

THE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT REAUTHORIZATION:
IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

The following timeline summarizes the upcoming dates by which state and federal agencies will be required to implement provisions of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) reauthorization, which President Obama signed into law on November 19, 2014. Provisions not included below generally are effective upon enactment.¹

Deadlines for federal agencies are in Blue. For a list of key dates and deadlines organized by topic, see page 4.

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Fiscal Year 2015 (October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015)

- Federal discretionary funding authorized: \$2.36 billion² (same as Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 appropriated federal discretionary funding)
- **July 2015:** State plans covering three years (FY 2016-2018) are due.³

Fiscal Year 2016 (October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016)

- Federal discretionary funding authorized: \$2.48 billion.
- States must reserve at least 7 percent of CCDBG funds to improve child care quality and increase parental options/access to high-quality care (the “quality set-aside”).⁴
- Beginning in **November 2015**, State annual reports must include aggregate data on the number of child fatalities occurring in the care of providers receiving CCDBG assistance.
- **By November 19, 2015:** The Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Education must conduct an interdepartmental review of all early learning and care programs for children under six years old and report to Congress with recommendations for streamlining programs.

- By **July 31, 2016**: In its biennial reports to Congress, HHS must begin including a determination of whether each State has used CCDBG funds for authorized purposes, with priority given to children with very low family incomes or special needs.
- By **September 30, 2016**: The Assistant Secretary for Children and Families must prepare an annual report that determines whether each State has used CCDBG funds for authorized purposes, with priority given to children with very low family incomes or special needs. States found to be noncompliant have six months after the report is released to modify their State plan before the Secretary must withhold 5 percent of CCDBG funds. (The Secretary may waive the penalty for one year.)

<p>Fiscal Year 2017 (October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017)</p>

- Federal discretionary funding authorized: \$2.54 billion
- Quality set-aside requirement: 7 percent of CCDBG funds
- Beginning in FY 2017, States must reserve at least an additional 3 percent of CCDBG funds in each fiscal year for quality improvement activities related to care for infants and toddlers.
- By **November 19, 2016**: States must have policies and practices in place for enforcing licensing and other regulatory requirements,⁵ including:
 - For licensed/regulated CCDBG providers, one pre-licensure inspection for compliance with health/safety/fire standards and at least one unannounced inspection for compliance with all licensing standards annually thereafter.
 - For license-exempt CCDBG providers (except for those related to all children in their care), an annual inspection for compliance with health/safety/fire standards.
- By **November 19, 2016**: The U.S. Comptroller General must have completed a study of the number of CCDBG-eligible families in each State that have been placed on a waiting list for assistance and report the results to Congress. (Waiting list studies are to continue, with the Comptroller General reporting to Congress on a biennial basis.)
- By **September 30, 2017**: States must have implemented policies to require and conduct criminal background checks for child care staff members, and child care providers must have requested background checks for all staff

employed prior to November 19, 2014. (The Secretary may grant an extension of up to one year, if the State demonstrates a good faith effort to comply.) Providers must request background checks prior to hiring prospective staff members, and at least once every five years for all staff members.

Fiscal Year 2018 (October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018)

- Federal discretionary funding authorized: \$2.60 billion
- Quality set-aside requirement: 8 percent of CCDBG funds (plus 3 percent to improve care for infants/toddlers)
- State plans due for FY 2019-2021.
- By **November 19, 2017**: States must make public the results of monitoring and inspection reports about provider violations of CCDBG and State child care policies. (Note that if a State complies with monitoring and inspection requirements prior to the November 19, 2016 deadline, it must make the report results public earlier—within one year of complying.)

