2022-2024
Child Care and Development Fund Plan
Focus Groups
February-March 2021
Mission
To build strong families by connecting Tennesseans to employment, education and support services.

Vision
To revolutionize the customer experience through innovation and a seamless network of services.

Values
• High Performance
• Collaboration
• Continuous Improvement
• A Shared Vision
• Customer-Centered Solutions
OUR CHILD CARE WHY!
Every family should have access to QUALITY care for children & adults

Child Care Vision/Goals

- Improve Quality
- Increase Access
- Strengthen Business Efficiency
Revised Child Care Licensing Rules  
Summer 2018  
As a result. . . .

Tennessee’s 2018 licensing revisions catapulted the state from 39th in the nation for strength of ECE licensing regulations supportive HWPs, to #1!

Tennessee’s licensing regulations are currently the most supportive of obesity prevention and HWPs in the nation!
In January 2019, the Child Care Services Director convened approximately 300 stakeholders to discuss the Child Care Certificate Program and subsidy rates.

**JANUARY 2019**

In February 2019, the Assessment Director convened a town hall meeting to discuss strengths and opportunities within the current quality assessment and rating program. A survey was also issued to child care providers and partners about their interest in small business training.

**FEBRUARY 2019**

In August and September 2019, TDHS staff, providers, and partners were included in focus groups to give specific feedback about the big ideas for redesign of the QRIS.

**AUGUST 2019**
Increase in Subsidy Rates-April 2019
35% Overall - Infant/Toddler
20% Overall – Preschool /School-Age

Implemented Subsidy Rate Bonuses- July 2019
15% Bonus for areas identified as Child Care Deserts
15% Bonus for areas identified as Distressed Counties
15% Bonus for Non-Traditional hours

October 2019 Initiatives
WAGE$®
Shared Services and Resources
Mini Grants
Pediatric First Aid and CPR Training/Certification
Business Academies
Paying for Enrollment vs Attendance

Wins in the Field
Transforming the Child Care Industry

Transforming

- Childcare Workforce
  - Babysitters to Professionals
- DHS Staff
  - Enforcers to Partners
- Report Card Process
  - Quality Rating to Quality Improvement
- Administrative Tasks
  - Cumbersome to Empowering
- Capacity
  - Childcare Obstructer to Childcare Creator
- Payment Assistance
  - Access to Care becomes Access to Quality
- Payment Assistance
  - Isolated Interaction becomes Continuity of Care
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Short Term Goals</th>
<th>Medium Term Goals</th>
<th>Long Term Goals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COVID Response- Now</td>
<td><strong>QRIS Redesign- 2021</strong></td>
<td><strong>Full Deployment- 2022</strong></td>
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<td>• Using interim assessment tool to complete all license renewals through 2021.</td>
<td>• Developing rules revisions to support the new approach to quality rating and improvement. <em>-Providers Participating</em></td>
<td>• New Technology and Programs- in place to modernize interactions with providers. Transactions are completed electronically.</td>
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<td>• Deploying COVID relief funds through multiple programs including: pandemic/essential employee payment assistance; temporary care locations for school-aged children; waiving co-pays etc.</td>
<td>• DHS Child Care Staff reorganization</td>
<td>• All information is stored electronically.</td>
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<td>• Increasing technology supports for receiving and processing all applications, allowing certificate staff to engage customers around consumer education and continuity of care.</td>
<td>• Focus is on customer relationships and quality improvement.</td>
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Relationships and Collaboration

Child Welfare

Office of Child Care
*Central Office
*Regional Office

Head Start / Early Head Start

QRIS

Education

Services to Children & Families Experiencing Homelessness

Subsidy

General Public

Tribal Organizations

CCR&R

Local Governments

SAC

Professional Development

Lead Agency Staff Information Technology Financial

IDEA Part B

Child Care Providers

Licensing

Health

ECAC

IDEA Part C
What is the 2022-24 CCDF State Plan

CCDF Plan is Multifaceted

For the Office of Child Care the CCDF Plan Serves as a:

- A guidance document
- A compliance document
- A data collection vehicle
- A document that identifies where OCC needs to provide more guidance
- An application for funding (658E(a))
  
  A certification of what a Lead Agency is doing to effectively administer the program. (658E (a)(1))
  
  A document that supports understanding Lead Agencies’ TA needs
2022-2024 CCDF Plan Overview

- Leadership and Coordination With Relevant Systems
- Promote Family Engagement Through Outreach and Consumer Education
- Provide Stable Child Care Financial Assistance to Families
- Ensure Equal Access to Child Care for Low-Income Children
- Recruit and Retain a Qualified and Effective Child Care Workforce
- Establish Standards and Monitoring Processes to Ensure the Health and Safety of Child Care Settings
- Support Continuous Quality Improvement
- Ensure Grantee Integrity and Accountability
CCDF Plan Focus

Direct Supports for Families

Health & Safety Standards

Quality Improvement Activities

High Quality Early Education Environments
Child Care Support Examples

- WAGE$
- CPR & First Aid Certification
- Enhancement/Sustainability Grants
- Professional Development for Providers
- Training, Technical Assistance, Targeted Technical Assistance
- Business Academies
- TNPAL (workforce registry)
- Provider Portal
- Automated Attendance Tracking
Assessing the Cost of Care

Rate Survey

Targeted Cost Survey
Plan Development Timeline

- Focus Groups (February – March)
- Public Hearing Notice (May 4th)
- Public Hearing (May 25th)
- Compile/Review Comments (June)
- Plan Submission (Last week of June)
- Effective Date (October)
We Want to Hear From You

Direct Supports for Families
- Subsidy Assistance

Health & Safety Standards
- Additional Supports to Meet or Exceed

Quality Improvement Activities
- Resources or Initiatives that facilitate improvement

High Quality Early Education Environments
- Resources, Supports, Collaborations to build Early Care Environments where children thrive
Continual Opportunities for Comment

Stakeholders may submit comments throughout the plan development process and up to 7 days after the public hearing (COB 6/1/21) via the dedicated email mailbox:

CCDFPLAN.DHS@tn.gov
Questions?