



# National Center on Tribal Early Childhood Development

## Disaster Preparedness Series: Session 3 – Guidelines for Continuation of Child Care Subsidies and Services

# Objectives

## ◆ Participants will

- gain knowledge on how to incorporate guidelines for continuation of child care subsidies and child care services;
- participate in a peer-to-peer learning environment to learn from other Tribal Lead Agencies; and
- explore resources for temporary operating standards.

# Poll Question

- ◆ Does your community have a Disaster Plan that covers the Tribe's service area, including the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program and providers?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Still researching
  - Not sure

## 2.4.2: Continuation of Child Care Subsidies and Child Care Services

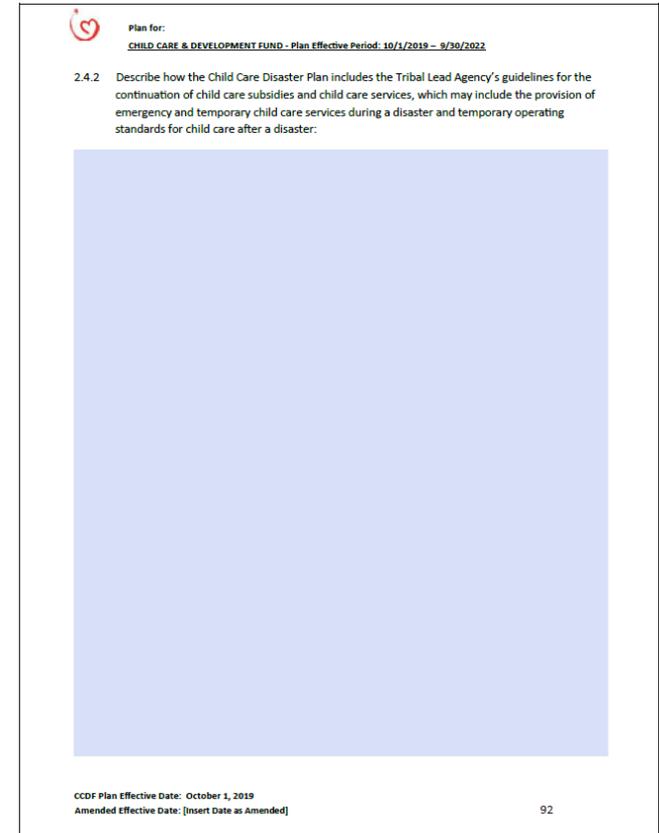
- ◆ This includes the following:
  - "Provision of emergency and temporary child care services during a disaster"
  - "Temporary operating standards for child care after a disaster"
- ◆ Tribal Lead Agencies have flexibility "to adapt policies in order to maintain continuity of services for families affected by a disaster."

Source: Office of Child Care. (2017). *Statewide disaster plan (or disaster plan for a tribe's service area) for child care* (CCDF-ACF-IM-2017-01), p. 4. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/im-2017-01>

# Tribal Lead Agency Role

- ◆ “2.4 Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan” of the CCDF Tribal Plan Preprint states the following:
  - “Describe how the Child Care Disaster Plan includes the Tribal Lead Agency’s guidelines for the continuation of child care subsidies and child care services, which may include the provision of emergency and temporary child care services during a disaster and temporary operating standards for child care after a disaster:”



Source: Office of Child Care. (2019). *Fiscal year 2020–2022 CCDF plan and plan preprint for tribes* (CCDF-ACF-PI-2019-03), p. 92. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/ccdf-acf-pi-2019-03>

# Poll Question

- ◆ Did the CCDF program continue child care services during the pandemic?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Partially

*If no, please share what options you could consider moving forward to maintain services.*

# Continuation of Child Care Subsidies and Child Care Services

Tribal Lead Agencies must have a plan in place for families receiving CCDF benefits

- ◆ "to perform essential functions" and
- ◆ "achieve programmatic continuity during and after an emergency or disaster."



Source: Office of Child Care. (2017). *Statewide disaster plan (or disaster plan for a tribe's service area) for child care* (CCDF-ACF-IM-2017-01), p. 4. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.  
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/im-2017-01>

# Essential Functions

- ◆ "(i) continuing payments to child care providers serving children receiving subsidies;
- ◆ (ii) provisions for extending eligibility re-determination for families;
- ◆ (iii) communication with the licensing agency to ensure that licensed programs receiving CCDF funds are safe and operational;"

Source: Office of Child Care. (2017). *Statewide disaster plan (or disaster plan for a tribe's service area) for child care* (CCDF-ACF-IM-2017-01), p. 4. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/im-2017-01>

## Essential Functions, cont.

- ◆ "(iv) assisting new enrollees or preparing for an influx of families who may need assistance;
- ◆ (v) implementation of a waiting list if the Lead Agency does not have one, as appropriate; and
- ◆ (vi) tracking families receiving subsidies impacted by the disaster."

