

# **TANF and Child Care Coordination: New Opportunities with CCDF Reauthorization**

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ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

Rachel Schumacher  
Director, Office of Child Care

Susan Golonka  
Acting Director, Office of Family Assistance

# Overview

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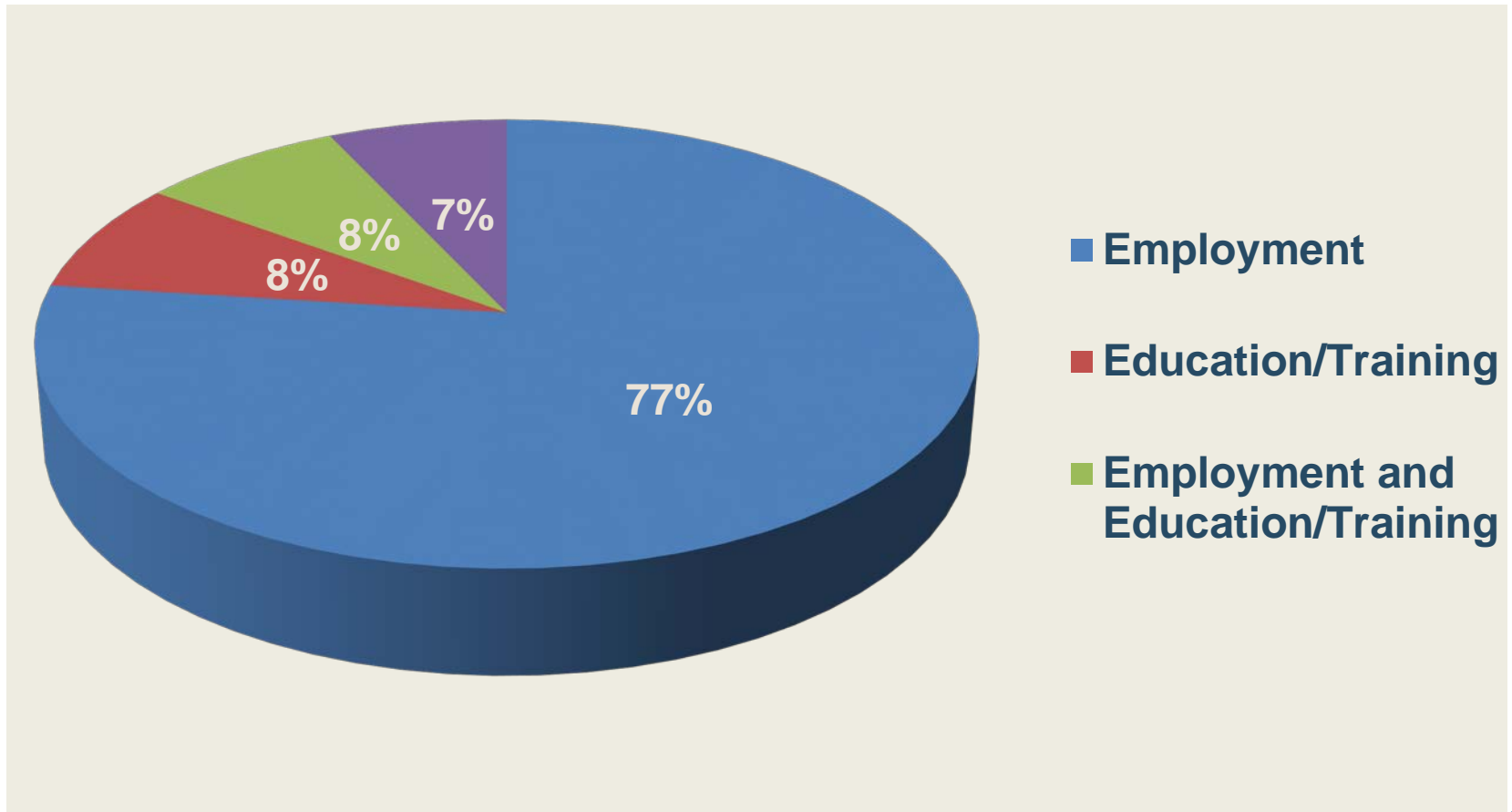
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and child care connections
- Changes coming with Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Reauthorization
- Opportunities for Coordination
- Discussion

