



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Mississippi Department
of
Human Services:
CCPP
Newsletter

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August 2017

Newsletter Highlights

- Standard Center Application
- Early Childhood Academy
- Health and Safety Training
- Child Care Payment Program Policy Manual
- Frequently Asked Questions

This newsletter serves as the official source of information on the Child Care Payment Program.

Welcome to the August issue of the Child Care Payment Program (CCPP) Newsletter under the new early childhood system.

Standard Child Care Center Application

MDHS has made great strides in the development of the Standard Child Care Center Application. As you know, under the state's new early childhood plan, "A Family-Based Unified and Integrated Early Childhood System," all CCPP-approved providers must be designated as standard centers. The first step to achieve the status of a standard child care center is to complete the Standard Child Care Center Application (which has

not been finalized). Throughout the development process, MDHS has held several meetings to gather input from providers, whose feedback has played an important role in shaping the application's development.

MDHS is excited to share a new video describing the online Standard Child Care Center Application. Please click the link below to view the video.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_7VIBxaSNbE&feature=youtu.be

Early Childhood Academy

To support implementation of the early childhood state plan, MDHS has partnered with community colleges across the state to create an Early Childhood Academy. The newly established Early Childhood Academy provides resources, technical assistance, and professional development to support child care providers and families with young children. Local Early Childhood Academies are currently located in 10 of the state's 15 community college districts. Additional locations will be added over the next year. Current Early Childhood Academies locations are listed below:

Copiah-Lincoln Community College

30 Campus Drive
Natchez, MS 39120
601-446-1270

- Countess Thompson, Coaching and Professional Development Specialist
- Shyvia Brooks, Resource and Referral Center Associate

East Central Community College

513 10th Street
Decatur, MS 39327
601-635-6136

- Jayme Jones, Coaching and Professional Development Specialist
- Kenyotia Moncrief, Resource and Referral Center Associate

Hinds Community College

601 Hinds Blvd.
Raymond, MS 39154
601-857-3973

- LaTina Gray, Coaching and Professional Development Specialist

- Amelda Ellis, Resource and Referral Center Associate

Itawamba Community College

2176 S. Eason Blvd.
Tupelo, MS 38804
662-620-5370

- Ashley Armstrong, Coaching and Professional Development Specialist
- Angenett Curry, Resource and Referral Center Associate

Meridian Community College

910 Hwy 19 North
Reed Hall 135-B
Meridian, MS 39307
601-553-3413

- Kamilah Dunn, Coaching and Professional Development Specialist
- Cisley Barksdale, Resource and Referral Center Associate

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College

2226 Switzer Road

Gulfport, MS 39507
228-897-4381

- Sarah Gant Holleman, Coaching and Professional Development Specialist
- Shanta Miller, Resource and Referral Center Associate

Northeast Community College

101 Cunningham Blvd.
Booneville, MS 38829
662-720-4082

- Lydia Bethay, Coaching and Professional Development Specialist
- Rhonda Brown, Resource and Referral Center Associate

Northwest Community College

4975 Hwy 51 North
Berry Building (1st floor)
Senatobia, MS 38668

- Marguerite McCloud, Coaching and Professional Development Specialist
- Heather Perryman, Resource and Referral Center Associate

Pearl River Community College: Poplarville

101 US Hwy 11
Poplarville, MS 39470
601-403-1492

- Daphne Stevens, Coaching and Professional Development Specialist

Health and Safety Training

As many of you are aware, in order to remain eligible to receive CCPP vouchers, all child care center staff must participate in MDHS health and safety training that covers federally mandated health and safety topics as prescribed by the 2014 Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act.

During the month of June, MDHS partnered with community colleges to deliver health and safety training in 14 out of the 15 community college districts across the state. MDHS will email new training letters to all CCPP-participating centers within the next few weeks.

- Carol Rieden, Resource and Referral Center Associate

Pearl River Community College: Petal

201 West Central Ave.
Petal, MS 39465
601-584-4704

- Judith McSwain, Resource and Referral Center Associate

Southwest Mississippi Community College

1156 College Drive
Summit, MS 39666
601-276-3737

- Kimberly Peters, Coaching and Professional Development Specialist
- Sammie Futch, Resource and Referral Center Associate

MDHS is excited to announce that beginning in September, child care center staff will have the option of completing health and safety training online. Staff interested in this online training will still be required to register through the online system ccptraining.mdhs.ms.gov.

If you have any questions about your center's health and safety training status, please contact the Division of Early Childhood Care and Development (DECCD) help desk at **1-800-877-7882**.

If you have any questions or require technical assistance with the online registration process, please contact our registration help desk at **1-844-402-2889**.