Source: Office of Child Care. (2017). *Statewide disaster plan (or disaster plan for a tribe's service area) for child care* (CCDF-ACF-IM-2017-01), p. 4. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/im-2017-01>

# Poll Question

- ◆ Did you provide emergency child care for essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic?
  - Yes
  - No

*If yes, please share your experience or one lesson learned.*

# Provision of Emergency and Temporary Child Care Services During a Disaster

Emergency child care can

- ◆ “be provided in a variety of settings including shelters, schools, and other non-permanent facilities,”
- ◆ “protect children from disaster-related hazards,” and
- ◆ support families who need “temporary relief in the immediate aftermath of a disaster.”

Source: Office of Child Care. (2017). *Statewide disaster plan (or disaster plan for a tribe's service area) for child care* (CCDF-ACF-IM-2017-01), p. 5. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/im-2017-01>

# Temporary Operating Standards for Child Care

Temporary child care does the following:

- ◆ "Often occurs in non-traditional settings"
- ◆ "May require modifying regulatory or licensing standards"
- ◆ Can require development of regulatory standards specific to operating emergency or temporary child care
- ◆ Helps reduce barriers for needed services

Source: Office of Child Care. (2017). *Statewide disaster plan (or disaster plan for a tribe's service area) for child care* (CCDF-ACF-IM-2017-01), p. 6. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/im-2017-01>

# Poll Question

- ◆ Does the Tribal Lead Agency have temporary standards for child care?
  - Yes
  - No
  - No, but I would like to explore creating temporary standards

# Guidance



- ◆ Standards and Indicators for Disaster Shelter Care for Children a resource for early education and child care providers, child care health consultants, pediatricians, and others working to strengthen disaster preparedness in child care programs.

Source: American Academy of Pediatrics. (n.d.). Child care providers. In *Children & disasters: Disaster preparedness to meet children's needs*. <https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/Children-and-Disasters/Pages/Child-Care-Providers.aspx>

# Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act or “CARES Act”

## ◆ Key takeaways:

- "Have been provided to State, Territory, and Tribal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Lead Agencies.
- May be used to provide continued payments and assistance to child care providers in the case of decreased enrollment or closures related to coronavirus, and to assure they are able to remain open or to reopen.
- Can be used to provide child care assistance to health care sector employees, emergency responders, sanitation workers, and other workers deemed essential during the response to the coronavirus, without regard to the income eligibility requirements.

Source: Office of Child Care. (2020). *Summary of child care provisions of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act or "CARES Act,"* para. 2. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/summary-of-child-care-provisions-of-cares-act>

# CARES Act, cont.

- "Shall be available to eligible CCDF providers (e.g., meeting health and safety requirements, or eligible relative providers), even if such providers were not receiving CCDF assistance prior to the public health emergency as a result of the coronavirus, for the purposes of cleaning and sanitation, and other activities necessary to maintain or resume the operation of programs.
- May be used for any other allowable CCDF uses."

Source: Office of Child Care. (2020). *Summary of child care provisions of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act or "CARES Act,"* para. 2. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/summary-of-child-care-provisions-of-cares-act>

# Share

- ◆ Please share one way you are using your CARES Act funding to continue providing child care subsidies and child care services.



# Louisiana's Experience

Emergency Preparedness,  
Response, and Recovery  
Disaster Response: Baton Rouge  
Flooding 2016



CHILD CARE  
State Capacity Building Center

## Continuation of Child Care Services: Louisiana's Experience

This brief is part of the Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery (EPRR) discussion brief series. These briefs are provided to Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) grantees and their partners to offer guidance regarding strategies and options for consideration in the development of state and territory child care disaster plans.

The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 requires Lead Agencies to develop state- and territory-wide child care disaster plans. These plans must demonstrate how each state and territory will address the needs of children—including the need for safe child care—before, during, and after a major disaster or emergency, including a state of emergency declared by the governor.

