

BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT
July 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017

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
 Adria Johnson
 Commissioner

Date

1/31/18

1. FINANCES	Federal Funds	General Funds	Trust/Local Match	Total
Annual Budget -	\$84,913,700	\$34,967,844	\$72,800	\$119,954,344
Actual Expenditures	\$55,942,333	\$16,881,422	\$0	\$72,823,755
Encumbrances	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Available Balance	\$28,971,367	\$18,086,422	\$72,800	\$47,130,589

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.	<p>An average of 28,280 children per month received child care through the Child Care Assistance Program during the first half of this State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2018.</p> <p>An average of 21,766 children were served to allow low income parents to work, 3,273 children were served through prevention or protection services, and 191 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 (KTAP).	An average of 3,050 children per month with parents participating in Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP) and the Kentucky Works Program received child care assistance through funding from the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant

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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 2018, approximately 1,127 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 one the available options below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 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 118 referral calls received during the first half of SFY 2018. 2) Effective October 1, 2017, parents may search for providers by address, provider name, or License/Certificate number by accessing the benefind (public search)website: https://benefind.ky.gov/
<p>4. To increase the availability of early childhood development and/or before- and after- school care programs.</p>	<p>An average of 9,150 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, 2017, the total number of participants in the STARS for KIDS NOW Program (STARS) are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 93 STARS Level 1 centers and family child care homes 496 STARS Level 2 centers and family child care homes 212 STARS Level 3 centers and family child care homes 19 STARS Level 4 centers and family child care homes <p>The STARS program completed 174 STARS rating visits of child care providers between July and December of 2017. 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 2,163 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. Five hundred eighty professional development plans were completed between <u>July and December of 2017.</u></p>								
<p>7. To ensure regional professional development opportunities through training and technical assistance using a statewide 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, 2017, there were 671 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 2018, there were 187 registered providers, 699 certified providers, and 70,922 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, 2017, there were 2,193 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 73.10.</p> <p>The total number of licensed, certified, and registered providers as of December 31, 2017 was:</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Licensed</td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: right;">1,932</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Certified</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: right;">261</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Registered</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: right;">103</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 3px double black;">Total</td> <td style="border-bottom: 3px double black; text-align: right;">2,296</td> </tr> </table>	Licensed	1,932	Certified	261	Registered	103	Total	2,296
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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.

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) three-year plan for States and Territories is required from each CCDF Lead agency in accordance with 42 U.S.C 9858. DCBS submitted the Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2016-2018 CCDF state plan in March 2016 and received federal approval in May 2016. DCBS must submit FFY 2019 – 2021 State Plan to ACF on or before July 2, 2018 for approval in order to receive funding on October 1, 2018 for FFY 2019.

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 2018, the average number of families served in CCAP was 15,617.

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:

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\$6,250	Total amount of STARS one-time achievement awards issued to providers
\$72,550	Total amount of STARS annual achievement
\$7,500	Total annual enhancement awards issued to providers
\$656,732	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.

In December 2016, all childcare providers migrated into Kentucky All STARS, the state’s revised TQRIS. Participation in Kentucky All STARS is mandatory for those receiving public funding. Kentucky All STARS is currently running parallel to STARS for KIDS NOW, and Kentucky All STARS has no impact to childcare providers’ current STARS for KIDS NOW rating and benefits. As of January 2017, 41.7% of providers in All STARS rated as high quality, at Levels 3-5.

Kentucky All STARS Ratings as of June 30, 2017					
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Licensed Types I&II	801	269	303	277	96
Certified	155	55	29	23	9
Licensed Head Start	5		42	42	89
Totals	961	324	374	322	194

A validation study originally scheduled to begin in July 2017 was delayed and results are not anticipated until June of 2018. Administrative regulation for the Kentucky All STARS will be filed in April of 2018. Findings from the validation study will be considered and addressed as amendments to the regulation if necessary. When regulations are adopted, Kentucky will repeal the STARS for KIDS NOW regulations and the program will operate under Kentucky All STARS

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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.

- 104 KIDS NOW Child Development Associate Mini-Grants invoiced, for a total of \$44,200 during the first half of SFY 2018
- 912 Individuals have a Commonwealth Child Care Credential.
- 285 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 2018 , for a total amount of \$31,815
- 95 Related Educational Reimbursement Awards issued during the second half of SFY 2018 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 \$7,350
- 2,105 Individuals have a Kentucky Director's Credential.