# Access to Child Care Supports Employment and Education for Low-Income Families

- Parents receiving child care assistance are **more likely to be employed, have more stable employment, and have higher earnings.**
- **Parents' ability to succeed** in school and the workplace is affected by their children's well-being.
- Stable child care offers parents piece of mind making them **more likely to be productive at work**, and thus more likely to stay employed and advance on the job.
- Research has found the lack of stable child care arrangements impacts mothers' ability to remain employed. Some research has shown **linkages between the ending of a child care arrangement and the ending of employment for low-income mothers.**

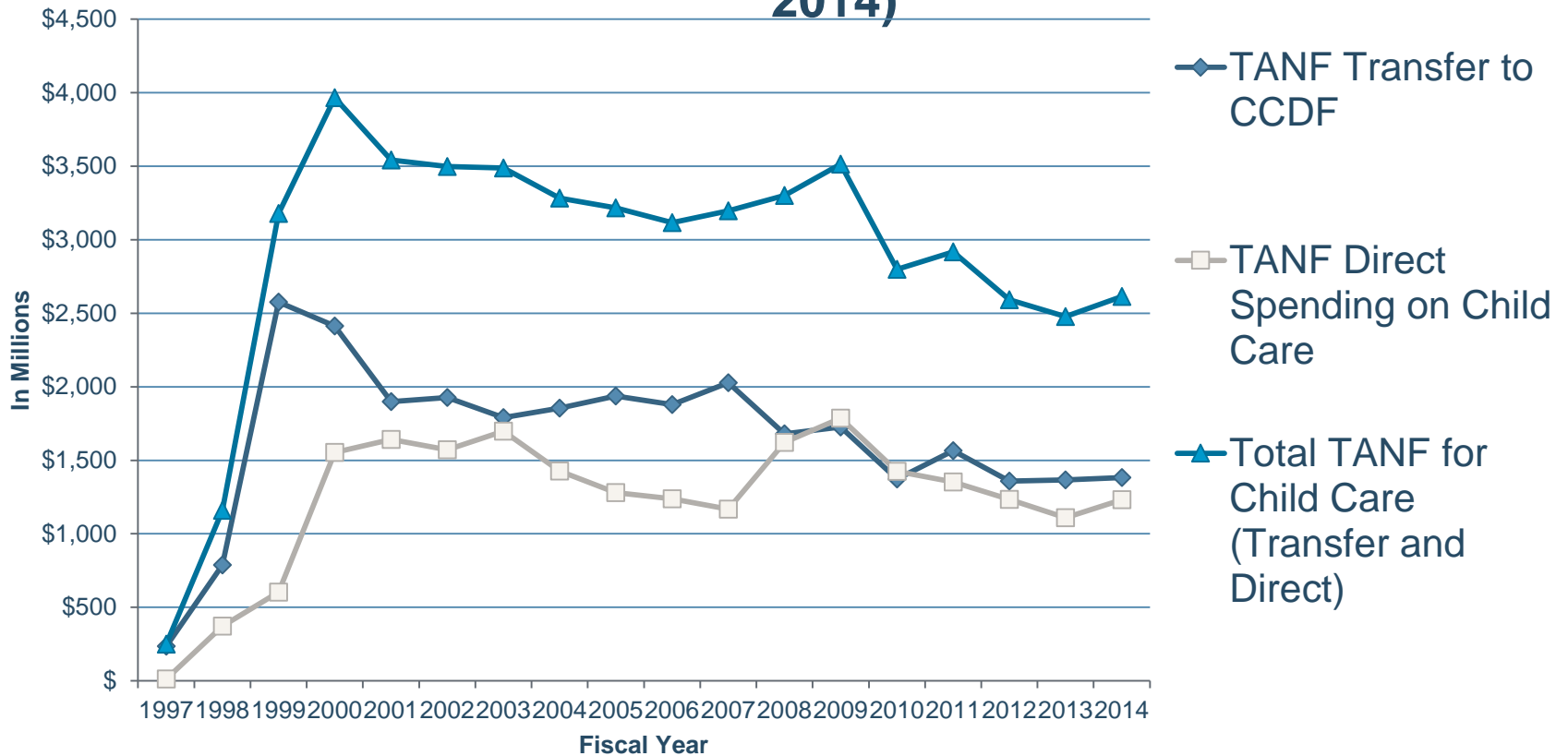
# CCDF Reasons for Care

(Preliminary Data FY 2014)



