



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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Steven Berbeco, Deputy Commissioner
Vermont Department for Children and Families
280 State Drive, NOB 1 North
Waterbury, VT 05671

Dear Deputy Commissioner Berbeco:

The Office of Child Care has completed its review of the proposed amendments to Vermont's conditionally approved Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan for 2019-2021, submitted on May 21, 2020.

This letter is to inform you that the following CCDF Plan amendment was approved:

- **Section 1.1.1 – CCDF Leadership** – Amended to reflect a new Lead Agency official.

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

- **Section 3.1.9 – Eligible Children and Families**– Amended to reflect an extension of eligibility for all CCDF families to August 29, 2020 for families whose eligibility was due to expire between March 29, 2020 and June 6, 2020, due to the COVID-19 emergency.
- **Section 3.3.1 – 12-month eligibility** – Amended to reflect an extension of eligibility for all CCDF families to August 29, 2020 for families whose eligibility was due to expire between March 29, 2020 and June 6, 2020, due to the COVID-19 emergency.
- **Section 3.4.3 and 3.4.4 – Family Contribution to Payment** – Amended to reflect that during the state declared emergency for COVID-19 Vermont will cover 100% of co-pays during Phase 1 and 50% of co-payments during Phase 2 of their COVID-19 stabilization program for CCDF families. Vermont will also cover 100% of co-payments for essential worker families receiving CCDF who are either using new child care or have school-age children through their COVID-19 stabilization program. Approval of this amendment as per the waiver effective June 30, 2020.
- **Section 4.5.1 – Payment Practice and the Timeliness of Payments** – Amended to reflect updated policy to pay CCDF providers based on enrollment, regardless of child's attendance, due to the COVID-19 emergency.

- **Section 5.4.1 – In-State Criminal Registry or Repository Checks with Fingerprints Requirements** – Amended to reflect a temporary waiver of the State Criminal Registry background check with fingerprints requirement due to the COVID-19 emergency. Approval of this amendment as per the waiver effective June 30, 2020.
- **Section 5.4.4 – National FBI Criminal Fingerprint Search Requirements** – Amended to reflect a temporary waiver of the National FBI Criminal Fingerprint search requirement due to the COVID-19 emergency. Approval of this amendment as per the waiver effective June 30, 2020.
- **Section 5.4.5 – National Crime Information Center (NCIC) National Sex Offender Registry (NSOR) Search Requirements**– Amended to reflect a temporary waiver of the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) National Sex Offender Registry (NSOR) search requirement due to the COVID-19 emergency. Approval of this amendment as per the waiver effective June 30, 2020.
- **Section 5.4.6 – Interstate Criminal Registry or Repository Check Requirement** – Amended to reflect a temporary waiver of the Interstate Criminal Registry or Repository check requirement due to the COVID-19 emergency. Approval of this amendment as per the waiver effective June 30, 2020.
- **Section 5.4.7 – Interstate Sex Offender Registry or Repository Check Requirements** – Amended to reflect a temporary waiver of the Interstate Sex Offender Registry or Repository check requirement due to the COVID-19 emergency. Approval of this amendment as per the waiver effective June 30, 2020.
- **Section 7.2.1 – Use of Quality Funds** – Amended to reflect the use of CCDF quality funds to help stabilize child care programs during the COVID-19 emergency.
- **Section 7.11.2 – Other Quality Improvement Activities** – Amended to reflect the use of CCDF quality funds to help stabilize child care programs during the COVID-19 emergency.

The effective dates for these amendments to the Vermont 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 Shireen Riley, Child Care Program Manager in our Boston Regional Office at 617-565-1152 or shireen.riley@acf.hhs.gov.

We appreciate your efforts to meet the child care needs of eligible families in the State of Vermont, 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: Melissa Riegel-Garrett, Policy Director
Anne Rada, Child Care Financial Assistance Program Administrator
Shireen Riley, OCC Regional Program Manager, Region 1
Dawn Ramsburg, Regional Liaison, Office of Child Care