



Department of

Human Services

2022-2024

Child Care and Development Fund Plan

Focus Groups

February-March 2021

TN

Department of

Human Services

Mission

To build strong families by connecting Tennesseans to employment, education and support services.

Vision

To revolutionize the customer experience through innovation and a seamless network of services.

Values

- High Performance
- Collaboration
- Continuous Improvement
- A Shared Vision
- Customer-Centered Solutions



Department of
Human Services



Child Care Vision/Goals

Improve Quality

Increase Access

Strengthen Business Efficiency



Revised Child Care Licensing Rules Summer 2018 As a result. . . .

Tennessee's 2018 licensing revisions catapulted the state from 39th in the nation for strength of ECE licensing regulations supportive HWRPs, to #1!

**COPR Scores: 2018 Status (Highest to Lowest)
(States with 2018 changes in lighter color)**



Tennessee's licensing regulations are currently the most supportive of obesity prevention and HWRPs in the nation!



In January 2019, the Child Care Services Director convened approximately 300 stakeholders to discuss the Child Care Certificate Program and subsidy rates.

JANUARY 2019



In August and September 2019, TDHS staff, providers, and partners were included in focus groups to give specific feedback about the big ideas for redesign of the QRIS

AUGUST 2019



FEBRUARY 2019

In February 2019, the Assessment Director convened a town hall meeting to discuss strengths and opportunities within the current quality assessment and rating program. A survey was also issued to child care providers and partners about their interest in small business training.



Increase in Subsidy Rates-April 2019

35% Overall - Infant/Toddler

20% Overall – Preschool /School-Age

Implemented Subsidy Rate Bonuses- July 2019

15% Bonus for areas identified as Child Care Deserts

15% Bonus for areas identified as Distressed Counties

15% Bonus for Non-Traditional hours

October 2019 Initiatives

WAGE\$®

Shared Services and Resources

Mini Grants

Pediatric First Aid and CPR Training/Certification

Business Academies

Paying for Enrollment vs Attendance

Transforming the Child Care Industry

Transforming

- Childcare Workforce
 - Babysitters to Professionals
- DHS Staff
 - Enforcers to Partners
- Report Card Process
 - Quality Rating to Quality Improvement
- Administrative Tasks
 - Cumbersome to Empowering
- Capacity
 - Childcare Obstrucater to Childcare Creator
- Payment Assistance
 - Access to Care becomes Access to Quality
- Payment Assistance
 - Isolated Interaction becomes Continuity of Care





Short Term Goals	Medium Term Goals	Long Term Goals
<p>COVID Response- Now</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Using interim assessment tool to complete all license renewals through 2021.• Deploying COVID relief funds through multiple programs including: pandemic/essential employee payment assistance; temporary care locations for school-aged children; waiving co-pays etc.	<p>QRIS Redesign- 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing rules revisions to support the new approach to quality rating and improvement. -<u>Providers Participating</u>• DHS Child Care Staff reorganization• Increasing technology supports for receiving and processing all applications, allowing certificate staff to engage customers around consumer education and continuity of care.	<p>Full Deployment- 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Technology and Programs- in place to modernize interactions with providers. Transactions are completed electronically.• All information is stored electronically.• Focus is on customer relationships and quality improvement.

Relationships and Collaboration



What is the 2022-24 CCDF State Plan

CCDF Plan is Multifaceted

For the Office of Child Care the CCDF Plan Serves as a:

A guidance document

A compliance document

A data collection vehicle

A document that identifies where OCC needs to provide more guidance

A document that supports understanding Lead Agencies' TA needs

An application for funding (658E(a))

A certification of what a Lead Agency is doing to effectively administer the program. (658E (a)(1))



2022-2024 CCDF Plan Overview

- Leadership and Coordination With Relevant Systems
- Promote Family Engagement Through Outreach and Consumer Education
- Provide Stable Child Care Financial Assistance to Families
- Ensure Equal Access to Child Care for Low-Income Children
- Recruit and Retain a Qualified and Effective Child Care Workforce
- Establish Standards and Monitoring Processes to Ensure the Health and Safety of Child Care Settings
- Support Continuous Quality Improvement
- Ensure Grantee Integrity and Accountability

