
INTRODUCTION

Child care assistance supports low-income families by enabling them to work or participate in education or training. In addition, it advances efforts to improve the quality and supply of child care nationwide. The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) provides \$5 billion in block grants to States, Territories and Tribes to subsidize the cost of child care for low-income families. This funding helps deliver early care and education services to more than 1.7 million children in the United States each month, enhancing their potential to enter school ready to learn.¹

Although States and Territories have a great deal of flexibility under CCDF to develop child care policies and programs that best suit the needs of children and parents, States and Territories must spend a percentage of their CCDF funds to improve the quality of care through activities such as consumer education, technical assistance and training and grants and loans to providers. In addition, CCDF stipulates specially earmarked funds for school-age care, resource and referral services and services to infants and toddlers.

Purpose of This Report

States and Territories must submit a biennial plan as part of the process of applying for CCDF funds.² Lead Agencies submitted Fiscal Year (FY) 2006-2007 CCDF Plans on July 1, 2005, which were approved to take effect October 1, 2005. The *Child Care and Development Fund Report of State and Territory Plans FY 2006-2007* summarizes CCDF Plans as approved by the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and provides an overview of State and Territory efforts at the beginning of FY 2006.³ The report also identifies trends in policies and activities funded through CCDF, making it a valuable resource for understanding this important block grant program.

Report Development

The *Child Care and Development Fund Report of State and Territory Plans FY 2006-2007* was prepared by the National Child Care Information Center (NCCIC) under the supervision of program, policy and administration experts from the Child Care Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NCCIC reviewed copies of approved CCDF Plans and relevant attachments submitted by Lead Agencies and, in some instances, conducted follow-up queries of Lead Agencies via the Child Care Bureau.

Throughout the report, the number of States and Territories reporting particular information in the CCDF Plans is identified. Information is provided from 51 States and five Territories, as

¹ After including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Direct, Social Services Block Grant and excess Maintenance of Effort (State dollars), 2.3 million children are served each month (based on CCDF administrative data [ACF-801] and financial data from CCDF [ACF-696], TANF and Social Services Block Grant programs).

² CCDF Final Rule, 45 CFR Section Parts 98 and 99. *Federal Register* 63:142 (24 July 1998).

³ For this report, data from FY 2004-2005 CCDF Plans are used for the following States and Territories: American Samoa, Massachusetts and the Virgin Islands.

identified in the chart below. The District of Columbia is categorized as a State. The five Territories included in this report are American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Charts and tables present combined data from States and Territories, rather than separate counts for each. In previous reports, Territories were not fully incorporated into summary data, although Puerto Rico was included and counted as a State in summary data. In this report, when comparisons are made to data in earlier CCDF Plans, counts have been revised to reflect current State and Territory designations.

The report uses the following abbreviations to identify States and Territories:

State/Territory	Abbreviation	State/Territory	Abbreviation
Alabama	AL	Missouri	MO
Alaska	AK	Montana	MT
American Samoa	AS	Nebraska	NE
Arizona	AZ	Nevada	NV
Arkansas	AR	New Hampshire	NH
California	CA	New Jersey	NJ
Colorado	CO	New Mexico	NM
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	CNMI	New York	NY
Connecticut	CT	North Carolina	NC
Delaware	DE	North Dakota	ND
District of Columbia	DC	Ohio	OH
Florida	FL	Oklahoma	OK
Georgia	GA	Oregon	OR
Guam	GU	Pennsylvania	PA
Hawaii	HI	Puerto Rico	PR
Idaho	ID	Rhode Island	RI
Illinois	IL	South Carolina	SC
Indiana	IN	South Dakota	SD
Iowa	IA	Tennessee	TN
Kansas	KS	Texas	TX
Kentucky	KY	Utah	UT
Louisiana	LA	Vermont	VT
Maine	ME	Virgin Islands	VI
Maryland	MD	Virginia	VA
Massachusetts	MA	Washington	WA
Michigan	MI	West Virginia	WV
Minnesota	MN	Wisconsin	WI
Mississippi	MS	Wyoming	WY

The information presented in the report reflects *some* of the activities and strategies planned to be undertaken by States and Territories that were presented in the approved CCDF Plans. The report is not a catalog of all activities undertaken by Lead Agencies using CCDF funds since States and Territories might not have included all activities in their CCDF Plans, which also may be amended during the biennial period.

To highlight the variety of activities undertaken by Lead Agencies, the report includes examples that have been excerpted from the CCDF Plans. The examples are cited for illustrative purposes only.

Report Format

The *Child Care and Development Fund Report of State and Territory Plans FY 2006-2007* is organized into seven parts, which correspond to the format established in the CCDF Plan Preprint⁴ (Form ACF-118):

- Part 1: Administration
- Part 2: Developing the Child Care Program
- Part 3: Child Care Services Offered
- Part 4: Processes with Parents
- Part 5: Activities and Services to Improve the Quality and Availability of Child Care
- Part 6: Health and Safety Requirements for Providers
- Part 7: Health and Safety Requirements in the Territories

The parts are divided into sections that cover information provided by Lead Agencies to comply with CCDF statute and Federal regulations. Lead Agencies are required to respond to questions based on guidance that accompanies the preprint (ACYF-PI-CC-05-05). The preprint and guidance are available on the Child Care Bureau's web site at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/policy1/current/pi0505/pi0505.htm>.

In addition, a list of common acronyms and a glossary of key terms appear at the end of the report. CCDF Lead Agency contact information is listed in Appendix 1, page 311, and a summary of terms specifically related to eligibility and priority for child care services is provided in Appendix 2, page 319.

⁴ Child Care Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2005, July). *CCDF state and territories plan preprint, FFY 2006-2007*. Retrieved November 23, 2005, from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/policy1/current/ACF118/preprint_2006_final.htm.

For Additional Information

CCDF Plans are public information and are part of the public record. Current Plans, including amendments, are available from CCDF Lead Agencies. In addition, NCCIC provides links to CCDF Plans on the Web at <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/pubs/stateplan/state-urls.html>.

NCCIC also provides the following:

- A complete list of all State and Territory TANF definitions at <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/pubs/stateplan2006-07/index.html>.
- A complete list of all State and Territory eligibility and priority terminology for child care services at <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/pubs/stateplan2006-07/index.html>.
- A list of CCDF Lead Agency contacts at <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/statedata/dirs/display.cfm?title=ccdf>.
- Electronic versions of the *Child Care and Development Fund Report of State and Territory Plans FY 2006-2007* as well as previous plan period reports at <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/pubs/stateplan/stateplan-intro.html>.