

## BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

January 1, 2019, through June 30, 2019

Department: Community Based Services

Block Grant: Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)

This report is submitted in compliance with KRS 45.357. This report on achievements may be compared to the Block Grant application currently on file with LRC.

Block Grant Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

Eric T. Clark  
Commissioner

7/26/2019  
Date

1. FINANCES	Federal Funds	General Funds	Trust/Local Match	Total
<b>Annual Budget</b>	\$135,909,692.00	\$31,863,047.76	\$0.00	\$167,772,739.76
<b>Actual Expenditures</b>	\$50,053,530.29	\$19,443,405.90	\$0.00	\$69,496,936.19
<b>Encumbrances</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Available Balance</b>	\$32,828,514.44	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$32,828,514.44

### 2. RESULTS BUDGETED/ACHIEVED

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
<p>1. To provide child care services to children who reside with a low income parent(s) who works, seeks work, attends a job training or educational program; or receives, or needs to receive, protective services, which may include preventive services.</p>	<p>An average of 29,596 children per month received child care through CCDF during the second half of this State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2019.</p> <p>Of this total, an average of: 23,901 children were served to allow low income parents to work, 3,993 children were served through prevention or protection services, 207 were teen parents. Some families received assistance through the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) to address more than one service need.</p>
<p>2. To provide access to quality child care that supports the parent participating in the Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP).</p>	<p>An average of 2,367 children per month with parents participating in Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP) and the Kentucky Works Program received child care assistance through funding from the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant</p>

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<p>3. To provide consumer education and promote parental choice to empower working parents to make their own decisions on the child care that best suits their family's needs.</p>	<p>During the second half of SFY 2019, approximately 4,442 consumer education materials were disseminated to help parents make informed choices when choosing child care.</p> <p>Families seeking child care may choose either a licensed, certified, or registered provider utilizing one the available options below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Parents may utilize the toll-free phone number "Find Kentucky Kid Care" to locate quality child care in Kentucky. The toll-free number links the parent to a centralized statewide referral call center that refers the parent to child care providers within their area. The DCBS Division of Child Care (DCC) administers the toll-free line. There were approximately 156 referral calls received during the second half of SFY 2019.</li> <li>2) Parents may utilize the Child Care Aware / Kentucky Early Childhood Partnership website to locate quality child care in Kentucky. There were approximately 3,989 web referrals made during the second half of SFY 2019.</li> <li>3) Effective October 1, 2017, parents may search for providers by address, provider name, or License/Certificate number by accessing the Kentucky Child Care Provider Search: <a href="https://benefind.ky.gov/kccps">https://benefind.ky.gov/kccps</a> . This search allows parents to filter by location, services offered, cost and a variety of other factors. It also displays quality rating, licensing, and investigation history for all providers.</li> </ol>
<p>4. To increase the availability of early childhood development and/or before- and after- school care programs.</p>	<p>An average of 9,286 children were served in before- and after-school child care programs on a monthly basis.</p>
<p>5. To increase the availability of high quality child care through statewide services, including pre-application consultation, routine visits, technical assistance, and quality rating visits under the Kentucky All STARS program</p>	<p>Kentucky All STARS continues to promote high quality by supporting providers and educating families about the importance of high quality child care. DCC purchased the Branagh Software tool to help streamline the environmental rating scale (ERS) process and provide detailed quality rating reports to help providers increase the quality of care provided to children statewide. DCC continues to work with sub-recipient Child Care Aware (CCA) to ensure providers statewide are able to navigate all Kentucky All STARS processes. New consumer education materials were added to the DCC website in support of both providers and families.</p> <p>As of June 30, 2019, the total number of participants in Kentucky All STARS Program are as follows:</p> <p>889 All STARS Level 1 centers and family child care homes                  213 All STARS Level 2 centers and family child care homes                  381 All STARS Level 3 centers and family child care homes                  359 All STARS Level 4 centers and family child care homes</p>

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	<p>224 All STARS Level 5 centers and family child care homes</p> <p>The All STARS program completed 75 STARS rating visits of child care providers between January and June 2019. After each rating visit, providers are given a rating summary report, which is used for program improvement and consultation with technical assistance staff.</p>
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>ACHIEVEMENTS</b>
<p>6. To expand the availability of new and existing resources targeted at quality improvement by contracting for the provision of these services.</p>	<p>DCBS contracts with the University of Kentucky-Child Care Aware to increase the quality and quantity of accessible, affordable, developmentally appropriate early and school age care. All STARS Quality Coordinators visit child care providers to provide technical assistance and complete Environmental Rating Scales (ERS) for providers seeking a STARS Level 3, 4, or 5 and to assist providers with a self-assessment for a STARS Level 2. A total of 3,463 technical assistance visits was completed. During technical assistance visits, child care providers work on improvement plans to increase the quality of their services.</p> <p>Professional Development Coaches work with child care staff to develop enhanced professional development plans and connect providers to available educational and professional resources. Between January and June of 2019, Professional Development Coaches provided support for completing professional development plans to approximately 85 providers.</p>
<p>7. To ensure regional professional development opportunities through training and technical assistance using a statewide coordination of services.</p>	<p>The Child Care Aware of Kentucky network consists of eight Training Coaches who ensure access to regional professional development opportunities by identifying training needs and trainer recruitment.</p> <p>The Kentucky Early Care and Education Trainer's Credential is required of all instructors who provide child care training to caregivers in the process of pursuing professional development goals or completing the annual training requirement established by state regulation. As of June 30, 2019, there were 708 individuals holding a current Kentucky Trainer's Credential.</p> <p>The Early Care and Education Training Records Information System (ECE-TRIS) stores the training records for child care providers. During the second half of SFY 2019, there were 74 registered providers, 505 certified providers, and 58,030 licensed providers and staff that completed training sessions.</p>

