

1 **Initial Guidance into the Development of the**
2 **CCDF State Plan for Fiscal Years 2022-2024**
3 **Discussion Paper**
4

5 **Background**

6 The Child Care and Development Block Grant requires states to submit a Child Care and Development
7 Fund (CCDF) State Plan every three years. The Administration for Children and Family’s Office of Child
8 Care has released the draft [FY 2022–2024 State and Territory CCDF Plan Preprint](#). While final guidance
9 is not yet available, we understand that the CCDF State Plan will be due on June 30, 2021.

10 There are no significant changes to the structure of the CCDF State Plan. The FY 2022–2024 State and
11 Territory CCDF Plan Preprint maintains the eight-section structure of the current FY 2019–2021 State
12 and Territory CCDF Plan Preprint. The eight sections are:

- 13 1. Define CCDF Leadership and Coordination with Relevant Systems and Funding Sources
- 14 2. Promote Family Engagement Through Outreach and Consumer Education
- 15 3. Provide Stable Child Care Financial Assistance to Families
- 16 4. Ensure Equal Access to Child Care for Low-Income Children
- 17 5. Establish Standards and Monitoring Processes to Ensure the Health and Safety of Child Care
- 18 Settings
- 19 6. Recruit and Retain a Qualified and Effective Child Care Workforce
- 20 7. Support Continuous Quality Improvement
- 21 8. Ensure Grantee Program Integrity and Accountability
- 22
- 23

24 The Child Care and Early Learning Division anticipates the following key activities and milestones:

- 25 • Stakeholder Input in the Development of the CCDF State Plan – Fall 2020
- 26 • Commission Approval of a Draft CCDF State Plan – April 2021
- 27 • Public Hearing(s)/public review/comment – April/May 2021
- 28 • Commission Approval of Final CCDF State Plan – June 2021
- 29 • CCDF State Plan Effective Date – October 1, 2021
- 30

31 **Issue**

32 While much of the CCDF State Plan reflects the state’s existing structure and policies for the
33 administration of CCDF, states also use the State Plan to outline overarching goals for the upcoming three
34 years. States are asked to report on how they will develop, maintain or implement early learning and
35 developmental guidelines; support continuous quality improvement investments; and, how they assessed
36 which quality activities would best meet their needs¹. As Child Care & Early Learning (CC&EL)

¹ [Draft FY22-24 CCDF State Plan Preprint](#): page 99, page 100

1 Division staff are developing the draft CCDF State Plan, and seeking input from stakeholders, we want
2 provide some possible strategic priorities that the Commission may consider, and solicit feedback to
3 determine if there are common priorities and needs that stakeholders identify.

4 Below are new or expanded areas that TWC may consider in the coming three years, many of which may
5 align to the [Tri-Agency's](#) strategies for subsidized child care to increase kindergarten readiness, and with
6 the [2020-2025 Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan](#).

- 7 • [Texas Rising Star](#)
8 Over the past few years, TWC has increased its investment of CCDF funds in support of Texas
9 Rising Star. As of August 2020, 1,910 providers have participated in the Texas Rising Star
10 program, representing a nearly 70 percent increase since 2015. TWC will continue our focus on
11 Texas Rising Star and will establish goals for more subsidy providers to participate in Texas
12 Rising Star. TWC will also consider developing a structure outreach campaign to educate both
13 parents and providers on Texas Rising Star.
- 14 • [Prekindergarten Partnerships](#)
15 TWC has been supporting the expansion of Prekindergarten Partnership models and contributed to
16 the development of TEA's Early Learning Public-Private Partnership Guidebook. CC&EL issued
17 [Technical Assistance Bulletin 297](#) to provide Boards with this information, which includes
18 guidance on the benefits of partnerships, funding options for partnerships, and the steps of
19 developing partnerships. TWC will continue our collaborative efforts with TEA to help build
20 and expand the availability of prekindergarten services within child care programs.
- 21 • [Rural Child Care](#)
22 TWC may consider efforts to address the need for child care in rural areas of Texas. This could
23 include efforts to engage interested rural communities in design solutions to increase the supply of
24 high quality child care.
25
- 26 • [Child Care Resource and Referral](#)
27 Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) services are noted as an option that states may fund
28 in the CCDF regulations at [45CFR §98.52](#). Under the federal regulations, CCR&Rs are a system
29 of local or regional organizations which:
 - 30 ○ Provide parents with consumer education information
 - 31 ○ Assist families in making informed decisions about enrolling their children into the most
32 appropriate child care setting
 - 33 ○ Collect data and provide information on coordinating child care with other early education
34 services
 - 35 ○ Collect data and provide information on the supply of and demand for child care services
 - 36 ○ Work to establish partnerships and increase the supply of and quality of child care
37

38 CCR&Rs are also contemplated in the [Texas Labor Code, Section 310](#). TWC has carried out
39 some referral provisions through HHSC's 211 call center.

1 The Local Workforce Development Boards currently carry out many of the services that CCR&Rs
2 provide. There are, however, additional services that we may wish to consider in order to build
3 out a more robust CCR&R function within the state.

4 • Shared Services Alliances

5 TWC may promote new Shared Services Alliance hubs, allowing child care providers to partner
6 with other programs in their area to leverage economies of scale and secure advantageous pricing
7 structures on goods and services. Each Alliance will determine how to best share strategies
8 including administrative, accounting or human resources functions, training and professional
9 networking, substitute teacher pools, shared IT platforms or public-private prekindergarten
10 partnerships.

11 • Texas Core Competencies for Early Education Childhood Practitioners and Administrators

12 The current [Texas Core Competencies for Early Education Childhood Practitioners and](#)
13 [Administrators](#) were published in 2013 and outline the concepts, skills and abilities that early
14 childhood professionals would learn, understand and be able to demonstrate. Since their
15 publication, the Institute of Medicine has published [Transforming the Workforce for Children](#)
16 [from Birth through Age 8](#). A review of the Texas Core Competencies to reflect the latest research
17 would ensure Texas' standards reflect updated national frameworks.
18

19 • Infant and Toddler Early Learning Guidelines

20 The current [Infant and Toddler Early Learning Guidelines](#) (ITELG) were published in 2013, and
21 detail child outcomes, competencies and skills across domains of learning, and supports for
22 healthy development. CC&EL propose to update the ITELG resource to reflect the latest research,
23 resources, and to address the need for improved supports for infant and toddler educators.

24 • Parent Copays/Parent's Share of Cost

25 Currently, each Local Workforce Development Board is charged with establishing a local policy
26 regarding the amounts that parents will contribute to the cost of child care (e.g, the Parent Copay,
27 or Parent's Share of Cost). CC&EL will examine the development of state parameters to create
28 consistency in the amounts that parents are required to contribute to the cost of child care.
29

30 **Decision Point**

31 Staff seeks the Commission's direction on including the potential strategic priorities, outlined above, in
32 discussions with stakeholders as the draft CCDF State Plan is developed.