the relative to provide care in the relative's home. Eligibility determination and intake must be performed by the DHS.
5. **In-Home Care Provider:** parent or guardian selects the provider to care for the child in the child's home. Eligibility determination and intake must be performed by the DHS.

Note: Relative Care Providers and In-Home Care Providers are exempt from the licensing requirements and are referred to as “*care-of-last-resort*” according to the Day Care Policy Act of 1979, as amended. In order to utilize Relative or In-Home Care Providers, parents must demonstrate that they could not find care in licensed centers or child development homes to meet their schedule needs or the needs of their child. Relative Care and In-Home Care Providers must enter into agreement with the OSSE School Preparedness Unit to participate in the Child Care Subsidy Program after the family has been determined eligible to receive subsidized child care service by DHS. The agreement has specific health, safety and education requirements which these providers must follow.

Non-traditional services: In addition to the traditional services offered from 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM Monday through Friday, the OSSE assists eligible parents/guardians in paying for “non-traditional services”, which are available evenings, nights, and weekends at selected sites. Parents/guardians can contact D.C. Child Care Connections by calling (202) 862-1111 or visiting their website (www.mychildcaredc.com) for a listing of providers and services available in their neighborhoods.

Accessibility to Children: Parents/guardians who place their children in any type of early care and education program in the District of Columbia have the right to unlimited access to their children while in care. A statement to this effect should appear in each Parent Handbook provided to prospective parents by the early care and education programs in the District.

AFFORDABILITY OF SERVICES

In order for a Child Development Center-Based Provider or Child Development Home-Based Provider to operate legally in the District of Columbia it must obtain a license. Parents should always ask to see a program's license when selecting a child care program. The cost for child care varies throughout the city, the range of which is represented in the Market Rate Study conducted by the Center for Applied Research and Urban Policy at the University of the District of Columbia. Families who receive child care subsidies usually pay monthly co-payments which are substantially lower than the full market rate. These co-payments are established under a sliding fee schedule (to see the parent co-pay schedule please visit the Division of Early Childhood Education section of the OSSE website at www.osse.dc.gov.) These co-payment fees are based on family size, income and the number of children receiving care.

Co-payment fees for families are reviewed regularly to ensure that services are affordable and consume only a small percentage of the family's income. The chart below shows a sample fee for a family earning \$18,000 per year.

CHILD ONE: School Age	CHILD TWO: Preschool
Part time care for (42 weeks out of the year): a parent fee of \$.64 daily x 5 days equals \$3.20 weekly x 42 weeks: \$134.40 per year.	Full Time Care for (52 weeks per year): \$.95 daily x 5 days equals \$4.75 weekly x 52 weeks: \$247.00 per year.
Full Time Care for (10 weeks out of the year); \$1.27 daily x 5 days equals \$6.35 weekly x 10 weeks: \$63.50 per year.	TOTAL for preschool : \$247 per year
TOTAL for school age child: \$197.90 per year.	
FAMILY TOTAL COST (BOTH CHILDREN): \$444.90 per year Percentage of Family's Annual Income: 2.5%	

In addition to applying at the Department of Human Services, Child Care Services Division, eligible families can apply for subsidized child care at more than 45 Level II community-based child development centers located throughout the District. A list of these centers is available from D.C. Child Care Connections (the Child Care Resource and Referral Agency) by calling (202) 862-1111 or visiting their website (www.mychildcaredc.com).

The current District of Columbia Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan is available on the OSSE website (www.osse.dc.gov). The State Plan details the full range of child care services that are offered throughout the District in both licensed and license-exempt settings. It also provides a description of the family fees for child care services using a sliding scale based on family income and size. The State Plan specifies that services are available for children from six weeks of age through age twelve (12). Children with disabilities are eligible for care through age eighteen (18).

II. HOW CAN THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATE IN DEVELOPING THE FY 2012-2013 STATE PLAN?

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education is actively seeking ideas and recommendations from a wide variety of citizens throughout the District of Columbia. We would like to receive input from parents, grandparents, citizens who are concerned about the future of the city, early childhood education professionals, early childhood education experts and other early childhood education stakeholders. All interested are invited to participate in drafting the upcoming CCDF State Plan for FY 2012-2013.

