

BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

January 1, 2016 through June 30, 2016

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
<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 second half of SFY 2016, approximately 9,335 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 383 referral calls received during the second half of SFY 2016. 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 2,135 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 7,825 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 June 30, 2016, the total number of participants in the STARS for KIDS NOW Program (STARS) are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 792 STARS Level 1 centers and family child care homes 602 STARS Level 2 centers and family child care homes 246 STARS Level 3 centers and family child care homes 21 STARS Level 4 centers and family child care homes <p>The STARS program completed 289 STARS rating visits of child care providers between January and June 2016. After each rating visit, providers are given a rating summary report, which is used for program improvement and consultation with technical staff.</p>

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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 1,060 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. Fifty-two professional development plans were completed between January and June 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 consist 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 June 30, 2016, there were 685 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 second half of SFY 2016, there were 258 registered providers, 545 certified providers, and 52,963 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 June 30, 2016, there were 2,233 certified and licensed child care programs for 34 dedicated child care licensing surveyors. The average ratio of surveyors to regulated child care programs is one to 71.</p> <p>The total number of licensed, certified, and registered providers as of June 30, 2016 were:</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Licensed</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,937</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Certified</td> <td style="text-align: right;">296</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Registered</td> <td style="text-align: right;">156</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,389</td> </tr> </table>	Licensed	1,937	Certified	296	Registered	156	Total	2,389
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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. Amendment(s) to the state plan is anticipated as the state effects compliance with various CCDF Reauthorization provisions.

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 second half of SFY 2016, the average number of families served in CCAP was 12,953.

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

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

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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.

\$112,000	Total amount of STARS one-time achievement awards issued to providers
\$105,444	Total amount of STARS annual achievement
\$12,000	Total annual enhancement awards issued to providers
	Total amount of STARS quality incentive awards issued to providers determined
\$785,349	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 will be implemented in three migration phases starting in September 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.

156	KIDS NOW Child Development Associate Mini-Grants invoiced, for a total of \$66,300 during the second half of SFY 2016
909	Individuals have a Commonwealth Child Care Credential.
287	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 second half of SFY 2016, for a total amount of \$49,545
249	Related Educational Reimbursement Awards issued during the second 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 \$24,400
1,898	Individuals have a Kentucky Director's Credential.