

Child Care and Development Fund (CCDBG) Act of 2014

On November 19, 2014, the President signed S. 1086, the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014, into law. This bill was submitted to him with bipartisan support in both houses and hadn't been reauthorized in nearly 20 years. The chart below highlights many of the components of the bill and potential implementation considerations in California.

	Requirements of CCDBG Act of 2014	California Implementation
Administration	<p>Authorized Levels for Appropriations: FY15 = \$2.36b; FY16 = \$2.478b; FY17 = \$2.54b; FY18 = \$2.603b; FY19 = \$2.668b; FY20 = \$2.749b</p>	--
	<p>Increase to Quality Set Aside 1st & 2nd year = 7% 3rd & 4th year = 8% 5th year & beyond = 9%</p> <p>Plus an additional 3% set aside for quality activities related to infant and toddler care</p>	<p>4% quality set aside currently required.</p> <p>Due to recent budget cuts, CA reduced its quality improvement dollar appropriation by 30% or over \$30M between FY 08-09 and FY 13-14.</p>
	<p>Statewide Disaster Plan: <i>Planning Partners</i> - State agency over human services, State emergency planning, the State lead agency, the State agency over licensing, the local resource and referral organizations, the State resource and referral system, and the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care</p> <p><i>Planning Components</i> - evacuation, relocation, shelter-in-place, and lock-down procedures, and procedures for communication and reunification with families, continuity of operations, and accommodation of infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children with chronic medical conditions; guidelines for the continuation of child care services in the period following the emergency or disaster, which may include the provision of emergency and temporary child care services, and temporary operating standards for child care providers during that period; and procedures for staff and volunteer emergency preparedness training and practice drills.</p>	<p>A statewide disaster plan, as described in the CCDBG Act, is not currently in place for child care & development programs.</p> <p>The CA code of regulations requires licensed child care programs to have an emergency plan in place and practice it every month.</p>

Licensing	<p>Inspections: Not less than 1 prelicensure inspection, for compliance with health, safety, and fire standards, of each child care provider and facility AND</p> <p>Not less than annually, an unannounced inspection of each such child care facility for compliance with all child care licensing standards AND</p> <p>Perform an annual inspection of each <i>license-exempt</i> provider in the State receiving funds.</p>	<p>California law requires licensed child care facilities to be inspected once every 5 years in most cases.</p> <p>Inspections of <i>license-exempt</i> providers are not currently required.</p> <p>Community Care Licensing visits a site as part of the licensing application process. Some Child Care Initiative Project programs, administered by Child Care Resource & Referral Programs, offer a pre-licensure visit to help prepare the applicant to apply for a license.</p>
	<p>Online Info./Public by electronic means: Results of monitoring and inspection reports, including those due to major substantiated complaints, date of inspection, and information on corrective action taken (organized by provider)</p> <p>Additional Data: Number of deaths, serious injuries, and instances of substantiated child abuse that occurred in child care settings each year, for eligible child care providers</p>	<p>The CA Dept. of Social Services launched a new website which provides specific information related to each licensed child care provider. Information related to corrective action is not currently available.</p> <p>AB 2621 (Garcia), Child day care facilities: licensing information, would codify the changes DSS has made and is currently awaiting the Governor’s signature.</p> <p>Website: https://secure.dss.ca.gov/CareFacilitySearch/</p> <p>This data is not currently included on the DSS Community Care Licensing website.</p>
Provider Payment & Rates	<p>Payment Practices: Assurance that the State will, to the extent practicable, implement enrollment and eligibility policies that support the fixed costs of providing child care services by delinking provider reimbursement rates from an eligible child’s occasional absences due to holidays or unforeseen circumstances such as illness.</p> <p>Survey or Alternative Methodology: Allows for an alternative methodology, such as a cost estimation model, to be used to set rates (developed by the State lead agency)</p>	<p>In most cases, providers are not currently reimbursed when children are absent.</p> <p>Regional Market Rate survey is currently used to establish rate ceilings. The 14-15 Budget included the first rate increase in nearly a decade. CA is currently using 2009 rate ceilings less a deficit factor of 10.11%.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Provider Requirements</p>	<p>Health & Safety Requirements: Required to ensure that child care providers have training in the following topics: prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations); prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices; administration of medication; prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions; building and physical premises safety (including identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic); prevention of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma; emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies; the handling and storage of hazardous materials; for providers that offer transportation, if applicable, appropriate precautions in transporting children; first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR); and minimum health and safety training to be completed pre-service or during an orientation training.</p> <p>Business Technical Assistance: Child Care State Plans shall describe how the state will develop and implement strategies to strengthen the business practices of child care providers to expand the supply and improve the quality of child care services.</p>	<p>See a listing of current Health & Safety requirements here: http://bit.ly/1tZmjgm</p> <p>Community-based resource and referral agencies, located in every county in California, offer training for both licensed child care providers and for those providers who want to become licensed. The programs vary by community, but all trainings are geared to improve the quality of care that providers offer to parents. The Child Care Initiative Project includes several components related to business TA.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Background Checks</p>	<p>Background Check Components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) a search of the State criminal and sex offender registry or repository in the State where the child care staff member resides, and each State where such staff member resided during the preceding 5 years; (2) a search of State-based child abuse and neglect registries and databases in the State where the child care staff member resides, and each State where such staff member resided during the preceding 5 years; (3) a search of the National Crime Information Center; (4) a Federal Bureau of Investigation fingerprint check using the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System; and (5) a search of the National Sex Offender Registry established under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 	<p>All components are currently included in CA’s TrustLine process with the exception of the check of the National Sex Offender Registry and the “preceding 5 year” timeline.</p>

