DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Child Care and Development Block Grant Requirements and Implementation Update

Agenda

- Child Care and Development Block Grant
- Child Care Subsidy Changes for Families and Providers
  - Child Care Assistance Program
- Health and Safety
  - Licensed Programs
  - Legal Nonlicensed Home providers (that are registered for CCAP)
  - License Exempt Centers (that are registered for CCAP)
- Background Studies
- Consumer Education

What is the CCDBG Act of 2014?

- The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (CCDBG), was signed into law in November 2014 after receiving bipartisan and bicameral support in Congress.
- The CCDBG is the primary source of federal funding for child care subsidies and initiatives to support the quality of child care programs.
- Fully authorizes the child care program for the first time since 1996 - historic re-envisioning of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program.

Key features of reauthorization

The CCDBG law had three primary goals:

- Promoting access to subsidy for families with low incomes and increasing the number of those children in high-quality child care settings
- Improving quality of child care services and programs by implementing oversight standards
  - Protecting the health and safety of children
  - Improving child care and development of children
- Informing parents of child care choices and providing education information to help parents make informed choices.

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Changes for families

CCAP - 2017 Changes Summary

- 12-month continuous eligibility
- Copayment fees more stable
- Extended eligibility when work or school ends
- Reduced reporting requirements

Continuous eligibility within the 12 month timeframe

12 month period of eligibility & authorization

- Reduced change reporting

Copayment Fees are predictable

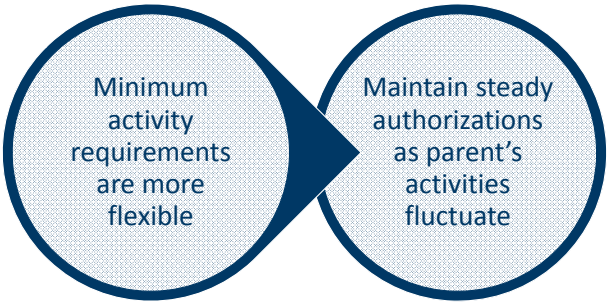
During eligibility period

Copay will not increase

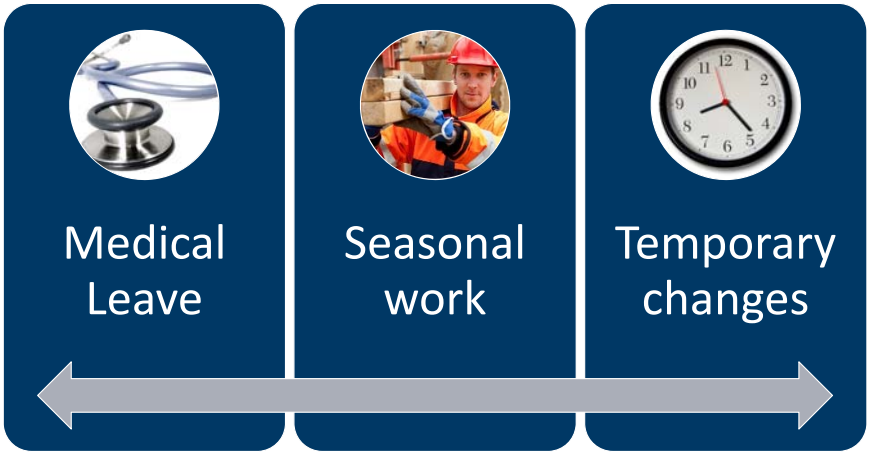
At redetermination

Copay is reset based on current income

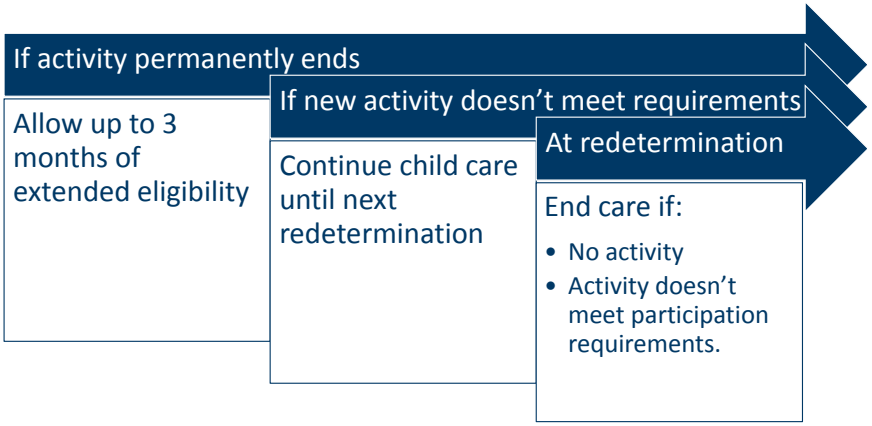
Few activity and schedule changes impact eligibility



