

**Homeless Families with Young Children
FY2016-FY2018 Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plans**

Excerpts from: Section 3.2.2. Improving Access to High Quality Child Care for Homeless Families

Source: FY2016-FY2018 CCDF State Plans, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/state-plans>

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Alabama	<p>The lead agency is implementing policy effective June 1, 2016 to prioritize services. Homeless families will receive priority over other CCDF eligible families. The lead agency is conducting outreach to homeless families by providing information on the program to the Homeless Liaisons across the state. The lead agency met with City and County Homeless Liaisons in March and April 2016. The lead agency has added the State Homeless Coordinator to the Child Care Coordinating Committee. The Child Care Coordinating Committee provides recommendations to the lead agency on child care services and policy. The lead agency will conduct outreach and gather input from McKinney-Vento State coordinators for Homeless Education. The lead agency will provide training and technical assistance to child care providers on identifying and serving homeless children and families. The lead agency will convene stakeholders to determine training and technical assistance strategies.</p>
Alaska	<p>The Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office, will be following up with the State Coordinator for Homeless Education in Alaska, through the State of Alaska, Department of Education and Early Development over this plan period to identify opportunities for coordinating services for homeless children, including distributing brochures, providing outreach, and conducting technical assistance and referrals for providers and families. The Lead Agency allows homeless children to receive CCDF funds (child care assistance) and new Child Care Licensing regulation, effective May 15, 2016 which allow for a grace period for providing immunization verification prior to enrollment with a licensed provider.</p>
American Samoa	<p>The Lead Agency (LA) works specifically with the Women and Children's Shelter (Manaia Shelter) that is operated by the DHSS Children and Family Services Division to ensure that priority placement is provided to children served at the Manaia Shelter. The assigned LA caseworker will work closely with the family to secure as much of the required financial and non-financial documentation needed over their initial certificate period (12-months). The LA will be as flexible as possible to help the family get the needed documents together, while being sensitive to their circumstances. If the family needs child care assistance beyond the initial 12-months, but does not have all of the documentation in order, an extension may be granted by the State Administrator/ authorized designee.</p>
Arizona	<p>The CCDF Lead Agency has prioritized homeless families residing in homeless shelters above all others when funding becomes limited; these families are not subject to a waiting list. Providers give homeless families additional time as needed to comply with immunization requirements.</p> <p>Homeless shelters are regularly provided information on child care assistance and are given the forms and applications for families to complete. Providers are given information on child care assistance to encourage families to apply for assistance; Early Head Start partners are provided information on child care programs, including information on child care assistance available to homeless families.</p> <p>The McKinney-Vento State Coordinator for the Arizona Department of Education is a member of the Integration with Other Federal Programs CCDBG workgroup and will be consulted in the development of training and technical assistance related to identifying families who are homeless and ensuring they have to access quality child care services. Child care for children residing in homeless or domestic violence shelters is available via contract to licensed child care programs operating in homeless or domestic violence shelters. The funding is inclusive of all costs associated with the delivery of this service, which includes training of teachers and other staff and obtaining and retaining national accreditation or the Quality First Star Rating in the quality level for the child care program. The CCDF Lead Agency eligibility workers screen</p>

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	<p>for homelessness during the eligibility determination process in order to appropriately refer homeless families to shelters with onsite child care programs and to determine eligibility and authorize services to accommodate shelter directed activities.</p>
<p>Arkansas</p>	<p>DCCECE offers differential eligibility for homeless families. Expedited enrollment allows the state to enroll the children to help meet the parent's need. Staff is assigned to work directly with homeless shelters and organizations that serve the homeless to coordinate the provision of early learning opportunities.</p> <p>Eligibility requirements are waived for children who are homeless and those who are in foster care. The Program Eligibility Specialist provides case management services to obtain the information to establish eligibility.</p> <p>Program Eligibility Specialists provide community outreach efforts to homeless shelters across the state and partnerships are established. Staff are assigned to various homeless shelters in various areas of the state to ensure access to services.</p>
<p>California</p>	<p>Subsidized child care programs administered by the CDE, including those supported by the CCDF, follow the eligibility and need criteria described in California <i>Education Code</i> Section 8263 (partial citation included below), including homeless children and families.</p> <p>California <i>Education Code</i> Section 8263: (a) The Superintendent shall adopt rules and regulations on eligibility, enrollment, and priority of services needed to implement this chapter. In order to be eligible for federal and state subsidized child development services, families shall meet at least one requirement in each of the following areas:</p> <p>(1) A family is (A) a current aid recipient, (B) income eligible, (C) homeless, or (D) one whose children are recipients of protective services, or whose children have been identified as being abused, neglected, or exploited, or at risk of being abused, neglected, or exploited.</p> <p>(2) A family needs the child care services (A) because the child is identified by a legal, medical, or social services agency, or emergency shelter as (i) a recipient of protective services or (ii) being neglected, abused, or exploited, or at risk of neglect, abuse, or exploitation, or (B) because the parents are (i) engaged in vocational training leading directly to a recognized trade, para-profession, or profession, (ii) employed or seeking employment, (iii) seeking permanent housing for family stability, or (iv) incapacitated.</p> <p>(b) Except as provided in Article 15.5 (commencing with Section 8350), priority for federal and state subsidized child development services is as follows:(1) (A) First priority shall be given to neglected or abused children who are recipients of child protective services, or children who are at risk of being neglected or abused, upon written referral from a legal, medical, or social services agency. If an agency is unable to enroll a child in the first priority category, the agency shall refer the family to local resource and referral services to locate services for the child.</p> <p>(B) A family who is receiving child care on the basis of being a child at risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation, as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 8208, is eligible to receive services pursuant to subparagraph (A) for up to three months, unless the family becomes eligible pursuant to subparagraph (C).</p> <p>(C) A family may receive child care services for up to 12 months on the basis of a certification by the county child welfare agency that child care services continue to be necessary or, if the child is receiving</p>

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	<p>child protective services during that period of time, and the family requires child care and remains otherwise eligible. This time limit does not apply if the family's child care referral is recertified by the county child welfare agency.</p> <p>Other information and services may be provided through CDE and R&R agencies.</p>
Colorado	<p>A consultation was conducted with Paula Gumina from the Colorado Department of Education who presented a webinar on 8/20/2015 for McKinney-Vento Liaisons. She provided resources, links and worksheets for the State. Informational material was provided including FAQs, common signs of homelessness document, information on determining eligibility and most valuable tips sheet. A statewide list of liaisons was provided. The McKinney-Vento liaisons are reached at each school throughout the state as a contact for families with school age children. For families without school age children the state has three regions and each region has a coordinator. Metro Denver Homeless Initiative is the Continuum of Care coordinator for the seven county metro Denver area. Homeward Pikes Peak is the care coordinator for El Paso county. The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless is the care coordinator for all other Colorado counties. We also consulted with the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless on expedited enrollment and issues related to homeless families accessing child care assistance. We specifically met with Annetta Crecelius & Katy Fleury of Colorado Coalition for the Homeless and were able to get a list of resources and links. The results of the consultation are reflected in the Implementation Plan for outreach and services to homeless families.</p> <p>Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) rules have been drafted to address expedited enrollment, provision of a grace period and the addition of a new eligible activity for homeless families. Homeless families will be enrolled in a stabilization activity up to 60 days in order to prepare for job search, training or employment. Changes have been made to the CCCAP application and redetermination forms to identify homeless families.</p> <p>The lead agency will provide information on organizations that work with homeless families across the state and any resources available. County Departments of Human Services and other local organizations, such as Resource and Referral agencies, will develop outreach strategies for Colorado Child Care Assistance Program families at the local level.</p>
Connecticut	<p>The McKinney-Vento State Coordinator is a member of the Early Childhood Cabinet (SAC) and collaborates with the CCDF Administrator to develop supports for serving families experiencing homelessness and will assist in coordinating the McKinney –Vento Local Liaisons statewide to implement Connecticut's CCDF Plan.</p> <p>On June 24, 2015, the Office of Early Childhood received onsite technical assistance from the Region 1 Office of Child Care and the National Technical Assistance Center to determine how best to serve families experiencing homelessness. The technical assistance team worked with Connecticut's CCDF administrator and other Office of Early Childhood staff, the State Administrator of the McKinney-Vento Act, and the State Head Start Collaboration Officer. The team worked to identify state resources and action steps for coordinating implementation. Subsequently, the Early Childhood Cabinet (SAC), under the leadership of the Connecticut's Lieutenant Governor and the Office of Early Childhood's Commissioner, convened a sub-committee whose work focused on how the state could better meet the needs of young children and their families experiencing homelessness. A state plan was developed and</p>