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<p>8. To ensure health and safety standards for children in care through licensed and certified child care programs. Make available flexible care options with the registered provider program.</p>	<p>DCBS contracts with the Office of Inspector General to enforce standards for licensed and certified providers. As of June 30, 2019, there were 2,125 certified and licensed child care programs for 32 dedicated child care licensing surveyors. The average ratio of surveyors to regulated child care programs is one to 68.22.</p> <p>The total number of licensed, certified, and registered providers as of June 30, 2018 was:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="954 436 1243 579"> <tr> <td>Licensed</td> <td>1,880</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Certified</td> <td>245</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Registered</td> <td>86</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>2,211</b></td> </tr> </table>	Licensed	1,880	Certified	245	Registered	86	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,211</b>
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**3. AUTHORIZED CHANGES (from the BLOCK GRANT PLAN IN FINANCES AND/OR OBJECTIVES)**

On November 19, 2014, the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 was signed into law. This reauthorizes the child care program for the first time since 1996 and represents an historic re-envisioning of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program. The new law makes significant advancements by defining health and safety requirements for child care providers, outlining family-friendly eligibility policies, and ensuring parents and the general public have transparent information about the child care choices available to them.

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) three-year plan for States and Territories is required from each CCDF Lead agency in accordance with Section 658E of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, (CCDBG Act), as amended, CCDBG Act of 2014 ([Pub. Law 113-186](#)), and [42 U.S.C 9858](#).

Kentucky was awarded an additional 42 million dollars of discretionary funds through the Child Care Development Block Grant. The Division of Child Care (DCC) conducted a fiscal analysis and implemented the following:

922 KAR 2:160 was filed as an emergency regulation on November 30, 2018. This regulation was effective as of December 1, 2018 and included a Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) maximum rate increase for any county currently receiving less than the 40<sup>th</sup> percentile to better align with bordering states. This regulation also included raising the discontinuance of child care services at redetermination at 200 percent of the federal poverty level and allows for funding of child care for foster children from CCDF funds to better align with federal guidance and to help alleviate the burden on foster care funding.

In addition, the regulation allows full-time students enrolled in a certified trade school, accredited college or university, as well as those participating in the SNAP Employment and Training Program to meet the eligibility requirements for child care, effective June 28, 2019.

Funding is also being used to cover the \$25 administrative portion of background checks. The remaining cost of \$38.25 will be charged to the provider. This was implemented effective November 1, 2018.

DCBS submitted the Federal Fiscal Years 2019-2021 CCDF state plan in August 2018 and received federal conditional approval in October 2018.

DCBS is preparing for the Office of Child Care’s Monitoring Visit scheduled for November 2019. During this visit, DCBS will demonstrate compliance with the FFY 2019-2021 CCDF state plan through documentation, interviews with staff and contract agencies, and on site visits to eligibility offices.

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### **4. EVALUATION OF RESULTS**

CCAP promotes, expands, and improves the quality of care for children in Kentucky and ensure that families most in need are aware of and have access to quality child care. The approach to service delivery combines the efforts of the DCC staff and other service providers and partners to address a family's needs in a comprehensive fashion thereby maximizing the likelihood that a family will achieve positive outcomes. DCC serves Kentucky's most vulnerable children prioritizing children with special needs and children receiving protective services. TANF recipients and persons transitioning off TANF are also eligible for child care assistance. During the second half of SFY 2019, the average number of families served in CCAP was 15,617.

DCBS contracts with the Cabinet's Office of Inspector General (OIG) to inspect, monitor, and license center-based providers, and inspect, monitor, and certify family childcare home providers.

On July 10, 2019, the CCAP Program collaborated with other DCBS Agencies to facilitate a policy panel to ensure consistency of policies and practices. CCAP worked with a contractor vendor to design, develop and implement user guides that can be used in the field for consistency of current practices.

Kentucky is also participating in an error rate reduction workgroup to target measures for reducing issues noted in the Local DCBS Eligibility Offices which may lead to case review errors. The state is also working with the Division of Program Performance to develop a reporting tool to help provide data that will identify the targeted elements seen in a case review.

Kentucky All STARS is Kentucky's expanded five-star quality rating and improvement system for early care and education programs. Studies show that children who attend high quality early learning environments have better math, language and social skills. The unified system serves all early care and education programs including child care centers, Head Start and public preschool.

