



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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Laura Howard, Secretary
Kansas Department for Children and Families
555 S. Topeka Ave., 4th Floor
Topeka, KS 66603-3444

Dear Secretary Howard:

The Office of Child Care has completed its review of the proposed amendment(s) to Kansas's conditionally approved Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan for 2019-2021, submitted on September 8, 2020.

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

- **Section 1.1.2 – CCDF Administrator** – Amended to reflect a change in the Lead Agency's CCDF Administrator.
- **Section 1.8.3 – Coordination of Post-disaster Recovery of Child Care Services (supplemental disaster funds)** - Amended to include your request for the phase two supplemental disaster funds. Approval of this amendment indicates that Kansas's request is approved. You will receive a separate Notice of Award from the Office of Administration in the Administration for Children and Families. The notice will include the amount of award and any terms and conditions for the receipt of the CCDF program funds.
- **Section 3.1.2 d – Eligibility Criteria Based on Reason for Care** – Amended to add parents performing essential functions during a disaster or emergency as a reason for care under the definition of protective services.
- **Section 3.2.1 – Increasing Access for Vulnerable Children and Families** – Amended to include parents performing essential functions during a disaster or emergency as a reason for care under the definition of children with special needs.
- **Section 3.2.3 – Priority Groups for Child Care** – Amended the definition of priority groups for a social service reason to include children whose parents are performing essential functions during a disaster or emergency.
- **Section 4.3.1 – Setting Payment Rates** – Amended to reflect increased payment rates established for infants and toddlers, including an increased market rate percentage for both infant and toddler care.

- **Section 4.6.2b – Increasing Supply** – Amended to reflect the increased differential payment rates established for infants and toddlers.
- **Section 5.4.1— In-State Criminal Registry or Repository Checks with Fingerprints Requirements** – Amended to reflect the implementation of in-state criminal record checks with fingerprinting requirements, including completing the backlog of child care providers on November 30, 2019. Approval of this amendment reflects compliance with the CCDF Final Rule at the time the backlog was completed and closes the previous waiver effective November 30, 2019.
- **Section 5.4.4 – National FBI Criminal Fingerprint Search Requirements** – Amended to reflect the implementation of national FBI criminal background search with fingerprinting requirements, including completing the backlog of child care providers on November 30, 2019. Approval of this amendment reflects compliance with the CCDF Final Rule at the time the backlog was completed and closes the previous waiver effective November 30, 2019.
- **Section 5.4.5 – National Crime Information Center (NCIC) National Sex Offender Registry (NSOR) Search Requirements** – Amended to reflect the implementation of NCIC and NSOR search requirements, including completing the backlog of child care providers on November 30, 2019. Approval of this amendment reflects compliance with the CCDF Final Rule at the time the backlog was completed and closes the previous waiver effective November 30, 2019.
- **Section 5.4.6 – Interstate Criminal Registry or Repository Check Requirements** – Amended to reflect the implementation of the interstate criminal registry check requirements. Approval of this amendment indicates that Kansas’s CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule and is no longer under a waiver for this requirement. The effective date for this amendment is December 1, 2020.
- **Section 5.4.7 – Interstate Sex Offender Registry or Repository Check Requirements** – Amended to reflect the implementation of the interstate sex offender registry check requirements. Approval of this amendment indicates that Kansas’s CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule and is no longer under a waiver for this requirement. The effective date for this amendment is December 1, 2020.
- **Section 5.4.8 – Interstate Child Abuse and Neglect Check Registry Requirements** – Amended to reflect the implementation of the interstate child abuse and neglect check registry requirements. Approval of this amendment indicates that Kansas’s CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule and is no longer under a waiver for this requirement. The effective date for this amendment is December 1, 2020.

- **Section 5.4.9 – Provisional Employment** – Amended to reflect the closure of the existing waiver for provisional employment requirements, effective March 11, 2020. Information about the COVID-19 waiver is provided below.
- **Section 5.4.11 – Disqualifying Crimes for Child Care Providers** – Amended to reflect that crimes outside of the CCDF felony disqualifications will be considered on a case by case basis by agency leadership when establishing CCDF agreements with potential providers.

