

**Families with Children Experiencing Homelessness
FY2019-FY2021 Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plans**

Excerpts from: CCDF state plan sections mentioning homeless, including direct responses related to questions about strategies to support families experiencing homelessness

Alabama	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) houses the McKinney-Vento State Coordinator for Homeless Education. The coordination with ALSDE McKinney-Vento State Coordinator has led to training on Subsidy Program eligibility and services for city and county homeless liaisons and training for Child Care Management Agencies and Quality Enhancement Agencies on the coordination of priority eligibility policy for homeless families. The State McKinney-Vento State coordinator is a member of the Child Care Coordinating Committee. The Child Care Coordinating Committee makes recommendations to the lead agency on the array of child care services offered by the lead agency.
Section 3.1.5., Additional eligibility conditions or priority rules	Homeless individuals, as defined by the Lead agency's subsidy policy, may receive priority services (not subject to the waiting list) for up to 90 days to prove eligibility. Minor parents (parents under the age 18) may qualify for priority services should they meet an allowable activity.
Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families	Families are allowed up to 90 days of service to allow time to obtain required documentation to establish eligibility. The Lead Agency is conducting outreach to homeless families by providing information on the program to the Homeless Liaisons across the state. The State Homeless Coordinator has provided training and technical assistance to contracted Quality Enhancement Agencies to assist providers in identifying and serving these families. These agencies provide assistance to child care providers in their efforts to serve homeless families. Training is provided to Child Care Management Agencies to assist these agencies in identification of homeless families and making referral to community resources.
Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Sec. 6.2.5 and Section 6.2.6 Supporting homeless families	The lead agency collaborates with the Alabama Department of Education, Homeless Liaison to bring training to Child Care Management Agency eligibility staff as they work with families who may be experiencing homelessness. Training is presented to quality enhancement agencies staff to help them in identify training objectives and connections to provide TA to providers who work with families experiencing homelessness.
Alaska	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	The CCDF Lead Agency, Child Care Program Office (CCPO), has conducted outreach to the McKinney-Vento state coordinator and local liaisons and provides Child Care Assistance and Alaska Inclusive Child Care Program information to the school coordinators statewide. Goals include increased awareness of programs administered by the CCDF Lead Agency and opportunity for increased collaboration and coordination with the McKinney-Vento state coordinator and local McKinney-Vento liaisons during the 2019-2021 CCDF plan cycle.
Section 3.1.5., Additional eligibility conditions or priority rules	None listed. However, Under section 3.2.2. homeless children are not placed on a waiting list.
Section 3.2.5., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families	Per Child Care Assistance Program regulation 7 AAC 41.315(d) and Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual section 4030-6 4., when a family identifies they are homeless on their application or during their interview and they meet all other factors of eligibility, they will be approved for program participation for the month of application and the following month prior to submitting required verification of: government issued photo identification for the parents of the family; proof of the child's age and citizenship or alien status; and proof of child custody.

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	<p>Outreach is conducted by partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care. Outreach is also conducted to homeless families by distributing information and brochures to homeless shelters; collaborating with the McKinney-Vento statewide coordinator; and providing a resource list on the Child Care Program Office (CCPO) website.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.6, Grace period for documents</p>	<p>Children experiencing homelessness as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a) (98-2) may be enrolled for not more than 30 days if the child's immunization records are not immediately available. The CCDF Lead Agency, the Child Care Program Office (CCPO) established this grace period in collaboration with the Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, Epidemiology. Families may be referred to local public health facilities for assistance in obtaining necessary immunizations or at the parent's request, assistance will be provided in obtaining records from the Division of Public Health, Epidemiology.</p>
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Sec. 6.2.5. and 6.2.6 Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>Alaska's Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, provides training to child care providers. Some thread staff who deliver training have received trainings themselves on indicators to assist them in identifying and serving families experiencing homelessness, so they are able to incorporate that knowledge into trainings they deliver to child care providers. Additionally, there are resources on the Child Care Program Office (CCPO) website to assist any staff, grantee, or child care provider in being responsive to families experiencing homelessness. Information was presented to Child Care Assistance Program grantees that administer the program and some CCPO staff who work in the program during the Local Administrators teleconference on August 25, 2016. Child Care Assistance brochures were emailed to all the school district McKinney-Vento liaisons asking them to share our information with a particular focus on reaching families who are experiencing homelessness.</p>
<p>American Samoa</p>	<p>No 2019-2021 CCDF State plan is posted.</p>
<p>Arizona</p>	
<p>Section 1.4, Coordination with partners</p>	<p>Child care for children residing in homeless or domestic violence shelters is available via contract to licensed child care programs operating in homeless or domestic violence shelters. The funding is inclusive of all costs associated with the delivery of this service, which includes training of teachers and other staff and obtaining and retaining national accreditation or the Quality First Star Rating in the quality level for the child care program. Through these contracts, the Department of Economic Security (DES) is able to work with the contractors who provide child care for children and assist their parents or guardians in attaining necessary life-skill training and obtaining employment to become self-sufficient.</p> <p>DES eligibility workers screen for homelessness during the eligibility determination process in order to appropriately refer homeless families to shelters with onsite child care programs and to determine eligibility and authorize services to accommodate shelter directed activities.</p>
<p>Section 3.1.5., Additional eligibility conditions or priority rules</p>	<p>None listed. But, under Section 3.2.2., DES has prioritized homeless families residing in homeless shelters above all others when funding becomes limited; these families are not subject to our waiting list.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality</p>	<p>DES has prioritized homeless families residing in homeless shelters above all others when funding becomes limited; these families are not subject to our waiting</p>

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child care for homeless families	list. The child care providers work with families including homeless families to provide additional time to meet immunization requirements. The Lead Agency has entered into contracts with five (5) residential homeless/domestic violence shelters for the purpose of providing child care services to be conducted at the site of a residential or homeless and/or domestic violence shelter that provides employment and education case management. If a child's immunization record indicates that the enrolled child has not received an age-appropriate immunization required by 9 A.A.C. 6, Article 7, a period of 15 days is given to a parent/guardian to collect the record.
Section 4.1.3. Child care services through grants or contracts	The Lead Agency will use grants or contracts for child care services to increase the quality of specific types of care: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serving homeless families.
Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families	Staff are provided training and on-going Technical Assistance and policy updates relating to statewide standard process for verification of an eligible activity when the client is unavailable to care for their child for a portion of the day due to participation in domestic violence shelter or homeless shelter directed activities (CCA 2-07-01-02 Verification of Unable/Unavailable Status), and general eligibility for families experiencing homelessness (DCFE 3-01-11-01 General Eligibility Criteria.)
Arkansas	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	DCCECE (Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education) plans to work with the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) homeless coordinator to facilitate the transition of children from early learning environments to schools. DCCECE will also partner with Arkansas Out of School Network (AOSN) to review and ensure that school days are optimized to ensure the successful transition and alignment.
Section 3.1.5., Additional eligibility conditions or priority rules	Homeless children or youth are defined as; children or youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate night time residence including: sharing housing with others, living in motels, hotels, trailer parts, or camping grounds, living in emergency or transitional shelters, or living in a public or private place not designed for humans to live. Homeless families do not have to meet the same income and work eligibility requirements as other families. Only a child care assistance application is needed to authorize care, Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) will work with families through case management practices to get the additional eligibility requirements. Prioritization for child care assistance are given to TANF, children in foster care, children with disabilities, teen parents, grandparents, and homeless families. Applicable waivers are given to this priority population with very low incomes at or below the federal poverty level.
Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families	Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize for enrollment • Serve without placing these populations on waiting lists • Waive copayments

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	This group is given priority over other CCDF-eligible families. Program Eligibility Specialist provides community outreach efforts to homeless shelters across the state and partnerships are established. Staff are assigned to various homeless shelters in various areas of the state to ensure access to services.
Section 3.2.5, Prioritization	Eligibility requirements are waived for children who are homeless and those who are in foster care. The Family Support Specialist provides case management services to obtain the information to establish eligibility. Family Support Specialist provides community outreach efforts to homeless shelters across the state and partnerships are established. Staff are assigned to various homeless shelters in various areas of the state to ensure access to services.
Section 3.2.6, Grace period for documents	The CCDF Program Eligibility Specialists allows 10 to 15 business days for families to schedule a Health and Wellness visit and works with the family to get all necessary documents to complete the eligibility requirements including pulling information from integrated systems.
Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families	The McKinney-Vento Act seeks to address the challenges that homeless children and youths may face in enrolling, attending and succeeding in school. In section 4.5.1 of the Family Support Procedures Manual, the Lead Agency addresses how we will address homeless families. Homeless families are a priority population for CCDF. Arkansas contracts for training that supports vulnerable populations, such as homeless families. Strengthening Families is one example. This training identifies five Protective Factors: Parental Resilience, Social Connections, Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development, Concrete Support in Times of Need, and Social and Emotional Competence of Children, that can be used to support all families including those experiencing homelessness.
California	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	<p>The CDE (California Department of Education) houses the McKinney-Vento state coordinator, who works with the early learning and care programs to continue collaboration and coordination on the homeless education program. Within the CDE, the CHSSCO (California Head Start State Collaboration Office) and the EESD (Early Education and Support Division) have shared responsibilities through federal law to coordinate and collaborate at the state level to provide information and resources to best serve California’s most vulnerable population, including children and families who are homeless. The outcome of this CDE internal partnership is to foster and encourage local connections and outreach to homeless children and families by providing education and resources to the field. The CDE meets regularly with CDE’s federal McKinney-Vento liaison to coordinate and align policies across the continuum and, as appropriate, with the CHSSCO.</p> <p>In addition, most subsidized child care programs administered by the CDE, including those supported by the CCDF, follow the eligibility and need criteria described in EC, Section 8263 which includes access for homeless children. The CDE provides resources and training on the definition of homelessness (according to McKinney-Vento), identification, and services to homeless children and their families.</p>
Section 3.1.5., Additional eligibility conditions or priority rules	See Section 3.2.1.
Section 3.2.1., Prioritized or	Subsidized child care programs administered by the CDE, including those supported by the CCDF, follow the eligibility and need criteria described in California EC, Section 8263 (partial citation included below), including homeless children and families.

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targeted child care services	<p>Pursuant to California EC, Section 8263:</p> <p>(a) The Superintendent shall adopt rules and regulations on eligibility, enrollment, and priority of services needed to implement this chapter. In order to be eligible for federal and state subsidized child development services, families shall meet at least one requirement in each of the following areas:</p> <p>(1) A family is: (A) a current aid recipient, (B) income eligible, (C) homeless, or (D) one whose children are recipients of protective services, or whose children have been identified as being abused, neglected, or exploited, or at risk of being abused, neglected, or exploited.</p> <p>(2) A family needs the child care services: (A) because the child is identified by a legal, medical, or social services agency, or emergency shelter as (i) a recipient of protective services or (ii) being neglected, abused, or exploited, or at risk of neglect, abuse, or exploitation, or (B) because the parents are (i) engaged in vocational training leading directly to a recognized trade, para-profession, or profession, (ii) employed or seeking employment, (iii) seeking permanent housing for family stability, or (iv) incapacitated.</p> <p>(b) Except as provided in Article 15.5 (commencing with Section 8350), priority for federal and state subsidized child development services is as follows:</p> <p>(1) (A) First priority shall be given to neglected or abused children who are recipients of child protective services, or children who are at risk of being neglected or abused, upon written referral from a legal, medical, or social services agency. If an agency is unable to enroll a child in the first priority category, the agency shall refer the family to local R&R services to locate services for the child.</p> <p>(B) A family who is receiving child care on the basis of being a child at risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation, as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 8208, is eligible to receive services pursuant to subparagraph (A) for up to three months, unless the family becomes eligible pursuant to subparagraph (C).</p> <p>(C) A family may receive child care services for up to 12 months on the basis of a certification by the county child welfare agency that child care services continue to be necessary or, if the child is receiving child protective services during that period of time, and the family requires child care and remains otherwise eligible. This time limit does not apply if the family's child care referral is recertified by the county child welfare agency.</p> <p>(2) Second priority shall be given equally to eligible families, regardless of the number of parents in the home, who are income eligible. Within this priority, families with the lowest gross monthly income in relation to family size, as determined by a schedule adopted by the Superintendent, shall be admitted first. If two or more families are in the same priority in relation to income, the family that has a child with exceptional needs shall be admitted first. If there is no family of the same priority with a child with exceptional needs, the same priority family that has been on the waiting list for the longest time shall be admitted first. For purposes of determining order of admission, the grants of public assistance recipients shall be counted as income.</p>
Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families	<p>The CDE recently released MB 18-03 providing directives on the definition for homeless (EC, 8208(ak)) and processes for enrolling families experiencing homelessness while required documentation is obtained. The directive provides 30 days from the time of enrollment to provide documentation enabling certification of enrollment. Additionally the MB provides resources available for working with children experiencing homelessness including contact information for Consultant and State Homeless Coordinators as well as the website information for LEAs (local education agency) homeless liaison at: https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/index.asp. The CDE website, https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy,</p>

