

All licensed child care centers and Type A homes were sent the following as an email on Wednesday, July 6, 2011 from BCCD_policy_questions@jfs.ohio.gov. If you did not receive that email, your program's email address in COLTS-SOLAR is not accurate and needs to be corrected as soon as possible.

Please go to <http://colts-solar.ohio.gov> to update the email address by changing the email address and submitting an updated application.

As a reminder, OJDFS does not recommend using a personal email account (of the Administrator or a staff member) as the official email address for the licensed child care program.

Attention Child Care Providers:

Am. Sub. H.B. 153 (the "Budget Bill") eliminated the renewal process for licensed programs, including the renewal fee requirement. Programs with license expiration dates on or after September 29, 2011 will no longer need to submit a renewal application or fee to maintain licensure.

For Programs with a Licensing Expiration Date before September 29, 2011:

Please continue to submit the renewal application and fee by the due date to meet the current renewal deadline of 60 days prior to your license expiration.

For Programs with a Licensing Expiration Date on or after September 29, 2011:

You do not need to submit anything. If you submit or have submitted an application and fee, your fee will be returned to you.

Attached is a document that outlines the budget changes to child care licensing and to publicly funded child care included in Am. Sub. H.B. 153 ("The Budget Bill").

For questions about the licensing portion of this document, please contact your licensing specialist.

For questions about the publicly funded child care portion, please contact the OFC Help Desk at 1-866-886-3537, option 4.

For questions about CCIDS, please contact the CCIDS Help Desk at 1-877-302-2347 or CCIDS_help_desk@jfs.ohio.gov.

For questions about the quality portion, please contact your Step Up To Quality licensing specialist.

For additional information about future licensing changes, sign up for the Child Care RSS feed at <http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/ccupdates/> and periodically visit the Child Care website (<http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/childcare.stm>)



**Office of Family Assistance
 Division of Child Care**

**Am. Sub. H.B. 153 Changes and Efficiencies in Licensing, Payments, and Quality
 July 2011**

ODJFS has been working with the Early Childhood Advisory Council, the Child Care Advisory Council and with representatives of AFSCME Council 8, the Ohio Afterschool Network and the Ohio Association of Child Care Providers throughout the budget process to identify opportunities for improvements within the child care system. A number of changes to child care licensing and to publicly funded child care were included in Am. Sub. H.B. 153, the 2012-2013 state budget, which Governor Kasich signed into law last week. Many of these changes will not be effective until the end of September and many include changes to processes that are not yet fully developed. ODJFS will be working on these details and processes throughout the rest of the summer and early fall.

Below is preview of what will be rolling out in the coming months. As ODJFS implements these changes, the agency will continue to rely on the Child Care Advisory Council as the primary stakeholder group.

Child Care Licensing

Inspection Schedule Protocol

An inspection schedule protocol will be implemented to allow licensing specialists to shift time and energy from those programs that are demonstrating a level of quality to those that need additional support.

Current Schedule	Proposed Schedule
Provisional License: One inspection during 6 month provisional period (at approximately day 90).	Provisional License: 3 inspections during 12 month provisional period. Part time programs will have 2 inspections during 12 month provisional period.
Fully licensed full time: 2 inspections each year (at least one unannounced – one may be focused)	Fully licensed full time: 2 inspections each year (at least one unannounced – one may be focused)
Fully licensed with Star Rating*: 2 inspections each year (at least one unannounced – one may be focused). Part time programs get 1 inspection each year.	Fully licensed full time with Star Rating*: 1 full unannounced inspection each year. Part time programs may have a focused inspection every other year.
Fully licensed part time: 1 unannounced inspection each year.	Fully licensed part time: 1 full unannounced inspection each year.

*Step Up to Quality Star rating must have been awarded at least 12 months prior and must not have been suspended or removed during the 12 months.

Note: Star rated programs also receive a SUTQ visit each year. SUTQ licensing specialists (SULS) assess compliance with those serious risk non-compliances (SRNC) that are also included in the SUTQ benchmark indicators (ratio and supervision). If other SRNC are observed during the visit, the SULS will cite the noncompliance however they are not otherwise actively assessing for compliance with general licensing requirements.

