



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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Christopher Jones, Executive Director
North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 325
Bismarck, North Dakota 58502-0250

Dear Executive Director Jones:

The Office of Child Care has completed its review of the proposed amendments to North Dakota's approved Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan for FFY 2022-2024, submitted on October 06, 2023.

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

Section 1.4.1a. Lead Agency coordination with required agencies: Changes in responsible agency/entity who is administering CCDF activity (e.g., change in agency who oversees quality funds), effective April 01, 2023.

Section 2.2.1 Reporting process for submitting complaints: Changes to the lead agency consumer education or Plan website address, effective April 01, 2023.

Section 2.3.1 Consumer-Friendly and easily accessible website: Changes to the lead agency consumer education or Plan website address, effective April 01, 2023.

Section 2.3.2 Website access for families whose primary language is not English: Changes to the lead agency consumer education or Plan website address, effective April 01, 2023.

Section 2.3.3 Website access for persons with disabilities: Changes to the lead agency consumer education or Plan website address, effective April 01, 2023.

Section 2.3.5a. Website link of providers searchable by Zip code: Changes to the lead agency consumer education or Plan website address, effective April 01, 2023. Approval of this amendment indicates that North Dakota's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule.

Section 2.3.6b. Available of quality information by provider type: The lead agency, ND Department of Human Services (DHS), merged with ND Department of Health on September 1, 2022 to create ND Health and Human Services (HHS), effective September 01, 2022.

Section 2.3.7b. Certifying monitoring and inspection reports: Changes to the lead

agency consumer education or Plan website address: Amended to reflect and update the Lead Agency's consumer education websites URL address, effective April 1, 2023. However, North Dakota remains non-compliant for Section 2.3.7b Certifying monitoring and inspection reports for your FFY 2022-2024 CCDF Plan, as documented in the CCDF plan approval letter sent on December 13, 2021.

Section 2.3.9 Referrals to local CCR&R agencies through consumer education website: Changes to the lead agency consumer education or Plan website address, effective April 01, 2023.

Section 2.3.10 Lead Agency contact information on consumer education website: Changes to the lead agency consumer education or Plan website address, effective April 01, 2023.

Section 2.3.11 Consumer education website link: Changes to the lead agency consumer education or Plan website address, effective April 01, 2023.

Section 2.4.2 Required information provided to general public, and eligible parents: Changes to the lead agency consumer education or Plan website address, effective April 01, 2023.

Section 2.4.4 Information on social-emotional, behavioral issues and mental health: Changes in responsible agency/entity who is administering CCDF activity (e.g., change in agency who oversees quality funds), effective April 19, 2023.

Section 2.4.5 Policies preventing suspension and expulsion: Changes in responsible agency/entity who is administering CCDF activity (e.g., change in agency who oversees quality funds), effective April 01, 2023.

Section 3.1.3b. Income eligibility limits at the time of initial determination: Changes that affect CCDF administration and policies such as policy changes to program eligibility (e.g., changes in income eligibility levels), payment rates, sliding fee scales, effective October 01, 2023.

Section 3.1.3d. State Median Income (SMI) source and year: Changes that affect CCDF administration and policies such as policy changes to program eligibility (e.g., changes in income eligibility levels), payment rates, sliding fee scales, effective October 01, 2023.

Section 3.1.3f. Effective date for income eligibility limits: Changes that affect CCDF administration and policies such as policy changes to program eligibility (e.g., changes in income eligibility levels), payment rates, sliding fee scales, effective October 01, 2023.

Section 3.2.1a. CCDF co-payments according to family size: Changes that affect CCDF administration and policies such as policy changes to program eligibility (e.g., changes

in income eligibility levels), payment rates, sliding fee scales, effective July 01, 2023.

Section 3.2.1c. What is the effective date of the sliding-fee scale(s)?: Changes that affect CCDF administration and policies such as policy changes to program eligibility (e.g., changes in income eligibility levels), payment rates, sliding fee scales, effective July 01, 2023.

Section 3.2.4 Waiving family contributions/co-payments: Changes that affect CCDF administration and policies by removing language referring to waived co-payments as co-payments are no longer waived for all families, effective July 01, 2023.

Section 4.3.1a. Rates statewide or in the most populous area of the state: Changes that affect CCDF administration and policies such as policy changes to program eligibility (e.g., changes in income eligibility levels), payment rates, sliding fee scales, effective August 01, 2023.

