

Child Care Development Block Grant Reauthorization Act

In November 2014, Congress reauthorized the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG), a law that outlined many new provisions aimed at strengthening programs accepting child care subsidies. Below are some key highlights of those changes/requirements. New Jersey currently is developing policies that will provide more specifics on these provisions.

Health and Safety Requirements for Child Care Providers

- Establishment of health and safety requirements, and pre-service and ongoing training in 10 different topic areas, such as prevention of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), first-aid and CPR.
- Criminal background checks for all child care staff members, including staff members who don't care directly for children but have unsupervised access to children. The act also specifies disqualifying crimes.
- Child abuse reporting requirements.
- Pre-licensure and annual unannounced inspections of all providers who accept child care subsidies.

Transparent Consumer and Provider Education Information

- Provider-specific information that is easily accessible to the general public, showing results of monitoring and inspection reports, as well as the number of deaths, serious injuries and instances of substantiated child abuse that occur in child care settings.
- A state website describing the process for licensing and monitoring child care providers, and the process for conducting criminal background checks as well as listing the offenses that prevent individuals from being child care providers.

Family-Friendly Eligibility Policies

- 12-month eligibility re-determination period for families receiving child care subsidies.
- Graduated phase-out of assistance for families with a temporary change in their circumstances.
- Enrollment procedures for homeless children.

Activities to Improve the Quality of Child Care

- Professional development and training requirements.
- Ongoing annual training and progression to improve knowledge and skills of Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) providers.
- Early Learning and Development Guidelines requirements.
- Consumer and provider education about developmental screenings for children at risk of cognitive or developmental delays.
- Providing policies regarding expulsions of children from early care and education programs.

For more information - <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/ccdf-reauthorization>