



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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

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 July 31, 2020.

The following plan amendments were approved related to COVID-19:

- **Section 1.6.1 – Public Private Partnerships** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 there is a change in the state requirement for providers to be rated in the QRIS system by July to September, 2020.
- **Section 2.3.4 – Lead Agency Processes** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 the addition of information on how to apply to be a temporary pandemic child care program.
- **Section 2.3.5a – List of Providers** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 added information on temporary pandemic child care programs.
- **Section 3.1.5 – Eligibility Conditions and Priority Rules** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 the extension of eligibility periods for an additional six months for authorizations that expired in March, April, May, June and July of 2020.
- **Section 3.2.3 – Priority Groups** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 the addition of workers providing health, safety and essential services as a priority group.
- **Section 3.2.4 – Prioritize Services for Priority Groups** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 the exemption of priority groups from contributing copayment.
- **Section 3.3.1 – Protection for Working Families** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 the extension of eligibility periods for an additional six months for authorizations that expired in March, April, May, June and July of 2020.
- **Section 3.3.2 – Option Discontinue Assistance** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 the extension of eligibility periods

for an additional six months for authorizations that expired in March, April, May, June and July of 2020.

- **Section 3.4.4 – Waive Contribution/Co-Payments** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 the exemption of families, receiving pandemic child care, from contributing co-payments.
- **Section 4.3.2 – Tiered/Differential Rates** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 the addition of a differential rate for pandemic child care programs.
- **Section 4.4.1h – Rate Ensure Equal Access**– Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 the addition of pandemic child care as a differentiating factor.
- **Section 4.5.1 – Rate Ensure Equal Access**– Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 the increase of the number of absent days from ten to 21 days per six-month period.
- **Section 4.6.1 – Supply-Building Strategies** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 there is a change in the state requirement for providers to be rated in the QRIS system from July to September, 2020.
- **Section 4.6.2 – Increase Supply and Improve Quality** – Amended to add incentives for provider recruitment.
- **Section 4.6.3 – Prioritizing Invest to Increase Access** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 there is a change in the state requirement for providers to be rated in the QRIS system from July to September, 2020.
- **Section 5.2.1 – Standards on Ratios, Group Sizes, and Qualifications** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 the addition of ratios and group sizes for pandemic child care programs.
- **Section 5.2.2 – Health and Safety Standards and Requirements for CCDF Providers** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 providers will have temporary health and safety standards for pandemic child care programs for prevention and control of infectious diseases, prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and the use of safe-sleep practices, prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions, building and physical premises safety, emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies, handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio-contaminants, precautions in transporting children, pediatric first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and nutrition. Approval of this amendment as per the waiver effective March 18, 2020.
- **Section 5.2.3 – Pre-Service and Orientation Training Requirements** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 providers will be exempt from pre-service orientation health and safety training requirements. Approval of this amendment as per the waiver effective March 18, 2020.
- **Section 5.2.4 – Ongoing Training Requirements** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 providers will be exempt

from the ongoing health and safety training requirements. Approval of this amendment as per the waiver effective March 18, 2020.

- **Section 5.3.2 – Inspections for Licensed CCDF Providers** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19, licensed providers may not receive their annual inspection. Approval of this amendment as per the waiver effective March 18, 2020.
- **Section 5.3.3 – Inspections for Licensed-Exempt CCDF Providers** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 licensed-exempt providers may not receive their annual inspection. Approval of this amendment as per the waiver effective March 18, 2020.
- **Section 5.4.1 – In-State Criminal Registry or Repository Checks with Fingerprints Requirements** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 providers may not obtain their in-state criminal check within seven days. Approval of this amendment as per the waiver effective March 18, 2020.
- **Section 5.4.4 – National FBI Criminal Fingerprint Search Requirements** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 providers may not obtain their national criminal background check within seven days. Approval of this amendment as per the waiver effective March 18, 2020.
- **Section 5.4.6 – Interstate Criminal Registry or Repository Check** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 providers may not obtain their interstate criminal registry check within seven days. Approval of this amendment as per the waiver effective March 18, 2020.
- **Section 5.4.9 – Provisional Hire** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 providers may allow prospective staff members to begin work on a provisional basis (if supervised at all times) after the request has been submitted, but before receiving satisfactory results on either the FBI fingerprint check or a fingerprint check of the state/territory criminal registry or repository in the state where the child care staff member resides. Approval of this amendment as per the waiver effective March 18, 2020.
- **Section 7.4.6 – Progress Indicators for Measuring Quality** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 there is a change in the state requirement for providers to be rated in the QRIS system from July to September, 2020.

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

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please feel free to contact Gena L. Miller Child Care Program Manager in our Chicago Regional Office at gena.miller@acf.hhs.gov and (312)-353-3270

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

cc: Tracey Chestnut, Chief Bureau of Child Care Policy and Technical Assistance, Ohio
Department of Job and Family Services.
Gena L. Miller, OCC Regional Program Manager, Region V
Tatiana Tucker, Regional Liaison, Office of Child Care