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	<p>approved.</p> <p>Most recently, Governor Malloy introduced Senate Bill 10: An Act Increasing Access to Child Care for Children Who Are Homeless. This act will create a protective service category for children who are homeless.</p> <p>Families experiencing homeless will be considered a protective service category effective July 1, 2016. Licensed Connecticut child care subsidy (Care 4 Kids) providers will need to comply with the licensure regulations. The licensure regulations will be amended to provide a grace period for receipt of physical examination and immunization requirements for children experiencing homelessness.</p>
Delaware	<p>The lead agency currently has a grace period that allows homeless children and children in foster care (if served by the Lead Agency) to receive CCDF assistance while their families are taking the necessary actions to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements. The lead agency provides child care for up to three months or until the family is able to obtain suitable living arrangements. Once they have suitable living arrangements services can be provided based on some other need such as employment.</p> <p>The lead agency has developed a partnership with the Delaware Homeless Council, and the local McKinney-Vento liaison, and has begun to attend Continuum of Care meetings to ensure that members are aware of any and all social services available to this population including childcare. The lead agency will distribute literature regarding services and ensure that members are knowledgeable about information on the DSS website.</p>
District of Columbia	<p>The OSSE CCDF Administrator met with OSSE's McKinney-Vento liaison to discuss the plan and consulted with them on how to remove barriers for homeless families in accessing child care. A joint site visit was made to an inclusive Early Head Start child care center in a transitional homeless shelter to learn more about how to coordinate homeless services and child care services. The McKinney-Vento State Coordinator was given the opportunity to comment on the plan. Representatives from DHCF were given the opportunity to comment on the Plan.</p> <p>OSSE currently enrolls and provides outreach to families experiencing homelessness and children in foster care. OSSE is currently in the process of revising the eligibility policies and child care licensing regulations to provide for a 30-day immunization grace period for these two priority groups.</p> <p>The lead agency will train eligibility and community-based organization staff, resource and referral staff, and Quality Improvement Network staff on how to identify and refer homeless families for services.</p> <p>The lead agency will continue to develop a partnership with the state McKinney/Vento team at OSSE and the DC Department of Human Services, Virginia Williams Central Intake Office to educate families and the community, which will streamline the coordination of child care referrals and services for families experiencing homelessness and children in foster care.</p>
Florida	<p>To improve access to child care for homeless families, the definition of "at-risk child" was expanded in 2013 for the School Readiness Program to include a child in the custody of a parent considered homeless as verified by DCF designated lead agency on homelessness (s.</p>

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	<p>1002.81(1) (f), F.S.), and also to include services for homeless families, including those in domestic violence shelters. Immunization records are not collected by the school readiness agency as a condition of initial eligibility for child care. Child care providers are responsible for obtaining and keeping on file a record of the child's immunizations, physical development and other health requirements. Parents have a 30-day grace period to submit immunization records to the child care provider. School-aged children attending public or non-public schools are not required to have student health examination and immunization records on file at the child care facility as such records are on file at the school where the child is enrolled (Rule(s) 65C-22.006(2), 65C.20.011(1) and 64D-3.011, FAC, and ss. 1002.81(1)(e), 1002.81(1)(f) and 1002.88, F.S.).</p> <p>LEA's assist with disseminating information to homeless families about child care services and how to access them. Additionally, each early learning coalition collaborates with the homelessness-designated lead agency in its service area through a memorandum of agreement to provide school readiness services to homeless families in the community. The designated homeless agencies, through their continuum of care plans, collaborate with various agencies, including local school districts that inform families about the School Readiness Program and may refer families to the local early learning coalition for school readiness services. Because families experiencing homelessness are categorically eligible for Head Start, Early Head Start and Migrant and Seasonal Head Start services, early learning coalitions may refer homeless families to Head Start programs, thus freeing up CCDF funds to serve other families.</p>
<p>Georgia</p>	<p>The Lead Agency's subsidy policy allows 90 days for families to collect and provide verification documents for immunization and health and safety requirements. The subsidy policy needs to be amended to allow families who meet the definition of homelessness as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to receive priority services for child care subsidies.</p> <p>Outreach activities for homeless families need to be reviewed. Procedures to allow for a grace period to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements to expedite enrollment of children in foster care are in place.</p> <p>The Lead Agency will inform relevant agencies/coalitions about subsidized childcare policy changes that assign priority status to homeless populations so the agencies/coalitions can make appropriate referrals. The Lead Agency will partner with Georgia's Continuum of Care, a group of agencies throughout the state that identify populations, trends, resources and demographic data on homeless families. The Lead Agency will reach out to agencies to develop partnerships beginning in August 2016 to facilitate discussions and develop targeted outreach strategies to homeless families.</p> <p>Through the collaboration with the Continuum of Care, the Lead Agency will work to identify additional outreach activities, develop comprehensive on-going training and technical assistance, and provide resource supports for stakeholders who serve homeless populations. The development of training and resource supports can begin as early as January 2017, with a possible implementation date of September 30, 2017. See Section 6.1.10 for more information on development of training and technical assistance supports.</p>

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	<p>The Lead Agency will review the viability of partnerships with non-profit entities such as Salvation Army, United Way, Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless, Atlanta Children's Shelter, and local mission shelters throughout the state to identify, engage, and provide resources to populations of homeless families.</p>
Guam	<p>Children on Guam that are deemed homeless are served and a priority. If a child is in this category, he/she is priority and moved to the top as they are considered "at risk."</p> <p>The Department of Public Health & Social Services (DPHSS) Division of Public Welfare (DPW) Bureau of Social Services Administration (BOSSA) currently works with families who have children who are wards of the court and in foster care. Through BOSSA, meetings with homeless families have materialized but the issue of transportation is an obstacle. The Lead Agency allows children to be placed into child care once an application is received and approved but an appointment to receive the required immunization must be presented to the eligibility specialist.</p>
Hawaii	<p>The Hawaii Department of Health has representation on the Early Learning Advisory Board. The Hawaii Department of Human Services will be partnering with the Hawaii Community Foundation (HCF) to focus initially on increasing outreach to the numerous HCF grantees who are serving homeless families across the state. The Department will focus on getting HCF's partner agencies information about the availability of Department's child care services, including the child care subsidy program and the child care resource and referral services. Community providers are helping families access services that are essential to supporting homeless families with young children find and maintain stable employment, secure vocational training or educational opportunities in order for families to maintain and increase their economic self-sufficiency and to be able to secure and maintain permanent housing for themselves.</p> <p>The Department will also work on similar coordination with the Department's Homeless Program Office, which is the statewide agency in the same Division overseeing state and federally funded contracts for homeless services throughout Hawaii. The Department will develop strategies to improve outreach to the contracted service providers in the coordination of services for homeless children whose families may be eligible for child care subsidies and other early childhood services.</p> <p>The Department will develop and provide resources, training, and technical assistance for child care providers on identifying and serving homeless children and families, through coordination from the Departments through its various contracts for services to support licensed and registered child care providers, as well as legally exempt providers caring for children whose families receive CCDF subsidies.</p>
Idaho	<p>The Lead Agency plans to coordinate education and outreach to homeless shelters through partnering with the state and city homeless coalitions with the intent of aligning eligibility and streamlining processes for accessing subsidies. The CCDF administrator plans to meet with various directors of homeless shelters throughout Idaho over the summer months, coordinate efforts with communication and outreach with the McKinney-Vento State Coordinator and will be presenting at the Statewide Homeless Coalition Conference in September 2016.</p>

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	<p>DHW has drafted language to support policy and process changes to support a streamlined eligibility process for children in homeless families.</p> <p>The lead agency will schedule and conduct partner meetings for the planning of policies and procedures specific to homeless families. The lead agency will develop Policy and Process Manual changes as well as information and forms for agencies serving homeless families to distribute to potentially eligible families. The lead agency will work to develop agreements with homeless coordinating agencies to help families secure eligibility documentation. DHW will be building the changes to initial eligibility determination and redetermination rules into automation for child care assistance. It will build and roll live the new eligibility system, incorporating homeless policies.</p> <p>The lead agency will communicate roll out of child care changes every month in FAQ's, "Did You Know" Bulletins, and monthly Release Notes, created and communicated to all statewide eligibility staff through email and video; develop Policy and Process Manual changes as well as information and forms for agencies serving homeless families to distribute to potentially eligible families; meet with the State Department of Education Homeless Coordinator to identify partners who need to learn about this policy change; and develop outreach strategies to inform homeless families about potential eligibility. The lead agency will gather/create printed materials (brochures, local resource list, services) to be distributed to providers via Child Care Resource Centers (CCRC) as resources for families; create posters with a clear message for next steps to be made available to child care programs for posting; create Talking Points for CCRC staff and for providers for use when working with homeless families; and post Talking Points for providers on the IdahoSTARS website.</p>
Illinois	<p>The McKinney-Vento State Coordinator serves on the Child Care Advisory Council. The Lead Agency, which administers programs that serve the homeless, is working with ISBE and its Preschool for All programs serving children who are experiencing homelessness. Illinois will revise the Illinois CCAP definition of "Protective Services" to include children and families experiencing homelessness and create a 90-day grace period for these families to submit documentation.</p> <p>The lead agency will coordinate with ISBE and the IDHS Office of Adult Services Homeless Services Programs to establish a systematic method for identifying families who experience homelessness both at the program level and at the point of application, and align homeless families with services needed.</p>
Indiana	<p>OECOSL has aligned CCDF policies and procedures with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act and will participate in the statewide workgroup responsible for providing information and resources to persons providing education and/or support to children and families experiencing homelessness in Indiana. Members of the workgroup are programs that serve homeless children and families including Head Start programs and the state coordinator for McKinney-Vento Homeless Education programs. OECOSL's goal is to increase the availability of provider trainings on best practices for serving homeless children and families and to increase awareness of Paths to QUALITY and the CCDF voucher program among agencies serving homeless families.</p>

