Child Care and Development Block Grant Reauthorization

The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act was signed into law on November 19, 2014. The major provisions of this law are listed below:

1. Protect the health and safety of children in child care;
2. Help parents make informed child care choices and access information to support child development;
3. Provide equal access to stable, high quality child care for low-income children; and
4. Enhance the quality of child care and the early childhood workforce changes for states in the months ahead.
This webinar is the third in a series covering various topics related to the new Federal Law and corresponding administrative rules.

Today we will be covering changes for child care providers including:

- Emergency preparedness requirements
- Changes to the Administrative Rules of South Dakota (ARSD)
- Changes to immunization requirements

This information is similar to the letter you received in September outlining the requirements and deadlines.
Emergency Preparedness and Response Requirements

The new Federal law requires that by October 1, 2016 all providers have an emergency preparedness and response plan to ensure the safety of children and providers in the event of an emergency or disaster.

The federal law requires regulated programs to have an emergency preparedness and response plan that addresses procedures for:

- evacuation of children,
- relocating children to an alternative location,
- sheltering-in-place,
- lock-down,
- communication and reunification with families,
- continuity of operations for the program,
- a plan for accommodation of infants and toddlers, children with disabilities and children with chronic medical conditions, and
- plans for practice drills.
Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan

Development of an emergency preparedness and response plan takes thought, knowledge of best practice, and minimum guidelines to make many decisions such as:

- What buildings in their area would be safe for evacuations: is there a school or church nearby? The FDC or Center checklist can be used as a very general guide to determine if a building would meet similar requirements like two unblocked exits, smoke detectors, no hazardous materials accessible to children, etc. Licensing staff won’t be inspecting these facilities, providers need to make the best, safest choice should they have to move children to a different location;

- What rooms within the facility are safest to use for shelter in place or lock down;

- What supplies will be necessary to meet the needs of the children in care if required to use the shelter in place location for 3 or 4 hours – think about the ages of children in your care, and your daily activities to determine what you might need should you need to shelter in place and how you would ensure you have all the necessary items – will you pack and store them in advance, or will you have a system in place that enables you to obtain the items quickly; etc.
Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning

Resources for developing the Plan.

• The orientation training does include emergency preparedness as well as other topics. This training will provide an overview of best practices for all required components and some practices beyond those required. Providers can use some or all of the information provided when developing or updating their individual emergency preparedness and response plans.

• An optional Child Care Emergency Preparedness Plan template can be found on the Child Care website at http://dss.sd.gov/childcare/blockgrant.aspx. There is one plan template for Family Child Care and one template for Center/OST.

• There are many resources online, such as:
  • https://emilms.fema.gov/is36/assets/EAP_Sample.pdf
  • http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ohsepr/information-for-providers
  • http://www.cdc.gov/childrenindisasters/schools.html
  • Redleaf Press Quick Guide Disaster Planning and Preparedness in Early Childhood Settings. Redleafpress.org
  • *Preparing for Disaster, What Every Early Childhood Director Needs to Know*, Cathy Grace and Elizabeth F. Shores
Administrative Rule Changes

Orientation: training covering the 12 categories is needed by July 1, 2017 for all providers, directors, staff.

Center Policies: Program health and safety policies are required by October 1, 2016 for all topic areas.

Annual inspections starting in 2017.

Staff - Federal law requires anyone in a caregiving role to meet requirements of orientation training, background checks, etc.

Supervision - New rule outlining expectations of supervision.
Administrative Rule Changes

12-Month Certificates: At the time of reapplication, certificates will be issued for 12 months. Prior to this rule change, certificates were issued for a maximum of 6 months.

Job Search: The job search period is extended from one month to three months.

Graduated Phase Out: For families reapplying with income over 175% of the Federal Poverty Level but below the federal maximum level, 2 additional months of assistance can be allowed.
12-Month Certificates

Each child who receives assistance will be considered to meet all eligibility requirements and will receive assistance for a minimum of 12 months regardless of changes in income (as long as income does not exceed the federal threshold of 85% of SMI) or temporary change in participation in work, training, or education activities.

Temporary changes are defined as:
- Absence from employment due to maternity leave or extended medical leave,
- Changes in seasonal work schedule, and
- Parent is enrolled in training or educational program is temporarily not attending classes between semesters.

