



Health and Safety Resource List: Standards, Policies, and Monitoring Systems

Introduction

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) final rule outlines regulations for implementing the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 and administering the CCDF program, including provisions to protect the health and safety of children in care. The final rule strengthens health and safety requirements for programs receiving CCDF funds. All American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) CCDF grantees, regardless of their grant allocation size, are required to meet the health and safety requirements in the final rule.

This resource list provides information on standards and monitoring systems in AI/AN CCDF child care programs to assist AI/AN CCDF grantees with meeting final rule requirements.

CCDF Final Rule Requirements for Standards and Monitoring

The CCDF final rule requires AI/AN CCDF grantees to develop and implement health and safety standards for 11 required health and safety topics, as well as child-caregiver ratios and group-size limits. AI/AN CCDF grantees should develop health and safety standards for their own programs and determine how they will implement each of the final rule requirements. The health and safety standards that are developed and implemented should be appropriate to provider type and the ages of children served. The final rule also requires grantees to have monitoring systems in place for each required component to verify that the requirements are being fully implemented.

Resource Title	Description
"Briefs About Health and Safety Topics"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Briefs by the National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance (ECQA Center) ◆ Each brief explores one of the required health and safety topics ◆ Each brief introduces the topic, shares considerations for child care standards, and offers examples
"Ensuring the Health and Safety of Children in American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) CCDF Programs"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Webinar by the National Center on Tribal Early Childhood Development (NCTECD) ◆ Introduces health and safety requirements for AI/AN CCDF grantees ◆ Includes an overview of each required health and safety topic and implementation considerations for developing standards

Existing Health and Safety Standards

AI/AN CCDF grantees have the flexibility to design CCDF standards that meet the unique needs of their providers and the communities they serve. AI/AN CCDF grantees may choose to design their own standards, adopt existing standards, or adapt existing standards.

Resource Title	Description
<u><i>Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, 3rd edition</i></u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A list of 686 standards from the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education ◆ Represents best health and safety practices in child care settings ◆ Serves as a reference for grantees to explore existing standards when designing, adapting, or adopting their own standards
<u><i>Caring for Our Children Basics: Health and Safety Foundations for Early Care and Education, 3rd edition (CFOCB)</i></u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Resource published by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) that is based on the full <i>Caring for Our Children</i> resource ◆ Represents the minimum health and safety standards for early care and education that experts believe should be in place ◆ Serves as a reference for grantees to explore existing standards when designing, adapting, or adopting their own standards
<u>“Early Learning Program Accreditation Standards and Assessment Items”</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Early childhood program standards from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) ◆ Provides NAEYC’s accreditation standards related to all aspects of early childhood programs, including standards for health and physical environment ◆ Serves as a reference for grantees to explore existing standards when designing, adapting, or adopting their own standards
<u>“Head Start Program Performance Standards”</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Program standards for Head Start (HS) programs published by ACF ◆ Outlines requirements for HS grantees related to education, health, mental health, nutrition, and family and community engagement services, as well as standards for local program governance and aspects of federal administration of the program ◆ Serves as a reference for CCDF grantees to explore existing standards when designing, adapting, or adopting their own standards
<u><i>Minimum Health and Safety Standards: A Guide for American Indian and Alaska Native Child Care and Development Fund Grantees</i></u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Recommended minimum standards published by ACF for AI/AN CCDF grantees, based on CFOCB and the CCDF final rule ◆ Incorporates AI/AN customs and traditions into standards ◆ Serves as a reference for grantees to explore existing standards when designing, adapting, or adopting their own standards

Developing, Revising, or Aligning Standards

AI/AN CCDF grantees should assess their current standards to determine whether they are aligned to the new CCDF final rule requirements. Grantees may need to develop new standards or update existing standards to ensure that they are in compliance with the final rule.

Resource Title	Description
<u><i>Caring for Our Children Basics Health and Safety Standards Alignment Tool for Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Homes</i></u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Tool developed by the ECQA Center ◆ Outlines each standard in CFOCB ◆ Provides an opportunity to compare current requirements and standards against the recommended health and safety standards in CFOCB
<u><i>National Program Standards Crosswalk Tool</i></u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Tool developed by the ECQA Center ◆ Provides a searchable database of national program standards for early childhood learning and development programs, such as Head Start, CCDF, and <i>Caring for Our Children</i> ◆ Allows users to explore and compare national program standards by topic
<u><i>Resources and Tools for Revising and Aligning Early Childhood Program Standards</i></u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Webinar by the ECQA Center ◆ Includes information about revising early childhood program standards ◆ Explores the various tools and resources that are available to assist with revising or aligning standards

Health and Safety Policies and Procedures

The CCDF final rule requires AI/AN CCDF grantees to have written policies and procedures in place to clearly communicate program information. This includes having policies and procedures to support the implementation of health and safety standards, training, and monitoring.