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	<p>OECOSL will coordinate with the Indiana Department of Education McKinney-Vento state coordinator to align and share resources for identifying and supporting homeless children and providing training and technical assistance to child care providers serving homeless families. The three year goal is to increase providers' knowledge and skills around serving homeless children and families.</p> <p>New rules allow licensed child care centers, licensed homes, registered ministries, and legally license exempt providers to allow a 90-day grace period to receive immunization records and health and safety requirements if the child's file contains a signed parent/guardian statement indicating that the family is homeless.</p> <p>Local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agencies work with homeless shelters in their regions and provide information and referrals to families. Local CCR&R agencies also provide training to providers on serving homeless families and children. Additionally, the following steps have been taken to increase outreach and strengthen local partnership efforts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of the Regional Planning Council chair persons and their contact information has been shared with the local CCR&R Program Directors and Outreach Specialists. • A list of McKinney-Vento coordinators from the local educational agencies has been shared with the CCR&R Program Directors and Outreach Specialists. The Child Care Resource and Referral Central Office (CCR&R CO) Consumer Education Office phone number and the contact information for the local CCR&R agencies will be shared with participants at the 2015 Conference on Homelessness, "Building Bridges to Collaboration." This conference is hosted by the Indiana Head Start State Collaboration Office (IHSSCO), which is housed within the Lead Agency. • All local CCR&R agencies, child care providers and Indiana Head Start grantees were provided conference registration information and invited to the 2015 Conference on Homelessness, "Building Bridges to Collaboration." <p>The Lead Agency allows a 90-day grace period for child care providers to collect immunization records for children in foster care and families that indicate they are homeless. The Lead Agency is responsible for the licensing/registration/certification of child care providers and works directly with providers on the grace period for homeless and foster children.</p>
<p>Iowa</p>	<p>The Lead Agency has consulted with treatment programs serving homeless families to identify the scope of gaps of child care services. For example in consultation with local treatment programs across the state typical paperwork requirements (physicals, immunizations) for homeless families needing child care programs create a barrier to access. The Local Agency is working to address policy and practice changes that can alleviate the barriers by allowing a grace period for securing necessary paperwork.</p> <p>All families that meet eligibility requirements are able to receive CCDF assistance. The lead agency staff have reached out to and met with agencies that serve homeless children and families, such as the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Iowa Finance Authority Council on Homelessness, to discuss barriers to access of child care services. The lead agency has also provided information and electronic resources to these agencies to help the agencies support families in navigating the application process.</p>

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	<p>The lead agency is contracting with the Iowa Department of Public Health and Iowa State University Extension to develop and offer preservice training, which includes training in working with homeless families.</p> <p>State rules allow a grace period for homeless children and children in foster care (if served by the Lead Agency) to receive CCDF assistance while their families are taking the necessary actions to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements.</p>
Kansas	<p>DCF met with Kansas Department of Education's (KSDE) McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act liaison. Online training courses for child care providers will be developed and available by September 30, 2016 using shared resources from this meeting. Serving homeless families will also be part of the tool kit being developed for providers on the Kansas Early Learning Standards.</p> <p>State child care licensing policy allows for a grace period for up to 90 days to comply with immunizations and health and safety requirements. The state foster care contractors handle child care needs for children in foster care. DCF will conduct an environmental scan that will identify where the homeless shelters are in the state and what services are currently being provided for children and families experiencing homelessness. In addition this environmental scan will include what training and technical assistance on identifying and serving homeless children and families is available for child care providers. This information will be used to drive the MOU that will be developed with the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), McKinney-Vento Liaison.</p> <p>DCF will provide resource information to child care providers about on-line training that focuses on identifying and serving homeless children. An MOU will be developed with KSDE McKinney-Vento to support coordination of services, outreach to families who are homeless, and training and technical assistance for child care providers.</p> <p>DCF will address services to homeless children/families in the SFY 2017 Statewide Infant-Toddler Specialist Network and Resource & Referral requests for proposals and contracts in regards to outreach, training and technical assistance. Informational brochures about child care services and support programs such as Early Head Start, Head Start, and Part C & B Special Education Services, will be provided to homeless shelters and soup kitchens.</p>
Kentucky	<p>DCBS-Division of Child Care plans to coordinate with Kentucky Department of Education, which employs the McKinney-Vento State Coordinator for Education of Homeless Children and Youth. DCC has an established interagency collaboration with the DCBS-Division of Permanency and Protection and other Local Education Liaisons to identify homeless families. Priority status will be given to homeless children and families to ensure compliance with this provision of the law. Furthermore, the DCC is in the process of refining and/or developing policies and procedures for prioritizing access to child care for homeless children and families through coordination of services ensuring families have information on all available programs and services, such as HANDS, Head Start, and child mental health and other appropriate services.</p> <p>Homeless households are eligible for expedited services. They are entitled to immediate</p>

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	<p>approval of cases and pend for lack of verification. During eligibility, homeless families have a 90-day period to return all verifications. Households that return all required information at the end of the 90-day period will not see a change in their certification period as the maximum allowable certification period as assigned based on program rules. Homeless households must meet all other technical eligibility criteria in order to continue with the program. If information has not been provided by the 90-day timeframe, the application will be discontinued.</p>
Louisiana	<p>State law and policy allow for a grace period for families experiencing homelessness to comply with reporting and documentation requirements for child care assistance. Such families can start receiving child care assistance prior to producing documentation. In addition, the CCDF Lead Agency provides 100% of the state payment for child care assistance to families experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>The CCDF Lead Agency is working with the homeless coordinator and local education agencies to better coordinate these services. In addition, through coordinated enrollment, Community Networks are reaching out to families experiencing homelessness.</p>
Maine	<p>Children with special needs, with very low income or who are homeless must be given priority over all other children. Among these priority groups, children are selected for services on a first-come, first-served basis by county based on the date of application. Documentation provided with application will verify priority status. The current Child Care Subsidy rules allow a 90-day grace period to be granted while parents are taking the necessary actions to comply with the immunization requirement. Additionally, homeless families may verify Maine residency status with a single affidavit signed by a Maine resident.</p> <p>The Lead Agency is partnering with the Maine State Housing Authority to ensure that staff who administer the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Family Self-Sufficiency Program, the Home to Stay Program and the Homeless Navigators statewide are aware of the Child Care Subsidy Program and can refer eligible families. The State Administrator presented to and shared written materials with 100 Homeless Navigators to ensure that eligible families who are experiencing homelessness are being referred to the Child Care Subsidy Program. Additionally, The State Administrator attends the FSS Program Coordinating Council Provider Meetings to network with other service providers with a common goal to assist families to become self-sufficient.</p> <p>The current Child Care Subsidy rules allow a 90-day grace period to be granted while parents are taking the necessary actions to comply with the immunization requirement.</p>
Maryland	<p>Division staff participates in the Homeless Advocacy Workgroup to coordinate the provision of services and advocate for homeless families. Families have 60 days to comply with immunization and health requirements.</p> <p>Division staff meets with organizations serving homeless families to develop a streamlined application process.</p>
Massachusetts	<p>ESE, which sits within EOE, is the lead agency responsible for administering the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act in Massachusetts. The Secretary of EOE serves as an ex officio member of the Board of EEC, which meets a minimum of 10 times annually to decide high level policy issues including issues impacting all CCDF funded programs and services. The broad membership and regular meeting schedule of the EEC Board allows for substantial and</p>

