



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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

Dear Deputy Commissioner Gray:

The Office of Child Care has completed its review of the proposed amendments to Vermont's approved Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan for FFY 2022-2024, initially submitted on September 15, 2022 with a final submission date of January 6, 2023.

This letter is to inform you that the following CCDF Plan amendments, including those indicating that Connecticut's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule, were approved:

- **Section 1.1.2 - CCDF Administrator** – Amended to reflect new CCDF Administrator and Co-Administrator, effective January 6, 2023.
- **Section 3.1.3 – Income Eligibility** – Amended to reflect updated income eligibility limits for all family sizes effective July 31, 2022.
- **Section 3.2.1 - Sliding Fee Scale for Child Care Services** – Amended to reflect changes in the income eligibility limits and co-payment information effective July 31, 2022.
- **Section 3.2.2 – Sliding Fee Scale for Child Care Services** – Amended to reflect a new sliding fee scale that varies by family size and income, and that the fee is a dollar amount per family, effective July 31, 2022. Approval of this amendment indicates that Vermont's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule.
- **Section 3.2.3 – Sliding Fee Scale for Child Care Services** – Amended to remove information that is no longer relevant based on implementation of a new sliding fee scale effective July 31, 2022.
- **Section 3.2.5a – Graduated Phase-Out of Assistance at Redetermination**– Amended to reflect an initial eligibility threshold of 85% SMI, based on the new income eligibility limits effective July 31, 2022.
- **Section 3.4.1a – 12-month Eligibility** – Amended to reflect a new policy to provide a full 12 months of eligibility for all families, and that changes to an eligibility case will not be made unless it is based on information reported by the family and would

benefit the family, effective July 3, 2022. Approval of this amendment (in combination with the amendment to 3.4.1b) indicates that Vermont's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule and clears related monitoring finding at 98.21(a)(1).

- **Section 3.4.1b – 12-month Eligibility** – Amended to reflect a new policy that families who are eligible for subsidy based on attending education are not required to submit semester schedules within an eligibility period to maintain services, effective July 3, 2022. Approval of this amendment (in combination with the amendment to 3.4.1a) indicates that Vermont's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule and clears related monitoring finding at 98.21(a)(1).
- **Section 4.1.1 – Maximize Parental Choice and Implement Supply Building Mechanisms** – Amended to reflect the implementation of a new child care information technology system, the Child Development Division Information System (CDDIS), effective July 3, 2022.
- **Section 4.1.3 – Maximize Parental Choice and Implement Supply Building Mechanisms** – Amended to remove information that is no longer relevant based on implementation of new payment rates effective July 3, 2022.
- **Section 4.1.8a and 4.1.8b- Maximize Parental Choice and Implement Supply Building Mechanisms** – Amended to update information related to tiered payment rates based on new payment rates effective July 3, 2022.
- **Section 4.3.1 – Setting Payment Rates** – Amended to update payment rates to a minimum of the 75th percentile for all ages and provider types, effective July 3, 2022. Please note, compliance decisions for Section 4.3.1 are still pending, per the CCDF plan approval letter sent to the Lead Agency on December 13, 2021.
- **Section 4.3.2 – Establishment of Adequate Payment Rates: Factors Differentiating Payment Rates** - Amended to update information related to the variation of payment rates by quality level based on new payment rates effective July 3, 2022.
- **Section 4.3.3 – Establishment of Adequate Payment Rates: Tiered and Differential Rates** - Amended to update information related to the differential rates for higher quality based on new payment rates effective July 3, 2022.
- **Section 4.3.4 – Establishment of Adequate Payment Rates** - Amended to update description of how base payment rates are adequate and enable providers to meet health, safety, quality and staffing requirements based on new payment rates effective July 3, 2022. Please note, compliance decisions for Section 4.3.4 are still pending, per the CCDF plan approval letter sent to the Lead Agency on December 13, 2021.

- **Section 4.3.5 – Establishment of Adequate Payment Rates** – Amended to clarify that providers at a one-star quality level in the state’s QRIS system receive the base payment rate.
- **Section 4.4.1 – Generally Accepted Payment Practice and Timeliness of Payments** – Amended to reflect updated attendance policy that allows for additional coded absence days for child care providers, effective July 3, 2022.
- **Sections 8.1.1, 8.1.2, 8.1.3a, 8.1.3b, and 8.1.5a – Grantee Program Integrity and Accountability** - Amended to reflect the implementation of a new child care information technology system, the Child Development Division Information System (CDDIS), effective July 3, 2022.

In addition, a weblink was updated in 3.1.4.

The effective dates of July 3, 2022, July 31, 2022, and January 6, 2023 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 shireen.riley@acf.hhs.gov or 617-565-1152.

We appreciate your efforts to meet the child care needs of eligible families in Vermont and look forward to our continued partnership in the administration of your Child Care and Development Fund Program.

Sincerely,

Ruth J. Friedman, Ph.D.
Director
Office of Child Care

cc: Karolyn Long, Director of Operations, Child Development Division
Emily Hazard, Child Care Benefits Administrator, Child Development Division
Shireen Riley, OCC Regional Program Manager, Region 1
Christine Johnson-Staub, Regional Liaison, Office of Child Care