New Hampshire
Child Care and Development
FFY 2019- 20121 Fund (CCDF)
Federal Plan
Highlights of Proposed Plan for Public Review and Comment

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Where Can You Find the Draft Plan & Related Information?

https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcyf/cdb/publications.htm
What’s Different in this Plan vs. 2016?

It’s mostly about:

Compliance
The successful CCDF Plan will.................
Show progress on meeting/exceeding initial CCDF Plan (2016 – 2018) goals and plan components

- Few new additions
- Focus: accomplishments/progress from 2016 - 2018 CCDF plan goals & activities
- Explanations/next steps for non-compliance
Share solid goals & plans for using funds/programming elements over 2019 – 2021 grant cycle

Details strategy to:

- Improve child care quality
- Support families via stable funding, accessible communication & resources
- Address specific challenges unique to NH
Communicate information with clear, concise & user-friendly responses

- Concentrates on streamlined answers with minimal redundancy/flowery language

- Use “plain-language” & insure we are doing same with stakeholders from parents to providers
Now let’s look at the Plan Section by Section
Section 1

Define CCDF Leadership & Coordination with Relevant Systems
✓ **Leadership** of Plan Design and Implementation

✓ **Authority** over policy decisions

✓ **Accountability** for Plan components
✓ Development of Plan
✓ Collaboration with partners to expand accessibility & continuity
Optimization through use of funds, CCDF matching & Maintenance of Effort $

Encourage public & private partnerships
✓ **Coordination** with Child Care Resource & Referral

✓ **Demonstration** of a plan for disaster preparedness & response
Current Achievements & Future Goals

- New DHHS Division of Economic and Housing Stability
- Expanded partnership with stakeholders
- Emergency Operations Plan focused on ensuring continuity of child care
Section 2

Promote Family Engagement via Outreach & Consumer Education
✓ **Support** role of parents as child care consumers

✓ **Reach out** to families with limited English & disabilities

✓ **Respond** to complaints about child care providers in a logical, user-friendly way from initial contact to final resolution

✓ **Provide** consumer information on child care, quality initiatives & child development – via online easily-accessible format
Expand parents’ knowledge (e.g., available services, parenting resources, children’s health, education, more)

Deliver information on how, when, & where to get developmental screenings for children

Gain consumer confidence by providing & adhering to consumer statement & related resources
SMART Information and Resources

STEPS Access and Application

TO STABILITY Funding and Child Care
• Expanded resources/information on Child Care Aware of NH consumer education website

• Easy-to-use, trackable complaint system that includes licensed & license-exempt child care provider information

• Active collaboration between families, child care providers & service providers to ensure accessible, affordable, timely developmental screenings and interventions
Section 3

Provide Stable Child Care Financial Assistance to Families
✓ **Eligibility** criteria for children & families in need of CCDF funding

✓ **Accessibility** for most vulnerable populations

✓ **Flexibility** to ensure continuity of child care during life changes & job transitions

✓ **Affordability** of parent contributions while supporting provider needs
Expand ways families can qualify for eligibility for Child Care Scholarship Program funds

Implement a 12-month eligibility period to protect working parents

Address absenteeism to give more stability to providers as they financially plan for their program & to families for more stable, predictable payments
Section 4

Ensure Equal Access to Child Care for Children in Families with Low-Incomes
✓ **Choices** for equitable & affordable child care

✓ **Assessments** of market rates & true cost of child care

✓ **Estimates** for child care market rates based on verifiable market research, common sense accounting & ensuring equal access

✓ **Practices** for timely/accurate payments to providers to keep families & programs financially stable

✓ **Supplying** adequate child care options for needs of special populations
Quality Care
Considerations
Cost
Current Achievements & Future Goals

✓ State-wide resource mapping project - realistic look at challenges & needed supports to ensure NH families have quality, affordable, accessible care

✓ Adoption of 85% attendance rule for children will result in better funded providers & increased affordability for families

✓ Commitment to addressing child care workforce shortage
Section 5

Establish Standards & Monitoring Processes to Ensure Health & Safety of Child Care Settings
Licensing requirements - connect quality, safety, access, affordability

Health & Safety Standards for CCDF providers inform, prevent, protect, respond in ways that benefit children, families & providers

Provider Training - pre-service & orientation re: requirements
✓ **Skills** through ongoing professional development requirements that support provider growth & expertise

✓ **Enforcement** of licensing, health, safety, inspection, monitoring, & all other policies & procedures

✓ **Checks** on criminal backgrounds to protect children from predatory or dangerous persons, from NH & outside of state
Projected monitoring for license-exempt providers to begin in FFY 2019-20

Licensed & license–exempt providers have met new health & safety training requirements

Improved staff background checks aligned with national criteria
Section 6

Recruit and Retain a Qualified and Effective Child Care Workforce
 ✓ **Framework** for professional development

 ✓ **Requirements** for training and professional development from entry-level to seasoned professional

 ✓ **Guidelines** for early learning and development covering the essential domains

 ✓ **Criteria** for using guidelines to support kindergarten readiness

 ✓ **Collaboration** with partners to expand accessibility to training and resources
Current Achievements & Future Goals

- Development of a multi-level career lattice that fosters professional growth for providers with wide variety of educational/experiential knowledge

- Continued growth of NH Professional Registry

- Increased number of articulation agreements with colleges to link more formal education with ongoing training of child care providers
Current Achievements & Future Goals (continued)

✓ Expanded training opportunities for current providers and prospective providers

✓ Planned coordination /collaboration between K-12 community & early childhood community to ensure scaffolding of skills, readiness & ongoing support for children
Section 7

Support
Continuous
Quality
Improvement
Key activities must demonstrate continuous quality improvement

Essential quality activities based on state-wide assessment system

Integral funding of quality improvement activities

Supportive use of CCDF funds for training and professional development

QRIS is critical to fostering quality
✓ **Improvements** to supply of quality child care programs & services for infants & toddlers

✓ **Enhancements** to existing Resource and Referral system, consumer website, links, resources, etc.

✓ **Standards** that are applicable state-wide & supported through laws, activities, systems, training

✓ **Activities** with inclusive approach for improving quality
Current Achievements & Future Goals

- Incorporate QRIS system for launch in FFY 2019-20
- Collaborative efforts by field, state, & other stakeholders to identify/embrace measurable quality improvement system
- Launch of NH Pyramid Model as means of improving the lives of children and their families
Section 8

Ensure Grantee Program Integrity & Accountability
✓ Effective administration via internal controls & accountability including:

- Sound fiscal policy/practices
- Fraud prevention
- Clear rules & regulations
- Monitoring/auditing for program compliance & violations
Current Achievements & Future Goals

- Clear, understandable, enforceable policies
- Expanded technical assistance for billing, payments, financial tracking & other provider based activities
- Dedicated staff for accountability & auditing
- Sound fiscal management with adherence to budget
- Increased available funds for the 2019 – 2021 Plan