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	<p>ongoing consultation and coordination with EEC's stakeholders and key partner agencies. In addition, EEC selected a staff member from ESE, as well as a representative from Horizons for Homeless Children, to serve as representatives on the CCDF State Plan Advisory Group, which was convened to provide insight and guidance from external partners related to the implementation of the reforms necessary to meet the challenges and opportunities set forth in the CCDBG Reauthorization Act of 2014.</p> <p>To ensure immediate access to children experiencing homelessness in the Commonwealth, EEC has entered into direct service contracts with 27 early education and care providers to serve 685 children. To access these slots, either the shelter provider or the contracted child care provider must contact the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) or the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to obtain a homeless child care referral. In State Fiscal Year 2016, EEC launched an initiative to identify additional homeless families through vouchers that might not be reached through the existing homeless contracts (e.g., direct outreach to substance abuse shelters working with families that are impacted by the opioid crisis that are funded/overseen by the Department of Public Health and other homeless shelter programs that are not overseen by either DHCD or DCF).</p> <p>With respect to grace periods to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements, Massachusetts child care licensing policy recognizes the fact that homeless children may have difficulty obtaining medical records at the time of admission into a child care program because of the stresses caused by issues affecting these priority populations. Accordingly, homeless families may be granted up to six months from the date of their child's admission into a child care program to obtain the child's medical records.</p> <p>Massachusetts has entered into contracts with child care programs to provide direct service to homeless families. In addition, EEC has collaborated and coordinated with Horizons for Homeless Children in the development of the CCDF State Plan and will continue to seek to improve opportunities to provide increased access to high quality child care programs for homeless families.</p>
Michigan	<p>The State researched other state policies and Head Start policies and implemented changes to its homeless eligibility policy that increases access and reduced requirements. The State updated CDC program handbook to reflect changes. Michigan also held initial meetings and planning with the State McKinney-Vento Coordinator and Special Populations Manager.</p> <p>Michigan is creating procedures/policy to provide a grace period for homeless children to comply with unmet immunization requirements. It will conduct outreach to homeless families in conjunction with McKinney-Vento State Coordinator and Special Populations Manager.</p>
Minnesota	<p>The State Director to Prevent and End Homelessness and the Project Manager for the Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness were invited to the March 2015 CCDF Plan stakeholder meeting. They were unable to attend but were able to provide feedback as part of an advisory committee regarding working with homeless and vulnerable populations. They were also invited to the 2016-18 CCDF Plan public hearing.</p>

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FY2016-FY2018 Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plans**

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	<p>Homeless children are allowed to receive CCDF assistance in Minnesota. For all other requirements, the state has begun work on the implementation plan developed. Procedures are being developed to provide a grace period to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements, to expedite enrollment for children who are in foster care if served by the Lead Agency, and to improve access to child care services. License exempt and legally non-licensed providers have 90 days to collect immunization information from children. This effectively provides a grace period to homeless children enrolled with these providers.</p> <p>Providing training and technical assistance to providers on homeless children and families has been partially implemented. An advisory committee was created and they identified and prioritized content needed by providers. A writer has been hired; an outline has been created and is in the process of being vetted by the advisory committee. The advisory committee also has started to explore the system best suited to provide technical assistance to child care providers.</p> <p>Minnesota will utilize the Consumer Education Workgroup to create strategies for reaching out to children and families who are homeless.</p>
Mississippi	<p>The Lead Agency is a voting member on the SECAC, which has been granted authority by the Governor for coordinating services and programs for the state's early childhood community. The SECAC also has voting representation from the federally funded childhood programs, including those prescribed under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act (Mississippi Department of Education). All of these parties coordinate within SECAC to develop recommendations and planning.</p> <p>The Lead Agency has created a priority population for homeless clients.</p> <p>The Lead Agency accepts referrals for homeless families directly from community-based organizations or shelters providing services to homeless families. DECCD has begun to accept referrals from a limited number of agencies at this time but will continue to identify partner organizations to expand access across the state for outreach to homeless families.</p> <p>The Lead Agency will draft policies that will allow providers to serve children immediately without immunization. The Lead Agency will work with the MS State Department of Health to negotiate administrative approval for these policy strategies within MS Department of Human Services and MS State Department of Health leadership. The Lead Agency will train caseworkers within the Department of Child Protection Services and Homeless Organization Referral Agents on the new policy changes and procedures. This training will include strategies to communicate immunization requirements to families when they enter the subsidy program. The Lead Agency will publicize new requirements regarding immunization grace periods. The Lead Agency will communicate with parents, licensed and unlicensed providers, referral agents, and key stakeholders using multiple channels of communication, including email, agency websites, online videos, and direct contact with caseworkers.</p> <p>The Lead Agency will consult with SECAC (specifically the McKinney-Vento State Coordinator housed in MDE) to identify organizations that can provide training to providers in a variety of formats on how to identify and serve homeless children and families.</p>

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	<p>The Lead Agency, in collaboration with partners, will incorporate trainings (to identify and serve homeless children and families) into the larger professional development infrastructure.</p>
Missouri	<p>Discussions have been held with the Department of Health and Senior Services, Section for Child Care Regulation (SCCR) to allow for a grace period to comply with immunization and other health and safety information in order to expedite enrollment for foster children and homeless children. SCCR has agreed to allow CCDF child care providers to request a waiver for the enrollment of a foster child or homeless child without immunization or health records for up to five days).</p> <p>Missouri will update child care subsidy policy to include homelessness as a need for child care. Homeless families, able to verify that the parents(s) are working with a community-based service agency for the homeless, will be considered as having met the need for child care.</p> <p>The State will coordinate with Child Care Aware of Missouri to add trainings to the provider Workshop Calendar on issue of homelessness and working with homeless families and children. It will amend Educare provider contracts to add requirement to provide information, training and technical assistance on working with homeless families and children. It will also develop and implement an outreach plan to improve access to child care services for homeless families.</p>
Montana	<p>The Statewide Pyramid Model Coordinator participated in work groups focused on developing policies and procedures for special needs, expulsion/suspension, and homeless children and families.</p> <p>The Montana Best Beginnings Advisory Council has developed a work group around homelessness in Montana. Serving on that work group are providers, parents, Resource and Referral agency staff members, the state homelessness coordinator for the Office of Public Instruction, members from the Montana's Public Health Department, and other interested individuals. All members were asked to provide input into policy and procedure for meeting the needs of homeless children as well as feedback to drafts of those documents as the Early Childhood Services Bureau continues to develop and fine tune its approach to coordination of services. The Early Childhood Services Bureau will revise its Child Care Policy Manual and Administrative Rules of Montana to add a policy for homeless children and families to receive a grace period to comply with eligibility requirements within the child care subsidy program.</p> <p>The State also plans to create a communication plan that includes correspondence to families and child care providers on the Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship, training for CCR&R staff on how to process eligibility determination for homeless families, and update the Lead Agency's website with information on services available for homeless children and families.</p> <p>Goals: Increase access to child care services for families who may be homeless by reducing barriers regarding policies and statute. Policy development will support child care providers as well by increasing the resources and knowledge available on enrolling a child whose family is experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Montana is working with its Public Health Department to ensure that homeless families can</p>

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	<p>meet the initial immunization requirements stipulated in state statute around child care attendance. Early Childhood Services Bureau will revise its Child Care Policy Manual and Administrative Rules of Montana to add a policy for homeless children and families to get a 90-day grace period to comply with eligibility requirements for the child care subsidy.</p> <p>Montana will develop a plan to conduct outreach to homeless families to improve access to child care services by working with the regional Child Care Resource & Referral agencies (CCR&R), the Best Beginnings Advisory Council, local community coalitions, Office of Public Assistance, and Office of Public Instruction State Coordinator for Homeless Education. There is a work group on homeless families with the Best Beginnings Advisory Council that will discuss how to provide outreach. Ideas include using the local school district homeless coordinators to communicate with school-age children's parents; working with other services such as Montana Milestones (Part C), Head Starts, and others; and have CCR&R agencies work with local homeless shelters to provide information on the child care subsidy and 90- day eligibility period.</p>
Nebraska	<p>Currently all children have a 30-day grace period from the child's enrollment to provide a copy of the child's immunization record.</p> <p>Policy has been drafted purposing the allowance of families to be eligible for up to 90 days of full time child care for their child(ren) while housing and employment is secured. This policy change will have to go through all proper channels for review and approval before it can be implemented.</p> <p>DHHS is currently working with NDE to create a training which will be offered at the ETC for child care providers on working with homeless children and their families. The McKinney-Vento coordinator, within NDE, along with another person with a vast interest in homelessness will be utilized with creating the training and future TA. Currently, the Department has Community Support Specialist who does an array of outreach across Nebraska, reaching vulnerable populations including homeless families. They will work with the Community Support Specialist, homeless shelters, and other vested agencies to increase outreach to homeless families and children and provide education to them on CCDF and Subsidy.</p>
Nevada	<p>Homeless families receive presumptive eligibility for the first 90-day period in order to acquire any missing adult and child required documentation. Outreach is provided by CCDP contractors statewide. Families can receive services under a self-sufficiency purpose of care.</p> <p>Outreach is provided by CCDP contractors statewide. This includes meeting with staff at homeless shelters to educate them on the CCDP and provide referral information and direct intervention with clients.</p> <p>Immunization requirements for CCDP can be waived for 90 days and additionally through special consideration to the Child Care Chief.</p>
New Hampshire	<p>DHHS met with the Department of Education McKinney-Vento Homeless Coordinator, a group of McKinney-Vento liaisons, the DHHS-contracted homeless shelter coordinators, Child Care Licensing Unit, Child Care Aware® of NH, and New HEIGHTS eligibility system staff to discuss and learn about various aspects of implementing requirements, including sharing information</p>

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FY2016-FY2018 Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plans**