The Community Input Questionnaire is being distributed to gather community involvement on how to improve early care and education services in the areas of availability, accessibility, affordability, and quality of child care services. A copy of the survey will be available on the OSSE website at www.osse.dc.gov under the Division of Early Childhood Education section. You can also provide input by attending the community forums and public hearings on:

COMMUNITY FORUM 1

Tuesday, February 22, 2011

6:00-8:00 PM

Benning Neighborhood Library

3935 Benning Road, NE

Washington, DC 20019

COMMUNITY FORUM 2

Thursday, March 3, 2011

6:00-8:00 PM

Bell Multicultural High School

3101 16th Street, NW

Washington, DC 20010

PUBLIC HEARING 1

Saturday, April 30, 2011

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Office of Unified Communications (Main Entrance; First Floor)

2720 Martin Luther King Avenue, SE

Washington, DC 20032

PUBLIC HEARING 2

Saturday, May 14, 2011

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Martin Luther King Jr. Library (Room A5)

901 G Street, NW

Washington, DC 20005

Copies of the draft CCDF State Plan will be available for review in selected D.C. public libraries and at OSSE's Division of Early Childhood Education office located at 801 First Street, NE, 4th Floor, Washington, DC 20002. The plan will also be accessible online beginning the week of April 18, 2011 on the OSSE website: www.osse.dc.gov.

All interested parties are encouraged to give testimony at the public hearings. To register to make a presentation at the public hearing on Saturday, April 30, 2011, call 202-727-1839 no later than 4:30pm Wednesday, April 27, 2011. Registered persons will be scheduled for a 3-minute period to testify first. Persons not registered to testify will be allowed to testify as time permits. Persons who testify are encouraged to bring a copy of their written testimony for the record. Amharic, Chinese, French, Spanish, Vietnamese and Sign Language interpreters will be available, if the services are requested by Monday, April 25, 2011, to ensure availability. To request these services please contact Helen Jordan at 202-727-1839, or by e-mail at Helen.Jordan@dc.gov.

Registration dates for the May 14th hearing will be announced in a future notice and posted on the OSSE website.

Written comments on the draft CCDF State Plan may be submitted at either of the hearings or throughout the comment period. **The written comments must be received by 4:00 PM on Wednesday, May 18, 2011** at the OSSE office. Please address comments to: the Child Care and Development Fund State Plan, Attention: Carolyn J. Terry-Taylor at 810 First Street, NE, 4th Floor, Washington, DC 20002, fax (202) 727-5218 or by e-mail at Carolyn.Taylor@dc.gov.

III. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information about the OSSE Division of Early Childhood Education and its services please call **(202) 727-1839**, or any of the following numbers below:

Name and Phone Number of OSSE Contacts/Divisions:

Analysis and Reporting Unit **202-727-1839**
School Preparedness Unit (Program Quality Unit; Professional Development Unit;
Pre-kindergarten Program; Head Start State Collaboration Office) **202-727-1839**
Compliance and Integrity Unit (Licensing; Eligibility Monitoring;
Complaints and Unusual Incidents) **202-727-1839**
Office of Special Education, Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities Division: Part C
Services **202-727-5784**

Name and Phone Numbers of Partners:

Department of Human Services, Child Care Services Division: subsidized child care
eligibility determination and intake **202-727-0284**
District of Columbia Public Library: *Reach Out and Read!* **202-727-4803**

Additional Information:

Child Find Phone Line **202-727-3665**
D.C. Child Care Connections – Child Care Resource and Referral **202-862-1111**
Mayor's Call Center **311**

**This Document Is Printed With Funds from the Child
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Additional copies of this Citizen's Guide can be obtained from:

**Office of the State Superintendent of Education
Division of Early Childhood Education
810 First Street, NE, 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
Tel: (202) 727-1839
Website: www.osse.dc.gov**

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