

# CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Background | 2018

The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is the primary federal grant program that provides child care assistance for families and funds child care quality initiatives. CCDBG is administered to states in formula block grants. States use the grants to subsidize child care for low-income working families. Most of this assistance is administered through vouchers or certificates, which can be used by parents for the provider or program of their choice. CCDBG also funds Child Care Resource and Referral services and quality projects for infants and toddlers.

In 2014, CCDBG was overwhelmingly reauthorized in Congress and supported by the Obama Administration. The new legislation included three primary goals:

- Promoting quality child care by increasing state-level investments in activities to improve the quality of care, enhancing states' ability to train providers and develop safer and more effective child care services.
- Strengthening health and safety requirements in child care programs and providers.
- Improving access to child care by expanding eligibility for participating families and helping families connect with quality programs that meet their needs.

The CCDBG Act of 2014 also mandated that states meet new requirements on infant and toddler spending, comprehensive criminal background checks, consumer education, and disaster preparedness and response planning. However, many states have requested, and have been granted, waivers from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) delaying implementation dates for many of the new requirements. The primary obstacle for states being fully compliant with the new law is lack of funding. When Congress reauthorized CCDBG, they did not provide sufficient funding to support states. This has forced states to use resources from other federal funding streams, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), to both meet the new requirements and ensure children don't lose access to care.

Children and parents have been significantly impacted by the lack of CCDBG funding, and with states struggling to meet the new requirements, children have been at-risk of losing access to quality care.

## FISCAL YEAR 2018

In February 2018, Congressional leaders and the White House reached an agreement to authorize \$300 billion in new discretionary funding through September 30, 2019. Of the total amount, the agreement specifically included \$5.8 billion in new funding for CCDBG. On March 23, Congress passed the FY 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Bill which included a \$2.4 billion increase for CCDBG, the largest in history. This funding will help thousands of children and families gain access to high-quality care.

In addition, the new CCDBG money will assist states in meeting the mandates of the 2014 law. The FY 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Bill does not change state-level funding allocations, but it encourages states to use the funds to improve the quality and safety of child care programs, increasing provider reimbursement rates, and ensuring health and safety standards are met. In addition, ACF is directed to work with states to ensure they are meeting the needs of families with non-traditional work hours. It also includes language that would prohibit CCDBG funding from going to providers where a serious injury or death occurred due to a health or safety violation.



## CONTACT

Phone: 703-341-4143  
Email: [jay.nichols@usa.childcareaware.org](mailto:jay.nichols@usa.childcareaware.org)  
Website: [usa.childcareaware.org](http://usa.childcareaware.org)

## ADDRESS

1515 N. Courthouse Rd.  
3rd Floor  
Arlington, VA 22201

## COPYRIGHT

Copyright © 2018, Child Care Aware® of America.  
All Rights Reserved.