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

- **Section 1.8.2 – Continuation of Child Care Subsidies and Services After an Emergency** – Amended to include the policies the state may enact as part of the emergency response plan. Additional amendments were made specifically to address COVID-19 response, including a summary of waivers, grant programs and flexibilities to support families and providers during the emergency period.
- **Section 3.3.1 – 12-Month Eligibility** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 the 12-month eligibility period will be waived, and an eligibility period of 6 months will be provided to essential workers. Approval of this amendment as per the waiver and effective April 20, 2020.
- **Section 4.1.5 – Parental Choice and In-home Care** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency period for COVID-19 the definition of relative will be expanded up to the 4th degree for children of essential workers. Approval of this amendment as per the waiver and effective April 20, 2020.
- **Section 5.1.3 – Licensing Exemptions for In-Home Care** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency period for COVID-19 the definition of relative will be expanded when providing child care services for children of essential workers. Approval of this amendment as per the waiver and effective April 20, 2020.
- **Section 5.2.3b – Pre-service Orientation and Training** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency period for COVID-19 flexibilities for child care providers in the timing and approach to orientation training requirements. Approval of this amendment as per the waiver and effective April 1, 2020.
- **Section 5.2.4 – Ongoing Training Requirements** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency period for COVID-19 ongoing training requirements for health and safety requirements are postponed. Approval of this amendment as per the waiver and effective April 1, 2020.
- **Section 5.3.2a – Inspections for Licensed CCDF Providers** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency period for COVID-19 annual inspections for

some providers in licensed child care centers have been waived. Approval of this amendment as per the waiver and effective May 15, 2020.

- **Section 5.3.2b – Inspections for Licensed CCDF Providers** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency period for COVID-19 annual inspections for some providers in a licensed family child care homes have been waived. Approval of this amendment as per the waiver and effective May 15, 2020.
- **Section 5.4.1— In-State Criminal Registry or Repository Checks with Fingerprints Requirements** – As a result of the COVID-19 emergency, Kansas’s CCDF plan was amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency period for COVID-19 Kansas has requested a new waiver for in-state fingerprinting requirements beginning on March 12, 2020. Approval of this amendment as per the COVID-19 related waiver effective March 12, 2020.
- **Section 5.4.4 – National FBI Criminal Fingerprint Search Requirements** – As a result of the COVID-19 emergency, Kansas’s CCDF plan was amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency period for COVID-19 Kansas has requested a new waiver for national fingerprinting requirements beginning on March 12, 2020. Approval of this amendment as per the COVID-19 related waiver effective March 12, 2020.
- **Section 5.4.5 – National Crime Information Center (NCIC) National Sex Offender Registry (NSOR) Search Requirements** – As a result of the COVID-19 emergency, Kansas’s CCDF plan was amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency period for COVID-19 Kansas has requested a new waiver for the NCIC and NSOR search requirements beginning on March 12, 2020. Approval of this amendment as per the COVID-19 related waiver effective March 12, 2020.
- **Section 5.4.9 – Provisional Employment** – As a result of the COVID-19 emergency, Kansas’s CCDF plan was amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency period for COVID-19 Kansas has requested a waiver for the provisional hiring requirements beginning on March 12, 2020. Approval of this amendment as per the COVID-19 related waiver effective March 12, 2020.

The effective dates for these amendments are located 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 Doris Hallford, Child Care Program Manager in our Kansas City Regional Office at (816) 426-2264 or doris.hallford@acf.hhs.gov.

We appreciate your efforts to meet the child care needs of eligible families in the State of Kansas 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: Nichelle Adams, Interim CCDF Administrator
Doris Hallford, OCC Regional Program Manager, Region VII
Tatiana Tucker, Regional Liaison, Office of Child Care