



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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FEB 19 2020

Danielle Barnes, Commissioner
Child Care and Community Services
James K. Polk Building, 17th Floor
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Commissioner Barnes:

The Office of Child Care has completed its review of the proposed amendment(s) to Tennessee's conditionally approved Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan for 2019-2021, submitted on October 16, 2019.

This letter is to inform you that the following CCDF Plan amendment(s) were approved.

- **Section 1.7.1 – Funding of Child Care Resource & Referral organizations.** – Amended plan to include the implementation of financial support for CPR/First Aid training for the entire workforce and implementation of small business academies effective October 1, 2019.
- **Section 3.1.2 –Eligibility criteria based upon reason of care.** – Amended plan to include payment for children in foster care effective April 1, 2019.
- **Section 3.1.7 –Policies and processes for graduated phase-out of assistance at redetermination.** – Amended plan to include policy changes that clearly reflect actions taken when a family income exceeds the 60th percentile but remains under the 85th percentile or when income exceeds the 85th percentile. Approval of this amendment indicates that Tennessee's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule and is no longer under a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for this requirement effective December 17, 2019.
- **Section 3.1.10 –Strategies to assure the timeliness of eligibility determination upon receipt of applications.** – Amended plan to include efforts to pilot an online application process on June 1, 2019.
- **Section 3.3.1 12 –Month eligibility.** – Amended plan to include policy changes that removed language requiring a family to report changes prior to the end of the 12

month eligibility period and language pertaining to illnesses that could impact eligibility. Approval of this amendment indicates that Tennessee's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule and is no longer under a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for this requirement effective May 30, 2019

- **Section 3.3.2 –Options to discontinue assistance during the 12-month eligibility period.** – Amended plan to include policy changes to ensure that families are receiving a 12-month eligibility period. Approval of this amendment indicates that Tennessee's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule and is no longer under a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for this requirement effective May 30, 2019
- **Section 4.3.1 and 4.4.1 –Certification that payment rates are sufficient to ensure equal access.** – Amended plan to include a series of subsidy rate increases effective April 1, 2019 and again on July 1, 2019 based on the most recent market rate survey. Approval of this amendment indicates that Tennessee's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule and is no longer under a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for this requirement.
- **Section 4.5.1 –Payment practices for all CCDF providers.** – Amended plan to include policy changes that support paying based upon a child's enrollment rather than attendance effective October 1, 2019, paying reasonable registration fees that the provider charges to private paying parents as of September 30, 2019, same day provider notification of any changes to the family's eligibility status that could impact payments as of May 30, 2019, and began a payment dispute resolution process on August 30, 2019. Approval of this amendment indicates that Tennessee's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule and is no longer under a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for this requirement.
- **Section 4.6.2 –Support for improving business practices** – Amended plan to include provisions for shared services/bulk purchasing on September 15, 2019 and implementation of small business academies on October 1, 2019.
- **Section 6.1.3. –Professional development framework** – Amended plan to include implementation of a Wage salary supplement program effective September 15, 2019.
- **Section 7.7.1 –Use of CCDF quality funds** – Amended plan to include provision of support and enhancement grants for child care providers effective September 15, 2019.

The effective dates for these amendments to the Tennessee CCDF Plan are noted on the amendments log within the ACF-118 electronic submission site.

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We look forward to our continued partnership in the administration of your Child Care and Development Fund program. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please feel free to contact Eric Blanchette, Child Care Program Manager in our Atlanta Regional Office at Eric.Blanchette@ACF.hhs.gov and/or (404) 552-2782.

We appreciate your efforts to meet the child care needs of eligible families in the State of Tennessee, and look forward to our continued partnership in the administration of your Child Care and Development Fund Program.

Sincerely,



Ellen C. Wheatley, Ph.D.
Deputy Director
Office of Child Care

cc: Jude White, Assistant Commissioner
Eric Blanchette, OCC Regional Program Manager, Region IV
Kathy Edler, Regional Liaison, Office of Child Care