Resource Title	Description
<u><i>“Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Policies Database, 2008–2018”</i></u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Resource from ACF’s Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation ◆ Includes policies for states’ and territories’ child care subsidy programs under CCDF, including policies on provider requirements ◆ Provides a way for grantees to explore existing policies when designing, adapting, or adopting their own
<u><i>“Monitoring Appendix G. Complaint Policy Guidelines”</i></u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Resource from NCTECD (part of the <u><i>“American Indian and Alaska Native Child Care and Development Fund Monitoring Toolkit”</i></u>) ◆ Provides a sample policy and procedure for provider complaints ◆ Serves as an example for grantees to use when developing their policies and procedures

Resource Title	Description
<u>Developing Written Policies and Procedures for the CCDF Program</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Webinar developed by NCTECD ◆ Introduces written CCDF policies and procedures ◆ Offers initial considerations for planning and writing policies and procedures to align to CCDF final rule requirements
<u>Model Child Care Health Policies, 5th edition</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Resource developed by the Pennsylvania chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics ◆ Contains model health policies for child care settings and includes reproducible forms, resource lists, and safety checklists ◆ Serves as a reference that helps grantees explore existing policies when designing, adapting, or adopting their own
<u>National Database of Child Care Licensing Regulations</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Tool developed by the ECQA Center ◆ Provides a searchable repository of state and territory licensing regulations and agency contact information ◆ Provides a way for grantees to reference state and territory policies when designing, adapting, or adopting their own
<u>"Monitoring Appendix E. Policy Guideline Monitoring and Enforcement"</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Resource from NCTECD (part of the <u>"American Indian and Alaska Native Child Care and Development Fund Monitoring Toolkit"</u>) ◆ Outlines key questions regarding monitoring and enforcement policies ◆ Provides considerations for grantees when developing new policies or examining existing policies
<u>"Monitoring Appendix F. Sample Monitoring and Enforcement Policy for Homes"</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Resource from NCTECD (part of the <u>"American Indian and Alaska Native Child Care and Development Fund Monitoring Toolkit"</u>) ◆ Provides a sample policy and procedure for monitoring child care homes ◆ Serves as an example for grantees to use when developing their policies and procedures

Monitoring Systems

The CCDF final rule requires AI/AN CCDF grantees to have monitoring systems in place to ensure compliance with health and safety requirements. Grantees can choose to follow the CCDF final rule provision at 45 C.F.R. § 98.42(b)(2), which outlines specific requirements for inspections of child care providers and facilities, or they can choose to monitor CCDF providers for compliance with health and safety requirements using an alternative monitoring approach. Grantees opting to use an alternative monitoring approach must provide justification for this approach in their CCDF Plan.

Resource Title	Description
<u>Developing Child Care Monitoring and Enforcement Systems: A Guide for American Indian and Alaska Native Grantees</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Guide developed by NCTECD ◆ Outlines the parts of a monitoring and enforcement system and describes monitoring skills, tools, and strategies ◆ Provides resources to use with each part of the monitoring process, such as checklists, policies, and sample letters

Resource Title	Description
<u><i>Developing Child Care Monitoring and Enforcement Systems for American Indian and Alaska Native Child Care and Development Fund Programs</i></u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Webinar developed by NCTECD ◆ Provides information on monitoring requirements in the CCDF final rule and focuses on the components of an effective monitoring and enforcement system ◆ Focuses on standards, policies and procedures, licensing, monitoring, and enforcement
<u><i>“Health and Safety Requirements: How Do You Maintain Compliance?”</i></u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Presentation by the ECQA Center and the National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness (ECHW Center) ◆ Explores the various types of state, national, and federal standards that providers are required to meet ◆ Provides an overview of trends in licensing, CCDF, Head Start, and quality rating and improvement system standards

Monitoring Child Care Centers and Homes

AI/AN CCDF grantees are required to monitor providers for compliance with health and safety requirements. Monitoring visits ensure that providers are meeting critical health and safety standards so that children are protected from harm and receive care that is safe and healthy and helps them prepare for school and life.

Resource Title	Description
<u><i>Monitoring Child Care Centers and Child Care Homes</i></u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Webinar by NCTECD ◆ Focuses on skills and strategies for conducting monitoring visits ◆ Includes strategies for planning monitoring activities, conducting monitoring visits, working with providers, and developing monitoring and communication skills
<u><i>Monitoring Child Care Centers: A Guide for American Indian and Alaska Native Grantees</i></u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Guide developed by NCTECD ◆ Outlines skills, tools, and strategies for monitoring child care centers ◆ Includes sample monitoring forms, policies, and checklists, as well as an accompanying <u>“Monitoring Tribal Child Care Homes”</u> video to demonstrate monitoring skills
<u><i>Monitoring Child Care Homes: A Guide for American Indian and Alaska Native Grantees</i></u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Guide developed by NCTECD ◆ Outlines skills, tools, and strategies for monitoring child care homes ◆ Includes sample monitoring forms, checklists, and policies, as well as an accompanying <u>“Monitoring Child Care Centers”</u> video and <u>“Monitoring Your Tribal CCDF Center”</u> video to demonstrate monitoring skills

Assessments and Checklists for Compliance

AI/AN CCDF grantees should develop and implement monitoring assessments to document whether providers are meeting health and safety requirements. Having monitoring checklists will support successful monitoring and provide consistency across visits by clearly outlining the requirements that providers must meet, ensuring all requirements are assessed, and providing a way to document compliance or areas for improvement.

Resource Title	Description
<u><i>Caring for Our Children Basics: Program Review Tool for Center-Based Programs and Family Child Care Homes</i></u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Tool created by the ECHW Center ◆ Lists health and safety standards for child care based on CFOCB ◆ Provides a form to assess current health and safety practices, identify areas for improvement, and develop next steps
<u><i>Health and Safety Checklist for Early Care and Education Programs: Based on Caring for Our Children National Health and Safety Performance Standards, 3rd edition</i></u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Tool created by the California Childcare Health Program ◆ Provides a comprehensive health and safety monitoring checklist for center-based providers based on <i>Caring for Our Children</i> ◆ Includes a fillable format that can be completed via computer or tablet
<u><i>Health and Safety Checklist for Home-Based (Family Child Care Home) Child Care Providers</i></u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Tool developed by the Pennsylvania chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics as part of the Early Childhood Education Linkage System ◆ Offers a checklist to assist with finding hazards and identifying needed improvements ◆ Provides a health and safety tool specifically for use with home-based providers

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