



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**



# CCDF FINAL RULE: Consumer Education and Quality Provisions



# Consumer Education and Quality Provisions

This presentation describes the following:

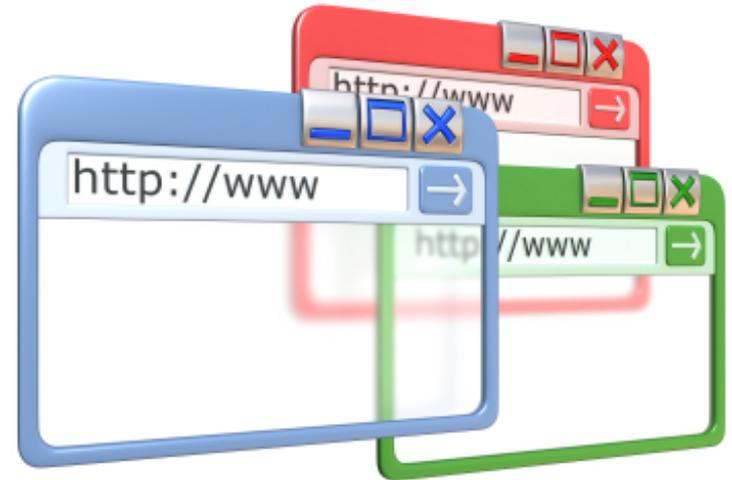
- Helping Parents Make Informed Consumer Choices and Access Information to Support Child Development
- Enhancing the Quality of Child Care and the Early Childhood Workforce



**Help Parents Make Informed Consumer Choices and Access Information to Support Child Development**

# Maintaining a Consumer Education Website

- The Law requires Lead Agencies to make certain information available to parents, providers, and the general public through a website or other electronic means.
- The Final Rule requires these components be combined into a consumer-friendly and easily accessible website that ensures the widest possible access to services for families who speak languages other than English and persons with disabilities (45 CFR 98.33(a)).



# Maintaining a Consumer Education Website

- *To be consumer-friendly and easily accessible, the website should be plain language and consider the abilities, languages, and literacy levels of the targeted audiences.*
- *Lead Agencies should consider translation of materials into multiple languages, as well as the use of “taglines” on consumer education materials for frequently encountered non-English languages and to inform persons with disabilities how they can access auxiliary aids or services and receive information in alternate formats at no cost.*

# Components of Consumer Ed Website

Component	Details
State Policies and Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Process for licensing, monitoring and inspections of providers, and background checks (incl. offenses that would prevent individual from being a provider)</li></ul>
Provider-specific Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Localized list of providers, incl. licensing status (Note: States have option to exempt license-exempt providers from this list)</li><li>• Quality of child care providers (if available)</li><li>• Results of monitoring and inspection reports, in plain language</li></ul>
Aggregate Annual Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of deaths and serious injuries for each provider category and licensing status</li><li>• Number of instances of substantiated child abuse in child care settings</li></ul>
Referrals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Referrals to local CCR&amp;Rs</li></ul>
Contact Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Directions on how parents can contact Lead Agency (or a designee) for help them understand the website</li></ul>



# Posting Monitoring and Inspection Reports



- States must post full monitoring and inspection reports in plain language. If not in plain language, may post a plain language summary with full report.
- Report must include information on the date of the last inspection; information on any corrective action taken by the State and child care provider, where applicable.
- Reports must also prominently display any health and safety violations, including any fatalities and serious injuries occurring at the provider.
- Going forward, at least 3 years of results must be posted for each provider.
- We recommend, but do not require, reports be posted within 90 days of inspection.

[45 CFR 98.33(a)(3)]

# Info for Parents, Providers & Public

The Law and Final Rule require States to provide information on:

- The availability of child care services through CCDF, other early childhood education programs for which families might be eligible, and the availability of financial assistance to obtain child care services;
- Other programs for which families receiving CCDF may be eligible, such as TANF or SNAP;
- Programs carried out under Section 619 and Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA);
- Research and best practices concerning children's development, including meaningful parent and family engagement and physical health and development; and,
- Policies regarding the social-emotional behavioral health of children.

