



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES
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Mohammed Choudhury, State Superintendent of Schools
Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)
200 W. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear State Superintendent of Schools Choudhury:

The Office of Child Care has completed its review of the proposed amendments to Maryland's approved Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan for FFY 2022-2024, submitted on September 01, 2023.

This letter is to inform you that the following CCDF Plan amendments were approved.

Section 1.4.1b. Coordination goals, processes and results with optional partners: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective December 03, 2021.

Section 2.3.7b. Certifying monitoring and inspection reports: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective January 21, 2022. However, Maryland remains non-compliant with monitoring and inspection reports provision 45 CFR 98.33(a)(4) for Section 2.3.7 Monitoring and inspection reports for your FFY 2022-2024 CCDF Plan, as documented in the letters sent on December 13, 2021 and August 15, 2023.

Section 3.1.2a. Terms for determining CCDF eligibility: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective December 03, 2021.

Section 3.1.3b. Income eligibility limits at the time of initial determination: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective May 23, 2022.

Section 3.1.3f. Effective date for income eligibility limits: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective May 23, 2022.

Section 3.2.1a. CCDF co-payments according to family size: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective May 23, 2022.

Section 3.2.1c. What is the effective date of the sliding-fee scale(s)?: This item

has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective May 23, 2022.

Section 3.2.1d. Provide the link(s) to the sliding-fee scale: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective May 23, 2022.

Section 3.2.2 Family contribution calculation: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective May 23, 2022.

Section 3.2.3 Other factors to determine family's co-payment: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective May 23, 2023.

Section 3.2.4 Waiving family contributions/co-payments: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective May 23, 2022.

Section 3.4.1a. Policies and procedures relating to a minimum 12- month eligibility period: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective January 01, 2022. However, Maryland remains non-compliant with 12-month eligibility provision 45 CFR 98.21(a)(1) for Section 3.4.1 12-month eligibility for your FFY 2022-2024 CCDF Plan, as documented in the letters sent on December 13, 2021 and August 15, 2023.

Section 4.2.1 Statistically valid and reliable MRS or ACF pre-approved alternative methodology: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective October 12, 2022. Approval of this amendment indicates that Maryland's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule.

Section 4.2.3a. Approach to meeting benchmarks for MRS or pre-approved alternative methodology: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective October 12, 2022. Approval of this amendment indicates that Maryland's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule.

Section 4.2.3b. Impact of COVID-19 on child care market data: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective October 12, 2022. Approval of this amendment indicates that Maryland's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule.

Section 4.2.4a. Geographic area (e.g., statewide or local markets). Describe: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective October 12, 2022. Approval of this amendment indicates that Maryland's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule.

Section 4.2.4b. Type of provider. Describe: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective October 12, 2022. Approval of this amendment indicates that Maryland's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule.

Section 4.2.4c. Age of child. Describe: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective October 12, 2022. Approval of this amendment indicates that Maryland's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule.

Section 4.2.4d. Other key variations in price or cost: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective October 12, 2022. Approval of this amendment indicates that Maryland's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule.

Section 4.2.5 Narrow cost analysis completion: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective November 14, 2022. Approval of this amendment, as per the waiver issued on December 13, 2021, indicates that Maryland's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule.

Section 4.2.6a. Report date containing results: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective October 12, 2022. Approval of this amendment indicates that Maryland's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule.

Section 4.2.6b. Availability of detailed report containing results: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective October 12, 2022. Approval of this amendment indicates that Maryland's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule.

Section 4.2.6c. Stakeholder views and comments in detailed report: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective October 12, 2022. Approval of this amendment indicates that Maryland's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule.

Section 4.3.1a. Rates statewide or in the most populous area of the state: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective May 23, 2022. Approval of this amendment indicates that Maryland's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with equal access provision 45 CFR 98.45(a), per the letter sent to the Lead Agency on April 20, 2023.

Section 4.3.1d. Date of current payment rate: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective May 23, 2022. Approval of this amendment indicates that Maryland's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with equal access provision 45 CFR 98.45(a), per the letter sent to the Lead Agency on April 20, 2023.

Section 4.3.3 Establishing tiered rates, differential rates, or add-ons on top of their base rates: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective October 12, 2022.

