



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

330 C Street, S.W., Washington DC 20201 | www.acf.hhs.gov

June 8, 2020

Danielle W. Barnes, Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Human Services
James K Polk Building, 15th Floor
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243-1403

Dear Commissioner Barnes:

The Office of Child Care has completed its review of your waiver request for Tennessee's Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan for 2019 - 2021, submitted March 20, 2020.

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

- Your request to waive the requirement at 45 CFR §98.20 (2) (i) for income limits for certain families and children impacted by COVID-19 has been approved effective March 3, 2020 through the duration of the state-declared emergency period, not to exceed one year initially. Please submit a Plan amendment via the ACF-118 to reflect the changes to your income eligibility policy specific for families covered under this waiver request within 60 days of this approval.
- Your request to waive the requirement at 45 CFR 98.41(a) (1) (i), 98.41(a) (1) (ii), 98.41(a) (1) (iv), 98.41(a) (1) (vi), 98.41(a) (1) (ix), and 98.41(a) (1) (x) or certain health and safety requirements for child care programs impacted by COVID-19 has been approved effective March 3, 2020 through the duration of the state-declared emergency period, not to exceed one year initially. Please submit a Plan amendment via the ACF-118 to reflect the changes to your health and safety policy specific for providers covered under this waiver request within 60 days of this approval.
- Your request to waive the requirement at 45 CFR §98.42 (b) (2) for conducting inspections of child care providers impacted by COVID-19 has been approved effective March 3, 2020 through the duration of the state-declared emergency period, not to exceed one year initially. Please submit a Plan amendment via the ACF-118 to reflect the changes to your inspection policy specific for providers covered under this waiver request within 60 days of this approval.
- Your request to waive the requirement at 45 CFR §98.43 (b) (1) and 98.43 (b) (3) (i) for fingerprint requirements for child care programs impacted by COVID-19 has been

approved effective March 3, 2020 through the duration of the state-declared emergency period, not to exceed one year initially. Please submit a Plan amendment via the ACF-118 to reflect the changes to your criminal background check policy for providers covered under this waiver request within 60 days of this approval.

- Your request to waive the requirement at 45 CFR §98.44(b) for health and safety training for child care programs impacted by COVID-19 has been approved effective March 3, 2020 through the duration of the state-declared emergency period, not to exceed one year initially. Please submit a Plan amendment via the ACF-118 to reflect the changes to your health and safety training policy specific for providers covered under this waiver request within 60 days of this approval.
- Your request to waive the requirement at 45 CFR §98.45 (k) (2) for co-payments for all families and children impacted by COVID-19 has been approved effective March 3, 2020 through the duration of the state-declared emergency period, not to exceed one year initially. Please submit a Plan amendment via the ACF-118 to reflect the changes to your family co-payment policy specific for families covered under this waiver request within 60 days of this approval.
- Your request to waive the requirement at 45 CFR §98.50 (e) discretionary funds expenditures for FY2020 related to COVID-19 has been approved effective March 3, 2020 not to extend past FY2020 (September 30, 2020). Please contact your Office of Grants Management representative to discuss the details of requirements around this request and approval.

For any amendment to your CCDF Plan, you may want to consider a temporary, or sun-setting, amendment or an amendment that is specific to the disaster, so you will not have to submit a later amendment changing it back once the emergency has ended. For changes that do not require a waiver, you may implement them immediately. CCDF Lead Agencies must submit a Plan amendment within 60 days after making a substantial change to their Plan.

We look forward to our continued partnership in the administration of your Child Care and Development Fund program. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please feel free to contact Eric Blanchette, Child Care Program Manager in our Atlanta Regional Office at 404-562-2782 and eric.blanchette@acf.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,



Shannon Christian
Director
Office of Child Care

cc: Jude White, Tennessee Assistant Commissioner
Eric Blanchette, OCC Regional Program Manager, Region IV
Francesca Longo, Regional Liaison, Office of Child Care