



Department of

**Human Services**


# 2025-2027 Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan Focus Group

## Session

March 2024



What is  
the  
Difference  
Between  
CCDBG  
and  
CCDF?



The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act is the law (along with Section 418 of the Social Security Act) that authorizes the federal child care subsidy program known as Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF).

**CHILD CARE AND  
DEVELOPMENT BLOCK  
GRANT ACT**

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# The CCDBG Law Requires

- All states use the same set of comprehensive background checks in child care programs
  - States must develop professional development systems to improve the knowledge and skills of child care staff
  - States incorporate the health and safety standards outlined in the final rule
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- States set up guidelines designed to ensure that children will be in safer, high-quality care
  - Providers receive support and training to meet the needs of children in care
  - Parents have the information they need to make informed choices

# Supporting Child Development

- Improving the development of children is the key purpose of the CCDBG Act.
- The law requires states to have professional development systems for child care providers that promote a child's
  - Social, emotional, physical and cognitive development and to address behavioral challenges
- Requires states to collect and publicly share information on child development, family engagement, developmental screenings and quality child care with parents, providers and the public

# Major Provisions of the Final Rule

- Protect the health and safety of children in care (health and safety training, background checks, monitoring of child care providers)
- Help parents make informed choices (consumer website)
- Support equal access to stable, high quality child care
- Enhance the quality of child care and the early childhood workforce



**CHILD CARE AND  
DEVELOPMENT  
FUND**

# Purposes of CCDF





# 12 Month Eligibility

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- States have flexibility to structure subsidy assistance programs and policies that meet the needs of children and families
  - Families First Child Care
  - Transitional Child Care
  - At-Risk Child Only Child Care
  - Smart Steps
  - Teen Parent Assistance Child Care
  - Re-employment Child Care
  - Mental Health and Substance Abuse Child Care
  - SNAP Employment and Training Child Care
  - Children in Foster Care

# Access for Homeless Children and Families

- Allow homeless children to receive CCDF assistance after an initial eligibility determination but before providing required documentation (including documentation related to immunizations);
- Provide training and technical assistance to child care providers on identifying and serving homeless children and families; and
- Conduct specific outreach to homeless families.
- Children experiencing homelessness are a “priority for child care services”



# Consumer Education

States must provide information to the public about choosing child care and establish a consumer website with components including

List of providers, searchable by zip code, etc.

Quality of the program

Results of monitoring visit

Contact information for child care resource and referral



Aggregate number of deaths, serious injuries, and instances of substantiated child abuse (Annual report)

# Health and Safety Requirements

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- Provide training on the following requirements:
  - Prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunization);
  - Prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleep practices;
  - Administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent;
  - Prevention/response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions;
  - Building and physical premises safety, including identification of and protection from hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic;
  - Prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma, and child maltreatment;
  - Emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster, or a man-caused event (such as violence at a child care facility);
  - Handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of biocontaminants;
  - Appropriate precautions in transporting children (if applicable);
  - Pediatric first-aid and CPR; and
  - Recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect.

# Health and Safety Requirements, cont.

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- Additional topics include:
  - Nutrition and physical activity
  - Access to physical activity;
  - Caring for children with special needs; or
  - Any other subject area determined by the Lead Agency to be necessary to promote child development or to protect children's health and safety
- Lead Agencies must have pre-service and on-going training requirements in the topic areas.

# Monitoring Requirements

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*For Licensed CCDF Providers* — Lead Agencies must conduct 1 pre-licensure inspection for health, safety, and fire standards and annual, unannounced inspections.



*For License-Exempt CCDF and CCDF-eligible Providers (except, at Lead Agency option, those serving only relatives)* — Lead Agencies must conduct annual inspections for compliance with health, safety, and fire standards. The law does not require that these monitoring visits be unannounced, but ACF recommends that states consider unannounced visits for license-exempt providers since experience shows they are effective in promoting compliance.