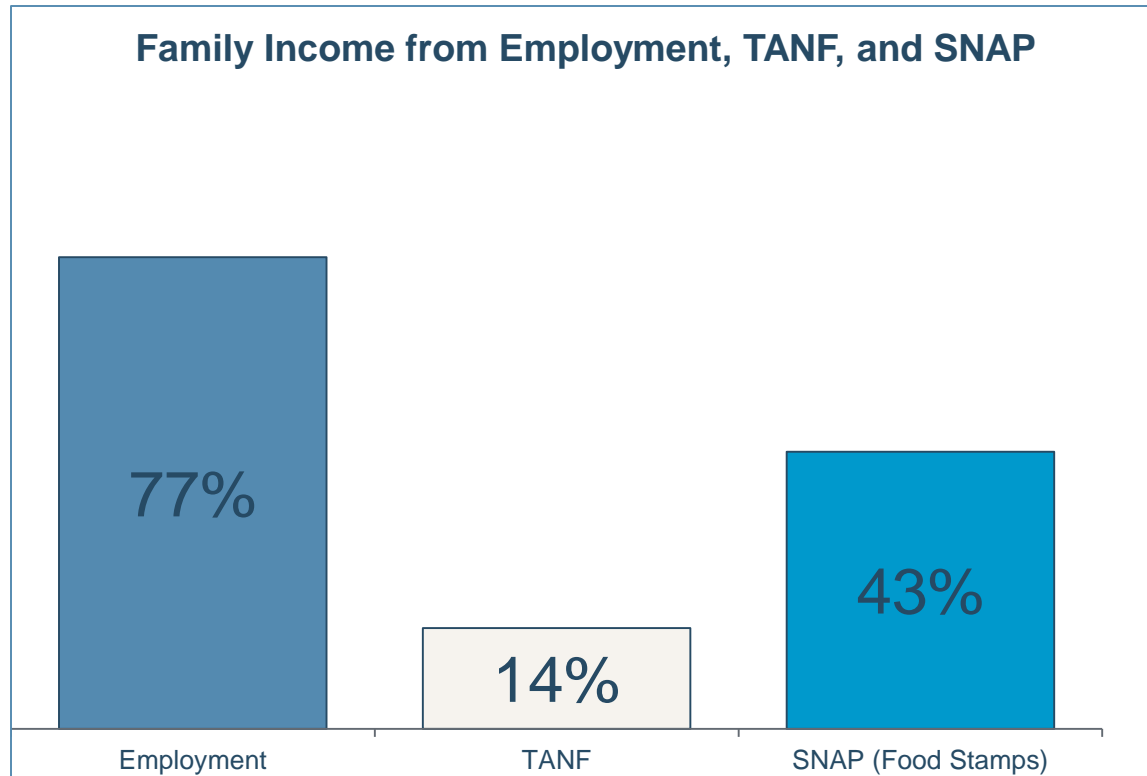
# States Use TANF for Child Care

## TANF Federal-Only Spending on Child Care (FY1997-2014)



# CCDF Families Income Sources

(Preliminary FY 2014 CCDF Data)



The percent of families with employment as a source of income ranged from 96% (Utah) to 37% (Arizona). TANF as a source of income ranged from 63% (Tennessee) to 0% (Texas and Wyoming). For income from SNAP, the percent ranged from 89% (Oregon) to 1% (West Virginia).

# What is CCDF Reauthorization?

- The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-186) was signed into law November 19, 2014.
- Reauthorizes the CCDF program for the first time since 1996 and represents a historic shift in the program to support parent employment/education and child development.
- States and Territories have submitted triennial CCDF plans to demonstrate compliance with a “reasonable interpretation” of the Act.
  - Plan period June 1, 2016 – September 30, 2018.
- Final Rule is pending and expected Fall 2016.

# New Purposes for CCDF

**Reauthorization provides a two-generational approach focused on the family as a whole, as well as helping parents support their children's development and learning. New language added by Congress includes:**

- Promoting involvement by parents and family members in the development of their children in child care settings;
- Delivering high-quality, coordinated early childhood care and education services to maximize parents' options;
- Improving the overall quality of child care services and programs;
- Improving child care and development of participating children;
- Increasing the number and percentage of low-income children in high-quality child care settings.