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	<p>also provides many resources including links to related homeless legislation, sample documents, an enrollment poster, and a list-serve the public can subscribe to in order to receive ongoing information about supporting homeless children and youths in local communities.</p> <p>The CDE and the State Superintendent of Public Education goals for improving access for homeless families are to ensure that their children have full access to early learning and care services. Outreach is provided in the following means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CDE and R&R agencies provide child care information and homeless rights to all parents, providers, early learning programs, agencies, LEAs, and other agencies in a user-friendly format. Outreach can be done in person, through poster dissemination, newsletters, and other means of communication in the language necessary to meet local need. • The CDE and R&R agencies provide training to LEAs and other families regarding child care policies, procedures, and collaboration with the child care programs in their areas. This may include the LEA homeless liaisons identifying homeless children eligible for child care and providing outreach to child care providers. • The CDE and R&R agencies provide resources and phone counselor staff training on the definition of homelessness (according to McKinney-Vento), identification of need, and best practices for serving children who are homeless or about to be homeless. • The CDE will continue the collaboration and coordination between the early learning and care and the homeless education program within the Department.
Section 3.2.6, Grace period for documents	Families may receive services for up to 30 days from the date the parent signs the application for services, and the date that all supporting documentation is received for certification purposes. (MB 18-03)
Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families	The CDE is currently developing a best practices document on serving children and families who are homeless, with a focus on trauma-informed care. Once published, work will begin on training modules). The CDE staff focused on the McKinney-Vento definition to provide technical assistance. A Best Practices resource on serving children and families who are homeless (currently in development) will provide the source content for training modules that will be created and posted on CA Early Childhood Online.
Section 7.3.1., Training & Professional Development	Professional development services are prioritized to those programs serving children in high needs areas and to those participating in their local QRIS. A Best Practices document is under development on serving children and families who are homeless; this document will serve as the source document for the development on professional development modules.
Colorado	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	Coordination with the McKinney-Vento state coordinator focuses on providing increased access to child care and coordination between state and local organizations for children and families experiencing homelessness in Colorado.

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	<p>Strategies include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Strengthening connections for families experiencing homelessness with infants and toddlers to services; 2) Evaluating and strengthening trainings for CCCAP caseworkers working with families experiencing homelessness; 3) Reevaluate policies to incorporate the needs of homeless parents relative to engaging in job search, employment or training, in order to establish a stabilization period necessary for families to engage in eligible activities and provide required documentation.
<p>Section 3.1.5., Additional eligibility conditions or priority rules</p>	<p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize for enrollment • Serve without placing these populations on waiting lists • Waive copayments • Use grants or contracts to reserve slots for priority populations <p>Counties can choose to prioritize vulnerable populations such as: households below 130% FPG, teen parents, children with additional care needs, families experiencing homelessness, and other segments of the population as defined by the county based upon local need.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families</p>	<p>Families experiencing homelessness are given a minimum of a 60 day stabilization period where no verifications are required. Counties have the option to offer a stabilization period greater than 60 days.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.5., Enrollment flexibility</p>	<p>The Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) application and redetermination forms allow families to identify if they are experiencing homelessness. Households that meet the definition of "families experiencing homelessness" receive authorization for child care subsidy during a stabilization period of at least sixty (60) consecutive calendar-days, within a twelve (12) month period, to allow the household the opportunity to submit documentation, including immunization records, (3.909 9 CCR 2503-9).</p> <p>Outreach: Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents</p>	<p>In consultation with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, licensed providers have a grace period of at least 90 days to gather documentation of immunizations for children experiencing homelessness in their care. Currently, the grace period for families experiencing homelessness in license-exempt care is no less than 60 days and was developed with input from the Colorado McKinney-Vento state coordinator for homeless education and other agencies providing services for children experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>The CDHS is working to standardize the grace period for immunization documentation for licensed and license-exempt programs. The Lead Agency offers a grace period that allows children experiencing homelessness and in foster care to receive CCDF assistance while the family is taking the necessary actions to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements. Where possible, the Lead Agency collects verification from other eligibility programs where the family has provided the required information. Additionally, collateral contact is used to verify required information. Families are also referred to county</p>

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	health departments, and other partners when needed, in order to attain the required documentation.
Section 4.1.3., Contracts to increase the supply or quality of care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs to serve children with disabilities • Programs to serve infants and toddlers • Programs to serve children needing non-traditional hour care • Programs to serve children experiencing homelessness • Programs to serve children in underserved areas
Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families	<p>Colorado offers the course, Supporting Children and Families Impacted by Homelessness, through the Colorado Shines Professional Development Information System. This course reviews how to determine if a family meets the definition of being "homeless" and the services available for homeless families. It also covers what early care and learning programs can do to support children and families experiencing homelessness. After completing this course, professionals will be able to:</p> <p>Define who is considered homeless as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; dispel myths about homelessness in early learning programs; and, help families and children experiencing homelessness find local resources.</p> <p>The Provider Self Service Portal offers a help desk to access additional technical assistance if needed.</p> <p>The Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Early Childhood contracts with Child Care Resource and Referral agencies statewide. These agencies collaborate locally with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to identify and provide referrals to child care.</p> <p>Training for county supervisory and eligibility staff with the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) includes an overview of rules that relate to enrolling and serving children experiencing homelessness.</p>
Connecticut	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	The OEC (Office of Early Childhood) is engaged in ongoing and regular communication with the State McKinney-Vento Coordinator to improve the referral pathway into education programs for children experiencing homelessness. OEC is leveraging existing training utilized by McKinney-Vento liaisons to increase providers' understanding of the definition of homelessness used in the McKinney-Vento Act, and to educate providers on how to identify and care for children experiencing homelessness. The OEC requires local McKinney-Vento Liaisons to be members of local School Readiness Councils.
Section 1.6.1., Partnerships	The OEC is engaging with Coordinated Access Networks (CANs) across the state that work closely to support homeless families through shelters and shelter diversion. The CANs will help streamline the referral process to prioritize homeless families on the wait list. OEC is actively pursuing partnerships. OEC is exploring outcomes payments for prevention of homelessness (and associated child trauma) when families are diverted as well as outcomes payments when sheltered families become employed and eligible for childcare subsidy.
Section 3.1.5., Additional eligibility conditions or priority rules	<p>New legislation was recently enacted allowing the commissioner to exercise discretion in prioritizing within and between existing priority groups, including, but not limited to, children described in 45 CFR 98.46, as amended from time to time, and households with an infant or toddler. P.A. 18-.</p> <p>The current priority groups are:</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Group 1. Parents receiving TFA (Temporary Family Assistance) cash assistance who are employed or participating in an approved employment services activity and working parents who are completing an approved employment services activity that started before the family’s TFA cash assistance was discontinued pursuant to subdivision (e)(3) of section 17b-749-04 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies; • Priority Group 2. Working parents whose cash assistance benefits were discontinued within six calendar months prior to the date of application for CCAP; • Priority Group 3. Parents under the age of twenty not receiving cash assistance who attend high school; • Priority Group 4. Working parents with gross countable family income below fifty percent of the state median income; • Priority Group 5. Working parents with gross countable family income between fifty and seventy-five percent of the state median income who request assistance for a child who was adopted from the Department of Children and Families (currently inactive); and • Priority Group 6. All other working parents with gross countable family income between fifty and seventy-five percent of the state median income. (Currently inactive) <p>Due to the increase in per-family costs for the program associated with the new federal regulations, the Care 4 Kids program is likely to operate with a waitlist for services, even with the new federal funds allocated to states. Connecticut has found that operating with a waitlist has disproportionately affected infants, who begin life at the end of the waitlist under current regulations. In the past two years, six infants have died in non-licensed care and two homeless infants have died in shelters. As noted above, the OEC has successfully pursued legislation to prioritize infants and toddlers and other vulnerable groups. The OEC will act on this new authority consistent with its mission and the goals of the CCDF plan.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families</p>	<p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize for enrollment • Pay higher rates for access to higher-quality care
<p>Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility</p>	<p>Public Act 18-172 A 90 day waiver of immunization documentation is provided to families experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Connecticut is using a dedicated outreach process to inform families of the Care4Kids program. This will include "high touch" partnership to key influencers in the community, particularly those that serve the most isolated families, such as homeless families, to ensure they are aware of the program. For example, Connecticut has eight Coordinated Access Networks (CANs) which service providers work together to streamline and standardize the process for individuals and families experiencing homelessness to access assistance to resources. OEC may also increase CAN's capacity to perform the promising model of shelter diversion, including use of quality dollars for diversion support funding and outcomes payments for associated reductions in risk of child trauma and reductions in child care costs associated with entering shelter. The OEC will partner with CAN teams to refer families</p>

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	directly to the Care 4 Kids program. The OEC will also consider other strategies, such as data matching with sister state agencies to identify homeless families.
Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents	The OEC collaborates with the CT Department of Public Health to obtain children's immunization records via Connecticut's immunization system to facilitate compliance with immunization requirements readily accessible on the licensing website, thereby minimizing provider and family reporting burden to find immunization records.
Section 4.1.3., Contracts to increase the supply or quality of care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs to serve infants and toddlers • Programs to serve children needing non-traditional hour care • Programs to serve children experiencing homelessness
Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families	<p>All state funded School Readiness Councils added the local McKinney-Vento Liaison as a required member of the Council. This enables the Council to provide training and TA utilizing the McKinney-Vento Liaisons expertise to community providers. During the same time, the State's McKinney-Vento Coordinator offered training for all local McKinney -Vento Liaisons and invited local early care and education providers to attend. The OEC's, through Quality Recognition and Improvement System THRIVE!, offers an introductory training for all providers on Trauma and Families Experiencing Homelessness. This four-hour training is offered statewide and free to all providers and provides evidence-based techniques for working with these children and families. CT is a Pyramid Model State and will promote the use of Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children through training and technical assistance to child care providers.</p> <p>The OEC staff have been attending orientation sessions offered by the McKinney-Vento State Coordinator and engage further with the coordinator to expand training to other division of the OEC and the Early Childhood Cabinet.</p>
Section 7.3.1., Activities to improve the supply of child care	The OEC has multi-year contract with the O'Donnell Company to increase awareness of the Care 4 Kids programs to ensure easier access and consistent messaging: outreach to targeted groups including English as a second language, homeless , deep poverty and families with new infants. Strategies include press outreach, Google ads, Facebook, community newspapers in English and Spanish, billboard and bus cards and shelter ads in major cities.
Delaware	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	The lead agency has a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Education, which coordinates activities implemented through CCDF. DOE is the agency that houses the McKinney-Vento coordinator. Through the University of Delaware, Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood Education the state has the State developed "Supporting Children When They Are Homeless," a free three-hour training offered online through www.depdnow.com. This course provides staff with an understanding of homelessness as defined by the McKinney-Vento act, an opportunity to be reflective about the impact on children and families, as well as gives them strategies and resources to assist families. The Department of Education also offers an online training for "Homeless Liaisons" in each local education agency to prepare them to train their school staff on identifying and serving homeless children and their families. The goal of this collaboration is to ensure alignment of quality services for children who are considered part of a vulnerable population.
Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality	<p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize for enrollment • Serve without placing these populations on waiting lists