# Background Check Requirements

Components	In-State	National	Inter-State
1. Criminal registry or repository using fingerprints in the current state of residency	X		
2. Sex offender registry or repository check in the current state of residency	X		
3. Child abuse and neglect registry and database check in the current state of residency	X		
4. FBI fingerprint check		X	
5. National Crime Information Center (NCIC) National Sex Offender Registry (NSOR)		X	
6. Criminal registry or repository in any other state where the individual has resided in the past 5 years, with the use of fingerprints being optional			X
7. Sex offender registry or repository in any other state where the individual has resided in the past 5 years			X
8. Child abuse and neglect registry and database in any other state where the individual has resided in the past 5 years			X

# Quality

- The proportion of funds states must use for quality is nine percent, and describing allowable quality activities (*e.g.*, training and professional development, quality rating and improvement systems, etc.);
- Three percent infant and toddler set-aside to improve the supply and quality of providers serving the youngest children;
- Helping parents make informed consumer choices and access information to identify high- quality care;
- Requiring states to take the cost of quality into account when setting rates; and
- Requiring states to have training and professional development requirements and a progression of professional development for CCDF providers, including caregivers, teachers, and directors.



# Equal Access

Setting payment rates for subsidies that are sufficient to ensure equal access for eligible children

Take into consideration the cost of providing higher-quality care using a QRIS

Setting co-payments so that cost-sharing should not be a barrier to families receiving assistance. ACF OCC recommends a benchmark of no more than 7% of income

Payment practices should be reasonable

# CCDF Final Rule-Effective April 30, 2024

## Required of States:

Must be fully implemented within 2 years of final rule

- Co-pays capped at 7% of family income
- Pay providers prospectively
- Use enrollment based payment
- Some grants/contracts for:
  - Infants and toddlers
  - Children with disabilities
  - Underserved areas
- Support Non-traditional hour care
- Eligibility policies minimize disruption to families

# CCDF Final Rule-Effective April 30, 2024

## **New guidelines encouraged:**

- **Presumptive eligibility**
- **Use other benefit program documentation to enroll families**
- **Online enrollment procedures**
- **Pay providers full established rate**
- **Waive co-pays 100-150 FPL**
- **Waive co-pays for:**
  - **Child with disability**
  - **Families who are homeless**
  - **If child in foster care**
  - **Enrolled in Head Start**