Six-month check-in will be required to determine if there is a child care need.
3-Month Job Search

Minimal Reporting Requirements (only required to report permanent changes) and if income exceeds 85% of the SMI.

Permanent changes are defined as:
• A permanent change is employment or school status to include: job quit or termination, a job ending due to the closing of a business, graduating from or discontinuing an educational program;
• No longer participating in a TANF approved activity.

If a family experiences a permanent change in employment or school status, states must allow 3 months for child care for the family to meet program requirements. If at the end of the three months, they are not meeting program requirements, the case will close.
States must provide for a graduated phase-out of assistance for families whose income has increased at the time of redetermination but remains below 85% of SMI.

- SD will allow two additional months of child care.
- Co-payment is capped not to exceed 15% of the household gross monthly income.
Immunization Updates

The South Dakota Department of Health has recommended additional immunizations for children enrolled in a child care facility. Effective November 1, 2016 the following immunizations will be required for children enrolled in a regulated child care program:

1. **Varicella (Chicken Pox vaccination)**
   Two-dose series; child exempt if parent verifies child had chickenpox; can lead to pneumonia, bacterial infection of skin lesions, low blood platelet count, etc.

2. **Hepatitis A**
   For children 12-23 months of age; doctors don’t necessarily administer this at older ages if not immunized at this age; Hepatitis A is a serious liver disease.

3. **Pneumococcal**
   For children younger than 60 months; doctors don’t necessarily administer this at older ages if not immunized at this age; pneumococcal bacteria is the leading cause of bacterial meningitis.
Licensing Specialist Contact Information

**Rapid City:** 605-394-2525 or 800-644-2914
Lori Janssen (Ext. 610) or Tina Uecker (Ext. 611)

**Pierre:** 605-773-3612 or 800-226-1033
Christina Lusk (Ext. 225)

**Aberdeen:** 605-626-3160 or 866-239-8855
Julie Hermansen (Ext. 238)

**Brookings:** 605-688-4330 or 866-267-5228
Rachel Busmann (Ext. 208)

**Mitchell:** 605-995-8000 or 800-231-8346
Debra Bigge (Ext. 213)

**Sioux Falls:** 605-367-5444 or 866-801-5421
Denise Ferguson (Ext. 221); Shannon Terhark (Ext. 422)
Rita Trager (Ext. 423); Stacie Ugofsky (Ext. 424)
Early Childhood Enrichment Programs

Region 1: Early Childhood Connections - Rapid City
605-342-6464 or 888-999-7759

Region 2: The Right Turn – Pierre
605-773-4755 or 866-206-8206

Region 3: Sanford Children’s CHILD Services – Aberdeen
605-262-8505 or 800-982-6404

Region 4: Family Resource Network – Brookings
605-688-5730 or 800-354-8238

Region 5: Sanford Children’s CHILD Services – Sioux Falls
605-333-0698 Ext. 4 or 800-235-5923 Ext. 4
To ensure all providers are informed of the upcoming changes, a series of webinars are being scheduled to address the various topics.

**Topics will include:**
- Orientation Training Requirements – May series
- Subsidy Changes and Provider Updates – July series
- Emergency Preparedness – October series
- Early Learning Guidelines - TBA
- Background Check Requirements – TBA
- On-line Inspection & Complaint Requirements – TBA
- Continuous Quality Improvement Initiatives – TBA
- Other - TBA
Reminder of Effective Dates Specified in the Act

• 9.30.16 - All requirements without a specific date

• 11.19.16 - Monitoring of Licensing and Regulatory Requirements

• 9.30.17 - Criminal Background Checks

• 11.19.17 - Results of Monitoring and Inspection Reports to be posted on website
Child Care & Development Block Grant Act of 2014

The Federal Office of Child Care has several resources on their website that includes a timeline for effective dates, frequently asked questions, and a copy of the law in full. The link to the Office of Child Care website is:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/ccdf-reauthorization

Email to submit comments or questions regarding the implementation of proposed changes: Carroll.Forsch@state.sd.us or Patricia.Monson@state.sd.us

The power point presentation for past webinars are located on the CCS website for reference at http://dss.sd.gov/childcare/blockgrant.aspx. This October presentation will also be posted for your reference.