Section 4.3.1d. Date of current payment rate: Changes that affect CCDF administration and policies such as policy changes to program eligibility (e.g., changes in income eligibility levels), payment rates, sliding fee scales, effective August 01, 2023.

Section 4.3.4a. Establishment of adequate payment rates: Changes that affect CCDF administration and policies such as policy changes to program eligibility (e.g., changes in income eligibility levels), payment rates, sliding fee scales, effective August 01, 2023.

Section 4.4.1a. Timeliness of payments: Changes that affect CCDF administration and policies such as policy changes to program eligibility (e.g., changes in income eligibility levels), payment rates, sliding fee scales, effective November 01, 2022.

Section 4.4.1b. Delinking payments from attendance: Changes that affect CCDF administration and policies such as policy changes to program eligibility (e.g., changes in income eligibility levels), payment rates, sliding fee scales, effective October 01, 2022.

Section 4.4.1c. Generally accepted payment practices: Technical change to add language that was not included as part of the original state plan submission, effective October 01, 2022.

Section 4.5.2 Option to allows providers to charge additional amounts: Changes that affect CCDF administration and policies by removing language referring to waived co-payments as they are no longer waived, effective July 01, 2023.

Section 5.2.3a. Licensed Center-Based Care: Updating website link in 5.2.3a(iv) to reflect change in Lead Agency, effective January 01, 2023.

Section 5.2.3b. Licensed Family Child Care: Updating website link in 5.2.3b(iii) to reflect change in Lead Agency, effective January 01, 2023.

Section 5.3.1a. Standard(s): Changes to indicate compliance with a monitoring or Plan noncompliance finding: Amended to reflect updates to the Lead Agency's rule to include requirements for licensed-exempt providers, effective January 1, 2023. Approval of this amendment indicates that North Dakota's CCDF plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule and clears related monitoring finding 98.41(a)(1)(i)(A).

Section 5.3.3a. Standard(s): Changes to indicate compliance with a monitoring or Plan noncompliance finding: Amended to reflect updates to the Lead Agency's rule to include requirements for licensed-exempt providers, effective January 1, 2023. Approval of this amendment indicates that North Dakota's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule and clears related monitoring findings 98.41(a)(1)(iii).

Section 5.3.8a. Standard(s): Changes to indicate compliance with a monitoring or Plan noncompliance finding: Amended to reflect updates to the Lead Agency's rule to include requirements for disposal of bio-contaminants for Licensed Preschool providers, effective January 1, 2023. Approval of this amendment indicates that North Dakota's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule and clears related monitoring findings 98.41(a)(1)(viii).

Section 5.3.10a. Standard(s): Changes to indicate compliance with a monitoring or Plan noncompliance finding: Amended to reflect updates to the Lead Agency's rule to include requirements for pediatric first aid for all CCDF eligible providers, effective January 1, 2023. Approval of this amendment indicates that North Dakota's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule and clears related monitoring findings 98.41(a)(1)(x).

Section 5.3.10b. Pre-Service and ongoing training: Changes to indicate compliance with a monitoring or Plan noncompliance finding: Amended to reflect updates to the Lead Agency's rule to include requirements for pediatric first aid training requirements for all CCDF eligible providers, effective January 1, 2023. Approval of this amendment indicates that North Dakota's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule and clears related monitoring findings 98.44(b)(1).

Section 7.10.1 Other quality improvement activities and measurable indicators of progress: Changes in responsible agency/entity who is administering CCDF activity (e.g., change in agency who oversees quality funds), effective April 01, 2023.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please feel free to contact Karen Knoll-Moran, Regional Program Manager in Region VIII at (303) 844-1164 or karen.knollmoran@acf.hhs.gov.

We appreciate your efforts to meet the child care needs of eligible families in North Dakota 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: 10/23/2023 3:44 PM EDT

Ruth Friedman, Ph.D.

Director

Office of Child Care

cc: Carmen Traeholt, Early Childhood Licensing Administrator
Emily Kerns, Child Care Assistance Program Administrator
Karen Knoll-Moran, Regional Program Manager, Office of Child Care, Region VIII
Valentina Asare-Adjebeng, Regional Liaison, Office of Child Care