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child care for homeless families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waive copayments
Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility	The state currently provides a grace period to comply with immunization requirements for homeless families. In Delaware, foster children are considered homeless. DSS provides child care for up to 3 months or until the family is able to obtain suitable living arrangements. Once they have suitable living arrangements, services can be provided based on some other need such as employment. Outreach: Lead Agency accepts applications at local community-based locations and partnerships with community-based organizations
Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents	<p>The lead agency currently has a grace period that allows homeless children to receive CCDF assistance while their families are taking the necessary actions to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements.</p> <p>11003.7.2 Income Eligible/Homeless Parent/caretakers who are homeless and whose incomes are at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level can receive income eligible services exclusive of meeting any other need requirement.</p> <p>Delaware considers children in Foster Care to be homeless.</p> <p>The lead agency ensures that all involved parties are aware of the grace period allowed for homeless families. Providers, licensing, etc are made aware of the policies through the Department's Child Care Monitors, through the DHSS electronic policy manual, administrative notices and monthly Early Childhood Council updates. At intake families are given information regarding other services available to them. Families who are authorized as well as the provider receive written notices of the authorization. This written notice ensures that providers will be reimbursed for services rendered during the grace period.</p>
Section 4.1.3., Contracts to increase the supply or quality of care	<p>The Lead Agency will use grants or contracts for child care services to increase the supply and/or quality of specific types of care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs to serve children with disabilities • Programs to serve infants and toddlers • Programs to serve children needing non-traditional hour care • Programs to serve children experiencing homelessness • Programs to serve children in underserved areas • Programs that serve children with diverse linguistic or cultural backgrounds • Programs that serve specific geographic areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Urban ○ Rural
Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families	Through DIEEC (Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Education), the State developed "Supporting Children When They Are Homeless," a free three-hour training offered online through http://www.depdnow.com/ . This course provides staff with an understanding of homelessness as defined by the McKinney-Vento act, an opportunity to be reflective about the impact on children and families, as well as give them strategies and resources to assist families. The Department of Education also offers an online training for Homeless Liaisons in each local education agency to prepare them to train their staff on identifying and serving homeless children and their families.

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District of Columbia	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	<p>The Division of Early Learning provides training to OSSE's (Office of the State Superintendent of Education) McKinney-Vento team and to the homeless liaisons and registrars in local education agencies (LEAs) to create awareness and eliminate barriers for children and families experiencing homelessness to access child care. OSSE collaborates with a variety of agencies serving families experiencing homelessness in order to facilitate the timely provision of child care and educational support. OSSE has partnership agreements with the Child and Family Services Agency via its contractor, the Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness (TCP), the DC Department of Human Services (DHS) and LEAs.</p> <p>TCP coordinates the District of Columbia's integrated system of care, including prevention services, street outreach efforts, emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Over the next three years, OSSE will better align our efforts to ensure that children and families experiencing homelessness have access to early learning opportunities, including public pre-K programs. Through its role on the Interagency Council on Homelessness, OSSE works with its partners to implement a system of standardized access and assessment to ensure that appropriate educational services and supports are implemented in a timely manner and to minimize barriers to enrollment.</p>
Section 3.1.5., Additional eligibility conditions or priority rules	<p>In addition to the other requirements set forth in 5-A DCMR§ 201, in order to be eligible for subsidized child care in DC, a child shall, at the time of eligibility determination or redetermination meet the requirements for one of the following categories of need:</p> <p>(1) Resides with parent(s) who are working or attending a job training or education program;</p> <p>(2) Resides with parent(s) who is seeking employment or engaging in job search; or</p> <p>(3) Receives, or need to receive, protective services or is considered a vulnerable child, as defined herein.</p> <p>Protective Services is specifically defined as parent(s) or guardian(s) of children who are under the active supervision of CFSA Child Protective Services division or under the active supervision of the Family Division of the DC Superior Court due to abuse or neglect. The child may be living in the natural parent's home or with a third party. For the purposes of eligibility, the District also defines "vulnerable child" as (a) A child with special needs; (b) A child experiencing homelessness; (c) A child in foster care; (d) A child of an adult with disabilities; or (e) A child of recipients of vocational rehabilitation services.</p>
Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families	<p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize for enrollment • Serve without placing these populations on waiting lists • Waive copayments <p>Applicant parents of children experiencing homelessness are waived of the requirement to participate in a qualifying activity and income threshold requirements. Eligibility staff does not calculate income to determine eligibility or co-payment.</p>
Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility	<p>Upon initial eligibility determination, children eligible for subsidized child care pursuant to this subsection shall be permitted to enroll in the subsidized child care placement prior to completion of all required documentation and are provided a sixty (60) calendar day grace period in which to provide full documentation of eligibility. The Child Care Referral Form</p>

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	<p>serves as acceptable documentation until the records can be provided and the child shall receive and the provider shall be paid for, subsidized child care during the grace period. If, after full documentation is provided, the child experiencing homelessness is found to be ineligible, subsidized child care services shall be terminated.</p> <p>Outreach: Partnerships with community-based organizations; Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care.</p> <p>OSSE and the Department of Human Services partner to ensure that the District's central intake center for families who are experiencing homelessness has access to a child care intake specialist. Training has been provided to all child care intake staff and community staff in Level Two site on new eligibility criteria. Children experiencing homelessness are categorically eligible for child care subsidy.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents</p>	<p>A Licensee shall provide a sixty (60) day grace period from the first day of service to submit documentation required for a child experiencing homelessness or a child who is a ward of the District in foster care.</p>
<p>Section 3.4.4., Co-payment waiver</p>	<p>Applicants exempt from co-payment include: TANF recipients in countable activities other than employment; TANF payees in countable activities; TANF parent(s) or guardian(s) with physical or mental, disabilities; Unemployed parent(s) or guardian(s) receiving vocational rehabilitation services; Children receiving Child Protective Services; Children in foster care; Children experiencing homelessness; Teen or young adult parent(s) in junior and senior high school. Additionally, a family with a gross annual family income greater than one hundred percent (100%) but less than or equal to two hundred fifty percent (250%) of the FPL shall be required to pay the co-payment amount(s). In addition, adoptive parent(s) or guardian(s) (foster parent(s) who finalizes an adoption) are provided three (3) months with no co-payment from the effective date of adoption before beginning co-payments if payment requirement has been established.</p>
<p>Section 4.6.2., Methods to increase supply and improve quality</p>	<p>OSSE is building a partnership with community-based organizations that specifically address the needs of and assistance to families who are in transitional housing and/or are homeless.</p>
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>OSSE provides professional development with a sequential learning approach that addresses the complexity of homelessness. OSSE offers various training opportunities for providers, local education agencies and community partners focusing on this special population, including topics relevant to homeless children and their families such as the McKinney-Vento and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015; Routines that Support Emotional Well-Being and Stability in the Classroom; Recognizing Signs of Stress in Young Children; Eco-mapping: A Tool for Assessing Support Systems; and Engaging and Supporting Families Experiencing Homelessness.</p> <p>OSSE facilitates collaboration and partnership with the District's community-based organizations that serve homeless families to improve developmental outcomes for at-risk children. Families of children under age three who are not eligible for Part C services may participate in evidenced-based parenting classes, developmental surveillance and assessment, family service coordination and special instruction provided in play group sessions conducted</p>

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	<p>by early intervention service providers. The Virginia Williams Family Resource Center (VWFRC) serves as an intake hub for screening and placement for families seeking emergency shelter and other essential resources. OSSE has established a partnership with VWFRC to provide OSSE staff onsite to assist parents who have children in need of child care or educational supports, such as immediate enrollment and transportation assistance. OSSE developed a Homeless Education Program Fact Sheet for Parents which provides guidance on the educational rights of children, youth and families experiencing homelessness. Additionally, OSSE's Homeless Education Program staff will continue to provide training for child development directors and enrollment coordinators on how to identify and support families that are experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>OSSE and the Department of Human Services continues their partnership to ensure that the District's central intake center for families who are experiencing homelessness has an onsite child care intake specialist. Training has been provided to all child care intake staff and community staff in Level Two child development sites on new eligibility criteria. Homeless families are categorically eligible for child care subsidy.</p>
Florida	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	<p>The Homeless Education Program in the Florida Department of Education (DOE) participates on advisory groups and provides consultation, as needed, on outreach and identification of qualifying families. Local Education Agency (LEA) Homeless Education Liaisons provide School Readiness Program information to newly identified homeless families and make referrals to their local ELC. Head Start, Early Head Start and Migrant and Seasonal Head Start programs also coordinate with their McKinney-Vento Liaisons to recruit and enroll homeless families through partnership agreements with LEAs. This coordination of services assists the state in developing a supply of quality care for the homeless population.</p>
Section 3.1.2., Eligibility conditions or priority rules	<p>For the purposes of eligibility, protective services participants are defined as "at-risk" in s. 1002.81(1), F.S. "At-risk child" means</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A child from a family under investigation by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) or a designated sheriff's office for child abuse, neglect, abandonment or exploitation. • A child who is in a diversion program provided by DCF or its contracted provider and who is from a family that is actively participating and complying in department-prescribed activities, including education, health services or work. • A child from a family that is under supervision by DCF or a contracted service provider for abuse, neglect, abandonment or exploitation. • A child placed in court-ordered, long-term custody or under the guardianship of a relative or nonrelative after termination of supervision by DCF or its contracted provider. • A child in the custody of a parent who is considered a victim of domestic violence and is receiving services through a certified domestic violence center. • A child in the custody of a parent who is considered homeless as verified by a DCF certified lead agency. • A child who has special needs, has been determined eligible as a student with a disability, has a current individual education plan with a Florida school district, and is not younger than 3 years of age and has not enter kindergarten is also defined as in need of "protective services" as identified as a vulnerable population.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A child who is displaced during a state of emergency due to an officially recognized natural or man-made disaster is also defined as in need of “protective services” and identified as a vulnerable population.
<p>Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families</p>	<p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize for enrollment <p>1002.87(c), F.S. priority shall also be given to at risk-children. Section 1002.81(1), F.S. defines an at-risk child as, (a) a child from a family under investigation by the Department of Children and Families or a designated sheriff’s office for child abuse, neglect, abandonment, or exploitation, (b) a child who is in a diversion program provided by the Department of Children and Families or its contracted provider and who is from a family that is actively participating and complying in department-prescribed activities, including education, health services, or work, (c) a child from a family that is under supervision by the Department of Children and Families or a contracted service provider for abuse, neglect, abandonment, or exploitation, (d) a child placed in court-ordered, long-term custody or under the guardianship of a relative or nonrelative after termination of supervision by the Department of Children and Families or its contracted provider, (e) a child in the custody of a parent who is considered a victim of domestic violence and is receiving services through a certified domestic violence center, (f) a child in the custody of a parent who is considered homeless as verified by a Department of Children and Families certified homeless shelter.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility</p>	<p>Notwithstanding their inability to provide full documentation at the initial eligibility determination, a coalition shall permit enrollment after initial eligibility determination to children experiencing homelessness as verified by a Department of Children and Families certified homeless shelter (Rule 6M-4.208(2), FAC).</p> <p>Outreach: Partnerships with community-based organizations; Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents</p>	<p>To improve access to child care for homeless families, the definition of “at-risk child” includes a child in the custody of a parent considered homeless as verified by DCF designated lead agency on homelessness (s. 1002.81(1)(f), F.S.), and those receiving services through domestic violence shelters. Immunization records are not collected by the school readiness agency as a condition of initial eligibility for child care. Child care providers are responsible for obtaining and keeping on file a record of the child’s immunizations, physical development and other health requirements. Parents have a 30-day grace period to submit immunization records to the child care provider. School-aged children attending public or non-public schools are not required to have student health examination and immunization records on file at the child care facility as such records are on file at the school where the child is enrolled. Provide the citation for this policy and procedure. Rule(s)65C-22.001 and 65C-20.001, F.A.C. and ss. 1002.81(1)(e), 1002.81(1)(f) and 1002.88, F.S.</p>
<p>Section 4.1.3., Contracts to increase the supply or quality of care</p>	<p>The Lead Agency will use grants or contracts for child care services to increase the supply of specific types of care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs to serve children with disabilities • Programs to serve infants and toddlers • Programs to serve school-age children • Programs to serve children needing non-traditional hour care • Programs to serve children experiencing homelessness • Programs to serve children in underserved areas

