



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES



State and Territory Administrators Meeting

STAM 2022



Using Grants and Contracts to Increase the Supply and Quality of Infant and Toddler Care

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Agenda



Introductions



Setting the stage

What are grants and contracts?

Why focus on infants and toddlers?

How can grants and contracts make a difference?



State and territory highlights



Next steps





Introductions

Who We Are

- ◆ Child Care State Capacity Building Center (SCBC)
- ◆ National Center on Subsidy Innovation and Accountability (NCSIA)

Who You Are

- ◆ State and territory administrators
- ◆ Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Lead Agency staff (infant and toddler leads)
- ◆ Technical assistance staff
- ◆ Federal staff
- ◆ Other





Objectives

Increase understanding
of requirements and
flexibilities

Identify potential
strategies for equitable
distribution

Share current strategies
using grants and
contracts





Definitions

“Grants” and “contracts” are terms used interchangeably in CCDF regulations. We will use the term “contracts” in this presentation.

A contract is a legal term that defines agreed-upon services in exchange for money. It typically specifies time periods and conditions the recipient must meet to receive the funds and be in compliance.





Why Focus on Infants and Toddlers?

Nearly half of all U.S. children younger than 3 years of age are cared for in a regular child care arrangement.

75 percent of toddlers in center care and 93 percent in home-based care are in low- or mediocre-quality care settings.

4.6 percent of eligible families with infants and toddlers are served by CCDF subsidies.

Sources: National Survey of Early Care and Education. (2019). *Tables on households' ECE usage and cost to parents*. NORC at the University of Chicago. <https://www.norc.org/Research/Projects/Pages/national-survey-of-early-care-and-education.aspx>

Zero to Three. (2022). *The state of babies yearbook: 2022*. <https://stateofbabies.org/>





Benefits of Using Contracts

Supply building

Higher quality plan

Comprehensive services





Contracts for Direct Service Slots

Lead Agencies can contract directly with child care providers OR with a partner agency that contracts directly with child care providers.

Strong relationships with Lead Agency budget and procurement partners facilitate good contracting practices.

Although providers may need to meet specific qualification requirements, lengthy procurement processes may be avoided when Lead Agencies contract directly with child care providers.





Contracts for System Building

Although Lead Agencies retain overall responsibility for the administration of the CCDF program and remain the single point of contact, they have broad authority to use contracts with other public and private entities to implement the CCDF program.

Contracts incorporating CCDF program elements (for example, eligibility and determination) are typically considered subrecipient contracts and pass along the accompanying CCDF accountability requirements.





Contracts for Quality Enhancements

Recruitment and retention

Business practices

Quality improvement systems

Extend comprehensive services

Infant/toddler specialist networks

Promote workforce wellness programs

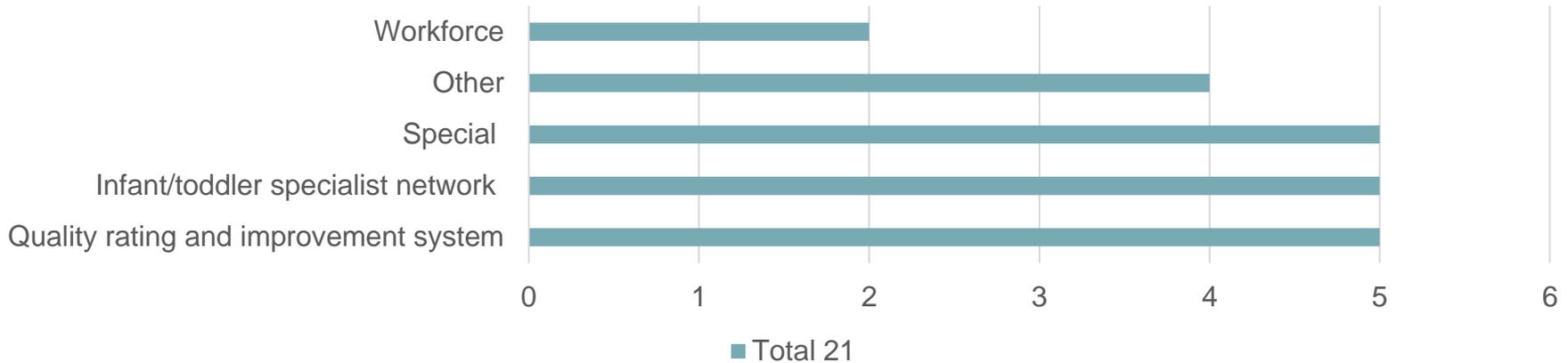
21 States or territories report they are currently using grants or contracts to increase the supply or quality or both of care for infants and toddlers.





