

Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program Frequently Asked Questions - Fact Sheet

WHAT IS CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (CCDF)?

CCDF is a federally-funded program designed to provide quality child care services to eligible families of children transitioning off Transitional Child Care (TCC), children at-risk of going on TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) and children of all other eligible parents who meet the work and educational requirements set by the Mississippi Department of Human Services - Office for Children & Youth.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF CCDF?

The purpose of the CCDF, according to federal regulations is to increase the availability, afford-ability, and quality of child care services.

WHAT IS A CHILD CARE CERTIFICATE?

A Child Care Certificate is a document issued by Central Mississippi Planning & Development District (CMPDD) directly to a parent/legal guardian who resides in one of the following counties: Copiah, Hinds, Madison, Rankin, Simpson, Yazoo and Warren. These individuals have been determined eligible for CCDF, and they can use the certificate as payment for child care services. The child care certificate is an assistance to the parent, not to the provider.

ARE THERE DIFFERENT CHILD CARE PROGRAMS?

YES. They are as follows:

- ❖ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) parents
- ❖ Transitional Child Care (TCC)
- ❖ Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) - CCDF funds will be used to provide child care services for eligible families, at risk of going on TANF, with very low-income and low-income. Very low-income families are those who earn below 50 percent of the state median income (SMI). Low-income families earn more than 50 percent and below the 85 percent of the state median income.

HOW IS ELIGIBILITY DETERMINED?

TANF eligibility is determined by the Mississippi Department of Human Services - Division of Economic Assistance.

TCC and CCDF child care eligibility is determined by Central Mississippi Planning & Development District's child care staff for the following counties: Copiah, Hinds, Madison, Rankin, Simpson, Warren and Yazoo.

HOW CAN YOU APPLY FOR CCDF CHILD CARE?

Simply visit our web site at www.cmpdd.org and click on the Child Care Management Agency for more detailed information or contact Carolyn Johnson-Boutte' or Gwendolyn Edwards at our toll free number 1-866-981-1511.

WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM YEARLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME THAT A PERSON CAN MAKE AND QUALIFY FOR CCDF?

Family Size	85 th – SMI - Yearly Gross Income
Family of 2	at or below \$27,999
Family of 3	at or below \$34,999
Family of 4	at or below \$40,999
Family of 5	at or below \$47,999
Family of 6 or more	at or below \$50,000

IS THERE A PRIORITY POPULATION TO DETERMINE WHICH APPLICANTS ARE APPROVED?

YES. If funds are available, children will be served on a first-come, first-served basis in the following order of priority.

- 1st** Children of parents participating in the TANF Work Program.
- 2nd** Children of parents transitioning off TCC.
- 3rd** Children of very low-income working parents whose income is below the 50 percent of the State Median Income (SMI) who are at risk of going on TANF, in the following order:
 - A. Children in Protective Services or Foster Care;
 - B. Children with Special Needs;
 - C. Children of parent(s) deployed, in Mississippi National Guard, and Reserve;
 - D. Children of Teen Parents currently enrolled in school full time; and
 - E. Children of all other eligible parents at the 50 percent of the SMI.
- 4th** Based on funding, children of parents working or in an approved educational or training program and working the required 25 hours whose income falls above the 50 percent and below the 85 percent of the SMI.
- 5th** Children of Parents in an approved full-time educational or training program and working less than 25 hours per week.
- 6th** Children of Parents in an approved full-time educational or training program and not working.

HOW LONG CAN YOU RECEIVE CCDF?

If you qualify for CCDF, you will be issued a child care certificate for one (1) year. In order to continue receiving child care services for the entire year, your eligibility must be redetermined once during the year. At the end of each year, you ***must*** re-apply to determine if your child care services will continue for the next year.

WHAT INFORMATION IS NEEDED TO DETERMINE IF YOU QUALIFY FOR CCDF?

You will need to provide the following information with your child care application:

- ❖ Long Form Birth Certificate for all children needing care;
- ❖ Social Security Cards for all children needing care; Child Support Verification Form;
- ❖ Two (2) check stubs received in the last 30 days from the date the application is submitted; and
- ❖ Proof of any other income: Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Alimony and Child Support.

CAN COLLEGE STUDENTS RECEIVE CCDF?

YES. In order to determine if a college student is eligible to receive a child care certificate, the college student must submit verification of college enrollment (letter from the Registrar's Office) with his/her application.

DOES CCDF PAY THE ENTIRE MONTHLY RATE?

NO. The parents are assessed a monthly co-payment fee based on the family household size and household income. This co-payment fee must be paid to the provider monthly.

WHAT IS A CO-PAYMENT FEE?

The co-payment fee is a system of cost-sharing used based on the income and size of the family for families who participate in the CCDF program.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THE MONTHLY CO-PAYMENT FEE IS NOT PAID?

Child Care Services will be terminated because the parent is required to pay a portion of the monthly child care cost.

WHAT IF YOU LOSE YOUR JOB? WILL YOUR CHILD CARE SERVICES BE TERMINATED?

If you lose your job, you will be allowed a thirty (30) day grace period from the last date of employment before child care services will be terminated. This grace period of thirty (30) days is given to allow the parent an opportunity to find employment. If employment is not found during the thirty (30) days, child care services will be terminated.

HOW LONG DO YOU HAVE TO REPORT ANY CHANGES IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD?

All changes in family size, employment, work hours, school status, maternity leave, changes in work hours, new job, layoff, income and marital status must be reported within ten (10) days to the Child Care Department.

HOW MUCH WILL THE CCDF PROGRAM PAY FOR CHILD CARE SERVICES?

There are established payment rates for child care services based on the age of the child, type of child care provider, hours of child care services provided. These established payment rates have been set by the Mississippi Department of Human Services - Office for Children & Youth.

WHO DECIDES WHAT TYPE OF CHILD CARE YOU NEED?

Parents have the right to choose the type of child care they would like for their children. The types of choices available to parents are as follows:

- ❖ Licensed Child care centers
- ❖ Group homes
- ❖ Family day care homes
- ❖ Relative provider (Out-of-home)
- ❖ Non-relative provider (In-home or Out-of-home)

WHEN WILL MY PROVIDER BE PAID?

Providers reimbursement checks are mailed no later than the end of the month for services rendered in the previous month.

HOW WILL MY PROVIDER BE PAID?

Providers are mailed a provider's payment ledger monthly. This monthly payment ledger must be completed by the provider and submitted to CMPDD by the requested due date.

HOW DO YOU COMPLETE THE MONTHLY PAYMENT LEDGER?

The provider marks the days of attendance by placing a check mark to indicate the days that the child was kept.

For More Information Concerning the
CCDF Child Care Program
Contact:

Central Mississippi Planning and Development
District
Child Care Management Agency
1170 Lakeland Drive
Post Office Box 4935
Jackson, MS 39296-4935

Telephone:
1-866-981-1511 (toll-free number)