

D4: New Research on Child Care and Development Block Grant Implementation from Multiple Perspectives

Thursday, April 18, 2019

10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | *Latrobe*

1. Descriptive Information

D4: New Research on Child Care and Development Block Grant Implementation from Multiple Perspectives

Research on Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) implementation can help illuminate trends, challenges and needs across multiple levels of the system including low-income families, children, early care and education providers and state administrators. This innovative poster symposium is designed to share information about new research projects on CCDBG implementation and strategies to improve access to early care and education. Four posters will describe current research projects examining CCDBG implementation and access. The projects represent different methods and approaches and include state-level as well as cross-state work. Panelists will discuss key themes from the posters, identify research gaps and strengths, discuss unique methodological strategies and take questions from the audience. The four panelists will include perspectives from technical assistance, research and policy/administration.

Facilitator

Karen Ruprecht, ICF

Presenters

Karen Ruprecht, ICF | *How Can What We Know as Researchers Help Inform Technical Assistance?*

Gina Adams, Urban Institute | *Are We Moving Towards a Center-Based Subsidy System?*

Becky Mercatoris, Office of Child Development and Early Learning, Pennsylvania | *State Policy and Administration Perspectives on CCDBG Implementation*

Kathryn Tout, Child Trends | *New Research on CCDBG Implementation and Access*

Poster Presenters

Becky Mercatoris, Office of Child Development and Early Learning, Pennsylvania | *Pennsylvania*

Megan Pratt, Oregon State University | *Oregon*

Sarah Daily and **Van Kim Lin**, Child Trends | *New Research Examining CCDBG Reauthorization*

Emily Cantrell, Child Trends | *Literature Review on ECE Access*

Scribe

Caroline Faux, ICF

2. Brief Summary of Presentations

- **Summary of Presentation #1: Gina Adams**

- This is a time of flux. Implementation is happening. Even though authorization was in 2014, there are still actions happening now. Criminal background checks, 12 month re-determination, phase out. Time of flux with the new money and 1/5 of states still do not know how to spend their money. It is important to note how a law passing, doesn't represent what's happening in a community.

- To what extent is reauthorization changing how the subsidy system is changing? Who has access to it? Shift towards center-based program causing accelerated parental choice from re-authorization, which brings to light how we define quality, and what we are funding.
 - FCC requirements are affecting them, you are missing a big part of the story by looking at the change of rate.
 - Rates are key- quality, core element if you provide quality care, they shape access, the policy lever that we have. (They're way too low in many states) and new money is used too.
 - We have to start looking at how states are providing them, which are providing them and which aren't. We have to pay attention to nitty gritty stuff, not just "raising rates;" how and for whom and in what circumstances.
 - How can we best consider contextual factors that might shape impact? (This might look at funding, policy, provider, parent contexts).
- **Summary of Presentation #2: Kathryn**
 - There needs to be more focus on outcomes. The definition of access is important- it means that child care needs to be affordable, meet parents need, found with reasonable effort, and support child development.
 - We need to have those concepts and those frames.
 - The field should continue to come up with those frames that can advance our research.
 - State and national studies should be incorporated to deepen understanding.
- **Summary of Presentation #3: Becky**
 - State perspective: what are the opportunities for states/territories to leverage public and private partnerships to build long-standing learning agenda with both a research and funding partner?
 - There are a lot of larger challenges when it comes to looking at assumptions (will raising rates, improve outcomes)?
- **Summary of Presentation #4: TA Perspective (Karen)**
 - How do we encourage states to incorporate best practice as well as meet CCDBG compliance?
 - How do we utilize research – which often comes after the implementation or occurs during implementation- to further the use of best practices? So much is happening in the TA system. How do we know what's going on and help providers? What are we seeing/hearing that is helping that two way street? Need for system level reports. How do we build and weave the system?

3. Brief Summary of Discussion

- Shannon Christian: CCDBG has an opportunity for re-authorization in 2 years, ideas are feeding in now, and meeting with state administrators where there weren't any new ideas, can introduce ideas. If they uncover things that need to block, it's pretty huge. Could be helpful to send feedback to OCC. Some input in the 40 million worth of research/TA that is done every year and if it's not working or something needs to be different, we need to know.
- (Audience Member): Center on Early Learning Outcomes, Early childhood specialist (some CCDF, Head Start).
 - They found there is huge turnover in CCDF administrators.
 - Translating CCDBG to people in singular roles.
 - There is intensive TA support on leadership for new CCDF administrators. How can we build capacity, how can we have a more robust ECE system? There is turnover but research can help us find these levers that help with this leadership capacity.
 - OCC is thinking about how to share research information earlier in the process. The state administrators are so busy, we need a better way to communicate what's being discovered via research.
 - (Becky Mercatoris): it's important to connect people and leverage opportunities and have some other conversations with other states/territories.

- What are the unintended consequences of CCDBG?
 - (PDG-Richard ACF): We are trying to link information from each national technical assistance center. We have identified a liaison at the State Capacity Building Center and as a state makes a request for TA. Expanding to SAMHSA, CDC, asking if they're helping a state and how and what are they sharing? Identifying resources that can be shared and share resources across centers. This also highlights where the gaps are in certain research.
 - It's helpful for a state to get assistance from multiple sources
 - (Melissa from state administration in Vermont): Implementing Part C research is fulfilling, more equitable access is fulfilling.
 - Parallel between what state administration faces with teachers. They both want to help children learn and grow and have many requirements on them and feel it in this system, there has to be some macro impact that is prohibiting growth/advancement in this entire system
 - (Gina Adams): Resource deprivation is a common theme to last question!
 - QRIS is a challenge as well

4. Summary of Key Issues Raised

- *Emerging findings that may be of particular interest to policy-makers and ACF?*
 - Reframing the idea of outcomes and best ways of practicing CCCDBG compliance.
- *Methodological issues including innovative methodologies that may help maximize resources available for research and evaluation?*
 - FCC requirements are affecting CCDGB implementation and outcomes and we are missing a big part of the story by looking at the change of rate. Rates are key because they shape access, the policy lever that we have.
 - Is there some way that we could be feeding and informing each other. Qualitative work before you design your study (12 month redetermination).
- *Follow-up activities suggested addressing questions and gaps (e.g., secondary analyses of data, consensus meetings of experts, research synthesis or brief, webinar, etc.)?*
 - Is there some way that we could be feeding and informing each other. There should be more qualitative work before you design your study (12 month redetermination)
 - There are a lot of larger challenges when it comes to looking at assumptions (will raising rates improve outcomes)?
 - Integrating state and national studies should be incorporated to deepen understanding of outcomes and access.
- *Recommendations about future ACF child care research directions and priorities?*
 - We have to start looking at how states are providing them, which are providing them (which aren't). We have to pay attention to nitty gritty stuff, not just "raising rates," how and for whom and in what circumstances
 - How can we best consider contextual factors that might shape impact? (Funding, policy, provider, parent contexts).
 - How do we encourage states to incorporate best practice as well as meet CCDBG compliance?
 - How do we utilize research – which often comes after the implementation or occurs during implementation- to further the use of best practices? So much is happening in the TA system. How do we know what's going on and help providers? What are we seeing/hearing that is helping that two way street? Need for system level reports. How do we build and weave the system?
 - What's the pipeline for TA/New CCDF Administrators?