Categories of Spending on Quality

Quality Enhancements





Contracts for Professional Development

Trainings or higher education

Mental health consultation

Wellness programs

Coaching and TA

Apprenticeship programs

Career pathways

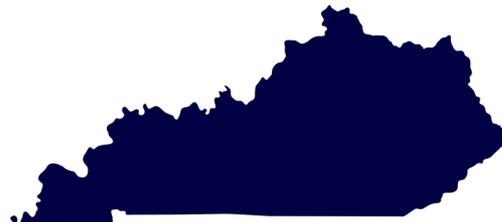




Kentucky

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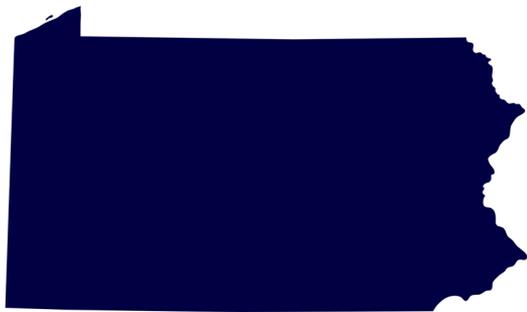


Pennsylvania

Deb Wise

Chief, Division of Standards and Professional Development

Pennsylvania Department of Education and Human Services,
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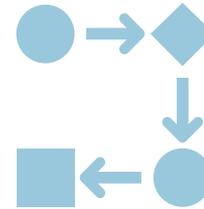




Next Steps



What did you hear that sparked new thinking?



What do you need to move forward?



Resources

- ◆ [Grantee Internal Controls Self-Assessment Instrument](#) (2021), NCSIA, “Audits and Monitoring” section, provides assistance with evaluating internal controls and reducing payment errors related to use of contracts and grants.
- ◆ [Program Integrity: Sample Data Sharing MOU](#) (2019), NCSIA, provides assistance in developing a data-sharing memorandum of understanding (MOU) with contractors and subrecipients.
- ◆ [Contracting in the Child Care System: Key Steps to Support Equity and Accountability](#) (2021), Urban Institute, provides information on key steps supporting equity in contracting.





Resources

- ◆ [*Using Contracts and Grants to Build the Supply of High Quality Child Care: State Strategies and Practices*](#) (2016), NCSIA and SCBC, provides information on state and territory efforts to use contracts and grants with providers, beginning with an overview of states and territories whose 2016–18 CCDF Plans indicate that they are currently using contracts and grants.
- ◆ [*Implementation Guide: Strategies to Support Use of Contracts for Child Care Slots*](#) (2021), Office of Child Care, focuses on commonly reported concerns regarding the use of contracts for child care slots, strategies to overcome those concerns, and additional considerations for designing and implementing contracts.





Resources

- ◆ [*Using Grants and Contracts to Build the Supply of Infant and Toddler Care for Families Experiencing Homelessness*](#) (2017), SCBC, offers a brief on grants and contracts to build the supply of infant and toddler care for families experiencing homelessness.
- ◆ [*Infant/Toddler Child Care System Policies and Practices: A Tool for Strengthening Infant/Toddler Care Quality*](#) (2021), SCBC, supports state child care leaders and infant and toddler partners as they assess, prioritize, plan, implement, and evaluate state policies to strengthen the quality of child care services received by infants, toddlers, and their families.





Thank You