The next round of face-to-face health and safety sessions will be conducted throughout September on the following dates:

Health and Safety Training Schedule and Locations

September 2, 2017

Mississippi Delta Community College

Charles W. Capps, Jr. Technology Center
920 Hwy. 82 W.
Indianola, MS 38751

1156 College Drive
Summit, MS 39666

Northeast Early Childhood Academy

Waller Hall Room 304
Cunningham Blvd.
Booneville, MS 38829

September 9, 2017

Itawamba Early Childhood Academy

Student Support Center
2176 S Eason Blvd
Tupelo, MS 38804

Meridian Early Childhood Academy

Dulaney Room in Webb Hall
910 Hwy 19 North
Meridian, MS

Northwest Early Childhood Academy

Haraway Center
4975 HWY 51 N
Senatobia, MS

Jones County Junior College

Home & Health Auditorium
900 S Court Street
Ellisville, MS 39437

September 16, 2017

Holmes Community College

McMorrrough Library
1 Hill Street
Goodman, MS 39079

Southwest Early Childhood Academy

Regional Workforce Training Center at SMCC

September 23, 2017

Hinds Early Childhood Academy

Reeves Hall Room 165
Raymond, MS 39154

East Mississippi Early Childhood Academy

CMTE Building
8731 South Frontage Road,
Mayhew, MS 39753

Pearl River Early Childhood Academy

Technology Center-Multipurpose Room
101 Highway 11
Poplarville, MS 39470

September 30, 2017

East Central Early Childhood Academy

Phil A. Sutphin Nursing/Childcare Building Room
148
10th Street
Decatur, MS 39327

Mississippi Gulf Coast Early Childhood Academy

Jefferson Davis Campus

Student Services Building U-202
2226 Switzer Road
Gulfport, MS 39507

Copiah-Lincoln Early Childhood Academy

Thames Conference Center
1084 Lake Drive
Wesson, MS 39191

Coahoma Early Childhood Academy

Whiteside Hall
Whiteside Lecture Room
3240 Friars Point Road
Clarksdale, MS 38614

Child Care Payment Program Policy Manual

On April 12, 2017, MDHS submitted an amended policy manual to the Secretary of State's Office, and the manual underwent the 25-day tolling period for public comment in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. A public hearing was held on May 30, 2017, to give all interested parties an opportunity to provide feedback and comment on the draft of the amended policy manual. All comments were considered prior to the submission of the final draft to the Secretary of State's Office. The amended policy manual went into effect on July 14, 2017.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Parent Redetermination

- 1. Regarding the new redetermination policy in which initial contact is made with a parent to verify contact information before generating redetermination notice, what happens to a parent who MDHS is unable to get in touch with by phone?**

If a parent is unable to be contacted by phone to verify their information, MDHS issues 60- and 30-day notices to the email or physical address on file.

- 2. If MDHS fails to reach a parent by phone, does the parent lose CAPP eligibility before being issued a 60- and 30-day notice to an email or address on file?**

No, if a parent is unable to be contacted by phone, 60- and 30-day notices are issued to the email or physical address on file. The redetermination clock begins once a 60-day notice is issued. All parents are granted the same period of time to complete the application before an eligibility determination is made.

- 3. Regarding eligibility determination/redetermination requirements, if a parent is unable to provide both a state issued ID and 2 utility bills with corroborating addresses, is there an alternative procedure for obtaining proof of residency that avoids placing an undue burden on the parent? If so, what is the procedure? Why was this policy changed from a discretionary requirement to a mandatory requirement in 2016? This is an undue burden on parents and needs to be changed.**

Per the current CCPP policy manual, there is not an alternative procedure for providing proof of residency, which requires (1) either a driver's license or state-issued I.D. and (2) one of the following: current bank statement, cell phone bill, utility bill, or cable bill. The addresses on any such documents must match and corroborate the address of residence supplied to DECCD. This rule was mandatory in 2014, as stated on page 20 of that year's respective policy manual, so the rule did not change from discretionary to mandatory in 2016.

Child Care Center Redetermination

1. Is the requirement to become a standard center merely to submit the application, or do applications have to be approved in order for a center to achieve the standard center designation?

Eligibility to receive child care reimbursements begins with submitting the Standard Child Care Center Application. Through the application, child care centers can describe how they uniquely address federal requirements. Centers that are compliant with federal requirements will be approved and receive standard center designation.

2. If the applications must be approved, who makes this determination?

MDHS makes all CCPP-related determinations.

3. If a center's application is insufficient in some way, will the licensed center be allowed to continue participating in the CCPP while the application is made sufficient?

Child care centers must demonstrate compliance with federal requirements in order to participate in the CCPP. Centers may demonstrate compliance by completing the Standard Child Care Center Application. Centers may receive conditional approval if technical assistance is needed to comply with standard center requirements.

4. Is it possible for a licensed center to lose eligibility for CCPP before they are provided technical assistance? If yes, under what specific circumstances?

Centers may receive conditional approval if technical assistance is needed to comply with standard center requirements.

5. Under what specific circumstances, if any, could a licensed child care center lose CCPP eligibility based on responses they provide in the application pertaining to requirements beyond licensing?

Child care centers may lose CCPP eligibility if they are unable to demonstrate compliance with federal requirements on licensing, health and safety training, curriculum, and/or continuous quality improvement. All of these requirements are covered in the Standard Child Care Center Application.

6. Does a child care center have an opportunity to amend any errors they make in the application after submission?

Applicants will have 30 days to complete the standard center application. Applicants will not be able to edit the application once it is submitted or once the 30-day period has passed.

