

New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development

Draft Child Care Development Fund State Plan

Edits/Changes

June 30, 2021

Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development (DHS/DFD) has shared the following summary (public hearing recommendations and ACF's feedback) with stakeholders to provide an outline of changes to FY 2022-2024 Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Draft State Plan.

Some of the proposed comments and recommendations presented during New Jersey June 3, 2021 public hearing, as well as feedback received from stakeholders, providers and parents are under review for consideration. However, the division was able to make some changes to the plan based on feedback received as outlined below.

In the upcoming month, DHS/DFD will provide a summary highlighting proposed recommendation, and will keep the public informed of amendments and changes to the Draft State Plan.

Draft State Plan is available at www.childcarenj.gov.

Additional Language added to the following sections of the Draft State Plan:

Section 1 Define Leadership and Coordination with Relevant Systems and Funding Sources

- 1.4 Provider Groups or Associations**
- 1.6 Public/Private Partnerships**
- 1.7 Coordination with Child Care Resource and Referral Systems**

Section 2 Promote Family Engagement Through Outreach and Consumer Education

2.3.7 Lead Agencies must post monitoring and inspection reports on the consumer education website for each licensed provider and for each non-relative provider eligible to provide CCDF services. These reports must include the results of required annual monitoring visits, and visits due to major substantiated complaints about a provider's failure to comply with health and safety requirements and child care policies. A full report covers everything in the monitoring visit, including areas of compliance and noncompliance. If the state does not produce any reports that include areas of compliance, the website must include information about all areas covered by a monitoring visit (e.g., by posting a blank checklist used by monitors).

e. Describe the process for correcting inaccuracies in reports (98.33 (a) (4)).

f. Describe the process for providers to appeal the findings in reports. Description of the process should include the time requirements and timeframes for: -- filing the appeal -- conducting the investigation -- removal of any violations from the website determined on appeal to be unfounded.

g. Describe the process for maintaining monitoring and inspection reports on the website. Specifically, provide the minimum number of years reports are posted and the policy for removing reports (98.33(a)(4)(iv)).

2.4.3 Developmental Screening

Describe how the Lead Agency makes information available to parents, providers and the general public on research and best practices concerning children's development, including physical health and development, particularly healthy eating and physical activity and information about successful parent and family engagement.

The description should include --

What information is provided

How the information is provided

How the information is tailored to a variety of audiences, including:

Parents

Providers

The general public

Any partners in providing this information

Section 4 Ensure Equal Access to Child Care for Low-Income Children

4.1.8 Lead Agencies are required to develop and implement strategies to increase the supply of and improve the quality of child care services (98.16 (x)). These strategies should address children in underserved areas; infants and toddlers; children with disabilities, as defined by the Lead Agency; and children who receive care during non-traditional hours. Identify what method(s) is (are) used to increase supply and/or to improve quality for the following populations and indicate in the description if a strategy is focused more on building supply or on improving quality.

(e) Other

4.3.1(a) Provide the base payment rates and percentiles (based on the most recent MRS as Identified in 4.2.1) for the following categories below. Lead Agencies are required to provide a summary of data and facts in their Plan to demonstrate how its payment rates ensure equal access. The preamble to the final rule (81 FR, p. 67512), indicates that a benchmark for adequate payment rates is the 75th percentile of the most recent MRS. The 75th percentile is the number separating the lowest 75 percent of rates from the highest 25 percent. Setting rates at the 75th percentile, while not a requirement, would ensure that eligible children have access to three out of four child care slots

Data Corrected in chart - changes made to columns 4 and 5

Section 6.3 Supporting Training and Professional Development of the Child Care Workforce with CCDF Quality Funds

6.3.1 Training and professional development of the child care workforce. In the table below, describe which content is included in training and professional development activities and how an entity is funded to address this topic. Then identify which types of providers are included in these activities. Check all that apply.

6.3.1 (e) Included funding to the table