Temporary changes won't disrupt CCAP authorizations



Extended Eligibility



21 days

CCAP payment timeline

Implementation Plan

- Changes occur at various effective dates; September 25, October 23 and December 18, 2017
- Video conference and in-person training, bulletins, and updated manuals are being released to coincide with each set of changes
- Parent and Provider mailing describing the changes is planned for October 2017.

Unfinished Business

- 2017 legislative changes bring MN into compliance with many federal requirements.
- A few outstanding issues remain:
  - Homeless Families – Expedited application
  - Maximum rates – Updating rates based on the most recent survey
- Federal office expects compliance by 9/30/2018

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Health and Safety

Changes enacted during the 2017 legislative session

- Annual Inspections
- Consumer education
- Health & safety
- Enhanced background studies

CCDBG affects 4 types of child care in Minnesota

Four provider types affected:

- Licensed child care centers
- Licensed family child care programs
- License-exempt centers that are registered to receive funding through the Child Care Assistant Program (CCAP)
- Legal nonlicensed providers that are registered to receive funding through the Child Care Assistant Program (CCAP)

Health & Safety Requirements

- Requires states to conduct annual inspections of all licensed, certified or regulated CCDF providers.
- Requires states to have standards for CCDF providers regarding group size limits and appropriate child-to-provider ratios based on the age of children in child care.
- Requires emergency preparedness planning and statewide disaster plans for child care.

Health & Safety Topics & Training

- Requires states to establish health and safety requirements in 10 different topic areas.
- Child care providers receiving assistance through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program must receive training on such topics both:
  - Before being certified or licensed *and*
  - On an ongoing basis

10 Health & Safety Topics

- Prevention & control of infectious diseases*
- Prevention of sudden infant death and use of safe sleep practices
- Administration of medication*
- Allergy prevention and response*
- Building and physical premises safety
- Prevention of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma
- Handling and storage of biocontaminants
- Appropriate precautions in transporting children
- First aid and CPR
- Emergency preparedness*

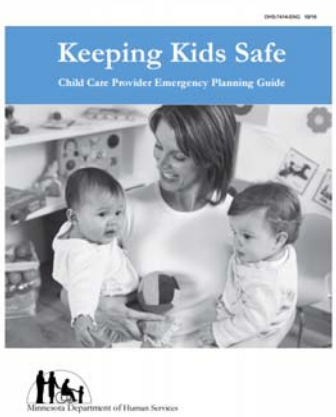
Emergency preparedness requirement

States must develop a statewide emergency plan

- Completed in September 2016
- Minnesota's Statewide Child Care Emergency Plan

States must require every provider to have an emergency plan

- Developed Template and Guidance called "Keeping Kids Safe"
- Use of the template ensures providers comply with new plan requirements



Health and safety training resources

FREE Health and Safety training through June 30, 2018

www.developtoolmn.org

Or contact: **888-291-9811**

childcareawaremn.org

Training requirements – centers serving CCAP families

In addition to topics required by licensing, staff should be trained by September 30th, 2017, in:

- Preventing and responding to allergic reactions, including reactions from food
- Handling and disposal of bodily fluids
- Emergency preparedness and response

Certification of license-exempt centers

- Certification versus licensure: Stakeholder workgroup in 2015-2016 helped inform this discussion
- Who must be certified?
- Implementation dates to be determined by Commissioner

Implementation Plan

- Webinars, outreach session and conference presentations occurred in 2015-2016 and are being conducted to provide information about the newly enacted legislative changes.
- Provider mailing/email describing the changes was sent in early 2017 and additional communication is planned for October 2017, when additional information will be added to Licensing website pages.
- Hiring of new licensors, support, and county compliance unit underway, and will continue through early 2018.
- Annual Inspections will likely begin with inspections occurring in 2018.

