

BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015

Department: Community Based Services (DCBS) Block Grant: Child Care and Development Fund(CCDF)

This report is submitted in compliance with KRS 45.357. This report on achievements may be compared to the Block Grant application currently on file with LRC.

Block Grant Manager: _____ **Date** _____
Adria Johnson **Commissioner**

1. FINANCES	Federal Funds	General Funds	Trust/Local Match	Total
Annual Budget -	88,518,900	25,009,000	72,100	113,600,000
Actual Expenditures	43,139,629	4,985,081	6,895	48,131,605
Encumbrances	-	-	-	-
Available Balance	45,379,271	20,023,919	65,205	65,468,395

2. RESULTS BUDGETED/ACHIEVED

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
1. To provide child care services to children who reside with a low income parent(s) who work, seek work, attend a job training or educational program; or receive, or need to receive, protective services, which may include preventive services.	<p>An average of 24,444 children per month received child care through CCDF during the first half of State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2016.</p> <p>Of this total, an average of: 18,572 children were served to allow low income parents to work, 1,313 children were served through prevention or protection services, 544 were children of parents who had transitioned off K-TAP due to employment/earnings within the previous twelve months, and 283 were teen parents. Some families received assistance through the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) to address more than one service need.</p>
2. To provide access to quality child care that supports the parent participating in the Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (K-TAP).	An average of 4,021 children per month with parents participating in Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (K-TAP) and the Kentucky Works Program received child care assistance through funding from the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant
3. To provide consumer education and promote parental choice to empower working parents to make their own decisions on the child care that best suits their family's needs.	<p>During the first half of SFY 2016, approximately 6,931 consumer education materials were disseminated to help parents make informed choices when choosing child care.</p> <p>Families seeking child care may choose either a licensed, certified, or registered provider utilizing any of the available three (3) options.</p>

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	<p>a) Parents may contact the statewide service agent contracted to administer CCAP for information on selection and characteristics of choosing quality child care, including cost and funding resources available to families seeking services.</p> <p>b) Parents may utilize the toll-free phone number “Find Kentucky Kid Care” to locate quality child care in Kentucky. The toll-free number links the parent to a centralized statewide referral call center that refers the parent to child care providers within their area. The DCBS Division of Child Care (DCC) administers the toll-free line, which averaged 93 monthly users during the first half of SFY 2016.</p> <p>c) Parents may also search for providers by type, location, and services available by accessing the Kentucky Integrated Child Care System (KICCS) public website: https://prd.chfs.ky.gov/KICCSPublic/ProviderSearchPublic.aspx The DCBS Division of Child Care administers the KICCS public website. Approximately 2,058 individuals visit the site monthly.</p>
<p>4. To increase the availability of early childhood development and/or before- and after- school care programs.</p>	<p>An average of 8,285 children is served in before- and after-school child care programs on a monthly basis.</p> <p>Kentucky is providing leadership in out-of-school time policy through the Kentucky Out of School Alliance. This involvement is expected to produce policy changes that benefit the customer and the provider, while it increases quality of afterschool programs throughout Kentucky.</p>
<p>5. To increase the availability of high quality child care through statewide services, including pre-application consultation, routine visits, technical assistance, and quality rating visits under the STARS for KIDS NOW Program.</p>	<p>As of December 31, 2015, the total number of participants in the STARS for KIDS NOW Program (STARS) are as follows: 927 STARS Level 1 centers and family child care homes 542 STARS Level 2 centers and family child care homes 238 STARS Level 3 centers and family child care homes 24 STARS Level 4 centers and family child care homes</p> <p>The STARS program completed 222 STARS rating visits of child care providers between July and December 2015. After each rating visit, providers are given a rating summary report, which is used for program improvement and consultation with technical staff. During the first half of SFY 16, there was a substantial increase in Level 1 STARS participation to 905 resulting from administrative regulation and legislation making participation in the STARS quality rating system mandatory for all programs that accept child care subsidy payments.</p>
<p>6. To expand the availability of new and existing resources targeted at quality improvement by contracting for the provision of these services.</p>	<p>The Cabinet for Health and Family Services (Cabinet) contracts with the University of Kentucky/Human Development Institute to increase the quality and quantity of accessible, affordable, developmentally appropriate early and school age care. STARS Quality Coordinators visit child care providers to provide technical assistance and complete Environmental Rating Scales (ERS) for providers seeking a STARS</p>

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	<p>Level 2, 3, or 4 and to assist providers with a self-assessment for a STARS Level 1. A total of 2,543 technical assistance visits were completed. During technical assistance visits, child care providers work on improvement plans to increase the quality of their services.</p> <p>Professional Development Coaches work with child care staff to develop enhanced professional development plans and to connect providers to available educational and professional resources. A total of 77 professional development plans were completed between July and December 2015.</p>								
<p>7. To ensure regional professional development opportunities through training and technical assistance using a state wide coordination of services.</p>	<p>The Child Care Aware of Kentucky network consist of eight Training Coaches located in each of the Area Development Districts and ensure access to regional professional development opportunities by identifying training needs and trainer recruitment.</p> <p>The Kentucky Early Care and Education Trainer’s Credential is required of all instructors who provide child care training to caregivers in the process of pursuing professional development goals or completing the annual training requirement established by state regulation. As of December 31, 2015, there were 654 individuals holding a current Kentucky Trainer's Credential.</p> <p>The Early Care and Education Training Records Information System (ECE-TRIS) stores the training records for child care providers. During the first half of SFY 2016, there were 263 registered providers, 717 certified providers, and 62,519 licensed providers and staff that completed training sessions.</p>								
<p>8. To ensure health and safety standards for children in care through licensed and certified child care programs. Make available flexible care options with the registered provider program.</p>	<p>As of December 31, 2015, there were 2,239 certified and licensed child care programs for 27 dedicated child care licensing surveyors. The average ratio of surveyors to regulated child care programs is one to 83.</p> <p>The total number of licensed certified and registered providers as of December 31, 2015 were:</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 10px;">Licensed</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 10px; text-align: right;">1,933</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 10px;">Certified</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 10px; text-align: right;">306</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 10px;">Registered</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 10px; text-align: right;">159</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px 10px;">Total</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px 10px; text-align: right;">2,398</td> </tr> </table>	Licensed	1,933	Certified	306	Registered	159	Total	2,398
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3. AUTHORIZED CHANGES (from the BLOCK GRANT PLAN IN FINANCES AND/OR OBJECTIVES)