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	<p>about each other's programs and services, as well as possibilities and barriers to implementation.</p> <p>New Hampshire will work with partners to establish ways to identify children and outreach to families who are experiencing homelessness.</p>
New Jersey	<p>In collaboration with the county welfare agencies (CWAs), homeless service providers, CCR&Rs, and other key partners, DFD will be assembling a workgroup to develop a strategic plan, which will outline procedures and trainings that will address the specific needs for effectively serving homeless children. The goal is to provide targeted training for the CCR&Rs to conduct outreach and employ strategies to effectively enroll and service this vulnerable population.</p> <p>DFD has begun to draft policy that establishes a presumptive eligibility process for homeless families, in accordance with the McKinney-Vento definition, to immediately access child care services for up to 90 days pending submittal of the required eligibility documentation. During the 90-day grace period, the requirements relative to hours of work/education and training for the applicant(s) will be waived if the applicant(s) demonstrates that they are seeking employment or participating in a transitional living program. DFD expects to have a final policy in place and implemented by September 30, 2016.</p> <p>DFD has begun meeting and discussing the proposed policy with the Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&Rs). DFD will be scheduling a meeting with the County Welfare Agencies (CWAs) to discuss the proposed policy and to get their feedback and recommendations to better improve services for childcare accessibility by July 30, 2016. DFD plans to have the policy finalized by August 2016. Training and technical assistance will be provided to the CCR&Rs during the month of September.</p>
New Mexico	<p>The Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) works with the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) McKinney-Vento representatives and the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness in outreach efforts to identify homeless children and ensure they receive all eligible resources. CYFD has assigned a liaison who is responsible for participating in New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness, and NMPED McKinney-Vento related meetings, workshops, and conferences. The collaborative effort allows the partnership to share resources including staff cross-training and printed collateral materials.</p> <p>The Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) licensing and non-exempt procedures allow providers to accept homeless children who do not currently have immunization records. The grace period is generally 30 days. CYFD will work with homeless families to obtain missing immunization records by coordinating with Homeless Education liaisons when appropriate.</p> <p>The Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) is working with the NMPED McKinney-Vento representative to collaborate on providing outreach to New Mexico's homeless families. This includes posters, flyers, referrals, brochures, posting on CYFD/NMPED websites, and mutual webinars. New Mexico has two child care centers that target the homeless population. One in Albuquerque and one in Las Cruces.</p>
New York	<p>OCFS has consulted with New York State's McKinney-Vento liaison to discuss how OCFS can best outreach and increase access to homeless children. Ideas were generated in order to prioritize homeless families for child care subsidies, and to help child care providers better</p>

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meet the developmental needs of children who are homeless.

OCFS contracts with ASW: NYSAN to provide technical assistance to school-age child care (SACC) providers around quality services. ASW: NYSAN provides resources on effectively serving homeless children and their families (<http://www.nysan.org/program-providers/homeless-youth-families/>), and will offer at least one additional webinar on working with homeless children during 2016. ASW: NYSAN is collaborating with the New York State Technical and Education Assistance Center for Homeless Students (NY-TEACHS) on how best to provide SACC providers with information on rights and resources their homeless students may have access to under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. In addition, OCFS expects that through coordination with New York State's McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Coordinator and local liaisons that it will reach homeless families with children in shelters and help connect them with available child care resources. OCFS will also work with New York's CCR&R's to target homeless shelters for child care referrals; include homeless and domestic violence shelters on lists for child care-related mailings; and share the Child Care Options video, currently in development, with homeless shelters.

OCFS has outlined a plan of action to:

- Expand New York's CCDF definition of protective services to include homelessness, making families who are homeless eligible for child care, even if they are not receiving temporary assistance. Homeless families will not need to be in a protective services case.
- Require local districts to provide child care subsidies to support families for at least three months of job search, with local option to provide those subsidies for up to six months. And, if the parent(s) still doesn't have a job after the job search period ends, the CCDBG Act would provide that they have an additional three months of child care before their subsidy ends.
- Direct local districts to waive family fee for homeless families.
- Revisit the existing enhanced subsidy rate for providing child care during non-traditional hours, to require a minimum enhanced rate of five percent above the applicable market rate, with local district option to go up to 15 percent above the market rate.
- Create a new enhanced subsidy rate to incentivize providers to serve children who are homeless - with a minimum floor, accompanied by an LDSS option to go up to 15 percent above the applicable market rate.
- Broaden the scope of one of the milestones of our performance-based contracts with CCR&Rs to allow them to do targeted outreach to homeless shelters and other emergency shelter locations (e.g., local motels, campgrounds) or dwellings known to have numbers of doubled-up families in order to help those families access child care.

OCFS conducted a survey in 2015 with the statewide network of CCR&Rs requesting descriptions of the services they currently provide to the homeless population. The CCR&Rs are prioritizing responses to specific child care requests related to homeless children. The

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	<p>CCR&Rs provide a comprehensive network of diverse organizations that addresses the needs of, and provides intervention and prevention services for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness. The statewide network of CCR&Rs coordinate their services with many other community agencies, assisting homeless families to achieve sustainable independence by supporting them with tailored services including shelter, food, personalized case management, and a diverse network of caring volunteers. Through available and affordable child care options, a homeless family will be afforded the time needed to seek housing and employment opportunities. In addition, the NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) has, in close collaboration with the New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS), developed a series of new measures to better understand the needs of ACS child welfare-involved families in shelters and to increase interagency coordination to promote proper services and supports. ACS is working with both the NYC Human Resources Administration (HRA) and DHS to prepare a survey to administer to homeless families to better understand the barrier that families face in trying to access child care services.</p>
<p>North Carolina</p>	<p>DCDEE continues partnerships and coordination of services to families experiencing homelessness and will seek opportunities for further collaboration. DCDEE continues to collaborate with NC Department of Public Instruction Homeless Education Program Office, Child Care Resource and Referral, and NC Head Start State Collaboration Office. The CCDF Plan was sent via email to the McKinney-Vento State Coordinator for input regarding the CCDF Plan development. The McKinney-Vento State Coordinator and DCDEE have ongoing coordination of services to families experiencing homelessness. The McKinney-Vento State Coordinator oversees work of the local school district liaisons which includes outreach, determination of eligibility, school placement, enrollment, and providing transportation to children experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Within 30 days of enrollment, families must submit immunization records.</p> <p>Local liaisons play a critical role in the implementation of the McKinney-Vento Act. Local liaison responsibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying children and youth experiencing homelessness • Ensuring that students experiencing homelessness can enroll immediately and participate fully in school • Informing parents, guardians, or youth of educational rights • Supporting unaccompanied youth in school selection and dispute resolution • Linking students experiencing homelessness with educational and other services, including preschool and health services • Ensuring the public posting of educational rights through the school district and community. NCHPEP Education Rights Posters are available at: http://center.serve.org/hepnc/prod.php • Ensuring that disputes are resolved promptly • Collaborating with other district programs and community agencies.
<p>North Dakota</p>	<p>The Lead Agency will strengthen collaboration and coordination with Head Start Directors, the local Child Care Association, North Dakota Homeless Education Coordinators through Department of Public Instruction, and statewide Child Care Aware agencies to help to ensure</p>

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	<p>that young children experiencing homelessness are accessing quality early childhood programs. At the local level, the Lead Agency will encourage collaboration and individual partnerships to expand local capacity to meet the needs of families and children experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>The Lead Agency has identified how this requirement will be met and is working to implement policies and system changes. Homeless families will be determined eligible to receive CCDF assistance after an initial eligibility determination but before providing required documentation, including immunization records. These families will be granted a 30-day grace period to provide any required documentation. Homeless families will also be approved at application or review for job search and housing search activities. Child Care Aware of North Dakota does outreach to homeless families to improve access to child care by having their consumer materials available in various places that homeless families may be. This includes county social services offices, with the local schools homeless liaison offices, homeless shelters, community resource centers, Head Start and Early Head Start offices. Child Care Aware parent services coordinators also attend various community fairs and events where parent may be in order to provide their resources.</p> <p>The Lead Agency will continue to conduct meetings with partners on identifying training and technical assistance opportunities that can be available to assist providers serving homeless children and families. Develop policy and submit policy for review.</p> <p>The Lead Agency will also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize policy changes and allow for a training period. • Submit a work order for system changes. • Develop training for policy and system changes. • Make changes to applications, brochures and any other identified communications.
Northern Mariana Islands	<p>NMI will identify partners who may assist in this requirement and engage if needed, into an MOU. Conduct monthly meetings with identified partners to come up with procedures to increase access to CCDF subsidies for homeless children, and procedures to conduct outreach, procedures to provide a grace period to comply with immunization, etc. Create training and technical assistance resources for providers on homeless children and families; and provide the training and technical assistance.</p>
Ohio	<p>Licensing regulations already allow all families to enroll in a child care program and then provide a medical statement (including immunization information) within 30 days of the first day of care. The only information required upon starting care is a short enrollment form completed by the parent/caretaker.</p> <p>The County Department of Job and Family Services agencies throughout the 88 counties in Ohio do a variety of outreach to homeless families to improve access to child care services. County agencies work closely with homeless shelters to assist families in need and also work with local domestic violence shelters to help those displaced due to domestic violence issues. Many county agencies have constant communication with homeless shelters. County agency staff participate in meetings, such as the homeless task force, where information is shared with all agencies involved in homelessness. County agencies also coordinate bi-monthly</p>

