

BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016

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: 

Adria Johnson
Commissioner

4/30/17
Date

1. FINANCES	Federal Funds	General Funds	Trust/Local Match	Total
Annual Budget -	\$78,226,700	\$50,075,900	\$72,100	\$128,374,700
Actual Expenditures	\$37,740,687	\$12,997,302	\$0	\$50,737,989
Encumbrances	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Available Balance	\$40,486,013	\$37,078,598	\$72,100	\$77,636,711

2. RESULTS BUDGETED/ACHIEVED

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
1. To provide child care services to children who reside with a low income parent(s) who works, seeks work, attends a job training or educational program; or receives, or needs to receive, protective services, which may include preventive services.	An average of 24,042 children per month received child care through CCDF during the first half of this State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2017. Of this total, an average of: 19,200 children were served to allow low income parents to work, 1,685 children were served through prevention or protection services, 2,978 were children of parents who had transitioned off K-TAP due to employment/earnings 179 were teen parents. Some families received assistance through the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) to address more than one service need.
2. To provide access to quality child care that supports the parent participating in the Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (K-TAP).	An average of 2,978 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

BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT
July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016

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<p>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>	<p>During the first half of SFY 2017, 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 options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 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. 2) 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. There were approximately 238 referral calls received during the first half of SFY 2017. 3) 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 DCC administers the KICCS public website. Approximately 2,317 individuals visit the site monthly.
<p>4. To increase the availability of early childhood development and/or before- and after- school care programs.</p>	<p>An average of 8,035 children is served in before- and after-school child care programs on a monthly basis.</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, 2016, the total number of participants in the STARS for KIDS NOW Program (STARS) are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 607 STARS Level 1 centers and family child care homes 644 STARS Level 2 centers and family child care homes 255 STARS Level 3 centers and family child care homes 20 STARS Level 4 centers and family child care homes <p>The STARS program completed 221 STARS rating visits of child care providers between July and December 2016. After each rating visit, providers are given a rating summary report, which is used for program improvement and consultation with technical staff.</p>

BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT
July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016

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<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>DCBS 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 Level 2, 3, or 4 and to assist providers with a self-assessment for a STARS Level 1. A total of 2,333 technical assistance visits was 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 connect providers to available educational and professional resources. Fifteen professional development plans were completed between July and December 2016.</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 consists of eight Training Coaches who 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, 2016, 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 2017, there were 215 registered providers, 721 certified providers, and 64,031 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>DCBS contracts with the Office of Inspector General to enforce standards for licensed and certified providers. As of December 31, 2016, there were 2,180 certified and licensed child care programs for 30 dedicated child care licensing surveyors. The average ratio of surveyors to regulated child care programs is one to 72.</p> <p>The total number of licensed, certified, and registered providers as of December 31, 2016 were:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="954 1520 1239 1661"> <tr> <td>Licensed</td> <td>1,896</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Certified</td> <td>284</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Registered</td> <td>150</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>2,330</td> </tr> </table>	Licensed	1,896	Certified	284	Registered	150	Total	2,330
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BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016

3. AUTHORIZED CHANGES (from the BLOCK GRANT PLAN IN FINANCES AND/OR OBJECTIVES)

On November 19, 2014, the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 was signed into law. This reauthorizes the child care program for the first time since 1996 and represents an historic re-envisioning of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program. The new law makes significant advancements by defining health and safety requirements for child care providers, outlining family-friendly eligibility policies, and ensuring parents and the general public have transparent information about the child care choices available to them.

DCBS submitted the Federal Fiscal Years 2016-2018 CCDF state plan in March 2016 and received conditional federal approval in June. An amendment to the plan was submitted in September to align the plan with changes to CCAP.

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 quality child care. 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 2017, the average number of families served in CCAP was 12,962.

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.

5. ALTERNATIVES FOR IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY

The family co-payment structure ensures 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.

STARS for Kids Now program for licensed centers and family child care homes:

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 child care 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. 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.

\$24,225	Total amount of STARS one-time achievement awards issued to providers
\$34,350	Total amount of STARS annual achievement

BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016

\$5,000	Total annual enhancement awards issued to providers
\$387,414	Total amount of STARS quality incentive awards issued to providers determined by the number of children enrolled in CCAP

Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge

The Governor's Office of Early Childhood (GOEC) administers the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grant (RTT-ELC) supporting the Kentucky ALL STARS. GOEC has partnered with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, namely the Department for Public Health and Department for Community Based Services, to implement the various components of the state application. The CCDF state plan supports quality efforts resulting from RTT-ELC, Early Head Start-Head Start partnerships, and other initiatives.

At this time, the Kentucky ALL STARS will be voluntary on the part of child care providers. It is being implemented in three migration phases, the first phase starting September 2016 for child care providers, and it will run parallel to the existing STARS for KIDS NOW Program. The Kentucky ALL STARS will have no impact to child care providers' current STARS for KIDS NOW rating, and associated monetary and nonmonetary incentives will be in addition to incentives available through the STARS for KIDS NOW Program. There is no punitive aspect to the proposed forthcoming Kentucky ALL STARS for child care providers. In 2017, a validation study will occur to inform refinements to the Kentucky ALL STARS, further implementation plans, and overall sustainability.

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.

164	KIDS NOW Child Development Associate Mini-Grants invoiced, for a total of \$69,700 during the first half of SFY 2017
918	Individuals have a Commonwealth Child Care Credential.
163	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 2017, for a total amount of \$34,425
200	Related Educational Reimbursement Awards issued during the first half of SFY 2017 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 \$14,050
1,950	Individuals have a Kentucky Director's Credential.