CCDF Plan Focus

Direct Supports for Families

Health & Safety Standards

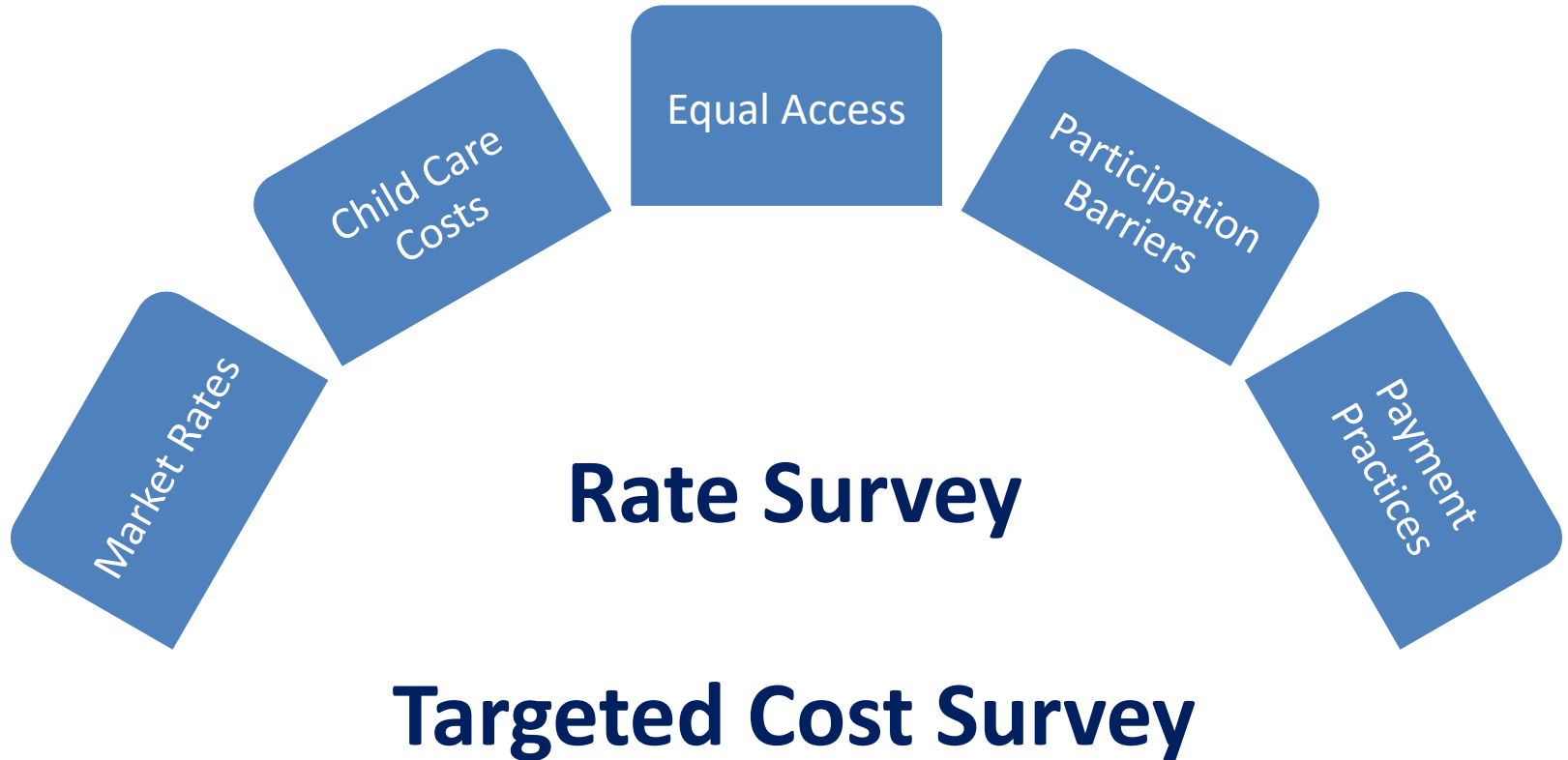
Quality Improvement Activities

**High Quality Early Education
Environments**

Child Care Support Examples

- **WAGE\$**
- **CPR & First Aid Certification**
- **Enhancement/Sustainability Grants**
- **Professional Development for Providers**
- **Training, Technical Assistance, Targeted Technical Assistance**
- **Business Academies**
- **TNPAL (workforce registry)**
- **Provider Portal**
- **Automated Attendance Tracking**

Assessing the Cost of Care



Plan Development Timeline

- **Focus Groups (February – March)**
- **Public Hearing Notice (May 4th)**
- **Public Hearing (May 25th)**
- **Compile/Review Comments (June)**
- **Plan Submission (Last week of June)**
- **Effective Date (October)**

We Want to Hear From You

Direct Supports for Families

- **Subsidy Assistance**

Health & Safety Standards

- **Additional Supports to Meet or Exceed**

Quality Improvement Activities

- **Resources or Initiatives that facilitate improvement**

High Quality Early Education Environments

- **Resources, Supports, Collaborations to build Early Care Environments where children thrive**

Continual Opportunities for Comment

Stakeholders may submit comments throughout the plan development process and up to 7 days after the public hearing (COB 6/1/21) via the dedicated email mailbox:

CCDFPLAN.DHS@tn.gov

Questions?