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs that serve children with diverse linguistic or cultural backgrounds • Programs that serve specific geographic areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Urban ○ Rural
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>The Early Care and Education Career Pathway has included a course in the core requirements training addressing trauma in young children. This course covers the emotional trauma that may come for children in housing transition. The OEL (Office of Early Learning) is procuring additional training to cover this topic area during the 18-19 fiscal year.</p> <p>The OEL’s Sharepoint site for early learning coalitions contains resources and links to training and technical assistance to be shared with providers regarding serving homeless children and families. The OEL program staff are currently researching and taking courses in trauma and serving children experiencing homelessness. The program staff audits the trauma courses approved to meet the core requirement on the career pathway.</p>
Georgia	
<p>Section 1.4, Coordination with partners</p>	<p>The state currently coordinates services among many programs serving homeless and low-income populations. First, Local Education Agencies that receive Pre-K funding must comply with McKinney-Vento’s mandates by providing children who are experiencing homelessness equal access. Second, Georgia provides child care subsidies and Georgia’s Pre-K funding to high-quality early learning programs that serve families who are homeless and coordinates the two funding sources to ensure that families who are homeless have access to full-day, full-year care. Third, children who are homeless are currently a priority for the Lead Agency’s Early Head Start- Child Care Partnership Grant and the State’s subsidy funds. Finally, the Lead Agency administers a grant subsidy model for providers serving children who are homeless.</p>
<p>Section 3.1.2., Eligibility conditions or priority rules</p>	<p>CAPS Policy Manual (CAPS-Childcare and Parent Services) 13.6.1 allows for 13 weeks of job search as an approved activity when there has been a non-temporary change in state-approved activity. If a parental authority is in this stage at redetermination, their case may remain open. In addition, CAPS Policy allows job search to be the approved activity for certain priority groups at initial eligibility determination, including those who have experienced domestic violence (section 7.11), are considered homeless (section 7.12), have experienced a natural disaster (section 7.13), or have applied for or are receiving TANF.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families</p>	<p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize for enrollment • Serve without placing these populations on waiting lists
<p>Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility</p>	<p>CAPS Policy Manuals 6.5 and 6.6 allow families an additional 90 days to verify citizenship and immunization requirements, respectively, without postponing the eligibility determination. In addition, CAPS Policy Manual 7.6 and 7.11 allow families who lack fixed, regular, and adequate housing and families who have experienced a natural disaster an additional 90 days to submit all verification document without postponing their eligibility determination.</p> <p>Check, where applicable, the procedures used to conduct outreach for children experiencing homelessness (as defined by CCDF Rule) and their families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead Agency accepts applications at local community-based locations • Partnerships with community-based organizations • Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other: The Lead Agency and Head Start are providing a series of trainings and ongoing technical assistance to community partners who support families and children experiencing homelessness to improve their knowledge of the early care and education programs, priorities, and the referral systems. The Lead Agency has also partnered with Our House, a nonprofit agency providing shelter and innovative services to the Atlanta homeless population, to develop and implement a training for staff to enhance outreach efforts.
<p>Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents</p>	<p>CAPS Policy Manual 6.6 allows families a specified period of at least 90 days to verify immunization requirements. CAPS Procedure Manual 3.5.4 notes the additional 90 days does not affect approval of eligibility unless verification cannot be granted after the 90 day period. For extenuating circumstances beyond 90 days, an additional waiver allowing more time must be approved by the CAPS program. In consultation with Georgia Department of Public Health, the agency in Georgia responsible for monitoring that children in child care have current immunization certificates or an approved waiver, a 90-day time frame was established as sufficient to obtain a copy of an immunization certificate, or in order for a child to receive appropriate immunizations.</p>
<p>Section 4.1.3., Contracts to increase the supply or quality of care</p>	<p>The Lead Agency will use grants or contracts for child care services to increase the supply of specific types of care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs to serve children with disabilities • Programs to serve infants and toddlers • Programs to serve children experiencing homelessness • Programs to serve children in underserved areas • Programs that serve specific geographic areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Urban ○ Rural
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>Agency has contracted with experts in the area of homelessness to assist in the development of training materials for early learning and development providers and agency staff. The training will cover the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness, the causes and effects of family homelessness, strategies to use in identifying and working with families experiencing homelessness, resources for families experiencing homelessness, factors related to homelessness impacting development and learning, and strategies early care and learning providers can use to support children and families who are experiencing homelessness. This content will be shared with Lead Agency-approved trainers through a “train the trainer” model and will be offered to trainers from all areas of the state. Trainers in turn will redeliver the two-hour training to early learning and development providers in their catchment area. The training is Lead Agency-approved and will qualify as training to meet licensure requirements. CAPS Family Support Consultants will receive the training and will also redeliver to early learning and development providers across the state.</p> <p>The State currently coordinates services among many programs serving homeless and low-income populations. First, Local Education Authorities that receive Georgia’s Pre-K funding must comply with McKinney-Vento’s mandates by providing children who are experiencing homelessness equal access. Second, Georgia provides child care subsidies and Georgia’s Pre-K funding to high-quality early learning programs that serve families who are homeless and coordinates the two funding sources to ensure that families who are homeless have access to full-day, full-year care. Third, children who are experiencing homelessness are categorically</p>

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	<p>eligible for the Lead Agency's Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership grant. Children who are homeless are also a priority group for the Lead Agency's CAPS program.</p> <p>In 2017, the Lead Agency contracted with experts in the field of homelessness to develop training content for employees. This content has been shared with staff within the Federal Programs division and will be shared with all staff as part of regional staff meetings. Additionally, an internal Homelessness Committee was convened in 2017 in order to coordinate efforts among the divisions within the Lead Agency to connect with and serve Georgia's homeless populations.</p>
Guam	
<p>Section 1.4, Coordination with partners</p>	<p>The Department of Public Health & Social Services Bureau of Social Services Administration (BOSSA) division tracks the homeless population on Guam and makes referrals to the CCDF office for homeless families with children in need of child care. The collaboration fosters smooth transitions and enhances and aligns the quality of service for infants and toddlers through school age children which enables the lead agency to link comprehensive services and develop a supply of quality care for these vulnerable populations. The CCDF families/children applying for child care are placed at priority status and processed without delay. The collaboration between the offices allows for a smooth transition for children in the child care program which promotes continuity as they age into school age by enhancing and aligning the quality of services for infants and toddlers as they become school age.</p>
<p>Section 3.1.2., Eligibility conditions or priority rules</p>	<p>The parent is required to be either working or enrolled in school and not exceed the income limit to qualify for CCDF assistance unless classified under protective status (e.g., homeless, foster parent, child under child protective service status).</p>
<p>Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families</p>	<p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize for enrollment • Serve without placing these populations on waiting lists • Use grants or contracts to reserve slots for priority populations
<p>Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility</p>	<p>Although the required documentation is the like requirement for any other parent enrolling in childcare in the territory but now the rule has changed, the Lead Agency will comply as stipulated 98.51. The Lead Agency will waive the document requirements so the child may start immediately but the parent will be allotted additional time (e.g., 30 days).</p>
<p>Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents</p>	<p>The immunization requirement for children experiencing homelessness is equal to any other population (regular, CCDF subsidy funded, foster, child protective services) in child care but the lead agency does allow a 30 day grace period for parents to come to compliance with the requirement.</p> <p>NOTE: A grace period of thirty (30) days is afforded to all families in accordance with Guam PL31-73 1107.3 Immunization (f) states, Parents or guardians shall be given a grace period, not to exceed thirty (30) calendar days from the last assessment of the child's immunization record, to obtain immunization(s) in the recommended series.</p>
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework,</p>	<p>The Lead Agency meets with all the registered licensed child care providers and provides training on the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) programmatic requirements via orientations annually. The need and/or requirements governing the servicing of homeless children and their families is only completed at the Lead Agency's location with the Bureau of</p>

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<p>Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>Management Support (BMS) CCDF Program Coordinator IV or the BMS Administrator to ensure confidentiality of the family's status and to protect the privacy of the population being served. If there's a need to discuss the fact that the child(ren) at a particular center is homeless there must be justification as most homeless applicants do not want to be identified and the Department of Public Health & Social Service (DPHSS) Lead Agency's representative does not want to overtly make it known unless expressly requested by the homeless family seeking the services.</p>
<p>Hawaii</p>	
<p>Section 1.4, Coordination with partners</p>	<p>The Hawai'i Department of Human Services is the lead CCDF agency, and the Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division, which houses the CCDF administrators, will collaborate with the Department's Homeless Program Office, which is the statewide agency in the same Division that oversees state and federally funded contracts for homeless services throughout Hawai'i, on strategies to improve coordination of services for homeless children whose families may be eligible for childcare subsidies and other early childhood services which may be needed to meet the needs of homeless children. The Homeless Program Office will collaborate and help support the Department's outreach efforts to the contracted homeless service providers regarding early childhood services available to homeless families with young children, as well as other agencies providing services to homeless families, including the McKinney-Vento coordinators.</p> <p>The Department's Child Care Advisory Committee includes stakeholder members representing preschool programs such as Head Start, Early Head Start, private community-based preschools, and the Department of Education, and the Department will collaborate with these stakeholder members regarding improving coordination of services for homeless children whose families may be eligible for child care subsidies and other early childhood services that may be needed to meet the needs of homeless children in these settings.</p>
<p>Section 3.1.2., Eligibility conditions or priority rules</p>	<p>a) "Children with special needs": Documentation that verifies that the eligible child under P.L. 105-7, Part C services, meets one of the following conditions that follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional health condition that is outside of the normal range; • meets the State Department of Health criteria for environmental risk as defined in HRS 321-351; • resides in a Limited English Proficiency household; or • is homeless. <p>Per the Department of Health, part C eligibility includes those who are developmentally delayed, or at biological risk.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families</p>	<p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize for enrollment • Serve without placing these populations on waiting lists <p>The Department waives the co-payments for families who are at 50% or less of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility</p>	<p>Households shall meet the definition of families experiencing homelessness. Households that meet the definition of "homelessness" shall be provided a child care authorization during a stabilization period of at least 60 consecutive calendar days, within a 12-month period, to allow the household the opportunity to submit verification for ongoing child care subsidies. If</p>

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	<p>verifications necessary to determine on-going eligibility are not received within the stabilization period of 60 days, the household will be determined ineligible and given proper adverse action notice. Child care subsidies issued during the stabilization period is considered non-recoverable by the Department unless fraud has been established.</p> <p>Outreach: Partnerships with community-based organizations; Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care.</p>
Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents	The provider shall allow a grace period of up to 3 months from the child's first day in care to obtain the evidence of examinations and immunizations, in accordance with the administrative rules of the Department of Health Chapter 11-157, provided that evidence of tuberculosis clearance is provided prior to child's start in care, in accordance with Chapter 11-164.2. The Department of Health is the agency that established these requirements for the State of Hawai`i through the administrative rule-making public process.
Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families	The Hawai`i Department of Human Services will be partnering with the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness and the Department's Homeless Programs Office to focus on increasing outreach to the numerous community organizations who are serving homeless families across the State through the Continuum of Care. The Department will focus on strategies to improve training and technical assistance for outreach to partner agencies in obtaining information about the availability of Department's child care services, including the child care subsidy program and the child care resource and referral services, so that the community providers are helping the families access these services that are essential to supporting homeless families with young children find and maintain stable employment or secure vocational training or educational opportunities in order for the families to maintain and increase their economic self-sufficiency and to be able to secure and maintain permanent housing for themselves.
Idaho	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	The CCDF Administrator and McKinney-Vento Coordinator sit on various state councils together as well as have a goal of coordinating meetings when mutually beneficial to share information and develop resources and tools that can assist not only statewide coordinators in the schools but also the community partners serving homeless families in local communities.
Section 2.4.2., Coordinating partnerships	Idaho partners with the CCRC offices statewide, Homeless Non-Profit organizations, Department of Education McKinney-Vento Coordinators, and other State Departments serving children and families.
Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families	IDHW (Idaho Dept. of Health and Welfare) has created a verification form and trained community partners on the process for which a customer provides the Child Care Activity form showing that they customer is participating in a work or training program offered by a community agency or homeless shelter, for which then child care is approved. Community Agencies work with the family and only notify IDHW when the customer ends the program.
Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility	IDHW Self Reliance Specialists gather and record information for child care to process applications. For families experiencing homelessness, community partners/agencies must provide families with the child care activity form showing that the family is participating in a work or training program offered by a partner or agency for which allows approval of child care. <p>Outreach: Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care.</p>