7. If it is determined that a center needs technical assistance to comply with standard center requirements beyond child care license, will centers continue receiving CCPP assistance throughout the 6-month corrective action period?

The 6-month corrective action plan refers to child care centers with a comprehensive designation, not a standard designation.

8. Will centers be able to take on new families using CCPP assistance while they are receiving technical assistance to comply with requirements beyond licensing?

Child care centers will not be able to take on new families using CCPP assistance if the centers are out of compliance with federal requirements.

9. Will centers who currently hold a valid child care license lose their eligibility for CCPP if they decline technical assistance based on their application responses? If yes, will an exception be granted for a center that indicates it will meet the requirements on its own? If yes, will the Early Childhood Academy determine if other requirements are met?

Participating in technical assistance is voluntary. Centers will not be deemed eligible for CCPP if they do not demonstrate compliance with federal requirements covered in the Standard Child Care Center Application.

10. Does the Early Childhood Academy determine when/if additional requirements beyond licensing are met during or at the end of the 6-month corrective action period?

MDHS makes all CCPP-related determinations. The 6-month corrective action period applies to comprehensive centers, not standard centers.

11. Will the Early Childhood Academy conduct ongoing monitoring of standard centers for requirements beyond licensing after the 6-month corrective action period?

The Early Childhood Academy provides technical assistance and professional development to child care centers. The Early Childhood Academy does not monitor standard child care centers.

12. What is the procedure for appealing decisions about CCPP eligibility based on the assessment of the center's application and/or on the assessment of their progress in fulfilling their unique corrective action plan?

The 6-month corrective action plan only involves child care centers with a comprehensive designation. The procedure for appealing all CCPP-related decisions follows current MDHS administrative hearing policy.

13. What is the procedure for conflict resolution regarding technical assistance between child care centers and Early childhood Academy technical assistance providers?

Conflicts regarding technical assistance between child care centers and Early Childhood Academy technical assistance providers should be reported to MDHS.

Child Care Reimbursement Rates

1. According to the most recent Market Rate Survey, what are the current Child Care Payment Program reimbursement rates, including a breakdown of tiered reimbursement rates?

Reimbursement rates are still being determined. The rates will be calculated using results of the Market Rate Survey, the age of the child, and whether a center is designated as standard or comprehensive.

2. When will new reimbursement rates go into effect?

New rates will go into effect once all centers have been deemed eligible to receive vouchers under the new system.

A Family-Based Unified and Integrated Early Childhood System

1. Please clarify the role of the SECAC “A Family Based Unified and Integrated Early Childhood System” plan in the state CCDF program.

The early childhood state plan was a joint effort between MDHS and SECAC. SECAC is an advisory council that provides policy recommendations to the Governor’s Office. SECAC provided recommendations to MDHS about the CCDF program. MDHS reviewed the recommendations and made final determinations about CCPP requirements.

2. Does this plan now drive the CCDF program?

The plan was designed to support families and providers in meeting federal requirements under the 2014 Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act.

3. Does SECAC or DHS make decisions in the CCDF program? If the decision making role is shared, please describe how this shared decision-making works.

MDHS makes all CCPP-related determinations.

Federal Compliance

1. Is the Mississippi Department of Human Services currently under any corrective action orders from HHS or any other federal agency regarding redetermination for CCDF recipients? If so, please explain and provide supporting documentation detailing circumstances that triggered corrective action regarding redetermination, how many parents have been redetermined under this corrective action, of those selected for redetermination how many remained eligible for CCPP, and of those selected for redetermination, how many had exhausted 12 months of continuous eligibility?

Yes, MDHS is currently under a corrective action plan for the following reasons:

1. Not meeting the October 1, 2016, deadline to have all child care center staff trained on the 12 federally mandated health and safety topics.
2. Not conducting annual redeterminations.

Additional Questions

1. What was the number of CCPP-approved providers for the months of September 2016, October 2016, November 2016, December 2016, January 2017, February 2017, March 2017, April 2017 and May 2017?

Approved Providers	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16	17-Jan	17-Feb	17-Mar	17-Apr	17-May
	1202	1207	1208	1215	1225	1231	1234	1237	1242

2. What was the number of children receiving CCPP vouchers for the months of September 2016, October 2016, November 2016, December 2016, January 2017, February 2017, March 2017, April 2017 and May 2017?

Children served	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16	17-Jan	17-Feb	17-Mar	17-Apr	17-May
	18638	18252	17985	18168	17940	17754	17847	17753	17842

3. What was the total number of potentially CCPP-eligible children on the CCPP Pending Funding list by month for the months of September 2016, October 2016, November 2016, December 2016, January 2017, February 2017, March 2017, April 2017 and May 2017?

The total number of potentially CCPP-eligible children has not yet been determined.

4. The 2016-2018 Mississippi CCDF State Plan included many tasks and activities for completing unmet requirements that were not implemented at the time of submission of the plan. Please provide an update on the status of each of these tasks/activities.

All tasks have been completed with the exception of completing redetermination, health and safety training, and the criminal background check (extension request has been filed).