Section 4.3.4a. Establishment of adequate payment rates: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective May 23, 2022. Approval of this amendment indicates that Maryland's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with equal access provision 45 CFR 98.45(a), per the letter sent to the Lead Agency on April 20, 2023.

Section 4.3.4b. Process used for setting rates: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective May 23, 2022. Approval of this amendment indicates that Maryland's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with equal access provision 45 CFR 98.45(a), per the letter sent to the Lead Agency on April 20, 2023.

Section 4.3.5 Cost of higher quality: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective May 23, 2022. Approval of this amendment indicates that Maryland's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with equal access provision 45 CFR 98.45(a), per the letter sent to the Lead Agency on April 20, 2023.

Section 4.4.1a. Timeliness of payments: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective October 12, 2022.

Section 4.4.1b. Delinking payments from attendance: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective October 12, 2022. However, Maryland remains non-compliant with delinking provider payments provision 45 CFR 98.45(l)(2) for Section 4.4.1b delinking payments for your FFY 2022-2024 CCDF Plan, as documented in the letters sent on December 13, 2021 and August 15, 2023.

Section 4.4.1c. Generally accepted payment practices: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective October 12, 2022.

Section 4.4.1d. Written payment agreement: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective October 12, 2022. Approval of this amendment indicates that Maryland's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule.

Section 4.4.1f. Timely appeal and resolution process: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective October 12, 2022. Approval of this amendment indicates that Maryland's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule.

Section 4.4.1g. Other. Describe: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective October 12, 2022.

Section 4.4.3 Payment practices supporting equal access: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective May 23, 2023.

Section 4.5.2 Option to allows providers to charge additional amounts: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective May 23, 2022. Approval of this amendment indicates that Maryland's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule.

Section 5.5.1b. Components of national background checks: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective October 12, 2022. However, Maryland remains non-compliant with NSOR provision 45 CFR 98.43(b)(2) for Section 5.5.1b Comprehensive Background Checks- Requirements for your FFY 2022-2024 CCDF Plan, as documented in the letter sent on December 13, 2021.

Section 5.5.2c. Policies related to prospective staff members working on a provisional basis: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective October 12, 2022. Approval of this amendment indicates that Maryland's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule. However, Maryland remains non-compliant with 5-year provision 45 CFR 98.43(d)(2)(ii) for Section 5.5.2d Background check within the previous 5 years for your FFY 2022-2024 CCDF Plan, as documented in the letter sent on December 13, 2021.

Section 5.5.3a. Conducting In-State Background Check requests: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective October 12, 2022. However, Maryland remains non-compliant with NSOR and interstate provisions 45 CFR 98.43(b)(2) and 45 CFR 98.43(b)(3) for Section 5.5.3b and 5.5.3c Comprehensive Background Checks for your FFY 2022-2024 CCDF Plan, as documented in the letter sent on December 13, 2021.

Section 5.5.3e. Conducting a check in different state of residence: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective October 12, 2022. However, Maryland remains non-compliant with NSOR and interstate provisions 45 CFR 98.43(b)(2) and 45 CFR 98.43(b)(3) for Section 5.5.3b and 5.5.3c Comprehensive Background Checks for your FFY 2022-2024 CCDF Plan, as documented in the letter sent on December 13, 2021.

Section 6.1.1b. Optional elements in training and professional development framework: This item has been amended to reflect a policy or program change included in the CCDF Plan, effective December 03, 2021.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please feel free to contact Agda Burchard, Regional Program Manager in Region III at (215) 861-4096 or agda.burchard@acf.hhs.gov.

We appreciate your efforts to meet the child care needs of eligible families in Maryland and look forward to our continued partnership in the administration of your Child Care and Development Fund Program.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by RUTH FRIEDMAN

Date: 9/29/2023 3:44 PM EDT

Ruth Friedman, Ph.D.

Director

Office of Child Care

cc: Keisha Maxwell, Administrator of Policy and Special Projects
Tara Bartosz, Assistant to the Director of the Office of Child Care
Agda Burchard, Regional Program Manager, Office of Child Care, Region III
Francesca Wolf, Regional Liaison, Office of Child Care