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Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents	Immunization policies allow all children to receive care for a reasonable amount of time prior to completing immunization requirements. Provide the citation for this policy and procedure. IDAPA: 16.06.12.105.01
Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families	IdahoSTARS (the resource for quality child care in Idaho) offers approved training that is evidence based and designed to provide information that assists child care providers with developing an understanding and increasing their knowledge and awareness of best practices, strategies, practical tools, and skills across the domains and clearly linked to the Idaho Early Learning eGuidelines. All trainers receive information and guidance on adult learning, and are required to include modifications of training content and training materials to include all children and families with a special focus on child development, poverty, disabilities, family structure, languages, and cultures. A webinar is delivered to all IdahoSTARS staff with content focusing on families experiencing homelessness and the Strengthening Families Protective Factors. IdahoSTARS staff received training from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare on policy and operational approaches to implementing the Re-Authorization. Content includes training on subsidy eligibility for families experiencing homelessness, immunization requirements, description of a new process to verify participation with a homeless agency to confirm subsidy eligibility, and information about how to help families apply.
Illinois	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	The Lead Agency coordinates with McKinney-Vento state coordinator (ISBE – Illinois State Board of Education) on serving homeless families. The McKinney-Vento state coordinator is a member of the Child Care Advisory Council. The lead agency participates on the Cooperative Agreement to Benefit Homeless Individuals task force which includes the McKinney-Vento coordinator with the goal of reducing barriers to child care services and providing resources to community-based organizations on obtaining qualified providers and assistance paying for them.
Section 1.5.1, Combined funding	The Lead Agency combines funding in an effort to secure services to the most vulnerable populations and to ensure the elimination of wait lists. The vulnerable populations targeted are: TANF, teen parents in school, children with special needs, homeless children, families in education and training programs, and children in protective services.
Section 3.1.2., Eligibility conditions or priority rules	“Protective Services” means child care provided for families who have been impacted by a state or federal declared disaster. Income threshold and work/training requirements may be waived for impacted families on a case-by-case basis. Families experiencing homelessness (per the McKinney-Vento Act definition) are also included in Illinois Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) policy section 01.03.10. These families are allowed an additional 3 months to submit eligibility documentation to support eligibility criteria, (such as pay stubs, school schedules...) but must include information on the child care application that indicates that they do meet eligibility requirements.
Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families	Homeless children are served without placing these populations on waiting lists. Families that meet the definition of homelessness are given 90 days from the date of application to submit eligibility documentation.
Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility	Children from a homeless family may have difficulty obtaining documentation at the time of application or redetermination for the Child Care Assistance Program because of the stresses and disruption caused by issues affecting this CCAP Protective population. Accordingly, CCR&R

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	<p>and Site Agencies must allow a family from a CCAP Protective Services Population a period not to exceed 90 days from the date the child care is approved for care to obtain the eligibility documentation. All other eligibility requirements, as specified in CCAP Policy shall remain unchanged.</p> <p>Outreach: Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents</p>	<p>The Lead Agency is partnering with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS) and will establish a rule to amend the licensing standards to allow a grace period for families or children experiencing homelessness to submit copies of all required supporting documentation for enrollment, including a 90-day grace period for medical records and supporting documentation for enrollment. License-Exempt Centers must have a written policy establishing grace periods that allow children experiencing homelessness enrollment in their program, including a 90-day grace period to submit all required supporting documentation for medical records and supporting documentation for enrollment.</p> <p>The Lead Agency is partnering with IDCFS to implement the following grace periods to increase access to child care services for foster children. Day Care Licensing Standards for all facility types are being revised to allow families with foster children a period not to exceed 90 days from the date the foster children are enrolled to submit a medical report and proof of immunization. IDHS (Illinois Department of Human Services) participates in inter-agency meetings through the Cooperative Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals (CABHI) task force. Agencies include Departments of Health, Children and Family Services, Human Services and Education as well as homeless service providers and community-based organizations working with and for homeless families. Goals of the group include best practices and policy formulation for referring families to a variety of services to meet their needs.</p>
<p>Section 4.1.3., Contracts to increase the supply or quality of care</p>	<p>The Lead Agency will use grants or contracts for child care services to increase the supply and/or quality of specific types of care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs to serve children with disabilities • Programs to serve infants and toddlers • Programs to serve school-age children • Programs to serve children needing non-traditional hour care • Programs to serve children experiencing homelessness • Programs to serve children in underserved areas • Programs that serve children with diverse linguistic or cultural backgrounds • Programs that serve specific geographic areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Urban ○ Rural
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>The Lead Agency has made available to all child care providers in the State:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A one-hour online training about reaching out to and serving children and families who are experiencing homelessness. This training includes the reasons why homeless families might need child care, information about the McKinney-Vento Act, and resources for finding services for these families. 2) Packets of resources available to be distributed to providers by CCR&Rs. 3) A policy update training webinar to CCR&R and Sites. 4) A general inquiry email account where providers posts questions or seek guidance.

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	<p>In addition, the CCR&R staff is able to assist providers with any policies that make it easier to serve families who are experiencing homelessness. INCCRRA (IL Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies) offers a "Homelessness training" that covers legal and social justifications and requirements for caring for homeless children, basic best practices for caring for homeless families, and some of the unique challenges of caring for children of homeless families.</p> <p>The state of Illinois' State Coordinator for McKinney-Vento Homeless Education is a member of the Child Care Advisory Council and works closely with the Lead Agency staff, providing TA when requested.</p>
Indiana	
<p>Section 1.4, Coordination with partners</p>	<p>The Lead Agency consults with the McKinney-Vento State coordinators for Homeless Education and the McKinney-Vento state coordinator through the Indiana Early Learning Advisory Committee (ELAC) workgroups and the Indiana Inter-Agency Coordinating Council for First Steps. The Lead Agency presented the State Plan to these committees and received feedback which was incorporated into the State Plan. Examples of collaboration include the development and ongoing training and technical assistance through Child Care Resource and Referral outreach for providers on serving families and children experiencing homelessness.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families</p>	<p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize for enrollment • Waive copayments • Pay higher rates for access to higher-quality care • Use grants or contracts to reserve slots for priority populations <p>Families who reside in a homeless or a domestic violence shelter, half-way house or in a public place such as a sidewalk, park or car by written response on the CCDF application will receive priority over other CCDF eligible families.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.3., Priority enrollment</p>	<p>A CCDF Household declaring a priority must provide verification of their priority (i.e. TANF Impact, AJS, SNAP Impact, special needs, homeless, or CPS with the exception of OMW (On My Way Pre-K). These families are determined by the State).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A TANF Impact applicant must provide a valid TANF Impact referral. • A TANF AJS applicant must provide a valid TANF AJS referral. • SNAP Impact applicant must provide a valid SNAP Impact referral. • A child with special needs must provide appropriate special needs documentation. • A homeless applicant must verify their residency status by written response to the appropriate questions on the CCDF pre-application. • A CPS applicant must provide a valid CPS referral. • Families participating in the OMW program. <p>A child with a priority of homelessness goes is the second priority on the waiting list. When funds are made available these children are moved to receive CCDF services based on date of application.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility</p>	<p>A licensed child care center, licensed home, registered ministry, and a legally license exempt provider may allow a 90 day grace period to receive immunization records and birth certificates if the child's file contains a signed parent/guardian statement indicating that the family is homeless.</p> <p>Outreach: Lead Agency accepts applications at local community-based locations, Partnerships with community-based organizations, Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-</p>

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	Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care.
Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents	<p>A licensed child care center, licensed home, registered ministry, and a legally license exempt provider may allow a 90 day grace period to receive immunization records and birth certificates if the child's file contains a signed parent/guardian statement indicating that the family is homeless.</p> <p>Local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R agencies work with homeless shelters in their regions and provide information and referrals to families. Local CCR&R agencies also provide training to providers on serving homeless families and children. Additionally, the following steps have been taken to increase outreach and strengthen local partnership efforts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of the Regional Planning Council chair persons and their contact information has been shared with the local CCR&R Program Directors and Outreach Specialists. • A list of McKinney-Vento coordinators from the local educational agencies has been shared with the CCR&R Program Directors and Outreach Specialists.
Section 4.1.3., Contracts to increase the supply or quality of care	<p>The Lead Agency will use grants or contracts for child care services to increase the supply and/or quality of specific types of care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs to serve children with disabilities • Programs to serve infants and toddlers • Programs to serve children experiencing homelessness • Programs to serve children in underserved areas • Programs that serve specific geographic areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Urban ○ Rural
Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families	<p>The Lead Agency, along with a cross sector group of early childhood professionals, has worked to develop a statewide training module to assist providers in developing a plan for working with families and children who are homeless. The training module educates and assists providers in identifying families who are homeless and includes information on available state and community resources. Training includes directing families to local shelters as well as other programs and agencies in regards to housing, financial assistance, counseling and the child care assistance program. The training equips providers with the skills and techniques needed to adequately respond to the needs of homeless children. This training is a scripted train-the-trainer model to allow for a consistent message across the state.</p> <p>Participants will know how to identify families who are homeless. This training will discuss new state policy regarding CCDF eligibility. Providers will be able to support the social-emotional needs of children experiencing homelessness and resources will be shared. Training is provided to regionally based Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R staff who train local providers on an ongoing basis. The local CCR&R agencies provide technical assistance to providers as needed.</p> <p>This training is included in the annual conference on homelessness sponsored by Building Brighter Futures and is available to all McKinney-Vento liaisons to share with shelters and local stakeholders. Building Brighter Futures was developed in 2007 to address the increased emphasis placed on serving homeless families in Head Start. Through the years, representation on Building Brighter Futures has grown and now includes cross agency representation working on supporting the needs of homeless families and children across multiple sectors. This group provides a forum to share a variety of resources, information and</p>

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	<p>opportunities available to meet the needs of families and children who are experiencing homelessness. Building Brighter Futures sponsors an annual conference to provide training for persons providing education and/or support to children and families experiencing homelessness. This conference also provides a forum for these agencies and individuals to meet and learn about each other and begin to plan together for their communities.</p>
Iowa	
<p>Section 1.4, Coordination with partners</p>	<p>On 4/24/18, in partnership with the Iowa Afterschool Alliance, the Lead Agency conducted a webinar with the Iowa Department of Education McKinney-Vento liaison and local district liaisons that are working directly with families experiencing homelessness. A recording of the webinar was made available to those unable to participate. Continued partnerships are expected. Additionally, the Child Care Bureau has reached out to the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV). A webinar was held for partners with ICADV across the state and a PowerPoint was made available showing the Lead Agency's goals towards meeting the needs of children and families experiencing homelessness, the CCA (Child Care Assistance) program and eligibility, and potential partners. The Lead Agency also navigated the website to show information that may further assist them. Another partner identified was the Iowa Finance Authority and the Iowa Council on Homelessness.</p> <p>A Continuum of Care project is a federal program through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness, provide funding efforts by non-profit providers, and state and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families. The Iowa Council on Homelessness in partnership with the Iowa Finance Authority is working to develop coordinated service regions for homeless assistance in the Iowa Balance of State Continuum of Care. On 4/17/18, the Lead Agency met with Continuum of Care partners to discuss child care resources and partnerships available and provided the same webinar that was provided to ICADV. The PowerPoint was also made available.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families</p>	<p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve without placing these populations on waiting lists • Pay higher rates for access to higher-quality care
<p>Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility</p>	<p>Child Care programs are instructed to provide families experiencing homelessness additional time to obtain required documentation when enrolling in the program. Child Development Homes and Child Care Homes with a CCA agreement have administrative rules that require them to waive child file medical documentation for up to 60 days if the family meets the definition of homelessness outlined in the McKinney-Vento Act when identified at enrollment. The Child Care Center Licensing Standards and Procedures document, Comm 204, is a document provided to child care centers to provide rationale and recommendation regarding policies. The definition of McKinney-Vento and the 60 day waiver is outlined in this document as well as Communication guides for other program types.</p> <p>Outreach: Partnerships with community-based organizations, partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care.</p> <p>The Child Care Bureau has reached out to the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV). A webinar was held for partners with ICADV across the state and a PowerPoint was</p>