Effective Date: Approximately July 25, 2011

Type A Owner and Administrator: (5101:2-13-01)

The definitions of Type A administrator is being amended to clarify that the owner of the Type A home must also be the resident and administrator.

Effective Date: September 29, 2011

Capacity (5101:2-12-01, 03 and 5101:2-13-01, 03)

- A. References to staffing were removed from the definition of how to determine license capacity for fully licensed centers. Capacity determination will be based on the amount of available indoor floor space and outdoor play space, and amount of available play equipment, materials, and supplies. There are no changes to the determination of license capacity for initial applications and during the provisional license period. Staffing capacity for fully licensed centers will be based on the number of enrolled children, not the license capacity.

Effective Date: September 29, 2011

- B. Full licenses will be revised to reflect only the total capacity of the program and the capacity for children under 2.5 years old. Provisional licenses will not be changed.

Effective Date: TBD within SFY 2012

Continuous Licensing (5101:2-12-04, 05, 06, 07 and 5101:2-13-04, 05, 06, 07)

Child care licenses will no longer need to be renewed every two years. All programs currently licensed will be issued a continuous license. Licenses that expire after September 29, 2011 will not have to be renewed. Licenses that expire before September 29, 2011 will still have to follow renewal requirements. BCII records checks will continue to be required every 4 years, but will no longer be tied to the renewal of the license.

Effective Date: September 29, 2011

Provisional License Period (5101:2-12-04 and 5101:2-13-06)

The Provisional license period will now be 12 months (instead of six months) with specific criteria to amend to a full license. Fulltime programs will have three inspections during those 12 months and part-time programs will have two inspections. All programs licensed after September 29, 2011 will have a 12-month provisional period and then will be eligible for a continuous license. Programs with a current provisional license will follow the current requirements (6-month period with one visit at 90 days).

Effective Date: September 29, 2011

Change of Location (5101:2-12-05, 06 and 5101:2-13-05, 06)

Licensed programs that need to change location will no longer be treated as applying for a new license. A new process will be designed and will be detailed in rule.

Effective Date: September 29, 2011

Enforcement (5101:2-12-09 and 5101:2-13-09)

Owners who have a child care license revoked will not be able to apply for a new license for 5 years. Other existing licenses for that owner will not be impacted.

Effective Date: September 29, 2011

Nap time (5101:2-12-20 and 5101:2-13-20)

Ratio can now be doubled for up to 2 hours for nap time (up from 1.5 hours).

Effective Date: September 29, 2011

Career Pathways for Administrator Qualifications (5101:2-12-24 and 5101:2-13-24)

Adds "Early childhood professional three" for administrators as an alternative to completion of two years of courses in early childhood or two years experience caring for children.. This also requires ODJFS to develop a process for approving administrator credentials.

Effective Date: September 29, 2011

Orientation (5101:2-12-25 and 5101:2-13-25)

The ODJFS orientation for new child care staff members will be revised. New staff will now have 90 days to complete the orientation and will receive 5 in-service hours for completion. If a staff member has previously completed the orientation at a different child care program, he or she will not have to complete it again.

Effective Date: September 29, 2011

Employee Medical Statements (5101:2-12-25 and 5101:2-13-25)

Employee medicals will now be required at time of hire, but will not need to be updated every 3 years.

Effective Date: September 29, 2011

References (5101:2-12-25 and 5101:2-13-25)

References for child care staff members in Type A homes and Centers are no longer required.

Effective Date: September 29, 2011

Home-Schooling (5101:2-12-25 and 5101:2-13-25)

Statute now permits students who are 18 and are in the final year of or have finished the final year of school at home as well as those students under 18 who are in the final year of or graduated from a non-chartered nonpublic school to be child care staff members.

Effective Date: September 29, 2011

First Aid and Communicable Disease Training (5101:2-12-27 and 5101:2-13-27)

Statute was revised to clarify that the person trained in first aid does not need to be the same person trained in communicable disease.

Effective Date: September 29, 2011

Parent Roster (5101:2-12-32 and 5101:2-13-32)

The requirement for roster was removed from ORC, giving flexibility for rule.