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	<p>linkage meetings that social service providers in the county attend (including the school homeless coordinators, homeless shelters, and many others). Providers give updates and share information in order to better address the needs of the homeless population. Other county agencies provide outreach by giving child care applications at the county's Project Homeless Connect event each year. This is a one day service event for those who are homeless or housing insecure. Some county agencies send pamphlets to all known area homeless shelters explaining the program and how to secure child care services. School districts in certain counties have grants for homeless outreach coordinators and will connect families with those resources, including our child care program. Homeless shelters and homeless service providers in certain counties bring the customers to the county agency and assist them with completing the child care application. The county has a Homeless Event every January that coincides with the "Point in Time Count" where agencies share information with the customers on what is available to them within the county. The Child Care Resource and Referral agencies also provide outreach to homeless families. Relationships have been established with homeless shelters and schools in their regions. Consumer education information is made available at food banks, homeless shelters, and public preschools. Child Care Resource and Referral Agency staff work directly with homeless families to assist in finding child care.</p>
<p>Oklahoma</p>	<p>The Lead Agency will work to expand the availability of child care to homeless families through contact with the Oklahoma Homeless Alliance. Eligibility determination staff are stationed at several homeless shelters around the state to take applications and distribute informational materials regarding subsidized child care. In addition DHS contracts with a child care facility located at a homeless shelter so that parents participating in an alcohol/drug rehabilitation program have subsidized child care on site.</p> <p>Oklahoma allows a grace period of at least 30 days for homeless families to comply with immunization and health and safety requirements. In addition, homeless families may qualify for protective/preventive care to help stabilize living arrangements.</p> <p>The Lead Agency conducts outreach to homeless families to improve access to child care services. A training for providers is available at www.cecpd.org entitled, <i>It Takes a Village: Providing Education and Services for Homeless Children and Helping Children Heal from Trauma of Being Homeless</i>. The Lead Agency will work with the Homeless Alliance and other community partners to conduct outreach to homeless families by distributing application forms, brochures, and other information materials to these locations.</p>
<p>Oregon</p>	<p>The Oregon Department of Education's State Coordinator for Homeless Education Program and the Early Learning Division are co-convening a group with child care policy staff from the Department of Human Services to assess services to homeless families and develop a plan to enhance educational outcomes for children whose families are experiencing homelessness. The Early Learning Council, which is staffed by the Early Learning Division, is involved in policy decisions for developing and linking services to children through the work of the Early Learning Hubs.</p> <p>Priority processing allows homeless families who apply for ERDC to start receiving benefits immediately. The caretaker will initially self-report income and work hours. Once a case is opened, the client is given 45 days to supply any required income verification. When the</p>

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	<p>immunization requirement is not met, families are given 12 months to comply or supply verification of a religious or medical exemption.</p> <p>Information about priority processing and the definition of homeless is included on the multi-program benefit application, and there are contracts in place with local child care resource and referral agencies that refer families to DHS subsidy programs including child care. Invitations to attend an ERDC partner training on updated policies were extended to organizations that provide services to the homeless.</p>
<p>Pennsylvania</p>	<p>OCDEL through PDE is working to further its policies for serving children from families experiencing homelessness. PDE contributes to and comments on the plan. And OCDEL Regional Subsidy coordinators collaborate with regional McKinney-Vento coordinators associated with each school district in the state to remain informed on where homeless populations exist.</p> <p>OCDEL has begun discussions with the Department's Office of Social Programs (OSP) to learn more about programs serving the children from homeless families and to determine how OCDEL can provide optimum support to their work. Additionally, OCDEL coordinates with the Pennsylvania Department of Education McKinney-Vento coordinator, to remain informed on need for services and to share policy guidance for prioritizing children from families experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Pennsylvania is meeting the federal requirements, but plans to make regulatory changes to strengthen policies for families experiencing homelessness. Currently all families are afforded the following protections in regard to obtaining documentation: A 90-day period from the date the family is determined eligible to receive subsidy to get immunizations if the child does not have them. Immunizations are not required if the child has a medical reason or the parent has religious reasons for not obtaining immunizations (§ 3041.46 (relating to immunization)). Immunizations are self-certified, meaning the parent self-attests to the fact that the child is properly immunized. This is accepted as sufficient proof of the child's immunization status (§ 3041.63(b) (3) (relating to self-certification)). Parents can be determined eligible and receive an additional 30 days to provide documentation by "self-declaring" information that can be documented within the next 30 days (§ 3041.64 (relating to self-declaration)). Lastly, regulations state that the CCIS may not deny or terminate subsidy to a family when the parent has cooperated in the verification process and needed verification is pending or cannot be obtained due to circumstances beyond the parent's control (§3041.61(h) (relating to general verification requirements)).</p> <p>To expedite enrollments, Pennsylvania will establish enrollment priorities for certain populations including families experiencing homelessness and foster children. These children will go onto a prioritized waiting list that will afford them quicker access to services. Currently, Pennsylvania regulations permit the Department to direct funding to various populations (§ 3041.12(e) (relating to provision of subsidized child care)). While Pennsylvania is meeting the requirements, it plans to strengthen the protections for families experiencing homelessness by specifically including families experiencing homelessness in the same type of waiver provided to families experiencing domestic violence per § 3041.91 (relating to general domestic violence waiver). This will extend the period required to meet and provide documentation of</p>

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	<p>certain eligibility requirements to 183 days rather than 30 days. We plan to include this in the second wave of regulatory changes, which we plan on completing by November 2017.</p> <p>Pennsylvania is in the process of planning IT changes that will make it easier to track and implement the waivers granted to special populations. It is anticipated the IT changes will be completed by June 2016. Local CCIS agencies reach out to community service agencies that work with families experiencing homelessness to ensure they are aware of the subsidized child care program and to develop local policies and procedures to identify and refer families experiencing homelessness to the subsidized child care program.</p>
Puerto Rico	<p>The Multisectorial Council in Support to the Homeless Population, Department of the Family makes the outreach of potential participants and refers them to ACUDEN. Those that qualify have a waiver of 30 days to submit immunization records.</p> <p>The outreach is made by the Multisectorial Council in Support to the Homeless Population, Department of the Family. They work with actual and potential homeless families to provide coordination and information during placement for services, which includes childcare.</p>
Rhode Island	<p>The lead agency is beginning discussions with the Head Start Collaboration Office to learn more about the Head Start programs currently serving homeless families in order to develop strategies to address the child care needs of these families, and determine how to provide support to their work. Additional discussions are planned with the McKinney-Vento coordinator, TANF administrators, and the RI Coalition for the Homeless to inform, the need for services for this population and to provide policy guidance to the lead agency.</p> <p>The lead agency will provide training and technical assistance to child care providers on identifying and serving homeless children and families. The lead agency will review and modify CCAP policy to ensure, after an initial eligibility determination, a grace period applies for homeless families to comply with immunization and health and safety requirements. The lead agency will convene a workgroup to identify and collaborate with other programs and agencies serving homeless children, in order to align and coordinate outreach to homeless families.</p>
South Carolina	<p>DECE has been partnering with the SC Department of Education's (SDE) McKinney-Vento State Coordinator as well as with the South Carolina Coalition for the Homeless and the four regional Coalitions for the Homeless to streamline referral processes for subsidy vouchers as well as to share information on services through DECE (such as CACFP) and elsewhere in the Department of Social Services (such as TANF).</p> <p>The State Coordinator also administers sub-grants to selected school districts that provide additional coordinated services. While some local school district liaisons are able to identify families with very young children, their primary focus is on the 4k through grade 12 population. DECE supports this effort by coordinating additional referral processes with the four regional Coalitions for the Homeless. These four Coalitions operate the majority of the family shelters as funded through HUD, and can serve as a valuable source of referrals for families with very young children. (The South Carolina Coalition for the Homeless functions as a coordinating and service entity and is designed to assist the local coalitions. However, beginning in 2016, the board for the South Carolina Coalition for the Homeless will be expanded to include state agency representatives such as the South Carolina Department of</p>

Homeless Families with Young Children FY2016-FY2018 Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plans

