

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](#) and a [plain language summary](#) 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, and with the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) has released [an implementation guide](#) for states. 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](#)

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

- [Child care assistance for parents in education and training: A look at state CCDF policy and participation data \(2014\)](#)
- [Supporting continuity through Child Care and Development Fund subsidies: A review of select state policies \(2014\)](#)
- [Low-income families and the cost of child care: State child care subsidies, out-of-pocket expenses, and the cliff effect \(2013\)](#)

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.

- [Read the 2014 NWLC report](#)

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.

- [Access the briefs and other NCCCQI resources](#)

Additional Resources

Research Connections has produced Key Topic Resources Lists on both [child care regulation](#) and [subsidy administration](#). Explore other recent additions to the *Research Connections* collection on [child care licensing and regulation](#) and [child care subsidies](#).

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Last updated: November 2015

Research Connections is a partnership between the National Center for Children in Poverty at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, and the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research at the Institute for Social Research, the University of Michigan, supported by a grant from the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation in the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, the Administration for Children and Families, or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.