# Info for Parents, Providers, & Public

The Final Rule clarifies:

- Information on State policies regarding social emotional behavior should be for birth to school-age or age-appropriate, and that policies on expulsion and suspension apply to children birth to age five (45 CFR 98.33(b)(1)(v)).
- States must describe their policies to prevent suspension and expulsion for children birth to age five in child care and other early childhood programs (45 CFR 98.16(ee)).
- In deciding how to provide consumer education, Lead Agencies may consider the most effective ways to reach families, including through partnerships with child care resource and referral (45 CFR 98.33(b)).



# Information on Developmental Screenings

- The Law requires Lead Agencies to provide information on existing resources and services the State can provide in conducting developmental screenings and providing referrals, and a description of how a family or provider may use those resources.
- Resources may include the State or Territory's coordinated use of the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment program under the Medicaid program carried out under title XIX of the Social Security Act and developmental screening services available under section 619 and part C of the IDEA.

# Information on Developmental Screenings

## The Final Rule:

- Requires resources about developmental screenings be provided during the CCDF intake process, and to providers through training and education;
- Recommends (but does not require) all children receive a developmental screening within 45 days of enrollment similar to Head Start.
- *Lead Agencies should ensure that all providers are knowledgeable on how to access resources to support developmental and behavioral screening, and make appropriate referrals, as needed, to ensure that children receive services and supports as early as possible.*

# Consumer Statement

The Final Rule requires a consumer statement for CCDF parents, which must include:

## General Information

- How subsidies are designed to promote equal access
- How to submit a complaint through hotline
- How to contact local R&R or other community-based supports

## Provider-specific information

- H&S and licensing or regulatory requirements met by provider
- Date of last inspection
- Voluntary quality standards met by the provider

## Consumer Statement (cont.)

- *The consumer statement may be presented as a hard copy or electronically. When providing this information, a Lead Agency may provide it by referring to the consumer education website. In such cases, the Lead Agency should ensure that parents have access to the Internet or provide access on-site in the subsidy office. Also, information on consumer statements should be accessible by individuals with limited English proficiency and individuals with disabilities.*

[45 CFR 98.33(d)]

# Aligning National & State Websites

- The law requires HHS to create a national hotline and website for consumer education and collecting reports of suspected health and safety violations by a provider caring for a child receiving CCDF. The national website will be hosted at Childcare.Gov.
- The Final Rule aligns the National and State websites by requiring Lead Agencies to provide HHS with linkages to databases for consumer education information.

# Parental Complaint Hotline

- The Final Rule requires States to establish a hotline or similar process for parents to submit complaints about child care providers.
- Lead Agencies may designate another State entity to manage the hotline.



[45 CFR 98.32(a)]



**Enhance the Quality of Child Care  
and the Early Childhood Workforce**

# Focus on Quality Improvement

The Law and Final Rule require:

- Gradually increases, over a 5 year period, the mandatory quality set-aside from the previous level of 4% annually to 9% by FY 2020.
- Adds a new 3% Infant-toddler set-aside starting in FY 2017.

Percentages apply to aggregate amount of CCDF expended- Discretionary, Mandatory, and Federal and State Matching.



[45 CFR 98.50(b)]

# Focus on Quality Improvement

Federal Fiscal Year	FFY 2016	FFY 2017	FFY 2018	FFY 2019	FFY 2020 (& ongoing)
% Quality Set-aside	7%	7%	8%	8%	9%
% Infant & Toddler Set-aside	--	3%	3%	3%	3%
<i>Total % Quality Set-aside</i>	7%	10%	11%	11%	12%

# Quality Assessment

- *The use of the quality funds must align with an assessment of the Lead Agency's need to carry out such services. Lead Agencies have the flexibility to design an assessment of quality activities that best meets their needs, including how often they do the assessment. We recommend, but do not require, it be done at least every three years to support the CCDF State Plan.*

# Allowable Quality Activities

- Lead Agencies must spend quality funds on at least 1 of 10 specified quality activities:
  - Training & PD;
  - Early learning & development guidelines;
  - Tiered quality rating system;
  - Infant and toddler supply;
  - Child care resource & referral services;
  - Licensing and health & safety requirements;
  - Quality evaluation;
  - Accreditation;
  - Program standards; and
  - Other measurable quality activities.