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	<p>Social Services.)</p> <p>DECE has been partnering with the SDE's McKinney-Vento State Coordinator, the South Carolina Coalition for the Homeless, and the four regional Coalitions for the Homeless to identify homeless families in need of child care assistance and develop referral processes for subsidy vouchers to increase access to high quality child care. Beginning January 2016, a specified number of voucher slots and a policy prioritizing homeless children were implemented.</p> <p>In South Carolina, SDE administers the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Title X, Part C, of the No Child Left Behind Act). The South Carolina Coalition for the Homeless functions as a coordinating and service entity designed to assist the local coalitions. The McKinney-Vento State Coordinator oversees work of the local school district liaisons which includes outreach, determining eligibility, school placement, enrollment, and providing transportation. The State Coordinator also administers sub-grants to selected school districts that provide additional coordinated services. While some local school district liaisons (especially those receiving sub-grants) are able to identify families with very young children, their primary focus is on the 4k through grade 12 population. The State Coordinator will interface with local liaisons who currently outreach to homeless families and then coordinate with DECE on those families appearing to meet eligibility requirements for subsidies. DECE is coordinating referral processes with the four regional Coalitions for the Homeless. These four Coalitions operate the majority of the family shelters (primarily funded through HUD) and other homeless services in local communities and have well established relationships and outreach programs. They can serve as a valuable source of referrals for families with very young children. Beginning in 2016, the board for the South Carolina Coalition for the Homeless will be expanded to include state agency representatives such as SCDSS. The expanded board will further solidify agency partnerships. DECE recognizes the need for trainings with SDE and the Homeless Coalitions on procedures to access subsidies and other services through the Lead Agency. DECE will provide information and training to child care providers via the www.scchildcare.org website, ABC Quality monitors, CCL specialists, and the SC Voucher child care eligibility and control center staff. Child care providers will be made aware of available child care resources and the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness.</p> <p>The ABC Quality assessment protocols, CCL protocols and SC Voucher protocols are updated to provide for a grace period to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements to expedite enrollment for children who are homeless or in foster care. Internal DSS reports will be reviewed for verification of client status.</p>
<p>South Dakota</p>	<p>The Division of Child Care will follow up with local shelters and provide information, technical assistance and training as needed on available services related to child care and early education. The child care subsidy application has been updated with a description and question to reflect a client's 'homeless' category. If applicants check 'yes' on the form, their application will be given priority and caseworkers will follow-up with a personal phone call. Special consideration will be given for applications with missing information, such as allowing extra time for submission, calling employers on behalf of the applicant, requesting work/school schedules, etc. An educational component will be made available through the regional Early Childhood Enrichment offices for child care providers to learn how best to serve</p>

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	<p>homeless families and the services available to them. Ongoing discussions regarding the needs of children experiencing homelessness will be held with the Homeless Liaison State Coordinator, local shelters, and local School Liaison coordinators to meet the goal of linking services and increase accessibility.</p> <p>Homeless children will be allowed to receive CCDF assistance after an initial eligibility determination but before providing required documentation such as pay stubs, school schedules, etc. As children enter a child care program, a grace period is allowed to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements to expedite enrollment.</p> <p>If it is determined through the application process or through interviews, that a family is homeless, the family will be asked if they would like to be referred to local services in their community. If yes, a referral will be made to a local service provider for follow-up.</p>
Tennessee	<p>The application has been revised and language regarding relaxed immunization requirements has been added to the proposed rules.</p> <p>The overall CCR&R contact funding will be increased to cover additional trainings/technical assistance and mentoring that would include training in this area. Provisions for training and technical assistance will be added to the grantee contracts that begin July 1, 2016.</p> <p>Tennessee will provide outreach to homeless children and families through programs that work with this population. The State will train field supervisors on procedures for engaging programs that serve this population by September 30, 2016. Outreach to homeless families will be addressed by staff in both the Child Care Certificate Program and the Child Care Licensing Program. Child Care Certificate Staff will be responsible for conducting outreach activities with community based programs such as community resource centers, family shelters, transitional programs, and financial assistance programs. Child Care Licensing Staff will work with child care providers to disseminate information/training materials on identifying and serving homeless populations.</p> <p>Tennessee will develop training materials/information to share with child care agencies by September 30, 2016. Tennessee will also maintain representation on local committee/council and work with the Department of Education to address this issue (ongoing).</p>
Texas	<p>TWC is an ex-officio member of the Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Advisory Council and works with ECI to provide information to parents and providers on state resources available for developmental screenings and other services for infants and toddlers with disabilities. Boards coordinate services with local early childhood programs serving infants and toddlers with disabilities, including local Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) service providers. Local coordination includes working with ECI when appropriate to provide ECI services for children at child care facilities and conducting conferences and trainings to providers and parents regarding services for infants and toddlers with disabilities.</p> <p>Boards coordinate with local homeless shelters and organizations serving homeless families. Boards also work with local independent school districts to identify and provide outreach to homeless children served by public schools. This coordination is also in conjunction with workforce services to homeless families through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA).</p>

Homeless Families with Young Children FY2016-FY2018 Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plans

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	<p>Partially implemented. DFPS Child Care Licensing regulations provide a 30-day grace period to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements to expedite enrollment for children who are in foster care.</p>
<p>Utah</p>	<p>McKinney-Vento State Coordinators are housed within the Utah State Office of Education (USOE). Although not a required partner in the development of the State Plan, the USOE representative on both the OCC Advisory Committee and CCDF Reauthorization Steering Committee was involved in the development of the plan and the requirements related to serving homeless children. For example, the Steering Committee engaged in a robust discussion regarding the necessary training for child care providers in caring for homeless children.</p> <p>Additionally, the Lead Agency has engaged in a relationship with the state's largest homeless shelter, The Road Home, ensuring these programs are trained in the social and emotional needs of children experiencing homelessness. This relationship is providing an opportunity to educate the homeless community of the importance of high-quality child care. The Lead Agency places caseworkers in the Road Home, dedicated to serving the needs of these families, which includes connecting them to employment, medical, and financial assistance for child care. It also includes assistance to families needing to locate quality childcare providers. The Lead Agency is also participating in an ongoing dialogue with all of the state's homeless service providers regarding the establishment of environments suitable to meet the needs of children served in their shelters. Moreover, the Lead Agency has dedicated outreach staff serving the needs of families in jeopardy of losing housing. The Office of Child Care communicates regularly with these outreach workers.</p> <p>The goal of the coordination with these programs is to ensure access to programs for children experiencing homelessness and ensure that homeless providers communicate to families the importance of high-quality child care and continuity of care for children experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Homeless families applying for child care assistance who appear to meet the Employment Support Child Care requirements may receive an Upfront child care payment during the application period. Homeless TANF customers who meet with an employment counselor may receive an expedited child care payment. The Lead Agency offers a Homeless Child Care program for families who are in sheltered care and do not meet the Employment Support Child Care work requirements. A referral must be provided by the recognized homeless agency to approve Homeless Child Care. Families may receive up to three months of child care to support activities including, but not limited to, employment, job search, training, shelter search, or working through a crisis situation. Additionally, Child Care Licensing requires providers to ensure families are in compliance with immunizations and health and safety requirements. Homeless families are given a three-month grace period to provide immunization records and/or obtain immunizations. The homeless family completes an attestation for the provider establishing they are homeless, granting a grace period to comply with the requirements.</p> <p>The Lead Agency has homeless outreach workers located in shelters and housing sites</p>

Homeless Families with Young Children FY2016-FY2018 Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plans

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	<p>throughout the State to assist families who are homeless or facing eviction. The workers are trained to assist families in obtaining employment and applying for various types of assistance. Connecting families to child care assistance, Child Care Resource and Referral agencies and other child care services is an important component of this homeless outreach initiative. Additionally, the Utah Office of Child Care presented childcare assistance and resource information at a Homeless Conference and coordinates with the outreach teams located at the shelters.</p>
<p>Vermont</p>	<p>CDD intentionally coordinates with programs serving homeless children in several ways. As part of a broad Agency of Human Services effort to end family homelessness by 2020, CDD is responsible for an ad hoc working group to identify and address common barriers for homeless families accessing Early Learning and Development (ELD) programs and services and ensures coordination between local homeless Continuum of Care partners and ELD programs and service providers, including Head Start. As part of this effort there is a plan to develop and deliver training for ELD providers on providing services to children and families impacted by the trauma of homelessness.</p> <p>Specialized Child Care Services (SCCS) is a component of Children's Integrated Services (CIS) that identifies and supports high quality early learning and development (ELD) programs with the capacity to serve highly vulnerable populations (including homeless children) and links vulnerable populations of children participating in the Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CC FAP) to these programs through specialized eligibility and referral services. Vermont's Early Learning Challenge Grant includes a project designed to enhance and expand SCCS with a goal of ensuring that all ELD programs for children with high needs are of high quality and that staff in those programs receive specialized training to support children and families facing environmental or developmental challenges. ELD programs approved as Specialized Child Care Programs receive a 7-10% premium on payment for child care services provided to certain vulnerable populations of children eligible for CC FAP.</p> <p>CDD administers a statewide Strengthening Families Grant Program with a primary goal of ensuring affordable access to high quality comprehensive ELD programs for children and families challenged by economic instability and other environmental risk factors. Additional goals are to maintain a supply of high quality infant-toddler care and to increase family strengths and resiliency in providing a nurturing environment that promotes the early development of their children. One of the priority populations for participation in these comprehensive programs is children and families dealing with homelessness or unstable housing.</p> <p>Goals of this coordination include: building the capacity for high quality ELD opportunities for vulnerable populations; linking comprehensive services to children in ELD settings; supporting families to build protective factors that improve their stability and capacity as children's first teachers; supporting the success of children with high needs in ELD settings; and smoothing transitions for children between programs and as they age into school.</p> <p>The CC FAP application requests information regarding homelessness status. If client identifies as homeless, the application is forwarded to the Specialized Child Care Coordinator in CIS for processing as a family support application. Family support guidelines state that homeless</p>

