



Child Care and Development Fund

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) has made available \$4.8 billion to States, Territories, and Tribes in fiscal year 2003. This program, authorized by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, PL 104-193, assists low-income families, families receiving temporary public assistance, and those transitioning from public assistance in obtaining child care so they can work or attend training/education.

Child Care Services Funded by CCDF

Subsidized child care services are available to eligible families through certificates (vouchers) or contracts with providers. Parents may select any legally operating child care provider. Child care providers serving children funded by CCDF must meet basic health and safety requirements set by States and Tribes. These requirements must address prevention and control of infectious diseases, including immunizations, building and physical premises safety, and minimum health and safety training.

Quality Activities

A minimum of 4 percent of CCDF funds must be used to improve the quality of child care and offer additional services to parents, such as resource and referral counseling regarding the selection of appropriate child care providers to meet their child's needs. Consistent with prior years, fiscal year 2003 funding includes additional funding for specific purposes: \$172 million for quality expansion, \$100 million to improve the quality of care for infants and toddlers, and \$19 million to improve school-age care and Child Care Resource and Referral Services.

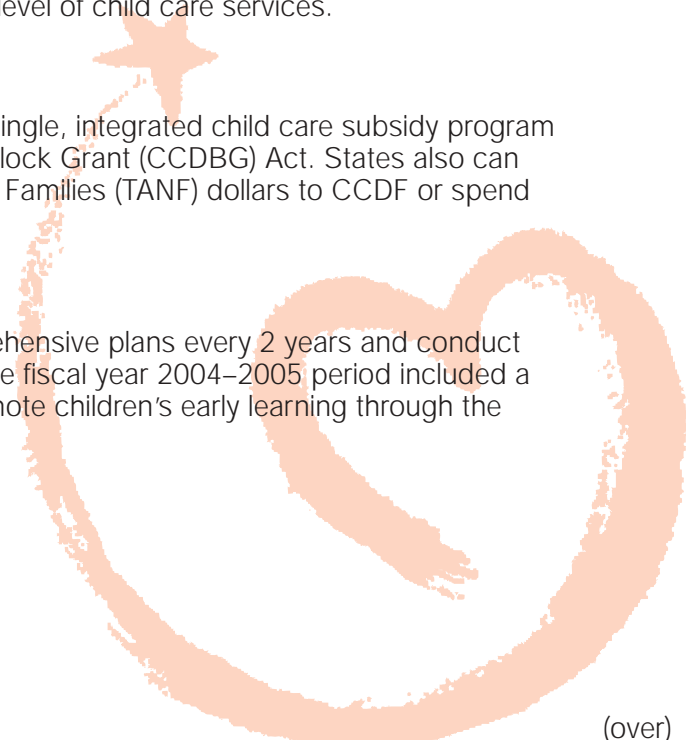
To improve the health and safety of available child care, many States have provided training, grants, and loans to providers, have improved monitoring, or have initiated compensation projects and other innovative programs. Tribes may use a portion of their funds to construct child care facilities provided there is no reduction in the current level of child care services.

Coordination of Resources

The CCDF allows States to serve families through a single, integrated child care subsidy program under the rules of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act. States also can transfer a portion of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) dollars to CCDF or spend TANF directly for child care.

State and Tribal Child Care Plans

All States, Territories, and Tribes must submit comprehensive plans every 2 years and conduct public hearings to invite public comment. Plans for the fiscal year 2004–2005 period included a new section asking States to describe efforts to promote children's early learning through the President's *Good Start, Grow Smart* initiative.



Research

Fiscal year 2003 funding includes \$10 million for child care research, demonstration, and evaluation activities. These funds are increasing the capacity for child care research at the national, State, and local levels while addressing critical questions with implications for children and families. Funds have been awarded to support individual project areas, including field-initiated research, research partnerships, research scholars, a Web-based archive called Child Care and Early Education Research Connections, a provider evaluation initiative, and an evaluation of child care subsidy policies.

Technical Assistance

One fourth of 1 percent of the total CCDF is used by the Child Care Bureau to provide technical assistance to grantees. This technical assistance network is designed to address the needs of States, Territories, and Tribes administering the Child Care and Development Fund. The network includes the following projects:

- Afterschool Investments
- Center for the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning
- Child Care Aware
- Child Care Bureau Conference Management Center
- Child Care Information Systems Technical Assistance Project
- Healthy Child Care America
- National Child Care Information Center (NCCIC)
- National Infant and Toddler Child Care Initiative
- Tribal Child Care Technical Assistance Center (TriTAC)

For more information, see the Child Care Bureau's Web site at www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb.