# Reporting on Quality Investments

- The CCDBG Act requires States to report annually on quality expenditures, quality activities, and the measures used to evaluate those activities.
- The Final Rule requires an expenditure report and a quality progress report about these quality investments.

Report	What's Included
<b>Expenditure Report</b> (ACF 696)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Total expenditures on quality activities</li><li>• Total expenditures on infant and toddler activities</li><li>• Assurance State met quality and infant and toddler minimum spending requirements</li></ul>
<b>Quality Progress Report</b> (QPR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Description of quality activities funded with CCDF</li><li>• Measures used to evaluate progress in improving quality, and data on extent State has met measures</li><li>• Report describing changes to State regulations based on an annual review of serious injuries and deaths in child care</li><li>• Describe how State responded to complaints submitted to the national hotline</li></ul>

# Building Supply of High-Quality Care

The Law and Final Rule require States to:

- Describe strategies to increase supply and improve quality of child care services for:
  - Children in underserved areas;
  - Infants and toddlers;
  - Children with disabilities; and
  - Children who receive care during non-traditional hours. (45 CFR 98.16(x))
- Prioritize populations with high-concentrations of poverty & unemployment (45 CFR 98.16(y))
- Use public-private partnerships to increase supply and quality of care (45 CFR 98.14(a)(4))

# Training Req. for CCDF Caregivers, Teachers, & Directors

Final Rule adds definitions for “teachers” and “directors” and maintains current definition for “caregiver”

[45 CFR 98.2]



# Pre-service/Orientation

- Final rule adds the major domains of child development to the 10 health and safety topics to be covered in the pre-service or orientation training
- Must be completed within 3 months for CCDF caregivers, teachers, directors and be supervised until complete key health and safety topics

[45 CFR 98.44(b)(1)(iii)]



# Training and Professional Development Infrastructure

## The Law Requires

- The training and professional development section of the State Plan is developed with the State Advisory Council (SAC) which may engage training providers in the alignment with the state framework
- Assurances training and professional development will improve the quality and stability of the workforce

## The Final Rule Clarifies

- State Framework components: professional standards; career pathways, advisory structure, articulation, workforce information; and financing
- Training is appropriate to age the setting and age of children;
- Training must also improve workforce diversity and retention, including financial incentives and compensation improvements

[45 CFR 98.44 (a)(3); 98.44 (a)(7); 98.44(b)(1) and (b)(2)]

# Progression of Professional Development and Ongoing Training

## The Law Requires

- State shall create a progression of professional development that may include pursuit of postsecondary education
- State must set annual ongoing professional development requirements

## The Final Rule Clarifies

- Lead Agency may also engage higher education in aligning education and training with the state framework
- To the extent practicable, ongoing training carries carry credit or CEU

[45 CFR 98.44(b)(1); 98.44(b)(2)(v)]

# Regulatory Sections for Review

- 98.2- Definitions
- 98.14(a)(4)- Public Private Partnerships
- 98.16(x)- Supply Building
- 98.16(y)- Priority Populations
- 98.16(ee)- Suspension and Expulsion
- 98.33- Consumer Education
- 98.44- Professional Development & Training
- 98.50(b)- Quality & Infant/Toddler Set-Asides
- 98.53- Quality Activities



# How do the Quality Requirements Apply to Tribes?

- Tribes receiving large and medium allocations are subject to the majority of the consumer education requirements.
  - Tribes receiving small allocations are exempt
- All Tribes are required to spend a percentage of their total CCDF expenditures on quality improvement activities
  - Only Tribes with large and medium allocations must also meet the new 3 percent infant-toddler set-aside



Thank you for all you do for  
children and families!

