



Child Care and Development Fund

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) has made available \$5 billion to States, Territories, and Tribes in fiscal year 2008. This program assists low-income families, families receiving temporary public assistance, and those transitioning from public assistance in obtaining child care so they can work or attend training/education. At the Federal level, CCDF is administered by the Child Care Bureau, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Child Care Services Funded by CCDF

Subsidized child care services are available to eligible families through certificates (vouchers) or contracts with providers. Parents may select any legally operating child care provider. Child care providers serving children funded by CCDF must meet basic health and safety requirements set by States and Tribes. These requirements must address prevention and control of infectious diseases, including immunizations; building and physical premises safety; and minimum health and safety training.

Quality Activities

A minimum of four percent of CCDF funds must be used to improve the quality of child care and offer additional services to parents, such as resource and referral counseling regarding the selection of appropriate child care providers to meet their child's needs. Consistent with prior years, the fiscal year 2008 appropriation includes additional funding for specific purposes: \$18 million for school-age care and resource and referral (including nearly \$1 million for a child care hotline); \$263 million for quality improvement activities, including approximately \$96 million to improve the quality of infant and toddler care; and approximately \$10 million for child care research and evaluation.

To improve the health and safety of available child care, many States have provided training, grants and loans to providers, improved monitoring, compensation projects, and other innovative programs. Tribes may use a portion of their funds to construct child care facilities provided there is no reduction in the current level of child care services.

Coordination of Resources

The CCDF allows States to serve families through a single, integrated child care subsidy program under the rules of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act. States also can transfer a portion of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) dollars to CCDF, or spend TANF directly for child care.

State and Tribal Child Care Plans

All States, Territories and Tribes must submit comprehensive plans every two years and conduct public hearings to invite public comment. Plans include sections asking States to describe efforts to control improper payments, to promote children's early learning through the President's *Good Start, Grow Smart* initiative, and other aspects of program administration.

Child Care and Development Fund (Continued)

Research

Fiscal year 2008 funding includes nearly \$10 million for child care research, demonstration, and evaluation activities. These funds are increasing the capacity for child care research at the national, State, and local levels while addressing critical questions with implications for children and families. Funds have been awarded to support individual project areas, including research partnerships, research scholars, a web-based archive called Child Care and Early Education Research Connections, a provider evaluation initiative, and an evaluation of child care subsidy policies. The ACF Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) is responsible for administering child care research funds.

Technical Assistance

One fourth of 1 percent of the total CCDF is used by the Child Care Bureau to provide technical assistance to grantees. Its technical assistance network is designed to address the needs of States, Territories and Tribes administering the Child Care and Development Fund. The network includes the following projects:

- Afterschool Investments
- Center for the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning
- Child Care and Early Education Research Connections
- Child Care Aware
- Child Care Bureau Communications Management Center (CMC)
- Child Care Information Systems Technical Assistance Project
- Healthy Child Care America
- National Child Care Information and Technical Assistance Center (NCCIC)
- National Infant and Toddler Child Care Initiative
- Tribal Child Care Technical Assistance Center (TriTAC)

For more information, see the Child Care Bureau's web-site at www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb.