

## Louisiana CCDF State Plan Amendment 2

### 1.8 Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan

Lead Agencies are required to establish a Statewide Child Care Disaster Plan (658E(c)(2)(U)). They must demonstrate how they will address the needs of children including the need for safe child care, before, during, and after a state of emergency declared by the Governor or a major disaster or emergency (as defined by Section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5122) through a Statewide Disaster Plan that, for a State, is developed in collaboration with the State human services agency, the State emergency management agency, the State licensing agency, the State health department or public health department, local and State child care resource and referral agencies, and the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care (designated or established pursuant to section 642B(b)(1)(A)(i) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9837b(b)(1)(A)(i))) or similar coordinating body (98.16(aa)).

1.8.3 Describe Lead Agency procedures for the coordination of post-disaster recovery of child care services:

On a daily basis, the department provides comprehensive information on all Early Childhood services which includes resource and referral services. Following the emergency, the CCAP staff will prioritize families affected by the disaster to ensure services are adjusted and available to all families who may be eligible for subsidized child care. The CCAP staff is cross trained to assure core functions are able to be performed if the disaster affects state employees. The Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies and local Lead Agencies in the affected areas assess the need for child care in the disaster declared areas and identify providers and other programs not required to be licensed to determine whether they can care for children. The Department also assess the affected disaster area to determine if a temporary child care services need to be considered. Following a disaster, the Department may allow temporary waivers in an effort to continue child care access while maintaining health and safety.

During calendar year 2019 Louisiana has had 3 major disaster declarations; DR-4462 for flooding, DR-4439 severe storms and tornadoes, and DR-4458 tropical storm Barry. Louisiana has also had 2 Emergency Declarations; EM-3413 for flooding, and EM-3416 for tropical storm Barry. These natural disasters affected 33 parishes in Louisiana.

Due to the stress on families and children following these natural disasters, the Lead Agency intends to use the supplemental disaster funds for mental health consultations and quality improvement activities related to training for working with traumatized children.

In the future following a disaster, the Lead Agency may allow supplemental funds received to be used for the costs of materials, supplies, furnishings, equipment, mental health consultation, quality improvement activities, direct services, and allowable CCDF activities that are directly related to the consequences of the natural disaster in an effort to continue child care access while maintaining health and safety.

### 4.3 Setting Payment Rates

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The Lead Agency must set CCDF subsidy payment rates, in accordance with the results of the current MRS or alternative methodology, at a level to ensure equal access for eligible families to child care services that are comparable with those provided to families not receiving CCDF funds. The Lead Agency must re-evaluate its payment rates at least every 3 years.

4.3.1 Provide the base payment rates and percentiles (based on the most recent MRS) for the following categories below. Percentiles are not required if the Lead Agency conducted an alternative methodology only (with pre-approval from ACF), but must be reported if the Lead Agency conducted an MRS alone or in combination with an alternative methodology. The ages and types of care listed below are meant to provide a snapshot of the categories on which rates can be based and are not intended to be comprehensive of all categories that might exist or to reflect the terms used by the Lead Agency for particular ages. Please use the most populous geographic region (area serving highest number of CCDF children) to report base payment rates below, if they are not statewide. Note: If the Lead Agency obtained approval to conduct an alternative methodology, then reporting of percentiles is not required.

Effective Date: ~~10/01/2018~~ 9/30/2019

a) Infant (6 months), full-time licensed center care in the most populous geographic region

Rate \$ ~~22.50~~ 25.00 per day unit of time (e.g., daily, weekly, monthly)

Percentile of most recent MRS: ~~9%~~ 40%

c) Toddler (18 months), full-time licensed center care in the most populous geographic region

Rate \$ ~~22.50~~ 23.75 per day unit of time (e.g., daily, weekly, monthly)

Percentile of most recent MRS: ~~10%~~ 31%

e) Preschooler (4 years), full-time licensed center care in the most populous geographic region

Rate \$ ~~21.50~~ 22.00 per day unit of time (e.g., daily, weekly, monthly)

Percentile of most recent MRS: ~~9%~~ 25%

f) Preschooler (4 years), full-time licensed FCC care in the most populous geographic region

j) Provide the effective date of the current payment rates (i.e., date of last update based on most recent MRS). ~~02/01/2016~~ 9/30/2019

4.3.2 Lead Agencies can choose to establish tiered rates, differential rates, or add-ons on top of their base rates as a way to increase payment rates for targeted needs (i.e., a higher rate for special needs children as both an incentive for providers to serve children with special needs and as a way to cover the higher costs to the provider to provide care for special needs children).