# CCDF STATE PLAN

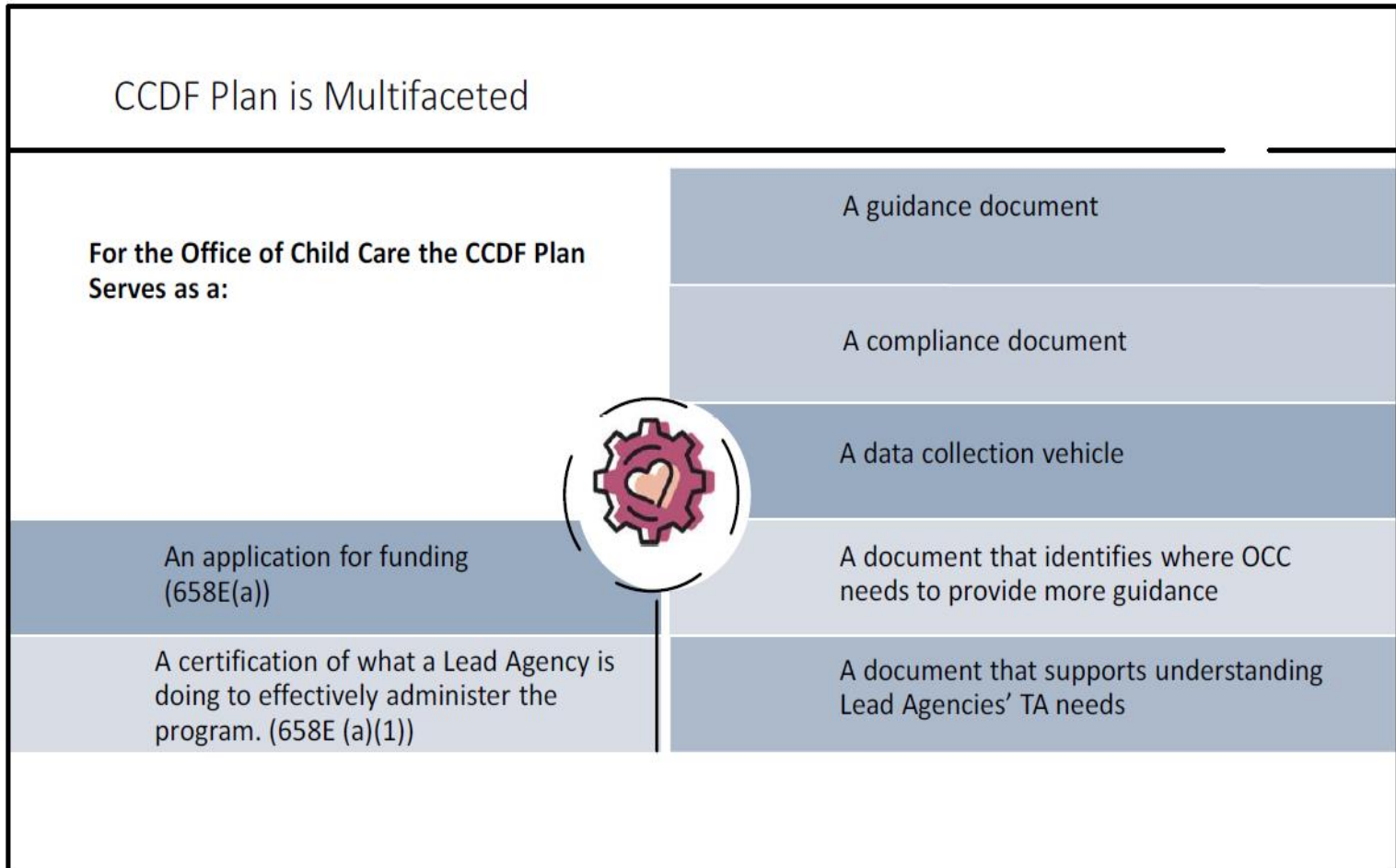
2025-2027



# Relationships and Collaboration



# What is the 2025-27 CCDF State Plan?



# 2025-2027 CCDF Plan Overview

1. CCDF Program Administration
2. Child & Family Eligibility, Enrollment, and Continuity of Care
3. Child Care Affordability
4. Parental Choice, Equal Access, Payment Rates, and Payment Practices
5. Health & Safety of Child Care Settings
6. Support for a Skilled, Qualified & Compensated Child Care Workforce
7. Quality Improvement Activities
8. Lead Agency Coordination & Partnership to Support Service Delivery
9. Family Outreach & Consumer Education
10. Program Integrity & Accountability

