



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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Kimberly Hall, Director
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
30 East Broad Street, 32nd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

FEB 19 2020

Dear Director Hall:

The Office of Child Care has completed its review of the proposed amendments to Ohio's conditionally approved Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan for 2019-2021, submitted on December 2, 2019.

This letter is to inform you that the following CCDF Plan amendments were approved.

- **Section 3.1 – Eligible Children and Families** – Amended several definitions related to eligibility and documented that homeless children are eligible for more than 90 days of care, effective October 20, 2019
- **Section 3.2.1 – Definition “Children with Special Needs** – Amended definition to reflect the state definition of “special needs child care”, effective October 20, 2019.
- **Section 3.2.5 – Procedures to Enroll Children Experiencing Homelessness**– Amended to reflect that homeless children are eligible for more than 90 days of care, effective October 20, 2019.
- **Section 3.3.2 – Options to Discontinue Assistance**- Amended to reflect that Ohio no longer terminates care for unexplained absences effective October 20, 2019
- **Section 3.4.1 - Family Contribution to Payments**- Amended to reflect updates to Ohio's sliding fee scale effective October 1, 2019.
- **Section 4.2. – Assessing Market Rates and Child Care Costs** – Amended to reflect that Ohio added information about the 2019 Market Rate Survey (MRS), effective June 20, 2019
- **Section 4.3.1 – Setting Payment Rates** - Amended to reflect that Ohio implemented policy changes to increase provider payment rates effective July 21, 2019.

- **Section 4.4.1– Summary of Facts Used to Determine that Payment Rates are Sufficient to Ensure Equal Access** Amended to reflect that Ohio updated provider payment rates to ensure they are adequate and based on the most recent MRS, effective July 21, 2019.
- **Section 4.5.1 – Payment Practices and the Timeliness of Payments** - Amended to reflect that Ohio now requires a registration fee be paid to providers effective October 20, 2019. Additionally we reviewed your absence policies and have determined that they appear to be compliant with the Final Rule. Approval of this amendment indicates that Ohio CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule and is no longer under a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for this requirement.
- **Section 5.4.9 – Provisional Employment** - Amended to reflect that Ohio requires a background check preliminary approval prior to allowing a child care staff member to work with children effective September 29, 2019. Approval of this amendment indicates that Ohio's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule and is no longer under a waiver for this requirement.

Additionally, this letter also documents approval for a waiver as applicable for section 5.4.5 for Criminal Background Checks. The waiver renewal is approved for a period of no more than one additional year. States are expected to be in full compliance of the background check requirements of Section 5.4 by September 30, 2020. OCC does not have authority under the current law to grant any additional extensions after this date.

The effective dates for these amendments to the Ohio CCDF Plan are noted on the amendments log within the ACF-118 electronic submission site.

We look forward to our continued partnership in the administration of your Child Care and Development Fund program. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please feel free to contact Gena Miller, Child Care Program Manager in our Chicago Regional Office at 312-353-3270 or gena.miller@acf.hhs.gov.

We appreciate your efforts to meet the child care needs of eligible families in the State of Ohio, and look forward to our continued partnership in the administration of your Child Care and Development Fund Program.

Sincerely,



Ellen C. Wheatley, Ph.D.
Deputy Director
Office of Child Care

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**cc: Tracey Chestnut, Bureau Chief, Child Care Policy and Technical Assistance
Gena Miller, OCC Regional Program Manager, Region V
Kathy Edler, Regional Liaison, Office of Child Care**

