



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona



**Arizona's FFY 25-27 CCDF State Plan
Public Input Meeting - May 14, 2024**

Relationship between Law, Rule, and Plan



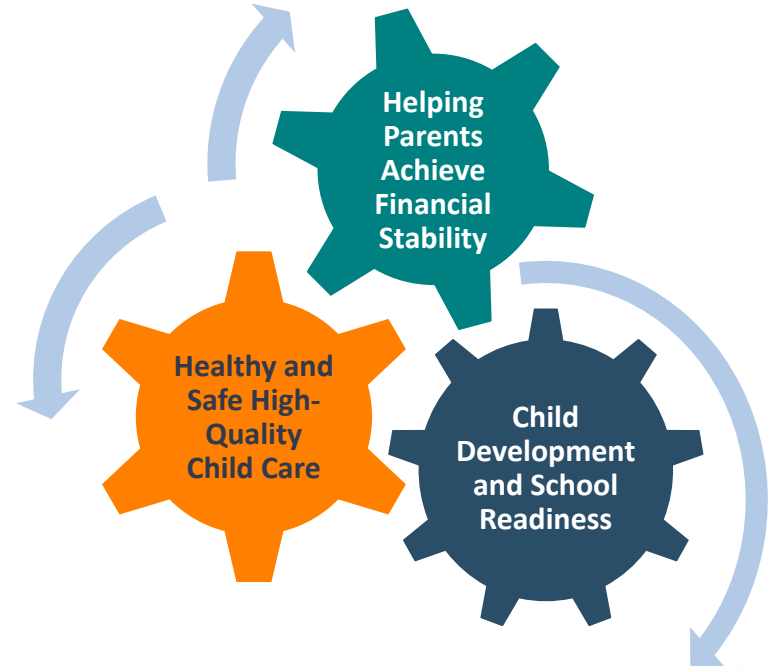
The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act is the law that authorizes the federal child care subsidy program known as the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). The State Plan Plan is the Lead Agency's application for a three-year cycle of CCDF funds and is the primary mechanism to determine Lead Agency compliance.

Source:

[Administration for Children & Families Office of Child Care](#)

Major Provisions of CCDF

- Protect the **health and safety** of children in child care.
- Help parents make **informed choices** and access information to support child development.
- Support **equal access** to stable, high **quality** child care for children from low income families.
- Enhance the quality of the early childhood and child care **workforce**.



Child Care and Development Block Grant

Legal Authority: The 2014 Child Care and Development Block Grant recognizes that child care providers play a critical role in early childhood brain development.

States are required to ensure equal access to quality care, focused on child development & well-being.

- ★ **In Arizona, we accomplish this through State & Community Coordination, Child Care Assistance, DHS Licensing Standards, the DES Provider Registration Agreement, Certified Family Providers, and Quality Set Aside.**

Coordination & Collaboration



Source: acf.hhs.gov/occ/ccdf-reauthorization

CCDF Final Rule (2024)

Child Care and Development Fund Final Rule (2024)

The Administration for Children and Families published new [Rule](#), effective 4/30/24. States are **required** to:

- Cap family copayments at 7% of household income
- Implement payment practices consistent w/ private-pay market, including paying prospectively and based on enrollment
- Provide some services through grants and contracts
- Implement eligibility policies and procedures that minimize disruptions to parent employment, education, or training opportunities
- Post full monitoring and inspection reports of child care providers on consumer education website

Child Care and Development Fund Final Rule (2024)

States are **encouraged** to:

- Consider a child presumptively eligible for subsidy prior to full documentation and verification
- Use other public benefit program documentation to determine eligibility
- Implement online applications
- Waive copayments between 100-150% Federal Poverty Level
- Waive copayments for:
 - Children with disabilities
 - Families experiencing homelessness
 - Children in foster care
 - Children enrolled in Head Start

Waiver: CCDF Final Rule (2024)

Arizona will request a waiver through August 1, 2026 for the following provisions:

- Implement payment practices consistent w/ private-pay market, including paying prospectively and based on enrollment
- Provide some services through grants and contracts for infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children in underserved geographic areas
- Post full monitoring and inspection reports of child care providers on consumer education website

CCDF State Plan (FFY2025-27)

CCDF State Plan Overview

1. **CCDF Program Administration**
2. **Child and Family Eligibility and Enrollment and Continuity of Care**
3. **Child Care Affordability**
4. **Parental Choice, Equal Access, Payment Rates, and Payment Practices**
5. **Health and Safety of Child Care Settings**
6. **Support for a Skilled, Qualified, and Compensated Child Care Workforce**
7. **Quality Improvement Activities**
8. **Lead Agency Coordination and Partnerships to Support Service Delivery**
9. **Family Outreach and Consumer Education**
10. **Program Integrity and Accountability**

Section 2: Child & Family Eligibility

- Eligible children & priority populations:
 - ◆ Children are younger than 13
 - ◆ Reside with a family whose income does not exceed 165% Federal Poverty Level (initial application) for a family of their size
 - ◆ Reside with a parent who is working or attending job or educational training, or who are receiving/need to receive protective services.
- Reduce barriers
 - ◆ Presumptive eligibility for children experiencing homelessness
 - ◆ Leverage eligibility for parents in TANF Jobs program
 - ◆ Prioritize children involved with the Department of Child Safety



Section 3: Child Care Affordability

- Limit the cost of copayments and waive copayments for families referred from DCS, TANF Jobs
 - ◆ States *may* waive copayments for other populations.
 - ◆ States must provide the rationale for the Lead Agency's policy to allow providers to charge families additional amounts above the required co-payment



Section 4: Parental Choice, Equal Access, Payment Rates, and Payment Practices

- Update Market Rate Survey (2024) and take the cost of quality into account when setting rates
- Implement prospective and enrollment-based payment practices
- Provide some portion of direct services via grants or contracts, including at a minimum for children in underserved geographic areas, infants and toddlers, and children with disabilities (Supply Building)



Section 6: Supporting the Workforce

- Embed training and professional development requirements and a progression of professional development for CCDF providers, including caregivers, teachers, and directors
- Improve training and support for health, safety, and child development in child care settings
- Build Arizona's early childhood educator apprenticeship pathway



Section 7: Quality Improvement Activities

- Help parents make informed consumer choices and access information to identify high-quality care.
- Ensure health & safety standards and effective business practices
- System alignment and coordination for the QIRS
 - ◆ Ongoing assessment
 - ◆ Other quality initiatives
- Strengthen social-emotional well-being in child care settings



Final State Plan Preprint (March)

Develop State Plan based on feedback and
Final CCDF Rule (March/April)

Market Rate Survey and Narrow Cost Analysis
(April/May)

Virtual Public Hearing (May 14)

Compile/Review Comments (June)

Plan Submission (June 30)

Effective Date (October 1, 2024)

CCDF 2025-2027 State Plan Development Timeline



Thank you!
We want to hear from you:

 [des.az.gov/services/child-and-family/child-care/child-care-and-development-fund-state-plan](https://www.azdes.gov/services/child-and-family/child-care/child-care-and-development-fund-state-plan)

Public comment form open through 5/31/24

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CCDF
2025-2027
State Plan