Specific requirements for these plans include guidelines for continuation of child care subsidies and child care services, which may include the provision of emergency and temporary child care services and temporary operating standards for child care providers during and after a disaster. Lead Agencies must also describe how they will coordinate postdisaster recovery of child care services.

This discussion brief describes how the Louisiana CCDF Lead Agency responded to the issue of continuation of child care services in the face of a large-scale disaster (see box). This brief highlights CCDF and Lead Agency flexibility following disaster as well as interagency collaboration.

### Response

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) is the CCDF Lead Agency in Louisiana. In addition, through local community networks, LDE has engaged public prekindergarten programs and Head Start grantees to meet standardized requirements for publicly funded early childhood programs.

Although more than 40 percent of LDE staff members were themselves affected by the flooding, the Office of Early Childhood issued a memo on August 19, 2016, titled "Serving Displaced Birth to Age Five Children." This memo, along with the accompanying "Request for a Waiver from the Office of Early Childhood," described the need for waivers to regulations on licensing, subsidy, and program standards and accountability, as well as the process for requesting such waivers.

### 2016 Baton Rouge Flood

- Beginning on August 11, 6.9 trillion gallons of rain fell in one week. In one area, more than 31 inches of rain fell in 15 hours.<sup>1</sup>
- East Baton Rouge, Ascension, Livingston, and Tangipahoa Parishes saw the most widespread flooding. In all, it's estimated that 50,000 to 75,000 structures flooded, according to the National Weather Service, and 13 people died in the flood.<sup>2</sup>
- 20,000 people and 1,000 pets were rescued by civilians, emergency responders, the Coast Guard, and the National Guard.<sup>3</sup>
- 106,000 individuals and households have registered for Federal Emergency Management Agency assistance.<sup>4</sup>

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September 2017

1

Source: Office of Child Care. (2017). *Continuation of child care services: Louisiana's experience*, p. 1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. <https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/resource/continuation-child-care-services-louisianas-experience>

# Louisiana's Experience Highlight

## Temporary Location

- ◆ "A number of programs requested waivers to allow them to use space not previously licensed for child care. Personnel from licensing and the SFM, as well as the Department of Health's Sanitarian Services office, conducted site visits and, where appropriate, provided capacity and time-limited approvals."

Source: Office of Child Care. (2017). *Continuation of child care services: Louisiana's experience*, p. 2. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. <https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/resource/continuation-child-care-services-louisianas-experience>

# Discussion

- ◆ What type of plan did the Tribal community have in place to perform essential functions and achieve programmatic continuity?
  - Example: COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

# Questions



# Next Session



- ◆ Coordination of Post-Disaster Recovery of Child Care Services

# Before We Meet Again

- ◆ Read the Office of Child Care’s *Continuation of Child Care Services: Louisiana’s Experience* (<https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/resource/continuation-child-care-services-louisianas-experience>)
- ◆ Explore both of the following:
  - Office of Child Care’s “Appendix B: Emergency Preparedness and Response Resources for Child Care” (<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/im-2017-01-appendix-b>)
  - American Academy of Pediatrics’ “Child Care Providers” web page (<https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/Children-and-Disasters/Pages/Child-Care-Providers.aspx>)
- ◆ Visit the Office of Child Care’s “Summary of Child Care Provisions of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act or ‘CARES Act’” web page (<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/summary-of-child-care-provisions-of-cares-act>)

# Resources

- ◆ *Continuation of Child Care Services: Louisiana's Experience* (2017), Office of Child Care, <https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/resource/continuation-child-care-services-louisianas-experience>
- ◆ *Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as Amended, and Related Authorities as of June 2019*, Federal Emergency Management Agency, <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/15271>

# Resources, cont.

- ◆ *Statewide Disaster Plan (or Disaster Plan for a Tribe’s Service Area) for Child Care* (CCDF-ACF-IM-2017-01) (2017), Office of Child Care, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/im-2017-01>
  - “Appendix A: Checklist for Developing Child Care Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans” (2017), Office of Child Care, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/im-2017-01-appendix-a>
  - “Appendix B: Emergency Preparedness and Response Resources for Child Care” (2017), Office of Child Care, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/im-2017-01-appendix-b>
- ◆ “Summary of Child Care Provisions of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act or ‘CARES Act’” (2020), Office of Child Care, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/summary-of-child-care-provisions-of-cares-act>

**National Center on Tribal Early Childhood Development,  
A Service of the Office of Child Care**

9300 Lee Highway  
Fairfax, VA 22031  
Phone: 877-296-2401

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