<p>Consumer Education</p>	<p>Consumer Education: In addition to referrals and information related to eligibility, parents shall also receive information related to research and best practices concerning children’s development, including social and emotional development, early childhood development, and meaningful parent and family engagement, and physical health and development (particularly healthy eating and physical activity); and the State policies regarding the social-emotional behavioral health of young children, which may include positive behavioral intervention and support models, and policies on expulsion of preschool-aged children, in early childhood programs receiving assistance and information on developmental screenings.</p> <p>National toll-free hotline and Website (up to \$1.5M) The Secretary shall operate, directly or through the use of grants or contracts, a national toll-free hotline and Website hosted by childcare.gov which shall enable a child care consumer to enter a zip code and obtain a referral to local child care providers within a specified search radius. The website shall provide to consumers, directly or through linkages to State databases, at a minimum a localized list of all eligible child care providers, differentiating between licensed and license-exempt providers; any provider-specific information from a Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) or information about other quality indicators, any other provider-specific information about compliance with licensing, and health and safety requirements to the extent the information is publicly available and to the extent practicable; <i>referrals to local resource and referral organizations from which consumers can find more information about child care providers</i>; and State information about child care subsidy programs and other financial supports available to families.</p>	<p>In every county of California there is a state-funded child care resource and referral (R&R) program that provides free information on choosing child care, referrals to child care centers and family child care homes, and information on help paying for child care. These programs also provide information related to child development.</p> <p>To find the R&R that serves a specific community, individuals may call the toll free hotline 1.800.KIDS.793 or visit www.rnetwork.org</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Eligibility</p>	<p>12-Month Period: Each child who receives assistance will be considered to meet all eligibility requirements for such assistance and will receive such assistance, for not less than 9 months before the State or designated local entity redetermines the eligibility of the child, regardless of a temporary change in the ongoing status of the child’s parent as working or attending a job training or educational program or a change in family income for the child’s family, if that family income does not exceed 85 percent of the State median income for a family of the same size.</p> <p>Redetermination Process: The plan shall describe the procedures and policies that are in place to ensure that working parents (especially parents in families receiving assistance under the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families are not required to unduly disrupt their employment in order to comply with the State’s or designated local entity’s requirements for redetermination of eligibility for assistance provided.</p> <p>Period Before Termination: At the option of the State, the plan shall demonstrate that the State will not terminate assistance provided based on a factor consisting of a parent’s loss of work or cessation of attendance at a job training or educational program for which the family was receiving the assistance, without continuing the assistance for a reasonable period of time, of not less than 3 months, after such loss or cessation in order for the parent to engage in a job search and resume work, or resume attendance at a job training or educational program, as soon as possible.</p> <p>Waiting List Study: The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct studies to determine, for each State, the number of families that (1) are eligible to receive assistance under the 23 Child Care and Development Block Grant Act and (2) have applied for the assistance, identified by the type of assistance requested; and have been placed on a waiting list for the assistance.</p>	<p>Existing law requires child care contractors to recertify service eligibility and need according to the following schedule: (a) six months for families due to actual/risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation and (b) 12 months for all other families. Current law also requires contractors to inform families of their responsibility to report any changes in family income, family size, contact info., provider, hours and days for child care or need for services within five calendar days. Any changes reported may lead to a contractor terminating a family’s ability to receive services.</p> <p>Currently, families are meet the income eligibility requirements for child care if they remain below 70% of the State Median Income (based on 2005 data)</p> <p>Currently, families can participate in “job search” for up to 60 days. If they do not find authorized work or a job training/educational program within those 60 their child care services are terminated.</p> <p>Statewide funding for CA’s Centralized Eligibility List was eliminated in 2011.</p>
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