

Child Care & Early Education RESEARCH CONNECTIONS

Child Care and Development Block Grant Reauthorization and Child Care Policy

President Obama signed the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 into law on November 19, reauthorizing the federal child care program for the first time since 1996. The law will have important implications for child care policy across the United States, in areas including provider health and safety requirements, consumer education, subsidy redetermination, quality improvement, and tribal child care. The full statute (United States, Office of Child Care, 2014) and a plain language summary (United States, Office of Child Care, n.d.) are available on the Office of Child Care website, along with continually-updated resources on the reauthorization from the Office of Child Care Technical Assistance Network. The National Women's Law Center (NWLC) has developed a chart comparing provisions in the reauthorization to those in the former law (National Women's Law Center, n.d.), and with the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) has released an implementation guide for states (Matthews, Schulman, Vogtman, Johnson-Staub, & Blank, 2015). This **Topic of Interest** highlights recently released resources in the *Research Connections* collection on current child care policies that will be affected by the law.

State Child Care Assistance Policies

The CCDF Policies Database is a comprehensive source regarding the detailed policies used to operate child care subsidy programs under the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). Produced by the Urban Institute, the database contains hundreds of variables designed to capture the policies in effect in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and outlying areas. The policies captured in the database are collected primarily from caseworker



policy manuals and include family eligibility, application and redetermination, priorities and waiting lists, family payments, provider requirements, reimbursement rates, and other categories. Updated on an ongoing basis and released annually, the database allows for longitudinal analysis of policy developments and in coming years will capture changes to policies resulting from the newly-enacted law. Reports describing key policies as of specific points in time are also published on an annual basis.

- Access the CCDF Policies Database data sets and reports (available from ICPSR at <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/>)

Researchers have used the database to explore child care assistance for parents in education and training, subsidy continuity, and income eligibility thresholds.

- Adams, G., Heller, C., Spaulding, S., & Derrick-Mills, T. (2014). *Child care assistance for parents in education and training: A look at state CCDF policy and participation data*. Washington, DC: Urban Institute.
- Forry, N. D., Daneri, M., Minton, S., & Durham, C. (2014). *Supporting continuity through Child Care and Development Fund subsidies: A review of select state policies*. (OPRE Research Brief No. 2014-32). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.
- Minton, S., & Durham, C. (2013). *Low-income families and the cost of child care: State child care subsidies, out-of-pocket expenses, and the cliff effect*. Washington, DC: Urban Institute.

NWLC also releases an annual report on major state child care assistance policies. Based on a survey of state child care administrators, this year's report examines income eligibility limits, waiting lists, parent copayments, reimbursement rates, and eligibility for child care assistance for parents searching for a job.

- Schulman, K., & Blank, H. (2014). *Turning the corner: State child care assistance policies 2014*. Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center.

Child Care Licensing

The National Center for Child Care Quality Improvement (NCCCQI) is one of ten organizations comprising the Office of Child Care's Child Care Technical Assistance Network, which provides training and technical assistance to states, territories, tribes, and local communities. NCCCQI provides technical assistance to state and territory CCDF grantees as they develop and enhance quality improvement efforts. Recently, NCCCQI released a series of eight reports on innovative practices by state licensing agencies to strengthen licensing standards in Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, and Washington.

- National Center on Child Care Quality Improvement. (2014). *Contemporary issues in licensing: Building and physical premises safety in child care*. Fairfax, VA: National Center on Child Care Quality Improvement.
- National Center on Child Care Quality Improvement. (2014). *Contemporary issues in licensing: Child care licensing inspection policies*. Fairfax, VA: National Center on Child Care Quality Improvement.
- National Center on Child Care Quality Improvement. (2014). *Contemporary issues in licensing: Elements of a licensing statute*. Fairfax, VA: National Center on Child Care Quality Improvement.
- National Center on Child Care Quality Improvement. (2014). *Contemporary issues in licensing: Enforcement and approaches with illegally-operating providers*. Fairfax, VA: National Center on Child Care Quality Improvement.
- National Center on Child Care Quality Improvement. (2014). *Contemporary issues in licensing: Enforcement strategies with licensed child care providers*. Fairfax, VA: National Center on Child Care Quality Improvement.
- National Center on Child Care Quality Improvement. (2014). *Contemporary issues in licensing: Monitoring strategies for determining compliance: Differential monitoring, risk assessment, and key indicators*. Fairfax, VA: National Center on Child Care Quality Improvement.
- National Center on Child Care Quality Improvement. (2014). *Contemporary issues in licensing: Quality assurance in child care licensing*. Fairfax, VA: National Center on Child Care Quality Improvement.
- National Center on Child Care Quality Improvement. (2014). *Contemporary issues in licensing: Reporting, tracking, and responding to serious injuries and fatalities in child care*. (Report No. 3). Fairfax, VA: National Center on Child Care Quality Improvement.

Additional Resources

Research Connections has produced Key Topic Resources Lists on both child care regulation (Child Care & Early Education Research Connections, 2010) and subsidy administration (Child Care & Early Education Research Connections, 2011). Explore other recent additions to the *Research Connections* collection on child care licensing and regulation and child care subsidies.

References

- Child Care & Early Education Research Connections. (2010). *Child care licensing and regulation: A Key Topic Resource List*. (2nd ed.). New York: Child Care & Early Education Research Connections.
- Child Care & Early Education Research Connections. (2011). *Child care subsidy administration: A Key Topic Resource List*. (2nd ed.). New York: Child Care & Early Education Research Connections.
- Matthews, H., Schulman, K., Vogtman, J. G., Johnson-Staub, C., & Blank, H. (2015). *Implementing the Child Care and Development Block Grant Reauthorization: A guide for states*. Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center.
- National Women's Law Center. (n.d.). *The Child Care and Development Block Grant reauthorization: Changes to previous law*. Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center.
- United States. Office of Child Care. (n.d.). *Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014: Plain language summary of statutory changes*. Washington, DC: U.S. Office of Child Care.
- United States. Office of Child Care. (2014). *Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (markup shows changes made by S.1086 as passed by the U.S. Congress)*. Washington, DC: U.S. Office of Child Care.

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