# CCDF Plan Focus

**Direct Supports for Families**

**Health & Safety Standards**

**Quality Improvement Activities**

**High Quality Early Education  
Environments**



# Additional Areas of Impact

**What additional resources might families need?**

**How can we realize greater increases in access to care for families?**

**What additional professional development investments might strengthen our Early Childhood Education Workforce?**

**How might we strengthen the social-emotional well-being in child care settings?**

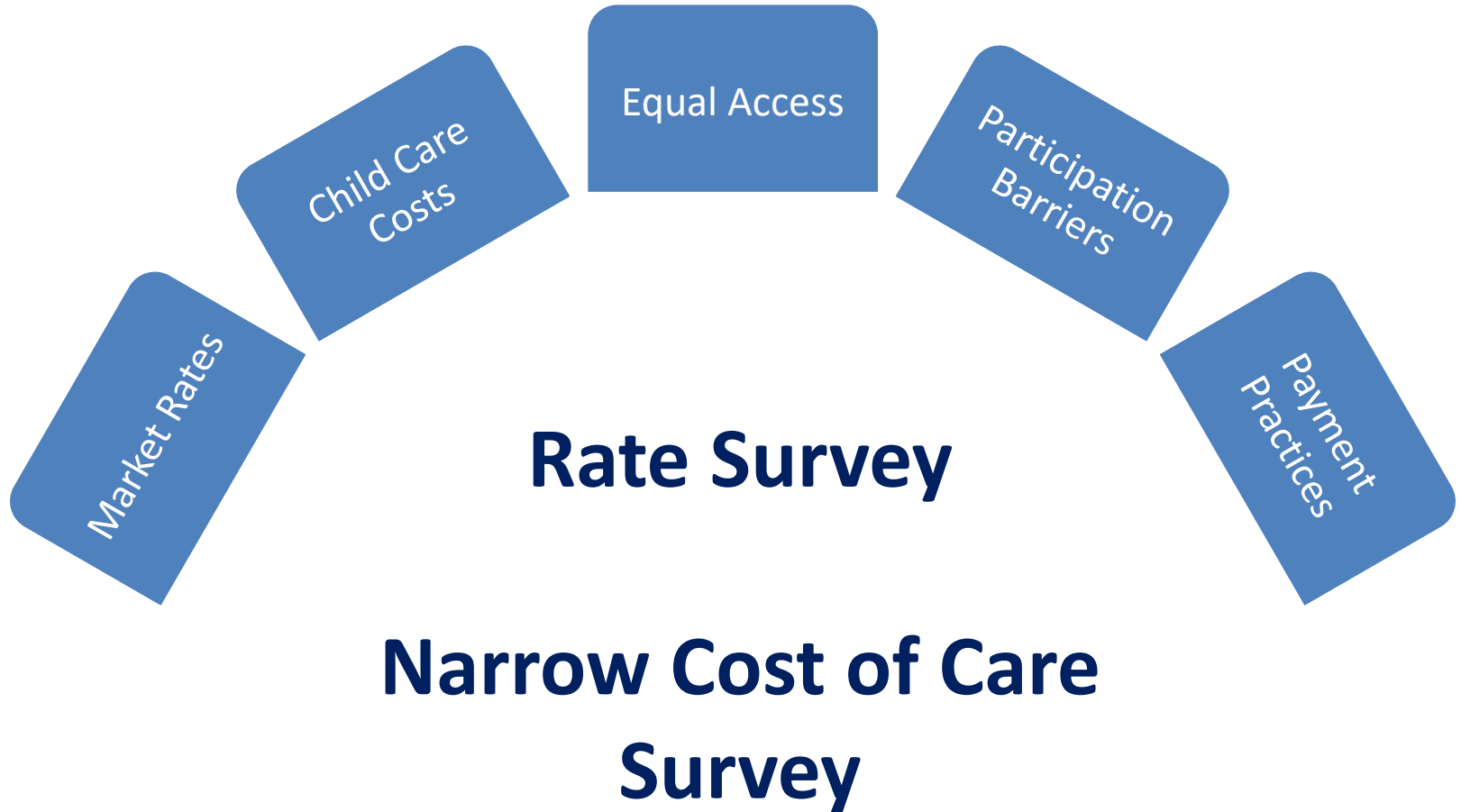
# Child Care Support Examples

- **WAGE\$**
- **CPR & First Aid Certification**
- **Enhancement/Sustainability Grants**
- **Establishment/Expansion Grants**
- **Business Academies**
- **Shared Services**
- **TNPAL (workforce registry)**
- **Provider Portal**
- **Automated Attendance Tracking**
- **Infant/Toddler Mental Health**

# Child Care Support Examples

- **Professional Development for Providers-Career Lattice and Tuition Support**
- **Training, Technical Assistance**
- **Network of Coaches**
  - **Infant Toddler Coaches**
  - **Family Engagement Quality Coaches**
  - **Health Safety Supervision Coaches**
  - **Early Language & Literacy Coaches**
  - **Language Support Coaches**
  - **Inclusion Coaches**
  - **Family & Group Child Care Coaches**
  - **Small Business Specialists**
  - **Emergency Preparedness Specialists**
  - **Quality Response Improvement Coaches**

# Assessing the Cost of Care



# Plan Development Timeline

- **Focus Groups (March)**
- **Develop State Plan based on Focus Group Feedback and Final CCDF Rule (March)**
- **Public Hearing Notice (April)**
- **Public Hearing (May)**
- **Compile/Review Comments (June)**
- **Plan Submission (Last week of June)**
- **Effective Date (October 1, 2024)**

# Next Steps

- **We want to hear from you!**
- **We have set up an email to submit your thoughtful suggestions that align with the purposes presented.**
- **A follow-up email will be provided following this session that includes a link to our webpage that includes this PowerPoint presentation, the 2025-2027 Preprint, the current 2022-2024 CCDF State Plan and a contact email to submit your responses.**
- **Contact Information: [CCDFPlan.DHS@tn.gov](mailto:CCDFPlan.DHS@tn.gov)**



Thank you!

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