



U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Administration for Children & Families

Office of Child Care



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Shannon Christian

Critical Child Infrastructure Panel

National Academy of Sciences Workshop

From Katrina to Wildfires



Office of Child Care Overview

- Administers the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)
- \$8.7 Billion+ Block Grant to state, territory, and tribal grantees to:
 - Help eligible low-income families pay for child care -- birth through 12 years
 - Improve quality for all children
- Policy flexibility within federal parameters
- Research & Technical Assistance (TA)



Grantee Disaster Plans - Required

- Grantees must have a plan for disaster preparedness, response and recovery that includes:
 - Guidelines for continuation of child care services and child care subsidies
 - Coordination of post-disaster recovery of child care services;
 - Requirements for child care providers (evacuation, relocation, shelter-in-place, lockdown, etc.)
- OCC provides Technical Assistance to improve plans



OCC Responses to Disasters

- Provides **technical assistance** to grantees
- Helps grantees understand and use **flexibilities** available in the their child care funds
- **Partners** with other Administration for Children and Families and other Federal programs – FEMA - to coordinate support
- Helps grantees **identify others** who can provide support
- Coordinates with **national organizations**



CCDF Flexibilities to Address Disasters

- Change eligibility or priority criteria
- Change the income threshold
- Waive parent copays
- Broad definition of protective services to include affected children
- Use quality dollars to provide immediate child care assistance to displaced families
- Provide supply building grants to child care providers
- Eliminate the quality spending percentage allowing more to be spent on direct services
- Requesting Temporary Waivers for Extraordinary Circumstances
- Use TANF dollars (fewer requirements than CCDF)



Guidance on Flexibility

Flexibility in Spending CCDF Funds in Response to Federal or State Declared Emergency Situations

CCDF-ACF-IM-2017-02

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/im-2017-02>

Includes role of related funding streams

Supplemental Funding

- Congress has recently passed legislation for multiple emergency/disaster events
 - \$30 million in supplemental funding for grantees that were affected by natural disasters in 2018 and 2019
 - \$3.5 billion in CARES Act funding for all OCC grantees to address COVID-19



Addressing COVID-19

- New challenges not part of emergency/disaster plans
 - Child care providers closed or limited to serving children of essential workers by state order; others chose to close
 - Many still closed, others operating but with far fewer children
 - Request financial support to remain in business
- Nature of child care is changing
 - Parents, concerned about safety, are making decisions that influence child care supply and demand; increased small setting preferences
 - Recommended safety policies and practices increase costs and decrease revenue – e.g., social distancing means fewer children can be served per child care classroom, which increases the cost per child; sanitation, screening, arrival/departure, handwashing practices increase staffing needs



Additional Challenges

- The child care market is wide and varied, a mix of public and privately funded children and programs not coordinated by any one entity
- There is a limited reach of child care trauma experts
- OCC doesn't have a mechanism for deploying volunteers to disaster sites
- Uncertain how the pandemic will change our approach to disaster planning, response, and recovery, including how state disaster plans need to be adjusted to be useful during a widespread health emergency.



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For more information, visit the OCC website at:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ>