Effective Date: September 29, 2011

Sanctions

ODJFS now has the authority to write rules for sanctions for serious risk non-compliances.

Effective Date: ODJFS will not begin the process of developing rules regarding sanctions until SFY 2013.

Publicly Funded Child Care

Overview

Over \$600 million has been allocated to the Publicly Funded Child Care Program in each of the next two fiscal years. ODJFS will continue to serve over 103,000 children with a combination of funds from the Child Care Development Fund (federal), TANF (federal), and State General Revenue Funds (GRF).

Reinstatement (5101:2-16-30)

ODJFS now has permissive language allowing the reinstatement of publicly funded child care benefits for families that have lost eligibility, without having to reapply or meet the 125% FPL intake requirement.

Effective Date: September 29, 2011

Eligibility (5101:2-16-30)

All families currently receiving publicly funded childcare benefits will continue to receive the benefits until they reach 200% FPL. Initial eligibility will now be 125% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Families will remain eligible until they reach 200% of the FPL. The 2011 Federal Poverty Levels are being implemented and will adjust the income eligibility and co-payments.

Effective Date: July 1, 2011 Emergency Package

September 29, 2011 Permanent Package

One Full-Time Provider Per Child (5101:2-16-35.1)

Families will be limited to one full-time provider, per child, per week for publicly funded child care services.

Effective Date: July 1, 2011 (statute)

Effective Date: May 2011 (rule)

Co-Payments (5101:2-16-39)

Family co-pays will now be calculated weekly (for counties that have implemented Ohio ECC) and monthly (for counties that have not yet implemented Ohio ECC).

Effective Date: July 1, 2011 Emergency Package

September 29, 2011 Permanent Package

Provider Rates (5101:2-16-41)

Approximately \$40 million needed to be reduced from child care services for both SFY 2012 and SFY 2013. Therefore, rates will be set at the 26th percentile of the 2008 Market Rate Survey. The new rates, based on completed surveys, will vary depending on the county of residence of the families served, the age of the child(ren) served and provider type (Center, Type As or Type Bs).

Effective Date: July 29, 2011 Emergency Package

October 27, 2012 Permanent Package

Fees (5101:2-16-41)

ODJFS will no longer reimburse providers for transportation, activity and registration. Providers will be able to charge parents for these fees.

Effective Date: July 29, 2011 Emergency Package

October 27, 2012 Permanent Package

Child Care Information Data System

Overview

Over the last two years, ODJFS has developed an IT system with several subsystems for child care:

1. Eligibility and Authorizations - this subsystem is an automated tool that increases the efficiency of the county worker when determining publicly funded child care eligibility for low income families.
2. Centralized Payments - this subsystem automates payments to child care providers via electronic funds transfer. Payments are issued at the state level instead of from the county JFS agencies. ODJFS currently issues payments to approximately 10,000 providers.
3. CCIDS Provider Portal - this is a web based application that allows for a provider to submit a Provider Agreement to receive payment for publicly funded child care services rendered. Providers submit rate and banking information as well. Providers can access payment detail reports using this application.

4. Ohio Electronic Child Care (Ohio ECC) - caretakers are issued a swipe card used with the point of service device (POS) at their designated provider location to record the time and attendance their children are in child care. The attendance data is transmitted to the Ohio ECC system which calculates the payment due to the provider and the provider is paid via EFT - electronic fund transfer.

For more information on any of these four systems, go to <http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/CCIDS.stm>

Pilot

ODJFS is piloting Ohio ECC with six counties in the fall, Champaign, Logan, Marion, Ross, Union and Hamilton counties, with statewide implementation to follow. Extensive training is being offered for both caretakers and providers for this new system. There will be two cards available per caretaker for the pilot counties and for statewide roll-out.

Swipe Card Pilot (Temporary Law)

If a provider misuses the swipe card system and point of service device (used for tracking attendance and submitting invoices), the license or certification of the provider may be revoked.

If a caretaker parent misuses the swipe card system and point of service device (used for tracking attendance and submitting invoices), the caretaker parent may lose eligibility for publicly funded child care.