Check and describe the types of tiered reimbursement or differential rates, if any, the Lead Agency has chosen to implement. In the description of any tiered rates or add-ons, at a minimum, indicate the process and basis used for determining the tiered rates, including if the rates were based on the MRS and/or an alternative methodology, and the amount of the rate. Check all that apply.

Effective Date: ~~10/01/2018~~ 9/30/2019

Differential rate for *children with special needs*, as defined by the state/territory.

Describe:

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The Lead Agency pays a differential rate for children requiring special needs care. According to BESE Bulletin 139, Special Needs Child Care is defined as the following: for the purpose of CCAP daily rates, child care for a child through age 17 who has a current individualized family services plan (IFSP) or individual education plan (IEP) in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or who receives supplemental security income (SSI). In addition, this rate is further differentiated by age (infant/toddlers as under age three compared to age three and older). The rate was based on the ~~2015~~ 2017 MRS. The rate is \$ ~~28.25~~ 31.50 per day for infants, 29.93 per day for toddlers, and \$~~27.00~~ 27.72 per day for children 3 and older.

Differential rate for *infants and toddlers*. Note: Do not check if the Lead Agency has a different base rate for infants/toddlers with no separate bonus or add-on.

Describe:

Infants and toddlers receive differential rates for both regular care and special needs care. The rate was based on the ~~2015~~ 2017 MRS. The rate for regular care is \$~~22.50~~ 25.00 per day and the rate for special needs care is \$~~28.25~~ 31.50.

### 4.4 Summary of Facts Used To Determine That Payment Rates Are Sufficient To Ensure Equal Access

4.4.1 Lead Agencies must certify that CCDF payment rates are sufficient to ensure equal access for eligible families to child care services comparable to those provided by families not receiving CCDF assistance (98.16(a)). Certify that payment rates reported in 4.3.1 are sufficient to ensure equal access by providing the following summary of facts (98.45(b)):

Effective Date: ~~10/01/2018~~ 9/30/2019

c) Describe how base payment rates enable providers to meet health, safety, quality, and staffing requirements under CCDF.

The base payment rates to cover the cost of meeting the basic health and safety, quality and staffing requirements are supplemented through use of CCDF funds to reimburse the cost of Child Care Criminal Background Checks, issue bonus payments based on number of CCAP children served and quality rating, offer free training through CCR&Rs CLASS observations, TS GOLD portfolios, teacher scholarships, curriculum, School Readiness Tax Credits, etc. These are provided due to provider and stakeholder feedback on the needs by the provider to cover the costs of health and safety, quality and staffing. In addition, base payment rates are sufficient as the 2017 MRS indicates that Type III centers charge less than Type I and II centers which do not have the same quality and staffing requirements. There are no quality requirements for these types and child:staff ratios are higher for Type I centers than Type II and III centers. Lastly, when including the costs of the supplemental items provided described above, the average rate is approximately \$29.80 per day. This is close to the statewide 75th percentile of \$~~30.00~~ 29.00 per day for regular care for ages 3 and older and close to the 75th percentile of \$~~33.00~~ 31.25 for infant care and 30.00 for toddler care.

d) Describe how the Lead Agency took the cost of higher quality into account, including how payment rates for higher-quality care, as defined by the Lead Agency using a QRIS or other system of quality indicators, relate to the estimated cost of care at each level of quality. Note: For States

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without a QRIS, the States may use other quality indicators (e.g. provider status related to accreditation, Pre-K standards, Head Start performance standards, or State defined quality measures).

Child Care Assistance Program bonuses are now tied to the performance profile via star levels as a way to incentivize increased quality. As the star level increases, so does the bonus percentages and resulting payments to the provider. Also, School Readiness Tax Credits provided are aligned to the performance profiles via star levels. In addition, CCDF funds are used to supplement the rates as the Lead Agency provides funding for CCR&R training, CLASS observations, TS GOLD portfolios, teacher scholarships, curriculum, etc., public and private pre-K allocates \$4,580 per child for the school year. The maximum amount paid per CCAP child including the quality supplements described above is approximately \$7,800 per calendar year. Thus cost of quality is similar annually.

f) To support parental choice and equal access to the full range of child care options, does the Lead Agency choose the option to allow providers to charge families additional amounts above the required co-payment in instances where the provider's price exceeds the subsidy payment (98.45(b)(5))?

No

Yes. If yes:

ii. Provide data (including data on the size and frequency of such amounts) on the extent to which CCDF providers charge additional amounts to families.

The state maximum rate is \$ ~~22.50~~ 25.00 however the statewide average a provider charges per day is \$~~29.17~~ 29.05 based upon the latest market rate survey. If a family choose a provider that charges above the maximum state rate they are responsible for the remainder of the payment.