

THE CHILD CARE CONNECTION

TANF PRIORITY

“TANF is designed to help needy families achieve self-sufficiency.”

Family participating in countable work activity
with a goal of working way off TANF

CCDF PRIORITY

“CCDF assists low-income families in obtaining child care so they can work or attend training/education.”

Ensure children, for whom the government is paying for, are in nurturing settings:

- + settings that are safe and healthy.
- + settings that promote curiosity and learning.
- + settings that support the families they serve.

CCDF

- ✖ What CCDF stands for:
- ✖ Your Tribal CCDF Administrator:
- ✖ Frequency of meeting w/CCDF Administrator:

CCDF REQUIREMENTS

- ✖ Funds can be spent on:
 - + child care subsidies and/or operating child care centers.
 - + improving the quality of care being offered by providers.
 - + administration.
- ✖ Serve families who make no more than 85% of the SMI.
- ✖ Sliding fee scale required for families over 100% of poverty.

CCDF REQUIREMENTS (continued)

- ✖ Can define what counts and does not count as income.
- ✖ Parents must be working, training, or going to school; children in protective services.
- ✖ Providers must meet health & safety requirements; relative providers can be exempt.

CCDF REQUIREMENTS - PLAN

- ✗ Plan required every two years.
- ✗ Define Indian Child and service area – and provide a child count.
- ✗ Include TANF definitions of:
 - + Appropriate child care.
 - + Reasonable distance.
 - + Unsuitability of informal child care.
 - + Affordable child care.
- ✗ Describe how parents who receive TANF are informed about the exception to penalties associated with the TANF work requirement.

IMPORTANCE OF EARLY YEARS

- ✕ Scientific research has generated a much deeper appreciation of:
 - + (1) the importance of early life experiences, as well as the inseparable and highly interactive influences of genetics and environment on the development of the brain and the unfolding of human behavior;
 - + (2) the central role of early relationships as a source of either support and adaptation or risk and dysfunction;
 - + (3) the powerful capabilities, complex emotions, and essential social skills that develop during the earliest years of life; and
 - + (4) the capacity to increase the odds of favorable developmental outcomes through planned interventions.
- + From Neurons to Neighborhoods; Jack P. Shonkoff and Deborah A. Phillips, *Editors*, 2000

WORKING WITH TANF RECIPIENTS AROUND CHILD CARE ISSUES

- ✗ Looking for child care.
- ✗ Consider making looking for child care an acceptable work activity.

CONSIDERATIONS: LOOKING FOR CHILD CARE

- ✖ Supervision of children
- ✖ Provider
- ✖ Discipline methods
- ✖ Environment
- ✖ Schedule, activities
- ✖ Cultural compatibility
- ✖ Meals
- ✖ Prepared for emergencies?
- ✖ In a home, are children left alone with family members other than the provider?
- ✖ Will I be welcome anytime my child is in care?

CONSIDERATIONS FOR TANF RECIPIENTS BECOMING CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

- ✗ Is the primary goal -
 - + To have the recipient count in your participation rate?
 - + Work way off TANF/self-sufficiency?

- ✗ If ultimate goal is self-sufficiency, consider:
 - + Number of children
 - + Ability to become licensed
 - + Interest in, and enjoyment working with children
 - + Availing selves of other services
 - + Thought through?

REMINDER.....

- ✖ Maintain and encourage relationship between TANF and CCDF
 - + Share information
 - + Update each other about issues
 - + Requirement for CCDF

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS?

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

**Thank you for the work you do on behalf of
children and families**

Mary Lorence
Program Specialist
Region X Office of Child Care
Mary.lorence@acf.hhs.gov
206-615-3640