

CHILD CARE

FACT SHEET

Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014: Summary

March 2014

The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 (S. 1086) would reauthorize the primary federal child care program for the first time since 1996. The legislation is aimed at ensuring the health and safety of children in child care, facilitating families' access to child care assistance, and improving the quality of child care for children, and for infants and toddlers in particular. The legislation does not specify funding levels, but instead authorizes "such sums" through 2019. The legislation:

• **Improves the health and safety of children in child care settings by:**

- Requiring a pre-licensure inspection and one unannounced annual inspection for all regulated and licensed providers receiving CCDBG funds.
- Requiring a sufficient number of licensing inspectors to enable states to conduct timely inspections.
- Requiring states to make public the results of monitoring reports.
- Requiring states to provide comprehensive consumer education around the quality of child care as well as the availability of child care assistance and other early learning programs.
- Requiring states to mandate training on health and safety for child care providers serving children receiving CCDBG assistance.
- Requiring child care providers serving children receiving CCDBG assistance to have pre-service training in a number of areas, including safe sleep

practices and preparation for emergencies and disasters.

- Requiring all child care providers serving children receiving CCDBG assistance, and the providers' employees, to undergo comprehensive background checks prior to employment and to maintain employment.

• **Improves families' access to child care and to child care assistance and increases stability for children in child care by:**

- Establishing a minimum initial eligibility period of 12 months for child care assistance.
- Requiring states to make efforts to ensure that the redetermination process for child care assistance eligibility does not unduly disrupt parents' work, education, or job training efforts.
- Requiring states to describe how they will increase the supply and improve the quality of care for children in underserved areas, infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children who receive care during non-traditional hours.
- Requiring states to use at least 70 percent of CCDBG funding for direct services.

• **Strengthens the quality of child care by:**

- Increasing the total amount of CCDBG funding that states must spend on quality improvement activities.

- Requiring that at least three percent of a state's funding be used for quality improvement activities for infants and toddlers.
- Requiring states to set training requirements that enable child care providers to promote the social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development of children.
- Requiring that states' training requirements are appropriate for different age groups (such as infants, toddlers, and preschoolers), English learners, children with disabilities, and Native Americans.
- Requiring states to develop a progression of professional development designed to improve the skills and knowledge of the workforce.

- ***Improves the coordination of early care and education by:***

- Requiring states to coordinate CCDBG with other early childhood programs, including Head Start, Early Head Start, the Preschool Grants and Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, voluntary home visiting, programs serving homeless children, and other federal and state early childhood programs.