



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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Ms. Courtney Hawkins, Director
RI Department of Human Services
57 Howard Ave
Cranston, RI 02920

Dear Director Hawkins:

The Office of Child Care has completed its review of the proposed amendments to Rhode Island's conditionally approved Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan for 2019-2021, submitted on October 1, 2020.

This letter is to inform you that the following CCDF Plan amendments were approved.

- **Section 1.1.2 – CCDF Administrator**– Amended to reflect new co-State Administrator.
- **Section 1.8.4 – Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan** – Amended to reflect new emergency preparedness and response requirements for family child care providers. Approval of this amendment indicates that Rhode Island's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule.
- **Section 2.2.1 – Parental Complaint Process** – Amended to reflect an updated process based on the transition of child care licensing from the Department of Children, Youth, and Families to the Department of Human Services.
- **Section 2.3.4 – Lead Agency Processes Related to Child Care** – Amended to reflect updated web links based on the transition of child care licensing from the Department of Children, Youth, and Families to the Department of Human Services.
- **Section 3.2.6 – Grace Period for Immunization and Health and Safety Requirements** – Amended to reflect new policy for family child care providers allowing a 90 day grace period to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements for children experiencing homelessness and children who are in foster care. Approval of this amendment indicates that Rhode Island's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule.
- **Section 4.3.1 – Setting Payment Rates** – Amended to reflect an increase in the Lead Agency's payment rates for all providers. Approval of this amendment indicates that Rhode Island's CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule.

- **Section 5.1.1 – Licensing Requirements** – Amended to reflect new information based on the transition of child care licensing from the Department of Children, Youth, and Families to the Department of Human Services.
- **Section 5.2.2(a)(7) – Health and Safety Standards and Requirements for CCDF Providers** – Amended to reflect new emergency preparedness and response requirements for family child care providers. Approval of this amendment indicates that Rhode Island’s CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule.
- **Section 5.4.1 - In-State Criminal Registry or Repository Checks with Fingerprints Requirements** – Amended to reflect completion of in-state criminal registry or repository checks with fingerprints for all existing staff. Approval of this amendment indicates that Rhode Island’s CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule.
- **Section 5.4.2 - In-State Sex Offender Registry Requirements** – Amended to reflect completion of in-state sex offender registry checks for all existing staff. Approval of this amendment indicates that Rhode Island’s CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule.
- **Section 5.4.4 - National FBI Criminal Fingerprint Search Requirements** – Amended to reflect completion of national FBI criminal fingerprint checks for all existing staff. Approval of this amendment indicates that Rhode Island’s CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule.
- **Section 5.4.5 - National Crime Information Center (NCIC) National Sex Offender Registry (NSOR) Search** – Amended to reflect completion of National Crime Information Center (NCIC) National Sex Offender Registry (NSOR) checks for all existing staff. Approval of this amendment indicates that Rhode Island’s CCDF Plan demonstrates compliance with the Final Rule.

The effective dates of October 28, 2019, December 6, 2019, June 1, 2020, and September 1, 2020 for these amendments to the Rhode Island CCDF Plan are noted on the amendments log within the ACF-118 electronic submission site.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please feel free to contact Shireen Riley, Child Care Program Manager in our Boston Regional Office at 617-565-1152 or shireen.riley@acf.hhs.gov.

We appreciate your efforts to meet the child care needs of eligible families in the State of Rhode Island and look forward to our continued partnership in the administration of your Child Care and Development Fund Program.

Sincerely,

Ellen C. Wheatley, Ph.D.
Deputy Director
Office of Child Care

cc: Caitlin Molina, Deputy Director of Child Care, DHHS
Hannah Hansen, Child Care Administrator, DHHS
Shireen Riley, OCC Regional Program Manager, Region 1
Dawn Ramsburg, Regional Liaison, OCC