Childcare.gov

The Next Generation: Finding Child Care in 2017 and Beyond
Session Objectives

• Update on State and Territory and national consumer education website requirements
• Review website wireframes and Data Dictionary
• Review resources in childcare.gov development that can save grantees time and money on site development and coding
• Discuss data sharing and web development efforts of Missouri and the Virgin Islands
• Provide time for peer discussion and sharing
• Understand next steps and how to get help from the childcare.gov project team
Welcome from ACF

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ACF, Office of Child Care
Key Provisions of the Law

• States and Territories must provide specific list of information (through resource and referral agencies or other means) to the following:
  – Parents of children receiving CCDF
  – The general public
  – Child care providers (where applicable)

• Requirements for State and Territory consumer websites

• New national childcare.gov website
## Components of Grantee Consumer Ed Website

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State policies and procedures</td>
<td>• Processes for licensing, monitoring, and inspections of providers, and for background checks (including offenses that would prevent an individual from being a provider)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provider-specific information</td>
<td>• Localized list of providers, including licensing status (note: States have option to exempt license-exempt providers from this list)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Quality of child care providers (if available)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Results of monitoring and inspection reports, in plain language</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aggregate annual data</td>
<td>• Number of deaths and serious injuries for each provider category and licensing status</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Number of instances of substantiated child abuse in child care settings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Referrals</td>
<td>• Referrals to local child care resource and referral agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact information</td>
<td>• Directions on how parents can contact Lead Agency (or a designee) to help them understand the website</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[45 CFR 98.33(a)]
Aligning National, State, and Territory Websites

• The law requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to create a national website for consumer education and a hotline to collect reports of suspected health and safety violations by providers caring for children receiving CCDF. The national website will be hosted at childcare.gov.

• The Final Rule aligns the national website and State and Territory websites by requiring Lead Agencies to provide HHS with linkages to databases for consumer education information.

[45 CFR 98.33(e)]
What Is Childcare.gov?

The purpose of childcare.gov is to disseminate publicly available child care consumer education information to families and to help families access safe, quality child care services in their communities, with a range of price options to best suit their needs.
What Is Childcare.gov?

The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 requires childcare.gov to provide consumers, directly or through linkages to State and Territory data sources, with the following minimum information and services:

• A localized list of all eligible child care providers, differentiating between licensed and license-exempt providers

• Provider-specific information from a quality rating and improvement system or information about other quality indicators, to the extent that such information is publicly available and practicable
What Is Childcare.gov?

CCDBG reauthorization requires childcare.gov to provide consumers, directly or through linkages to State and Territory data sources, with the following minimum information and services:

• Provider-specific information about compliance with licensing and health and safety requirements, to the extent that such information is publicly available and practicable
• Referrals to local resource and referral organizations from which consumers can find more information about child care providers
• State and Territory information about child care subsidy programs and other financial supports available to families
Childcare.gov Will . . .

• Help States and Territories save planning and implementation dollars

• Drive users to State and Territory sites

• Be designed to simplify alignment and integration of data needed in both State and Territory websites and childcare.gov
Find high-quality, affordable child care where you need it.

**Location Based**  |  **Route Based**  |  **Look Up Provider**

**Location**
Address, City or State

**Distance from location**
5 Mile Radius

Find Providers

**Helpful Tools**

Need Help Paying for Child Care?


What Type of Child Care Suits My Family?

**Parent Toolkit**

Checklist: Narrowing Down Your Search

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*By The National Toolkit for Consumer Education*

Is Your Child Ready for Kindergarten?
Bridge between Wireframes and State and Territory Template

State/Local Data Systems

- CCR&R
- Licensing
- Subsidy
- Quality

Links to our websites

Data Access

- File Uploads
- Direct Links
- REST API
- Direct Data Exchange

Links to our websites

Administration for Children & Families
Office of Child Care
Early Childhood National Centers
Pros and Cons

Application programming interface (API)

• Pros
  – Standard interface and definitions for any application to use and consume—with technical assistance from childcare.gov project
  – Efficiency (able to automatically update national data with minimal manual effort)
  – Public use (other State or Territory or federal clients can use the API)
  – Ability to publish data in data-driven sequential fashion within an application
  – Data are published in real time on childcare.gov

• Cons
  – Greater technical infrastructure and skill set are required to enhance a system to use the API
Pros and Cons

Comma separated values (CSV)

• Pros
  – CSV is a common, readable file format exported by many applications and programs
  – Easy to transport and communicate to other programs
  – Ability to bulk import all data records at one time
  – Management of import files can be done by nontechnical developer personnel

• Cons
  – Difficult to manage minor changes to small dataset, instead of a bulk import
  – Difficult to modify output of data based on a new data definition
  – Difficult to manage and fix errors when data are incorrect
  – Data are not published in real time on childcare.gov
Pros and Cons

Direct links to website

• Pros
  – No changes to existing State and Territory sites
  – Able to reuse existing State and Territory sites’ functionality and data

• Cons
  – Does not provide parents with effective search results for State and Territory data on childcare.gov
Sample State and Territory Template

State Logo

Navigation Link 1 | Navigation Link 2 | Navigation Link 3

State Messaging

State Resources

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Other State Resources

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Rapid Validation and Pilot

• Rapid validation will help determine how to maximize accuracy and ease of use

• Pilot the work with States and Territories that are at various points along the “readiness to connect” continuum in order to plan for engagement of all grantees

• Help identify what is needed to support States and Territories; connect and share
Ready . . . Set . . . Go

- Fall 2016 Draft Data Dictionary
- Getting Ready to Connect
- Questions and Answers
- Talking Points for State and Territory Administrators
Talk with Leaders from the Virgin Islands and Missouri
Peer Discussion and Sharing
Questions for Peer Discussion

• What data governance structures and process are or need to be in place to facilitate integrating relevant data across early childhood data systems?

• Which organizations and staff need to be involved in planning, coordinating, and carrying out the work?

• What key challenges do you anticipate in connecting with childcare.gov?

• What types of technical assistance could help your State or Territory with the above challenges?

• Do you have what you need to take the Fall 2016 Draft Data Dictionary back to your technical staff and ask them to review and identify ways to make it more feasible for your State or Territory to use?
Peer Discussion Report Out

- What data governance structures and process are or need to be in place to facilitate integrating relevant data across early childhood data systems?
- Which organizations and staff need to be involved in planning, coordinating, and carrying out the work?
- What key challenges do you anticipate in connecting with childcare.gov?
- What types of technical assistance could help your State or Territory with the above challenges?
- Do you have what you need to take the Fall 2016 Draft Data Dictionary back to your technical staff and ask them to review and identify ways to make it more feasible for your State or Territory to use?
What’s Next

• Reach out in the Resource Room
• What’s coming after STAM
• Outreach and engagement reminders
  – askchildcaregov@icf.com
  – Childcare.gov Information Exchange
  – Monthly updates to Office of Child Care web page
Thank You