

CCDF STATE PLAN PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

The Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning is grateful to everyone who attended the public hearing as well as those who submitted comments and questions. We sincerely appreciate the time spent and your input.

Similar comments and questions have been grouped together. All comments will be reviewed to determine if additional action is warranted but, in some instances, federal rules and regulations prevent policy changes and implementation.

Access to Child Care Subsidy:

Working to reunify families with their children following removal and child welfare involvement. One barrier for parents being able to successfully have their children return to their care is having child care lined up. A solution could be built to allow parents to apply for CCDF prior to reunification if the expected reunification date is within a certain timeframe.

Foster parents taking in teen parents who have custody of their child. There are documentation barriers for enrolling the child in daycare based on the teen parent's info, teen parents sometimes have trouble maintaining eligibility due to paperwork.

Increase CCDF eligibility income maximums to account for these working-class families that fall below the ALICE threshold that are struggling and receive no support.

Waive the family co-payment for families experiencing homelessness.

Additional Language Options:

Make translators available to help families who do not speak English, assistance in completing the enrollment process and paperwork.

Can audio options on the findhelp self-assessment and referral request form be made available? Luna Language services can provide deaf/ASL translation services over the phone.

Provider Education and Professional Development:

The continuation of credit based and non-credit based scholarships to support from CDA up to graduate level will have its positive impact on compensation and increase of wages as well as decreasing turnover.

The plan recognizes the updates of Indiana Core Knowledge and Competencies, TA Framework and the Career Pathways. Indiana professional development framework as stated on the plan is acknowledging workforce pipeline and advancement.

INAEYC is appreciating the encouraging practice of including the higher education forum activities and history of articulation as well as the TSAP and data from the Indiana Early Childhood Higher Education Inventory.

Expand the T.E.A.C.H. program to include scholarships to obtain the Child & Youth Care (CYC) credential for school-age providers, which is recognized as the school-age equivalent to the CDA. Differentiating training requirements based on the ages of the children served.

Ensure that more school-age providers opt in to participation in the subsidy system and provide parents more choice for high quality environments.

ELAC will be completing a compensation study of early childhood educators and caregivers at out-of-school-time programs in 2024 and will provide actionable recommendations.

Would love to see at least one person in each child care site mandatorily receive Infant/EC Mental Health trainings and/or Endorsement(s).

Family Referrals:

Without information such as provider education, training, and languages spoken, it is significantly more difficult for families to locate inclusive care when they have children with disabilities or children whose first language is not English. Without making this a required searchable result, it also impacts the CCRRs ability to find these programs during their enhanced referral searches.

How can we help advocate for families who have experienced suspension/expulsion - especially when finding care for children with challenging behaviors and developmental delays is significantly more difficult?

Directing families where to go after reading the CDC Learn the Signs Act Early regarding Developmental Screening if they suspect their child may have a developmental delay.

Consider combining Brighter Futures and Carefinder websites for more accessibility to consumer education material and the CCRR Network landing page such as the CCRR map.