

Preparing for Your CCDF Plan: Required Equal Access Data



A Market Rate Survey (MRS)
(a statistically valid/reliable study of prices)



An ACF Pre-approved Alternative Methodology (AM) (a statistically valid and reliable study of costs) can be conducted in lieu of a MRS. A Narrow Cost Analysis must still be conducted.

Those hoping to conduct an AM need to seek and obtain approval from their regional office prior to embarking on such a study. Those considering an AM in lieu of a market rate survey should consider what data they would glean from such a study that they could not learn by conducting a more rigorous Narrow Cost Analysis.



A Narrow Cost Analysis

Evaluate costs through:

1. Estimating
2. Surveying or
3. Modeling

Analyze gap between subsidy rate and costs for base level and higher quality care, as defined by state



A Narrow Cost Analysis includes determining providers' costs for the care they offer and comparing that to the subsidy rates for base and higher quality care. Lead Agencies determine the weight they assign to costs of care when setting their rates based on the rigor of the Narrow Cost Analysis. The Narrow Cost Analysis can be conducted independent from a market rate survey.

Gather Additional Data

(This data may be gathered as part of a MRS or AM, or through other means.)

On the extent providers participate in subsidy program and any barriers to participation

On the extent that providers charge additional amounts to parents beyond the co-payment (size and frequency)

On providers' generally-accepted payment practices if you do not pay based on full and part time and do not pay for reasonable mandatory registration fees

Publish Detailed Report

Includes:

Results of Market Rate Survey or ACF Pre-approved Alternative Methodology

Estimated cost for base level and higher quality care at each level of quality (Narrow Cost Analysis)

Response to Stakeholders comments

Is posted within 30 days of completion

Gathering and analyzing data is one step in setting rates. The next step, establishing payment rates, is a process that varies by Lead Agency and involves multiple stakeholders who evaluate and make decisions based on this data.