Effective Date: ODJFS will develop guidance for counties and providers regarding “misuse”. ODJFS will utilize the pilot period to determine further clarification and potential rules.

There were also various changes in sections 5104.32, 5104.35, 5104.37, 5104.39 and 5104.42 of the Revised Code clarifying the duties of ODJFS and the CDJFS in light of the automation of the CCIDS/3299 system.

Quality

Quality Budget Overview

The child care quality budget is currently funded at \$27.7 million dollars, which exceeds the required 4% amount of \$19.5 million. The quality budget for SFY 2012 and SFY 2013 represents a decrease of approximately \$12 million per year.

Health and Safety		
Ohio’s regulatory system serves as the foundation for building quality early learning experiences. Meeting expectations and compliance, developing systems for protecting and supporting children and providing clean, accessible and age appropriate materials are all measuring and pre-cursors to a programs ability to provide high quality care and learning.		
Item	Funding Levels (SFY 12)	Purpose
Child Care Licensing and Step Up To Quality Staff	\$ 8,101,445.00	Complete on site, regular licensing inspections. Complete on-site, annual quality benchmarks verification visits.
Licensing Software Maintenance	\$ 110,000.00	Complete changes, improvements to the web-based licensing software. Information on licensing compliance is available to parents and the public.
Quality and School Readiness		
Ohio utilizes a Quality Rating and Improvement System (Step Up To Quality-SUTQ) to assess programs that provide, on a voluntary basis, higher quality standards. The quality benchmarks utilized in SUTQ are based on research and evidence that lead to better early learning experiences. Benchmarks include smaller ratios and group sizes, higher teacher education, on-going professional development, strong administrative practices, and utilizing early learning curricula and assessments. SUTQ incorporates and aligns with Ohio’s		

early learning content standards, programs guidelines/standards for infant, toddler and preschoolers.		
Item	Funding Levels (SFY 12)	Purpose
Ohio Educational Television Stations	\$ 305,800.00	Utilizing existing Ohio documents and standards, the public television stations provide professional development to early care and education professionals.
Quality Achievement Awards	\$ 8,000,000.00	In recognition that it is more costly to provide higher quality standards, annual monetary payments are earned by programs. The payment amounts are based on the size, quality level and number of children served by the program that are participating in the publicly funded child care program.
Research/Evaluation	\$ 150,000.00	ODJFS contracts with The Ohio State University to complete regular evaluations of SUTQ.
Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association	\$ 2,197,200.00	OCCRRA provides on-going coordination of quality activities which include: TEACH scholarships that assist teachers and administrators with obtaining a credential or degree in Early Childhood Education; Professional Development Registry which tracks the professional history, credentials and training of teachers and allows the field to search for trainings, across topic and content level; Technical Assistance Coordination across the Infant and Toddler, School Age and SUTQ networks; and administer the QAAs (described above)
Child Care Resource & Referral System	\$ 8,600,000.00	Local CCR&Rs provide parents with critical information on selecting an early learning setting for their children. In addition, CCR&Rs provide mentoring, coaching and technical assistance to assist programs with improving their quality, particularly related to the early learning environment for infants through school aged children. CCR&Rs also provide the on-going professional development that is required for participating in SUTQ.

Enhanced Payment (5101:2-16-41)

New statutory language directs ODJFS to establish enhanced payments for programs participating in the voluntary quality rating program (Step Up to Quality), as well as weigh these programs differently when reducing rates. ODJFS will increase the current enhanced subsidy payments for 1-star rated or accredited programs from 5% to 7%. In addition, 2-star rated programs will receive an additional 7%, instead of the current 5% and 3-star rated programs will receive an additional 12%, instead of the current 10%.

**Effective Date: July 29, 2011 Emergency Package
October 27, 2012 Permanent Package**

Step Up To Quality Training (5101:2-17-01)

Administrators, lead teachers, and assistant teachers will now have to complete 20 hours of specialized training every two years (instead of 10 hours annually). The Serious Risk Non-Compliance matrix has also been updated to reflect rule amendments.

Effective Date: September 29, 2011