Changes were made to the block grant as submitted to the Legislative Research Commission on July 1, 2013, to reflect the restoration of CCAP by funds appropriated in 2014 Ky. Acts ch. 117 and initiatives to improve the quality of care. The next block grant application’s due date has been postponed from July 2015 to March 2016 due to the CCDF Reauthorization at the federal level.

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4. EVALUATION OF RESULTS

CCAP promotes, expands, and improves the quality of care for children in Kentucky and ensure that families most in need are aware of and have access to available, quality child care which is developmentally appropriate, affordable, and safe.

The approach to service delivery combines the efforts of the DCC staff and other service providers and partners to address a family's needs in a comprehensive fashion thereby maximizing the likelihood that a family will achieve positive outcomes. DCC serves Kentucky's most vulnerable children prioritizing children with special needs and children receiving protective services. TANF recipients and persons transitioning off TANF are also eligible for child care assistance. During the first half of SFY 2016, the average number of families served in CCAP was 13,055.

DCBS contracts with the Cabinet's Office of Inspector General (OIG) to inspect, monitor, and license center-based providers, and inspect, monitor, and certify family childcare home providers. The STARS for KIDS NOW Program is part of Kentucky's Early Childhood Initiative and is a voluntary quality rating system that places major emphasis on raising the quality level of early care and education in childcare available to Kentucky families. Additionally, targeted quality set-asides under CCDF are being utilized to promote and improve the quality of infant/toddler training opportunities, enhance professional development activities, improve education in child care programs, improve staff and child interactions, increase parental involvement, and facilitate regulatory compliance to all child care programs.

5. ALTERNATIVES FOR IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY

Under the Federal Fiscal Years 2014-2015 CCDF Plan, the family co-payment structure remains intact so that no family pays a co-payment if the family's monthly income is below \$900. Family co-payments are structured so that a family whose income is below 100% of the federal poverty level pays no more than 10% of its gross monthly income for childcare. When the provider's customary rate exceeds the Kentucky Child Care Maximum Payment Rate, families will be responsible for the difference plus the family co-payment.

Licensed or certified providers who are accredited by a national organization receive an additional two (2) dollars per day above the maximum rate of pay. They also receive an additional one (1) dollar per day for providing child care for non-traditional hours. Licensed, certified, or registered providers may receive an additional one (1) dollar per day for care of children with special needs. These rates may be cumulative and do not exceed the amount charged to the general public for the same care.

To enhance professional development and work towards achieving the goal of increasing the availability of quality care, the Cabinet continues to make funds available through the University of Kentucky/Human Development Institute to support early care and education trainers, technical assistance to child care providers, and recruitment where gaps in quality care have been identified. DCC supports Child Care Aware Training and Technical Assistance Coaches for monitoring and coordination of professional development (i.e., training, education, and technical assistance) for early care and education providers to meet state and federal requirements.

As part of the KIDS NOW Initiative, the Cabinet continues to be involved in the following:

Implementation of the STARS for Kids Now program for licensed centers and family child care homes
Tobacco Master Settlement dollars are used to fund STARS's monetary incentives, and CCDF monies are used to fund STARS's administrative costs. Additionally, the STARS process ensures that licensed centers and family child care homes maintain the appropriate number of training hours and current credentials.

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\$114,750	Total amount of STARS one-time achievement awards issued to providers
\$107,700	Total amount of STARS annual achievement
\$20,500	Total annual enhancement awards issued to providers
\$651,696	Total amount of STARS quality incentive awards issued to providers determined by the number of children enrolled in CCAP

Quality Initiatives

Through the use of Tobacco Master Settlement dollars, the KIDS NOW Initiative has resulted in a growth of services intended to enhance the quality of child care throughout Kentucky. The DCC-approved Training Organizations and the non-college scholarship program provide training and technical assistance to Early Care and Education Professionals for obtaining the Commonwealth Child Care Credential and the Child Development Associate. Monetary awards for completing professional development educational achievements and Mini-Grants for national accreditation of early childhood providers are also provided to Early Care and Education Professionals, licensed centers, and certified homes increasing the quality of staff and programs.

167	KIDS NOW Child Development Associate Mini-Grants invoiced, for a total of \$37,400 during the first half of SFY 2016
859	Individuals have a Commonwealth Child Care Credential.
214	Milestone Achievement Awards for completion of a Commonwealth Child Care Credential, Child Development Associate (CDA), Director's Credential, Associate or Bachelor Degree in Early Care and Education issued during first half of SFY 2016, for a total amount of \$54,185
77	Related Educational Reimbursement Awards issued during the first half of SFY 2016 assisting Early Care and Education Professionals pursuing a CDA, Directors Credential, or an Associate or Bachelor Degree in Early Care and Education studies, for a total amount of \$24,800
1,809	Individuals have a Kentucky Director's Credential.