# Key Features of Reauthorization

- Eligibility Policies
- Health and Safety
  - Training
  - Criminal Background Checks
  - Monitoring and Inspections
- Consumer Education
- Equal Access: Payment Rates & Provider Payment Practices
- Supply of Care for Underserved Populations
- Increased Quality Spending
- Training & Professional Development for Providers
- Tribal Provisions

# Making the Program Family-Friendly

## **Eligibility in the Law:**

- Establishes eligibility period of no less than 12 months.
  - All CCDF families remain eligible and shall receive services during the 12-month period, regardless of changes in income (as long as income remains below 85% SMI)
  - Families remain eligible during times of temporary changes in work, training, education status.

## **For TANF participants:**

- 12-month child care eligibility for TANF families provides stability for children as their parents move from one work activity to another.
- Provides stability for child care providers as well.

# Making the Program Family-Friendly

## **Job Search Provisions in the law:**

- Requires minimum 3-month period of continued assistance.
  - States have option to terminate assistance prior to re-determination if a parent loses employment or stops attending a job training or educational program, but if they choose this option, the State must allow for a minimum 3-month period of continued assistance.

## **For TANF participants:**

- CCDF allows for a child to continue receiving child care subsidies (or receive at least 3 months of continued child care assistance) if a parent stops participating in a TANF activity (even if the family is sanctioned or loses TANF benefits).
- Stable child care during this 3-month period could allow TANF participants time to reengage their TANF activity and establish a new participation agreement.

# Making the Program Family-Friendly

## **Eligibility Redetermination in the Law:**

- Eligibility re-determination should not require parents to unduly disrupt their employment.

## **For TANF Participants:**

- Eligibility redetermination at 12 months less burdensome.
- Reduce burden on families for establishing child care redetermination through minimizing documentation needs, and offering a range of reporting options to limit need for face-to-face interviews.

# Keeping Children Safe and Healthy

**New Health and Safety Requirements ensure basic protections for children in child care.**

- States must have requirements and pre-service training in 10 basic health and safety topics for all CCDF providers.
- Requires States to conduct criminal background checks on all child care providers
- Must have annual monitoring and inspection requirements for all CCDF providers, including license-exempt providers
  - States are to make public on a website the results of all monitoring visits for parents to view when selecting child care
- States may exempt relatives from these provisions

# Keeping Children Safe and Healthy

**New Health and Safety Requirements ensure basic protections for children in child care.**

## **For TANF participants**

Helps to ensure that informal care is minimally safe and helps to minimize a dual system.

# Equal Access for Low Income Children

## **Provider Payment Rates and Practices**

- States must take the cost of quality into account in setting provider payment rates.
- States must establish policies that reflect generally accepted payment practices for child care providers, including (to the extent practicable) paying for absence days, and timely reimbursement for child care services.

## **Supply Building**

- States must develop strategies for increasing supply and quality of services for children in underserved areas, infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children in non-traditional hour care—which may include use of grants/contracts and alternative reimbursement.

# Consumer Education

**States and Territories are required to develop plans to provide information to parents, providers, and the general public on:**

- The availability of child care assistance
- The quality of child care providers (if available)
- Other programs for which families may qualify, specifically including **TANF**, Head Start and Early Head Start, LIHEAP, SNAP, WIC, CACFP, Medicaid, and SCHIP
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Research and best practices in child development, and
- State/Territory policies regarding social and emotional development, including preschool expulsion policies for children 0-5.

**For TANF participants:**

- States could target intensive outreach to TANF families to identify options that meet their unique needs



# Potential Challenges to TANF

New requirements (12 months eligibility, monitoring, and health and safety requirements) create additional state costs and burdens to providers.

- Will states choose to reduce their transfer to CCDF and increase direct TANF-funded child care subsidies?
- Will the supply of providers offering part-time and non-traditional hours, upon whom many TANF participants rely be reduced?

# New Opportunities for CCDF and TANF

- Support family stability and self-sufficiency goals as well as the developmental needs of the child.
- Participate in planning and implementation for CCDF.
- Coordinate policies and procedures across programs. States can voluntarily apply new CCDF policies and requirements – such as the 12 month eligibility and minimum health and safety rules -- to direct TANF-funded child care.
- Conduct joint training on CCDF Reauthorization and changes in state policy and procedure for front line staff.
- Ensure TANF families have access to child care consumer education and engagement.
- Build supply and access to quality care for vulnerable populations – could focus on TANF participants.

**Thank you for all you do for  
children and families**



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