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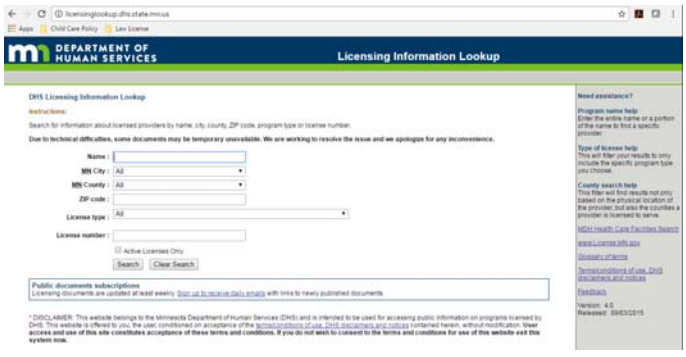
Consumer Education

Consumer and Provider Education Resources

- Parent Aware Website – www.parentaware.org
- Provides information on:
  - Licensed programs – links back to licensing web pages
  - Program quality for rated programs
  - Child Care Assistance
  - Other financial assistance for eligible families
  - Child Development/Developmental Screening

Posting of inspection results

- Results of inspections available online and in plain language



Consumer and Provider Education Resources

New resources for families and licensed providers

- Ratio and Group Size Requirements in Licensed Child Care
- Infant Safe Sleep Requirements in Licensed Child Care
- Child Care Emergency Preparedness FAQs
- Background Study Requirements for Licensed Child Care
- County Delegated Licensure of Family Child Care Programs
- Licensed Child Care Trends (2005 – 2015)
- Licensed Child Care Sanctions (2011 – 2015)
- Understanding Licensed Child Care in Minnesota (2016 Issue Brief)

For more information, visit: mn.gov/dhs/licensing/child-care

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Background Studies

Background Study Requirements

New Child Care Background Study Requirements

- Federal law requires child care providers who are licensed/regulated or who receive CCAP to have a comprehensive study.
  - Licensed child care centers and Licensed family child care programs
  - License-exempt centers and Legal nonlicensed providers that are registered to receive funding through the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
- Comprehensive fingerprint-based study required every 5 years
- Each study will cost $40 plus a fingerprinting fee.

All current and new child care providers will need to have a new background study.

Background Study Requirements

Fingerprint-Based FBI Study Requirements

1. A fingerprint search of FBI criminal records (for individuals 18 years of age and older)
2. A search of the National Sex Offender Public Website
3. A fingerprint search of records held by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA)
4. A search of Minnesota's predatory offender registry
5. A search of Minnesota's maltreatment registry
6. An out-of-state search of the child abuse and neglect registry for every state where that the individual resided during the past 5 years

Background Study Requirements

Individuals Requiring a New Comprehensive Background Study

- License/certification/registration holders, controlling individuals, and anyone who has direct contract with children, or unsupervised access to these individual or their information.
- Anyone employed by a child care provider.
- Anyone whose activities involve the care or supervision of a child for a child care provider.
- Anyone who has unsupervised access to a child who is cared for or supervised by a child care provider.
- An individual at least 13 years or older who resides in a licensed family child care home or a legal nonlicensed child care program.

Background Study Requirements

New Permanent Disqualifications for Child Care Providers

Federal law permanently prohibits a child care provider from working if the study subject has committed certain acts or been convicted of certain crimes.

Some state disqualifications were elevated to permeant bars for child care programs in order to comply with CCDBG standards.

Background Study Requirements

Implementation Plan

- Implementation of the new comprehensive studies has not started anywhere in the state.
- FAQ posted online and communications sent to all providers.
- We have an open offer to meet with any group interested in learning more or offering recommendations.
- We have been meeting with and seeking feedback from providers and counties.
- Responses will be sought on a draft implementation plan.
- Providers and counties will be contacted well in advance with instructions for when the new studies will be required and how to initiate them.