Fiscal Year 2019 (October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019)

- Federal discretionary funding Authorized: \$2.67 billion
- Quality set-aside requirement: 8 percent of CCDBG funds (plus 3 percent to improve care for infants/toddlers)

Fiscal Year 2020 (October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020)

- Federal discretionary funding Authorized: \$2.75 billion
- Quality set-aside requirement: 9 percent of CCDBG funds (plus 3 percent to improve care for infants/toddlers)

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Key Dates & Deadlines by Topic

Federal Discretionary Funding Authorization Levels:

- \$2.36 billion for FY 2015
- \$2.48 billion for FY 2016
- \$2.54 billion for FY 2017
- \$2.60 billion for FY 2018
- \$2.67 billion for FY 2019
- \$2.75 billion for FY 2020

Quality Set-Aside:

- 7 percent in FY 2016 and FY 2017
 - Beginning in FY 2017, States must reserve at least an additional 3 percent of CCDBG funds in each fiscal year for quality improvement activities related to care for infants and toddlers.
- 8 percent in FY 2018 and FY 2019 (plus 3 percent to improve care for infants/toddlers)
- 9 percent in FY 2020 and each year thereafter (plus 3 percent to improve care for infants/toddlers)

Monitoring and Inspections:

- States must have policies and practices in place for enforcing licensing and other regulatory requirements, including:
 - For licensed/regulated CCDBG providers, one pre-licensure inspection for compliance with health/safety/fire standards and at least one unannounced inspection for compliance with all licensing standards annually thereafter.
 - For license-exempt CCDBG providers (except for those related to all children in their care), an annual inspection for compliance with health/safety/fire standards.
- **By November 19, 2017:** States must make public the results of monitoring and inspection reports about provider violations of CCDBG and State child care policies. (Note that if a State complies with monitoring and inspection requirements prior to the November 19, 2016

deadline, it must make the report results public earlier—within one year of complying.)

Criminal Background Checks:

- States must have implemented policies to require and conduct criminal background checks for child care staff members, and child care providers must have requested background checks for all staff employed prior to November 19, 2014. (The Secretary may grant an extension of up to one year, if the State demonstrates a good faith effort to comply.) Providers must request background checks prior to hiring prospective staff members, and at least once every five years for all staff members.

Additions to State Reports:

- Beginning in **November 2015**, State annual reports must include aggregate data on the number of child fatalities occurring in the care of providers receiving CCDBG assistance.

Federal Agency Reports:

- **By November 19, 2015:** The Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Education must conduct an interdepartmental review of all early learning and care programs for children under six years old and report to Congress with recommendations for streamlining programs.
- **By July 31, 2016:** In its biennial reports to Congress, HHS must begin including a determination of whether each State has used CCDBG funds for authorized purposes, with priority given to children with very low family incomes or special needs.
- **By September 30, 2016:** The Assistant Secretary for Children and Families must prepare an annual report that determines whether each State has used CCDBG funds for authorized purposes, with priority given to children with very low family incomes or special needs. States found to be noncompliant have six months after the report is released to modify their State plan before the Secretary must withhold 5 percent of CCDBG funds. (The Secretary may waive the penalty for one year.)
- **By November 19, 2016:** The U.S. Comptroller General must have completed a study of the number of CCDBG-eligible families in each State that have been placed on a waiting list for assistance and report the results to Congress. (Waiting list studies are to continue, with the Comptroller General reporting to Congress on a biennial basis.)

¹ For more information regarding the new requirements in the CCDBG reauthorization law, *see* NWLC, *The Child Care and Development Block Grant Reauthorization: Changes to Previous Law* (Nov. 2014), *available at* http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/ccdbg_reauthorization_comparison_chart_final_11_20_14docx.pdf.

² This is the authorized funding level; Congress must still determine the actual funding appropriation each year. Also note that this only includes federal discretionary funding, and not federal mandatory funding, State maintenance of effort, or State matching funds for child care.

³ Prior to the CCDBG reauthorization, State plans covered a two-year period. The July 2015 plan submission deadline is not set in the statute; the Office of Child Care could revise it.

⁴ Under previous law, the required quality set-aside was 4 percent.

⁵ States must certify in their plans that they have licensing and regulatory requirements that comply with the reauthorization law's provisions on health and safety.