



The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program made available \$5 billion to States, Territories, and Tribes in fiscal year (FY) 2011. The CCDF program is authorized by the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act and Section 418 of the Social Security Act and assists low-income families in obtaining child care so that they can work or attend training and/or education activities. The program also improves the quality of child care and promotes coordination among early childhood development and afterschool programs.

#### ***Child Care Services Funded by CCDF***

Subsidized child care services are available to eligible families through certificates (vouchers) or grants and contracts with providers. Parents can select a child care provider that satisfies any applicable State and local requirements, including basic health and safety requirements. These requirements must address the prevention and control of infectious diseases, including immunizations, building and physical premises safety, and minimum health and safety training.

#### ***Quality Activities***

A minimum of 4 percent of CCDF program funds must be used to improve the quality of child care and other additional services to parents, such as resource and referral counseling regarding the selection of child care providers. Consistent with prior years, the FY 2011 appropriation includes additional funding for targeted purposes: \$284 million for quality expansion activities, of which \$104 million is to improve the quality of care for infants and toddlers, and almost \$19 million is to improve school-age care and child care resource and referral services. To improve the quality of available child care, CCDF lead agencies provide training, grants and loans to providers, improved monitoring, compensation projects, and other innovative programs. Many lead agencies make systemic investments, such as developing quality rating and improvement systems and professional development systems. Tribes can use a portion of their funds to construct child care facilities provided that there is no reduction in the current level of child care services.

#### ***Coordination of Resources***

The CCDF program allows States to serve families through a single, integrated child care subsidy program under the

rules of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act. States coordinate the CCDF program with Head Start, prekindergarten, and other early childhood programs and can also transfer a portion of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program dollars to the CCDF program or can spend TANF directly for child care needs.

#### ***State and Tribal Child Care Plans***

All States, Territories, and Tribes must submit comprehensive plans every 2 years and must conduct public hearings to invite public comment.

#### ***Research***

FY 2011 funding includes approximately \$10 million for child care research, demonstration, and evaluation activities. These funds are increasing the capacity for child care research at the national, State, and local levels while addressing critical questions with implications for children and families. Funds have been awarded to support individual project areas, including policy research, research partnerships, research scholars, and a Web-based archive called Child Care & Early Education Research Connections.

#### ***Technical Assistance***

One-fourth of 1 percent of the total CCDF program is used by the Office of Child Care to provide technical assistance to grantees. Its technical assistance network is designed to address the needs of States, Territories, and Tribes administering the CCDF program. The network includes the following projects:

- Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning
- Child Care & Early Education Research Connections
- Child Care Communications Management Center
- Child Care State Systems Specialist Network
- Healthy Child Care America
- National Center on Child Care Data and Technology
- National Center on Child Care Professional Development Systems and Workforce Initiatives
- National Center on Child Care Quality Improvement
- National Center on Child Care Subsidy Innovation and Accountability
- National Center on Tribal Child Care Implementation and Innovation.