

2024 Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Final Rule and Nebraska's State Plan

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Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)

Federal and state partnership program

Authorized under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (CCDBG)

Provides financial assistance to low-income families to access child care (child care subsidy)

Investments in quality

CCDF Final Rule

Update to CCDF federal regulations (45 CFR Part 98)

Became effective on April 30, 2024

Applies to 2025-2027 CCDF State and Territory Plans

Changes are intended to:

- Lower family costs
- Improve payments to child care providers
- Increase child care options
- Expand access and reduce bureaucracy

Changes may be required, allowed/encouraged or clarified

- Temporary transitional waiver available

2025-2027 Nebraska CCDF State Plan

Serves as application for CCDF funds

Due July 1, 2024, and becomes effective October 1, 2024

Public hearing June 24, 2024

Requesting a temporary transitional waiver

Child Care Affordability

CCDF Final Rule	2025-2027 Nebraska Draft CCDF State Plan
Requires co-payments capped at 7% of family income.	Meets requirement.
Allows states to waive co-payments for families below 150% of the federal poverty level.	Waives co-payments for families below 100% of the federal poverty level.
Requires states to post information about co-payment system on website.	Meets requirement of posting information on sliding fee scale. Website does not currently contain co-payment amounts.

Expanding Parent Choices and Provider Stability

CCDF Final Rule	2025-2027 Nebraska Draft CCDF State Plan
Requires use of grants and contracts for slots for children in underserved geographic areas, infants and toddlers and children with disabilities.	Does not meet requirement, requesting waiver.
Requires child care providers be paid prior to or at the beginning of the delivery of services (prospective payments).	Does not meet requirement, requesting waiver.
Requires payment based on a child's authorized enrollment.	Does not meet requirement, requesting waiver.
Allows payments higher than market/private pay rates.	Payments exceed market rates for children with special needs and programs receiving a rating of 3 or higher in Step Up to Quality.

Expanding Access to Subsidy and Reducing Bureaucracy

CCDF Final Rule	2025-2027 Nebraska Draft CCDF State Plan
Allows presumptive eligibility for families.	Presumptive eligibility is available for Employment First Participants only.
Allows simplified eligibility verification through coordination with similar programs.	Verification through documentation or enrollment in other programs occurs in Nebraska.
Allows states to align household eligibility to the addition of a new child.	All household members have aligned eligibility; plan states that work is underway to align eligibility with addition of a new child.
Requires online subsidy application options and encourages development of self-screening tools.	Meets requirement for online subsidy application and provides a self-screening tool.

Miscellaneous and Technical Changes

CCDF Final Rule	2025-2027 Nebraska Draft CCDF State Plan
Clarifies background check requirements.	Meets requirements for background checks.
Modifies definition of “major renovation” to be based on cost of renovation, as opposed to type of renovation (i.e. structural change).	N/A

Public Input on 2025-2027 Nebraska CCDF State Plan

Option 1: Attend the Public Hearing

When: June 24, 2024, 1:00-3:00 PM CT

Where: Nebraska State Office Building – Lower Level: Meadowlark Conference Room; 301 Centennial Mall South; Lincoln, NE

Requests for auxiliary aids or reasonable accommodations: 402-471-8417

Public Input on 2025-2027 Nebraska CCDF State Plan

Option 2: Submit Comments in Writing

Send to:

State of NE Child Care
c/o CCDF Draft Plan Comments
PO Box 95026
Lincoln, NE 68509

Must be submitted by 5:00 PM CT, June 24, 2024.

Questions?

Would you like to get involved in early childhood advocacy?
Please contact Jodi-Renee Girón at jgiron@firstfive Nebraska.org



FirstFiveNebraska.org

