

BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020

Department: Community Based ServicesBlock 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: Marta Miranda-Straub 2/1/2021
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 Marta Miranda-Straub Date
 Commissioner

1. FINANCES	Federal Funds	General Funds	Trust/Local Match	Total
Annual Budget	\$124,046,500.00	\$36,259,900.00	\$133,100.00	\$229,180,912.00
Actual Expenditures	\$50,165,925.39	\$15,535,906.74	\$34,771.59	\$87,611,877.06
Encumbrances	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Available Balance	\$73,880,574.02	\$20,723,993.26	\$98,328.41	\$141,569,034.94

FINANCES	Federal Funds	General Funds	Trust/Local Match	Total
CARES Annual Budget	\$67,852,412.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$67,852,412.00
CARES Actual Expenditures	\$43,816,928.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$43,816,928.70
CARES Encumbrances	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
CARES Available Balance	\$24,035,483.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24,035,483.30

2. RESULTS BUDGETED/ACHIEVED

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
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.	An average of 22,168 children per month received child care through CCDF during the first half of this State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2021. 15,752 children received assistance that allowed low-income parents to work, 2,896 children were served through prevention or protection services, and 93 teen parents received assistance. Some families received assistance through the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) to address more than one service need.

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<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 1,066 children per month with parents participating in Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP) and the Kentucky Works Program (KWP) received child care assistance through funding from the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant</p>
<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 first half of SFY 2021, approximately 2,733 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"> 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 71 referral calls received during the first half of SFY 2021. 2) Parents may search for providers by address, provider name, or License/Certificate number by accessing the Division of Child Care (public search) website: Find Child Care - Cabinet for Health and Family Services (ky.gov)
<p>4. To increase the availability of early childhood development and/or before- and after- school care programs.</p>	<p>An average of 6,098 children are receiving before- and after-school child care services per month.</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 is a five (5) tiered quality rating and improvement system for all licensed type I and II child care facilities and certified family child care homes.</p> <p>As of December 31, 2020, the total number of participants in Kentucky All STARS Program were as follows:</p> <p>895 All STARS Level 1 centers and family child care homes 157 All STARS Level 2 centers and family child care homes 342 All STARS Level 3 centers and family child care homes 285 All STARS Level 4 centers and family child care homes 195 All STARS Level 5 centers and family child care homes</p> <p>The All STARS rating staff conducted 0 environmental rating scales of child care programs between July and December of 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions in child care settings.</p>

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<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-Human Development Institute to increase the quality and quantity of accessible, affordable, developmentally appropriate early and school age care. All STARS Quality Coordinators consult with and visit child care providers to give technical assistance and complete Environmental Rating Scales (ERS) for providers seeking an All STARS Level 3, 4, or 5 and to assist providers with a self-assessment for a STARS Level 2. A total of 2,432 technical assistance consultations/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.</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 December 31, 2020, there were 794 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 first half of SFY 2021, there were 27 registered providers, 275 certified providers, and 58,881 licensed providers and staff who had completed training sessions.</p>								
<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 the Inspector General to enforce standards for licensed and certified providers. As of December 31, 2020, there were 2,106 certified, licensed, and registered child care programs for 27 dedicated child care licensing surveyors. The average ratio of surveyors to regulated child care programs is one to 78.</p> <p>The total number of licensed, certified, and registered providers as of December 31, 2020, was:</p> <table data-bbox="987 1688 1263 1829" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>Licensed</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,822</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Certified</td> <td style="text-align: right;">238</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Registered</td> <td style="text-align: right;">46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,106</td> </tr> </table>	Licensed	1,822	Certified	238	Registered	46	Total	2,106
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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](#).

The Office of Child Care (OCC), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) extended the state and territory deadline for the submission of the state plan from July 1, 2018, to August 31, 2018. The Office of Child Care announced the ACF-118 electronic submission site would be available to accept state/territories FY2019-2021 CCDF Plan submissions on August 17, 2018.

The Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) filed the preliminary FY2019-2021 CCDF State Plan with the Legislative Research Commission on April 2, 2018, with scheduled federal submission on August 17, 2018, in order to meet the August 31, 2018, deadline. The final version of the FY2019-2021 CCDF State Plan for Kentucky was accepted in December 2019.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law on March 27, 2020, granting the state of Kentucky an additional \$67.7 million in Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funding. These additional CARES funds have been distributed to all regulated child care providers in the form of sustainment stipends based on licensed capacity for non-Limited Duration Centers (LDC); sustainment stipends for LDCs based on capacity; HERO Bonuses for those working in LDC programs a reopening cleaning stipend; and a final sustainment stipend offered beginning in October 2020. The Cabinet also opted to pay CCAP based on enrollment versus attendance beginning in April through August 30, 2020, at the urging of stakeholders.

In addition to the CARES funding earmarked specifically to CCDBG, an additional \$1 million in CARES funding from the Kentucky COVID Relief Fund was allocated to fund a stipend project for individuals starting Family Child Care Homes. This action further supports the work that has been completed over the last two years with grant money from the Kellogg Foundation to expand high-quality family child care throughout the Commonwealth.

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 first half of SFY 2021, the average number of families served in CCAP per month 10,810.

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 child care home providers and conduct home checklist of registered providers.

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Kentucky All STARS is the state 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. Evaluation and analysis continues to inform sustainability planning, and identify successes, lessons learned, and challenges of the Kentucky All STAR Quality Rating System across the Commonwealth.

Kentucky All STARS Quality Rating System builds upon 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.

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.

DCC continues to work with the Office for Administrative and Technology Services (OATS) to design and implement the data management system for the Kentucky All STARS Program. This data management system for Kentucky All STARS went live on June 24, 2018. Providers can now see their current All STARS rating, see all correspondence and program history completed under the All STARS regulation, and may apply for new ratings and submit Annual Quality Reviews through the Kentucky Integrated Child Care System (KICCS) system. Providers will have the option to submit via email and paper for processes that were initiated outside of KICCS. All new processes will be submitted via KICCS. Coaches and Raters have all received training on how to support providers through this process. DCC extended All STARS expirations dates during the declared state of emergency related to COVID-19. All child care programs remained at their current All STARS level. All STARS rated programs, Levels 2 through 5, received a one year extension on their certificate of expiration. DCC automatically approved all Annual Quality Reviews (AQR) to ensure disbursement of All STARS payments.

Having achieved the baseline goal of 45% for all licensed early care and education providers in Kentucky to obtain a high quality rating, the Division of Child Care continues to support quality improvement through provider training and engagement. As of December 31, 2020, 2,137 programs, (100% of all programs) have verified ratings in Kentucky All STARS, with 44% of programs rated as high-quality. This decline can be attributed to the closure of child care programs due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Quality Initiatives

Kentucky All STARS continues to see a growth of professional development intended to enhance the quality of child care through the utilization of Tobacco Master Settlement dollars. The Division of Child Care approved training organizations and the non-college scholarship program to 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 are issued for completing professional development educational achievements, and mini-grants for national accreditation of early childhood are provided to early care and education professionals, licensed centers, and certified homes that are increasing the quality of staff and programs.

- 28 KIDS NOW Child Development Associate mini-grants invoiced, for a total of \$11,900 during the first half of SFY 2021.
- 584 Individuals have a Commonwealth Child Care Credential.
- 99 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 the second half of SFY 2020, for a total of \$14,535.
- 64 Related Educational Reimbursement Awards issued during the first half of SFY 2020 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 \$5,350.
- 2,411 Individuals have a Kentucky Director's Credential.