Kentucky All STARS is based on Kentucky's Early Childhood Standards and research-based indicators of quality. It recognizes programs that have made a commitment to continuous quality improvement. On the path toward higher quality, programs can benefit from supports including training, technical assistance, and coaching.

Additionally, targeted quality set-asides under CCDF are being utilized to promote and improve the quality of infant/toddler training opportunities, enhance professional development activities, improve education in child care programs, improve staff and child interactions, increase parental involvement, and facilitate regulatory compliance to all child care programs.

### **5. ALTERNATIVES FOR IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY**

The family co-payment structure ensures that no family pays a co-payment if the family's monthly income is below \$900. Family co-payments are structured so that a family whose income is below 100% of the federal poverty level pays no more than 10% of its gross monthly income for childcare. When the provider's customary rate exceeds the Kentucky Child Care Maximum Payment Rate, families will be responsible for the difference plus the family co-payment.

On November 30, 2018, there was an emergency regulation filed that increased the CCAP maximum rate for any county currently receiving less than the 40<sup>th</sup> percentile to better align with bordering states.

This regulation also included raising the discontinuance of child care services at redetermination to 200 percent of the federal poverty level and allows for funding of child care for foster children from CCDF funds to better align with federal guidance and to help alleviate the burden on foster care funding.



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In addition, the regulation allows full-time students enrolled in a certified trade school, accredited college or university, as well as those participating in the SNAP Employment and Training Program to meet the eligibility requirements for child care, effective June 28, 2019.

Licensed or certified providers who are accredited by a national organization receive an additional two (2) dollars per day above the maximum rate of pay. They also receive an additional one (1) dollar per day for providing child care for non-traditional hours. Licensed, certified, or registered providers may receive an additional one (1) dollar per day for care of children with special needs. These rates may be cumulative and do not exceed the amount charged to the general public for the same care.

<b>Kentucky All STARS Ratings as of June 30, 2019</b>					
	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Level 4</b>	<b>Level 5</b>
<b>Licensed Types I&amp;II</b>	748	177	355	332	224
<b>Certified</b>	141	36	26	27	7
<b>Licensed Head Start</b>	35	0	17	39	93
<b>Totals</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>231</b>

With the implementation of the data management system for the Kentucky All STARS Program in the Kentucky Integrated Child Care System (KICCS), DCC has worked to streamline and automate many of the Kentucky All STARS processes. This allows for a more up to date and quicker turnaround service. Providers can now see their current All STARS rating, all correspondence and program history completed under the All STARS regulation, and may apply for new ratings and submit Annual Quality Reviews through the KICCS system.

DCC has also implemented another new system called Branagh. The Branagh system is utilized during Environmental Rating Assessments (ERS) that Raters make for all High Quality Rated Providers in Kentucky All STARS. The Branagh System uses the ERS assessment from the Raters to generate reports to coordinate improvement plans around increasing quality childcare.

DCC continues to provide trainings for all Coaches and Raters around how to utilize these newer system functions. DCC also has updated various aspects of the Kentucky All STARS website, to provider a multitude of guides and contact points for providers throughout the state. With the variety of entities that work with the All STARS program the updated guides and trainings are essential in ensuring unified messaging across the state.

As of June 30, 2019, 2073 programs, or 100 % of programs have verified ratings in Kentucky All STARS and 47% of programs are rated high quality.

DCBS is currently a partner for two grant initiatives: The Birth to 5 Preschool Development Grant (PDG) and the W.K. Kellogg Grant. The focus of the PDG is to enhance and strengthen Kentucky's early childhood system by complementing the work that began during the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant and building a stronger foundation for children through increased collaboration between state agencies and stakeholders to continue to improve the overall quality of early care and education.

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The W.K. Kellogg Grant focuses on increasing the availability of quality family child care for infant and toddlers in the underserved areas of Kentucky. Five pilot sites have been identified and are in varying phases of development. Pilots will be fully operating by the end of 2019.

### 6. Quality Initiatives

Through the use of Tobacco Master Settlement dollars, the Division of Child Care's Professional Development program has resulted in a growth of services intended to enhance the quality of child care throughout Kentucky. The DCC-approved training organizations and the non-college scholarship program provide training and technical assistance to Early Care and Education Professionals for obtaining the Commonwealth Child Care Credential and the Child Development Associate. Monetary awards for completing professional development educational achievements and Mini-Grants for national accreditation of early childhood providers are also provided to Early Care and Education Professionals, licensed centers, and certified homes increasing the quality of staff and programs.

166	Development Associate Mini-Grants invoiced, for a total of \$70,550 during the second half of SFY 2019
804	Individuals have a Commonwealth Child Care Credential.
223	Milestone Achievement Awards for completion of a Commonwealth Child Care Credential, Child Development Associate (CDA), Director's Credential, Associate or Bachelor Degree in Early Care and Education issued during second half of SFY 2019 , for a total amount of \$40,725
142	Related Educational Reimbursement Awards issued during the second half of SFY 2018 assisting early care and education professionals pursuing a CDA, Directors Credential, or an Associate or Bachelor Degree in Early Care and Education studies, for a total amount of \$12,900
2,298	Individuals have a Kentucky Director's Credential.

