

Date: 02/11/2010
Sequence: 2010-23
Topic: **Child Care System Q & A**

The following is a series of questions and answers regarding the new child care system scheduled for implementation April, 2010. The questions and answers provided represent the collaborative efforts between the BCFTA and the Child Care program office.

Question:

When is the last draw down for child care non-administrative funds?

Answer:

County agencies may submit a draw request on April 16 for expenditures due before April 30. Effective May 1, 2010 all child care provider expenditures will be processed through the new Child Care Information Data System, regardless of the date of service.

Question:

If the Child Care Centralized Payment system is not functional as planned on May 1, 2010, will the draw down process be re-activated?

Answer:

Yes, the process can be re-activated easily and JFS will communicate to counties should this occur.

Question:

If counties collect overpayments from caretakers or providers, how will the reporting occur?

Answer:

The process for reporting the collection of erroneous child care payments will not change. County agencies will use current codes and continue to report as required by OAC 5101:9-7-06 "Reporting County Collections."

Question:

Who will be conducting fraud investigations once the new system is up and running?

Answer:

The process for investing fraud will not change, counties will continue to track and investigate as they do now. In the new system, counties will be able to report an active provider's overpayment and the system will deduct from the next payment. Inactive provider and caretaker overpayments collected must be reported to JFS. Agencies are to use current codes and continue to report as required by OAC 5101:9-7-06 "Reporting County Collections."

Question:

If a county receives a child care invoice for services rendered in December 2009 and the county processes this invoice in April 2010. Who will make the payment?

Answer:

The county will make all child care payments through the month of April regardless of service dates.

Question:

What if the county processes this December 2009 payment in May 2010?

Answer:

All child care payments will be made via the Centralized Payment system effective May 01, 2010. The county would enter the appropriate data into the CCIDS/3299 system indicating services of December 2009, Approval Month May 2010 and Issuance Month May 2010.

Question:

When should counties end their contracts with child care providers?

Answer:

All child care providers will be required to submit a Provider Agreement via the Provider Portal beginning in March 2010 if they wish to receive payment from JFS. The provider agreement contains the following statement:

28. The effective date of this agreement shall be March 28, 2010, or the date ODJFS receives this agreement or the date ODJFS determines that the automated child care system can accurately process payments to providers, whichever is latest. This agreement will remain in effect unless terminated by either the Provider or ODJFS."

Counties may wish to include a similar phrase in communicating with providers to cover any potential gaps that might occur if the new system is not functional as planned.

Question:

Since counties will continue to calculate payments for providers, how will they obtain the necessary rate information?

Answer:

Counties will have "view" access to the Centralized Payment screens that include rates reported by providers. In addition, counties may choose to have a communication plan or MOU with providers outlining expectations for sharing updated rate information. This is a suggestion from JFS and not a planned requirement.

Question:

What will be the State's payment cycle and what period will each payment reflect.

Answer:

The payment cycles are defined in policy and reflect four or five week cycles. Counties are provided with this chart of cycles each fiscal year.

Question:

Is there a contact number should a county have questions or issues that need addressed after implementation?

Answer:

The Child Care program office maintains a help desk and email account. If necessary, inquiries can be sent to other offices (such as fiscal) for responses when appropriate. Using the child care help desk for inquiries related to the new system, conversion and child care program enables us to track responses. County agency inquiries can be communicated using any one of the following means of contact:

Child Care Information Data System Help Desk

Email: CCIDS_Help_Desk@jfs.ohio.gov

Phone: 1-877-302-2347

Fax #: 614.728.6803

Please contact your ODJFS Fiscal Supervisor if you have any questions.

Thank you.