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	<p>made available showing the Lead Agency's goals towards meeting the needs of children and families experiencing homelessness, the CCA program and eligibility, and potential partners. The Lead Agency also navigated the website to show information that may further assist them. Another partner identified was the Iowa Finance Authority and the Iowa Council on Homelessness. A Continuum of Care project is a federal program through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness, provide funding efforts by non-profit providers, and state and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families.</p> <p>The Iowa Council on Homelessness in partnership with the Iowa Finance Authority is working to develop coordinated service regions for homeless assistance in the Iowa Balance of State Continuum of Care. On 4/17/18, the Lead Agency met with Continuum of Care partners to discuss child care resources and partnerships available and provided the same webinar that was provided to ICADV. The PowerPoint was also made available. On 4/24/18, in partnership with the Iowa Afterschool Alliance, the Lead Agency also conducted the webinar with the Iowa Department of Education McKinney-Vento liaison and local district liaisons that are working directly with families experiencing homelessness. Recording of the webinar was made available to those unable to participate. Continued partnerships are expected.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents</p>	<p>The Lead Agency consulted with Healthy Child Care Iowa which is part of the Iowa Department of Public Health to determine the grace period. Child Development Homes and Child Care Homes serving children under a CCA agreement have administrative rules that require them to waive medical documentation for up to 60 days if the family meets the definition of homelessness outlined in the McKinney-Vento Act when identified at enrollment. The Child Care Center Licensing Standards and Procedures document, Comm 204, is a document provided to child care centers to provide rationale and recommendation regarding policies. The definition of McKinney-Vento and the 60 day waiver is outlined in this document as well as Communication guides for other program types.</p> <p>Children in foster care are included in the definition of homelessness.</p>
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>When the Lead Agency contracted to develop the Essentials Child Care Preservice Training, we included a module on homelessness within that training series. All child care staff working directly with children must take this training.</p> <p>Lead Agency staff that conduct compliance visits with providers are all required to take the Essentials Child Care Preservice Training which includes the module on homelessness.</p>
<p>Kansas</p>	
<p>Section 1.4, Coordination with partners</p>	<p>The office was consulted with specific plans for services to homeless families, training for child care providers and providing consumer education on the KQN (Kansas Quality Network) website. The final draft of the state plan was posted and made available for review and comment. Goal to increase consumer education regarding homeless thru child care professional development opportunities. The Department for Children and Families (DCF) met with Kansas Department of Education's (KSDE) McKinney-Vento Homeless Act Liaison regarding the development of online training coursework for child care providers. Serving homeless families is included within the Kansas Early Learning Standards toolkits, created thru</p>

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	a collaborative effort with members of the Kansas State Agencies Early Childhood team and the Kansas In-service Training Service (KITS) project.
Section 1.5.1., Combined funding	Outcomes of combining funding include: extending the day for services available to children in Head Start and Preschool Programs; increasing services to families experiencing homelessness, increasing high supply and quality services to infants and toddlers in high need areas (high unemployment, high poverty and high out of home placements); and increasing comprehensive services to children in child care. Funds are combined at the program level.
Section 3.1.5., Additional eligibility conditions or priority rules	Although priority rules exist for eligibility determination in the event of a wait list, Kansas currently provides child care for all families who apply and meet financial and non-financial eligibility criteria. Priority areas include: 1) Families participating in Work Programs who are receiving TANF or food assistance, and Tribal recipients; 2) Families receiving child care for a qualified Social Service reason; 3) Families no longer eligible for TANF transitioning to employment whose income is at or below -185%- of the federal poverty level; 4) Teen parents completing high school/GED; 5) Families who claim to be homeless (self-declaration is accepted) and need child care to maintain employment or participate in an approved educational plan; and 6) Employed families whose income is at or below 185% of the federal poverty level.
Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families	Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize for enrollment
Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility	As per KEESM (Kansas Economic & Employment Services Manual) 2145.1 - Citizenship Documentation Delay for TANF and Child Care Subsidy: The application shall be processed and approved granting a reasonable opportunity period to the individual to provide verification. This period shall be 3 calendar months commencing from the date the case is authorized. If the verification is not received by the end of the reasonable opportunity period, benefits shall end allowing for timely and adequate notice. The reasonable opportunity period may be extended in situations where the individual is making a bona fide effort to obtain the verification, but circumstances outside his/her control are delaying the effort. A decision to extend the period must be thoroughly documented and supported in the case file. DCF designed an Early Childhood Program Services brochure and distributed to Food Assistance Programs across the state, which included The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) sites, soup kitchens, food banks and homeless shelters. Programs were asked to post the information and share with families utilizing their programs. The brochure is emailed out annually and may be accessed on DCF's website at: http://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/ees/Documents/Child_Care/ChildServicesFlyer.pdf . and includes information for EC programs in Kansas such as Early Head Start, Head Start, Part C Infant-Toddler Services, Part B Special Education Services and Parents as Teachers (PAT). Another informational document that was developed and distributed to all Head Start and Early Head Start programs was the "McKinney-Vento and Head Start: Ensuring Access to Early Education." This resource guide was designed to provide information on where the McKinney-

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	<p>Vento Programs are located and how to contact a local McKinney-Vento liaison. The purpose of this document is to promote better communication and coordination between Head Start and the local school districts. In addition, DCF has awarded funding for a Statewide Infant-Toddler Network to Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities (KCCTO) and funding for Consumer Education/Resource & Referral services awarded to Child Care Aware of Kansas (CCAK). Both contracts address homelessness education and outreach as part of these agreements.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents</p>	<p>Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) grants the following allowances in Kansas Child Care Regulation to ease any barriers in community efforts to accommodate displaced families, children and youth into existing regulated child care facilities: Displaced children and youth enter in regulated child care facilities for temporary emergency care are not required to provide documentation of current immunizations and health assessment for up to 60 days. KDHE considers a homeless child "displaced." Providers are to obtain as much information as possible about the children's/youth's health needs including any current medications being taken and any known medication, food or other allergies.</p> <p>If during enrollment for child care subsidy DCF is unable to verify citizenship, verification shall be waived and a three (3) month reasonable opportunity period for the individual to provide the information shall be applied. If otherwise eligible, the applicant may be approved for assistance. The individual shall be contacted to provide the information and notified of the reasonable opportunity period.</p> <p>Families are referred to various community resources to obtain necessary documents. Resources can be found on KQN at: http://ksqualitynetwork.org/resources/family-support/#cc-assistance. KQN resources are coordinated with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and made available to child care providers and communities in addition to families. KQN information and resources are distributed through the lead agency to the state licensing agency, community partners and early education and child care partners within the state. When identified during a licensing inspection, it is typical for the licensing inspector to inform the provider to refer families to the local health department.</p>
<p>Section 4.1.3., Child care services through grants or contracts</p>	<p>The Lead Agency will use grants or contracts for child care services to increase the supply and/or quality of specific types of care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs to serve children with disabilities • Programs to serve infants and toddlers • Programs to serve children needing non-traditional hour care • Programs to serve children experiencing homelessness • Programs to serve children in underserved areas • Programs that serve children with diverse linguistic or cultural backgrounds • Programs that serve specific geographic areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Urban ○ Rural
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6.</p>	<p>The Kansas Early Learning Standards (KELS) Virtual Tool Kit provides Kansas early care and education practitioners and families with online resources which includes homelessness and meeting the needs of underserved populations. Training Modules include national resource links to McKinney-Vento as well as the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC). In addition, KCCTO (Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities) currently holds the contract for the Statewide Infant-Toddler Specialist Network. This contract agreement</p>

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Supporting homeless families	<p>includes the development and offering of training opportunities for serving homeless children and families. DCF also funds the Kansas Child Care Workforce Professional Development contract which requires the development of courses on identifying, serving and providing resources for families experiencing homelessness under the McKinney-Vento definition. Resources will include National center for Homeless Education (NCHE).</p> <p>The state level interagency early childhood Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) has been up-dated and completed with agency signatures. It was developed to include the KSDE, McKinney Vento program. Other Lead Agency efforts include the funding of 2 contracts the Statewide Infant-Toddler Specialist Network and the Kansas Child Care Workforce Professional Development. Both contracts are required to provide training and technical assistance around supporting families experiencing homelessness. Lead Agency staff throughout the state are involved in varying ways with targeted work with families experiencing homelessness and have been involved in a variety of training and TA efforts to complete this work. In the East region, Economic and Employment Services (EES) workers take applications and provides information about agency and community resources directly from a local mission one day each week. Training was provided by the mission itself for this staff member. The Wichita region also has out-stationed staff at various homeless shelters, homes for victims of domestic violence and women's recovery centers one day a week. Staff members attend monthly homeless initiatives and board meetings, and report back what they are doing to help inform other case managers and provide updated information. They have provided TA in daily meetings with eligibility staff about services provided. The KC (Kansas City) region has two projects supported by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and the local school district where EES staff go into the community and provide assistance to homeless families. The training for the staff is hands-on. Four other workers rotate weekly to interview and provide benefits for families that have been identified as homeless by the Kansas City Public Schools. Johnson County has a program through the school district where partners, including DCF, come together bi-weekly to provide services. Training for this is also hands-on. Bridges Out of Poverty Training is a common training for new staff within EES.</p>
Section 7.3.1., Supporting training and Professional Development of the Workforce	<p>Our professional development contract with KCCTO has CCDF priority courses that include topics on the DCF Child Care Subsidy Program; homelessness; nutrition, physical activity and obesity prevention; Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES); cultural responsiveness; English language learners; children with disabilities; preventing and reducing expulsions and suspensions; early neurological development; and family engagement using the Kansas Family Engagement and Partnership Standards. KCCTO's online courses offer many more topics on supporting children's social and emotional development, trauma and adverse childhood experiences, risk and resilience, behavior management, and safe, healthy learning environments. Community-based training is offered by a cadre of trainers from the KCCTO trainer directory. Child care programs in any geographical location can request training and topics for their staff. KCCTO training services are offered to all providers in Kansas. Technical assistance is also available in all 105 counties of Kansas and can be requested through KCCTO's Infant Toddler Specialist Network.</p>
Kentucky	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	<p>The Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) works in collaboration with the McKinney-Vento State Coordinator housed in the Kentucky Department of Education to identify children experiencing homelessness and prioritize services to those families. Those</p>