**Homeless Families with Young Children
FY2016-FY2018 Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plans**

Excerpts from: Section 3.2.2. Improving Access to High Quality Child Care for Homeless Families

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	<p>families are automatically approved for child care at 100% of the state's subsidized rate. The CIS team provides help with immunization requirements for enrollment into child care and works with providers to ensure availability of child care until requirements are met.</p> <p>Specialized Child Care Coordinators in CIS and childcare eligibility specialists in Community Child Care Support Agencies (CCCSAs) work closely with community homeless shelters, faith based entities, parent-child centers, and child care providers to provide information regarding child care services to homeless families. CCFAP applications and consumer information materials are made available to these organizations so homeless families are able to quickly apply for services. State district offices in communities also have CCFAP applications and consumer education materials available in order to provide child care information to homeless families applying for other benefits and supports. Child care providers are trained on child care financial assistance eligibility guidelines with special emphasis placed on the service need of Family Support for homeless families.</p> <p>The Licensing Unit has established the practice of allowing childcare providers 30 days to obtain the necessary immunizations for children that are homeless or in foster care. New rules will also require children's physical exams to be included in the child's file upon entry into a child care program (as of September 2016) but any information required in a child's medical file is subject to the same grace period for homeless and foster children. Licensing Field Specialists have been trained on this grace period for compliance; Resource Development Specialists in CCCSAs are trained on this information and communicate to child care providers. It will also be included in Child Care Licensing Guidance Manuals which will be published and available on-line with new regulations in 2016.</p>
Virgin Islands	<p>The Office of Child Care and Regulatory Services (OCCRS) – Subsidy Resource & Referral (SR&R) unit, implemented a three month grace period on October 1, 2015 for homeless children and families. Additionally, the SR&R allow these families to receive child care services during the grace period until their immunization and health and safety requirements documentation are provided. Procedures to conduct outreach to homeless families to improve access to child care services is the part unmet; however, collaboration with internal and external collaboration is tentatively set for May 31, 2016.</p> <p>The Department has partnered with homeless entities within the Department to ensure that referrals are submitted to the SR&R unit, for families who are deemed homeless. The unit will also continue to receive referrals from foster care, TANF and the Office of Intake & Emergency Services for those families deemed homeless. The SR&R unit has provided a three-month grace period for families deemed homeless.</p>
Virginia	<p>The Lead Agency contracts with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to provide child care services for homeless children to enhance the supply of quality care for vulnerable populations. DHCD awards funds to homeless shelters to work with the local departments of social services and to provide interim child care for families experiencing homelessness until the local departments of social services are able to add the family to their case load. This gap measure allows families to continue their work schedule, search for work or training, and search for affordable housing. The Lead Agency is also working with the McKinney-Vento State Coordinator to develop a training module for local departments of social services staff on outreach to homeless families. The Lead Agency</p>

Homeless Families with Young Children FY2016-FY2018 Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plans

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	<p>will also consult with the Governor's Coordinating Council on Homelessness on the training and other relevant issues related to families experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>The Lead Agency currently partners with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development to provide specific outreach to families experiencing homelessness and will work with the Governor's Coordinating Council on Homelessness to explore other options for further partnership and outreach to this population. The Lead Agency will distribute a list of CCAVA contacts to McKinney-Vento Local Education Agency's Homeless Education Liaisons to help homeless families gain access to information about quality child care providers.</p> <p>The lead agency will develop a procedure to allow for a grace period for homeless families to receive CCDF assistance after an initial eligibility determination but before providing required documentation (including documentation related to immunization).</p>
Washington	<p>DEL uses CCDF to fund a Homeless Child Care Program which contracts with local agencies to authorize child care for eligible families in an enhanced referral model. While children are in licensed child care, their parents participate in activities to stabilize the family, find employment and secure housing. Other programs that DEL administers, such as Working Connections Child Care (WCCC), Seasonal Child Care (SCC), and ECEAP, serve children meeting the McKinney-Vento Act's definition of "homeless." DEL coordinates services to homeless families available under these programs through regular inter- and cross-divisional planning and collaboration. DEL's ongoing goals for this coordination are to expand capacity to assist families in crisis under HCC, and to expand access to quality full-day, full-year programs with comprehensive services under WCCC, SCC, ECEAP, Head Start and Early Head Start. DEL prioritizes homeless families for services under all these programs and continues to explore layered funding strategies through ECEAP expansion and Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships to improve access to quality comprehensive services for this vulnerable population. At the start of each school year, DEL sends HCCP information to the McKinney-Vento liaisons in the elementary schools that are located in the counties where HCCP is available. The information consists of a letter explaining the program and several program brochures listing local contact information.</p> <p>DEL has established the Homeless Child Care Program which is delivered by contractors in local communities who are part of the network supporting homeless children and families. HCCP does not require families to produce immunization records to qualify for child care subsidies. Immunizations records are required for children to attend licensed child care but children have time to either obtain the child's immunization, re-start immunizations or provide documentation according to WAC 170-295-7020. 170-295-7020.</p> <p>HCCP contractors do monthly outreach and distribute HCCP posters and brochures the counties where the program is available. HCCP information is available to the McKinney/Vento liaisons in the school districts where HCCP is available.</p>
West Virginia	<p>Homeless families will be granted a grace period to comply with immunization requirements. While there is no exception to the immunization requirement, West Virginia licensing and registration requirements allow for a waiver process for child care programs.</p> <p>CCR&R agencies will conduct outreach to local agencies serving the homeless population in</p>

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FY2016-FY2018 Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plans**

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	<p>their regions. West Virginia has always served the homeless population through partnering with local shelters.</p>
<p>Wisconsin</p>	<p>Wisconsin will strengthen collaboration and coordination with Head Start Directors, WCCAA, Wisconsin Homeless Education Coordinators through DPI Instruction, ECAC and statewide CCR&R agencies to help to ensure that young children experiencing homelessness are accessing quality early childhood programs.</p> <p>At the local level, Wisconsin will encourage collaboration and individual partnerships to expand local capacity to meet the needs of families and children experiencing homelessness. This includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local early intervention or early learning councils • Local educational agencies/school districts/local homeless liaisons • Head Start and Early Head Start programs • Local child care providers • Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuums of Care • Domestic violence shelters • Homeless coalitions • CCR&R agencies • Salvation Army • Family Resource Centers <p>The Department's YoungStar marketing plan targets organizations that provide services to families that are experiencing homelessness. YoungStar materials to encourage parents to choose and to educate them about the importance of high quality environments were distributed to several of the organizations listed above. Connections to the local YoungStar offices were made as well to ensure sustainability of the efforts.</p> <p>The McKinney-Vento State Coordinator is a member of the Collaborating Partners group. As a member, the Coordinator brings information about children who are experiencing homelessness to the group. She also disseminates information through the local educational agency liaisons to encourage programs to understand the availability of child care subsidy funds and the importance of choosing high quality early care and education.</p> <p>Wisconsin Shares waives the 7-day verification time limit for children in foster care. Homeless families are not required to provide documentation of homelessness, but must follow all other eligibility criteria.</p> <p>The YoungStar Parent Campaign consisted of outreach to homeless families through organizations and agencies that serve the homeless populations. Language has also been added to the CCR&R contract to target parent outreach to agencies that serve homeless populations.</p> <p>S. 252.04 Wis. Stats. and DHS 144 allow parents a grace period of 30 school days (six calendar weeks) to supply immunization records. Programs are required to comply with these provisions.</p>

**Homeless Families with Young Children
FY2016-FY2018 Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plans**

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Wyoming	<p>Currently, the Department coordinates with public/private entities and other state agencies to provide services to children who are identified as homeless under the McKinney-Vento definition. The Department prioritizes homeless children by allowing additional time to gather documentation or help in obtaining necessary documentation required to qualify for childcare subsidy or for the provider to meet the requirements for a completed child record file.</p> <p>Questions have been added to the eligibility interview, the eligibility system has been updated to include a field to identify families experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>A 30-day grace period for providing documentation will be given to families identified as homeless to obtain necessary documentation and the Department will assist as able. Child Care Licensing will accept an immunization exemption status for homeless families from their child care provider. The Department will contact child care providers, work with homeless shelters, and will use the data from the application to expand our process. The State will use the date of application to give a 30-day grace period for necessary documentation.</p>
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