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	<p>experiencing homelessness applying for child care assistance are eligible for expedited services. They are entitled to immediate approval and enrollment with a child care provider. Families experiencing homelessness have up to three calendar months from the date of application to return all other verification.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families</p>	<p>Homeless households during an initial application are unique from other eligibility types as the household is entitled to up to three calendar months from the date of application to return verification. This allows the household to return all required documentation gradually, if needed. Homeless cases are approved and enrollment starts when the head of household provides ID. (If a driver's license is provided, it does not matter if it is expired.) Households that return all required information and are technically and financially eligible at the end of the three (3) calendar month period, will not see a change in the certification period at approval of application. Homeless households must meet all other technical and financial eligibility criteria in order to continue with the program. Homeless households can qualify to gain initial eligibility via Job Search if the client does not meet the work requirement and wants to use the once in twelve (12) months Job Search at the time of application. The client must work register and complete the DCC-90P, CCAP Job Search Documentation form, with a minimum often (10) contacts to constitute a complete form.</p> <p>Homeless households can qualify to gain initial eligibility via Job Search if the client does not meet the work requirement and wants to use the once in twelve (12) months Job Search at the time of application. The client must work register and complete the DCC-90P, CCAP Job Search Documentation form, with a minimum often (10) contacts to constitute a complete form.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility</p>	<p>Families experiencing homelessness are eligible for expedited services. They are entitled to immediate approval of cases and pend for lack of verification. During eligibility, homeless families have a three (3) calendar month period to return all verifications. Families that return all required information at the end of the three (3) calendar month period, will not see a change in their certification as the maximum allowable certification period as assigned based on program rules. Families experiencing homelessness must meet all other technical eligibility criteria in order to continue with the program. If information has not been provided within the three (3) calendar month timeframe, the application will be discontinued.</p> <p>Information regarding the Lead Agency's child care assistance program is provided to entities serving families experiencing homelessness across the state. Regional leads are familiar with resources for families experiencing homelessness and can connect them to supportive services when needed. Through the Child Care Resource and Referral Network of Services, coordinators participate in regular meetings to promote outreach to families experiencing homelessness, such as through the Central Kentucky Housing and Homeless Initiative.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents</p>	<p>During eligibility, homeless have a three calendar month period to return all verifications. Households that return all required information at the end of the three (3) calendar month period will not see a change in their certification period as the maximum allowable certification period as assigned based on program rules.</p>
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6.</p>	<p>Priority status is applied to identify homeless children and families to ensure compliance with this provision of the law. Homeless policies and procedures for prioritizing access to child care for homeless children and families through coordination of services ensuring families have information on all available programs and services, such as HANDS (Health Access Nurturing Development Services), Head Start, and child mental health and other appropriate services. The Division of Child Care, through contractual services provided by the Child Care Resource and Referral Network, provides regional coaching, technical assistance, and training to support</p>

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Supporting homeless families	the needs of providers serving children experiencing homelessness and their families. These resources and relevant trainings are based on consultation with the state McKinney-Vento Coordinator for Homeless Education.
Louisiana	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	The Lead Agency is the Louisiana Department of Education which includes the State Homeless Coordinator; therefore, coordination is constant regarding access and quality. Note that local McKinney-Vento liaisons are integrated into the enrollment eligibility process by each local community network lead agency with the goal of seamless eligibility that is not impaired because a family is homeless. This integration is required to be documented in the local community's coordinated enrollment plan.
Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families	<p>A household shall be prioritized for funding if the household has members who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recipients of Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP) who are participating in the Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program; • children in foster care; • children requiring special needs care, as special needs care in defined in §103 of Bulletin 139; • children experiencing homelessness; or • children actively participating in an early head start-child care partnership (EHS-CCP). <p>3.1.6 Lead Agencies are required to take into consideration children's development and promote continuity of care when authorizing child care services (98.21(f); 98.16(h)(6)). Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize for enrollment • Serve without placing these populations on waiting lists • Waive copayments
Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility	<p>Families experiencing homelessness are certified eligible and receive a 90 day grace period to secure eligibility documentation. In addition, they are referred to the homeless liaison to provide assistance in securing necessary documentation. The CCDF Lead Agency contains the State's Homeless Coordinator. The State's Homeless Coordinator works with local education agencies to coordinate these services. In addition, through coordinated enrollment, Community Networks reach out to families experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Outreach: Partnerships with community-based organizations, Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care.</p>
Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents	State law and policy allow for a grace period of 90 days for families experiencing homelessness to comply with reporting and documentation requirements of child care assistance. Such families can start receiving child care assistance prior to producing such documentation. In addition, the CCDF Lead Agency providers receive 100% of the state payment for child care assistance to families experiencing homelessness. The Division of Licensing is within the Lead Agency and therefore, they are under constant consultation. LDOE waives copay for families that are in our most vulnerable populations and are deemed categorically eligible, or priority eligible according to bulletin 139. These waivers are found in Bulletin 139 sections (507) "Certification for Categorical Eligible Households", and (513), (A)1-5 "Prioritization of Funding". These families include those that are in the EHS-CC active Partnership households, FITAP and STEP participants, and homeless families.

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<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>The CCDF Lead Agency informs providers during orientation training and provides a helpful flyer that educates them on how to identify homeless children, what impacts homelessness has on children and what additional resources are available for them. Local homeless liaisons also conduct in depth training to show providers how they can help and what resources are available for homeless families.</p> <p>The CCDF Lead Agency works with the homeless coordinator and homeless liaisons within local education agencies to coordinate these services. Homeless liaisons have received in depth training on how to identify homeless children and their families and community resources available for them. Child Care Assistance Staff are also trained annually to understand additional services that are available to homeless families and they maintain the homeless liaison contact information to share with families who are identified as homeless. In addition, through coordinated enrollment, Community Networks are reaching out to families experiencing homelessness and assisting them in accessing community resources.</p>
Maine	
<p>Section 1.4, Coordination with partners</p>	<p>The Lead Agency is working with the DOE's Homeless Education Consultant (McKinney-Vento state coordinator) on the required training of all staff working with the CCSP (Child Care Subsidy Program) on identifying and serving children experiencing homelessness and their families and specific outreach to families experiencing homelessness. In addition, discussions between the CCSP staff and Homeless Education Consultant on strategies for working with the homeless population and differences that occur within this population in the wide range of geographic locations across the State.</p>
<p>Section 3.1.1., Eligibility criteria based on child age</p>	<p>Child with Special Needs refers to a Child up to thirteen (13) years of age, for whom it has been determined and documented by a qualified professional, that the Child has a disability as defined in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20U.S.C. 1401); is eligible for early intervention services under part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.); is eligible for services under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794); meets the definition of disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (P.L. 110-325); is considered at-risk for health and/or developmental problems as a result of established biological Risk Factors, and/or as a result of identified environmental Risk Factors including, but not limited to, Homelessness, abuse and/or neglect, lead poisoning, and prenatal drug or alcohol exposure; or b) a Child who is between thirteen (13) years of age and eighteen (18) years of age, inclusive, who is physically or mentally incapable of caring for him or herself, or is under court supervision.</p>
<p>Section, 3.2.1., Special needs</p>	<p>Child with Special Needs refers to a) a Child up to thirteen (13) years of age, for whom it has been determined and documented by a qualified professional, that the Child has a disability as defined in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20U.S.C. 1401); is eligible for early intervention services under part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.); is eligible for services under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794); meets the definition of disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (P.L. 110-325); is considered at-risk for health and/or developmental problems as a result of established biological Risk Factors, and/or as a result of identified environmental Risk Factors including, but not limited to, Homelessness, abuse and/or neglect, lead poisoning, and prenatal drug or alcohol exposure; or b) a Child who is between thirteen (13) years of age and eighteen (18) years of age, inclusive, who is physically or mentally incapable of caring for him or herself, or is under court supervision. Children with special needs, who are homeless or who are from a family with very low income must be given</p>

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	priority over all other children on the CCSP waiting list. Among these three priority groups, children are selected for services on a first-come, first-served basis by county based on the date of application.
Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families	Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize for enrollment • Serve without placing these populations on waiting lists
Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility	A ninety-day (90) grace period shall be granted while Parents are taking the necessary actions to comply with required documentation. Outreach: Partnerships with community-based organizations, Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care.
Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents	CCSP Rule 7.03.2: " ninety-day (90) grace period shall be granted while Parents are taking the necessary actions to comply with the immunization requirement. Child Care Center Rules 17.1.1, and Family Child Care Rules Section 12: Health and Medical (A) allow for a 30-day grace period ."
Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families	MRTQ/PDN (Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network) works closely with the Head Start (HS) programs in Maine. HS has been training and working with homeless families for many years. MRTQ/PDN has created a training appropriate for child care practitioners on the topic of homelessness. This training is available to all. MRTQ/PDN technical assistance staff are trained on the components of homelessness as it pertains to ECE settings. They are available upon request to offer TA to practitioners who request it. MRTQ/PDN technical assistance staff are trained on the components of homelessness as it pertains to ECE settings.
Maryland	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	OCC's (Office of Child Care) Child Care Subsidy Branch has a staff person assigned to the Homeless Advocacy Workgroup. That staff person shares information relevant to the provision of services to this population. The goal is to strengthen services provided to, and advocate for, homeless families.
Section, 3.2.1., Special needs	Primary consideration within a service priority shall be given to a family requiring CCS Program services for a child with a disability or evidence of homelessness. Parents experiencing homelessness are issued a 60 day voucher to allow for time to gather the required documentation to determine eligibility. COMAR 13A.16.03.02F and 13A.15.09.02DR. Temporary Admission to Care. (1) An operator may temporarily admit or retain a child in care if: (a) The child is homeless; or (b) The child's parent is unable to provide the health-related records specified in Regulation .04D, E, G, or H of this chapter. (2) For a child to be temporarily admitted or retained in care, the parent shall present evidence of the child's appointment with a health care provider or local health department to: (a) Receive a medical evaluation to include, if applicable, a lead screening; (b) Receive a required immunization; (c) Acquire evidence of age-appropriate immunizations on a form approved by the office; or (d) Reconstruct a lost health record.

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	<p>(3) The date of the appointment required by §F(2) of this regulation may not be later than 20 calendar days after the date the child was temporarily admitted or retained.</p> <p>(4) An operator shall exclude from care a child who has been temporarily admitted or retained in care if the parent fails to provide evidence of the required health-related information within 3 business days after the date of the appointment made pursuant to §F(2) of this regulation.</p> <p>Outreach: Providers receive a quarterly newsletter, PARTNERS, that provides information on programs and resources to families. The state child care resource and referral network and State Licensing Offices provide training and information on resources available to families. State child care associations hold yearly conferences where agencies provide information and training. Written materials and website resources are provided to child care providers to share with families. Maryland EXCELS, the state's quality rating and improvement system, requires participants to develop a resource list that they share with families.</p> <p>Maryland provides a grant to the United Way and providers who serve medically fragile children to provide outreach to homeless families. The grant to United Way for Central Maryland provides a community model that addresses self-sufficiency and addresses items such as health to housing.</p> <p>Maryland also collaborates with Head Starts that give priority placement and outreach services to families experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Maryland intends to explore the following suggestions made by its stakeholder groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sending regional emails informing the provider community and others of the importance of supporting the educational development of homeless children • Establishing its own partnerships with organizations already in established partnerships with community partners such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARC-Nany Newman • Volunteers of America • Catholic Charities • 211 • Conducting outreach to the local school systems to inform them of the availability of the child care subsidy program for eligible children, including those who are homeless.
<p>Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families</p>	<p>Families have 60 days to comply with immunization requirements for non-school age children using licensed/regulated care or informal care.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents</p>	<p>Families have 60 days to comply with immunization requirements for non-school age children using licensed/regulated care or informal care.</p>
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>Maryland provides specific training and technical assistance to all providers. Training is provided through the CCRC (Child Care Resource Center) locations and the state's approved training organizations.</p> <p>Information is provided to the approved trainers at quarterly trainer's meetings on topics to be developed and available to providers. Technical assistance is provided by CCRC and state staff to providers on strategies for working with homeless families.</p>

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	Child Care Subsidy staff provide on-site technical assistance to programs and families on accessing state services, assistance with filling out forms and helping the programs as they advocate for the families with whom they are working.
Massachusetts	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	ESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education), which sits within EOE (Executive Office of Education), is the lead agency responsible for administering the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act in Massachusetts. The Secretary of EOE serves as an ex officio member of the Board of EEC, which meets a minimum of ten times annually to decide high level policy issues, including issues impacting all CCDF funded programs and services. The broad membership and regular meeting schedule of the EEC Board allows for substantial and ongoing consultation and coordination with EEC's stakeholders and key partner agencies. In addition, EEC met with representatives from ESE on multiple occasions to discuss data sharing and inform policies on how EEC can utilize homelessness liaisons to assist in identifying families that meet the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness.
Section 3.1.4., Asset limit (\$1 million)	EEC will waive the asset limit for homeless families, active TAFDC (Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children) recipients, and for families with active protective services cases with DCF. See the EEC Interim Policy Guide 2018 (https://www.mass.gov/guides/child-care-subsidy-management-and-ccfa)
Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families	<p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize for enrollment • Serve without placing these populations on waiting lists • Use grants or contracts to reserve slots for priority populations <p>Effective October 1, 2018, EEC implemented interim policies establishing the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness. EEC will continue to allow homeless families to access care in accordance with its homeless contracts that allows households who are in DHCD or DCF (Department of Housing and Community Development and Department of Children and Families) shelters immediate access to care. Under EEC's proposed regulatory changes, EEC will expand access for homeless families by allowing all families who meet the McKinney-Vento definition to use homelessness as a service need in lieu of employment, education, or training. EEC will also waive the asset limit for homeless families. EEC will only allow the use homelessness as a service need for two years and any extensions beyond the two years would be evaluated by EEC on a case by case basis. These changes would not guarantee all homeless families immediate access to care but some enrollment prioritization would continue through the existing homeless contracts. EEC anticipates that the regulatory changes will take effect in early 2019.</p>
Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility	<p>EEC allows families experiencing homelessness to access child care if the parent(s) is unable to submit complete income verification at the time of initial assessment. Effective October 1, 2018, EEC implemented interim policies that will allow families twelve weeks to submit full income documentation. EEC expects to codify this policy following the regulatory process, which EEC anticipates will be completed in early 2019.</p> <p>EEC has contracts for priority access through the Department of Housing and Community Development (who run state funded family shelters) to assist homeless families access child care. DHCD and community partners, including the CRRs (Child Care Resource and Referral) and Mass 211, ensure that parents are informed of different child care access points. EEC is in the process of planning coordination with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), who oversees McKinney-Vento certifications by public schools, to coordinate services for homeless families.</p>

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<p>Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents</p>	<p>EEC child care licensing policy recognizes the fact that homeless children may have difficulty obtaining medical records at the time of admission into a child care program because of the stresses caused by issues affecting these priority populations. Accordingly, homeless families may be granted up to six (6) months from the date of their child's admission into a child care program to obtain the child's medical records. EEC collaborated with the Department of Public Health (DPH), which sits in the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) and is the lead agency responsible for public health in the Commonwealth. The Secretary of EOHHS serves as an ex officio member EEC's Board, which is the designated State Advisory Council and meets a minimum of ten times annually to decide high level policy issues, including issues impacting all CCDF funded programs and services.</p>
<p>Section 4.1.3., Child care services through grants or contracts</p>	<p>EEC administers multiple contracts to serve low-income families (Income Eligible Child Care), children with active protective services cases (Supportive or DCF Related Child Care), Teen Parents, and Homeless Families. All contracts allow for care for all age groups. The base rates for child care subsidies (for both vouchers and contracts) are set based on geographic region taking into account the age of children (i.e., infant, toddler, pre-school, and school age) and child care settings (i.e., center-based versus family child care). In addition to the base rate, Family Child Care Systems are provided an additional administrative fee to provide supports to affiliated family child care providers. Family Child Care Systems must reimburse the affiliated family child care providers the base child care rate, but may pay providers a higher rate. Through EEC's Priority Population contracts for supportive child care, teen parent child care, and homeless child care, contracted providers receive an additional \$17.22 per day for support services. "Support services" include required case management/social services as well as transportation costs, if needed. The Lead Agency will use grants or contracts for child care services to increase the supply and/or quality of specific types of care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs to serve infants and toddlers • Programs to serve school-age children • Programs to serve children experiencing homelessness • Programs to serve children in underserved areas • Programs that serve specific geographic areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Urban ○ Rural
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>The Homeless Education State Coordinator (ESE) is a member of the Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) Advisory based at EEC and its recently formed subcommittee on Homeless children and families. The Homeless Education State Coordinator is working closely with the HSSCO Director, and the Homeless Liaisons will have an expanded role this coming year with an emphasis on training and collaboration in order to identify children. The school of origin has been expanded to designate receiving schools, as well this gives more educational continuity for children and the school of origin now includes preschool. Over the past year, there has been a concerted effort with the Homeless Education State Coordinator and the HSSCO Director with Homeless Liaisons collaborating with community providers, including Head Start and Early Head Start program directors. There will be an emphasis on providing training and opening up Homeless Liaisons' trainings to Head Start and Early Head Start program staff.</p> <p>The Homeless Education State Coordinator has presented trainings to the Massachusetts Housing & Shelter Alliance (MHSA), the HSSCO Advisory Committee and the HSSCO Homeless</p>

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	<p>children and families subcommittee on the McKinney-Vento definition, homeless education, and identification of homeless children and families. In October 2018, the Homeless Education State Coordinator hired 3 Regional Homeless Liaison Coordinators and the HSSCO Director will be meeting with the Homeless Education State Coordinator and the new Regional Homeless Liaison Coordinators to plan joint trainings throughout the year with Homeless Liaisons and Head Start and Early Head Start staff.</p> <p>Further, EEC is exploring how it may utilize the newly released Supporting Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness Interactive Learning Series webinars to train providers on family homelessness and the McKinney-Vento definition of "homeless" as it refers to children and youths.</p>
Michigan	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	<p>The McKinney-Vento State Coordinator and Special Populations Manager, also part of the lead agency, worked with the program to develop a "working with homeless children and families" training that is offered through the Great Start to Quality Resource Centers across the state. Regular meetings ensure the training is up to date and relevant. Beyond the regular meetings there are also opportunities for the homeless liaisons in local communities to share information about the child care program with families.</p>
Section 3.1.2., Eligibility criteria	<p>Definition of protective services - All age-eligible children whose parent/substitute parent has a need and the child is placed with a licensed foster parent(s), the child or parent is receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or social security income (SSI) benefits, the parent is a migrant farmworker, the child is experiencing homelessness, or the family has an active substantiated neglect/abuse case. Eligibility for such a child shall be considered without an income test, determined on a case by case basis. Children who were impacted by the Flint water crisis are eligible based on lead levels without an income test or verified valid need reason, and the family contribution is waived.</p>
Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families	<p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve without placing these populations on waiting lists • Waive copayments
Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility	<p>After identity of the applicant is verified and an interview is conducted, eligibility is presumed for up to 45 days based on the applicant's statement for any documentation that is not provided.</p> <p>Outreach: Lead Agency accepts applications at local community-based locations, Partnerships with community-based organizations, Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care.</p>
Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents	<p>At application, applicants will be asked whether or not the child is up to date on immunizations (shots). If not, the child must be up to date by the next redetermination (12-months) or have a religious or medical objection that prevents them from being up to date. A cross agency workgroup was conducted to discuss current requirements and align policies and procedures for parents as much as possible. Child care subsidy requirements were aligned with TANF requirements to provide the most consistency for parents applying for assistance. Implementation planned by September 30, 2018.</p>

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<p>Section 4.3.2, Special needs, rates</p>	<p>All age-eligible children whose family has a need and the child is in foster care, the family receives TANF, the parent or child receive Social Security income (SSI), the parent is a migrant farmworker, the child is experiencing homelessness, or the family has an active substantiated neglect/abuse case qualify for protective services and shall be considered without an income test, determined on a case by case basis. A child who was impacted by the Flint water crisis is eligible without an income test or need reason and is assigned a \$0 family contribution based on lead levels. In addition, a grant agreement has been created to formalize the relationship and requirements of the Flint Early Childhood Partnership and the Department for contracted child care slots for families impacted by the Flint water crisis. This agreement was approved by the State Board of Education on October 11, 2016.</p>
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>A three-hour training- "Supporting Families Experiencing Homelessness: How Child Care Providers Can Help"- was developed with the support of a stakeholder group and our state's McKinney-Vento Coordinator. The three- hour training covers: Homelessness definition, Strategies for identifying families experiencing homelessness, impacts of homelessness on children and families, Resources for children and families experiencing homelessness, Strategies for providers to support children and families in their care that are experiencing homelessness. This training is delivered across the state multiple times by each of the ten GSQ (Great Start to Quality) Resource Centers. In order to assess the training, we reconvened the original stakeholder group and trainers in December 2017 to review the training and update with current data. Our state McKinney-Vento Coordinator and several McKinney-Vento Liaisons joined and shared new information and resources to incorporate into the statewide training. We are considering developing a part two training.</p> <p>We plan to expand our network of approved trainers to allow for more providers to access the training in their community. The state's RTT Social Emotional Consultants (SEC) are qualified to complement and support the state's three-hour training designed to identify and service homeless children and their families. The SECs can build on this training's foundational knowledge and offer ongoing training and coaching to the child care provider around the often intense emotional, behavioral and traumatic effects that children may experience during times of homelessness. Additionally, the SEC may help support the provider, child and family to connect with other community resources such as mental and behavioral health services that are needed to facilitate the child's ability to be maintained in the child care setting. (RTT funding ends December 31, 2018). Funds have been identified for RTT locations to continue into FY19.</p>
<p>Minnesota</p>	
<p>Section 1.4, Coordination with partners</p>	<p>The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) coordinated with the Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness and the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to design an expedited application process for families applying for CCAP. The process has yet to receive legislative approval.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.1., Special needs</p>	<p>Children with special needs may also include children with environmental or familial factors that create barriers to the child's optimal achievement. This could include a federal or state disaster, limited English proficiency, history of abuse or neglect, determination that children are at risk of abuse or neglect, family violence, homelessness, age of mother, level of maternal education, mental illness, developmental disability, parental chemical dependency or history or substance abuse.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.2., Increasing access</p>	<p>Children experiencing homelessness may be considered a child with a special need based on environmental or familial factors that create barriers to the child's optimal development.</p>

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<p>to high quality child care for homeless families</p>	<p>Counties and tribes can prioritize these children by allowing higher reimbursement rates to be paid. The special needs rate must be identified in the county or tribe's biennial Child Care Fund Plan.</p> <p>The Department of Human Services has proposed prioritizing children experiencing homelessness by waiving activity requirements for three months and processing applications within five days for homeless families. These proposals would prioritize services for homeless families receiving TANF and living in counties without waiting lists for Basic Sliding Fee child care. These proposals have not yet been enacted. Minnesota intends to reintroduce legislation in the 2019 legislative session.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility</p>	<p>Procedures are pending statutory approval to permit the enrollment of children experiencing homelessness while required documentation is obtained. The Department of Human Services has proposed that applications from homeless families be processed within five days of receipt, prior to receiving verifications. Families would have up to three months to provide verifications.</p> <p>This proposal has not yet been enacted. Minnesota intends to reintroduce legislation in the 2019 legislative session.</p> <p>Outreach: Partnerships with community-based organizations, Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care</p> <p>Other: A partner agency, the Minnesota Department of Education, provides Early Learning Scholarships to help pay the fees for children attending child care and early education programs participating in the QRIS, Parent Aware. Children who have experienced homelessness in the last 24 months are prioritized for these scholarships as outlined in Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.165.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents</p>	<p>Children who are homeless have 30 days after enrollment in child care to show that they meet the immunization requirements or are exempt from the immunization requirements. Licensed child care providers and child care programs receiving payment through the Child Care Assistance Program must follow this policy.</p> <p>A resource document specific to children who are homeless or in foster care was developed in coordination with the Minnesota Department of Health. This document provides information about requirements and free or low-cost shots available through the Minnesota Vaccines for Children Program. It also directs child care providers to contact their licensor if they need more information.</p>
<p>Section 4.6.3., Prioritizing investments</p>	<p>Access to high-quality programs is supported for all families who receive CCAP, whether they are TANF or non-TANF, through investments in high-quality providers. High-quality providers who serve CCAP families have higher maximum reimbursement rates through tiered reimbursement. Parent Aware Three- and Four-Star Rated programs, and providers who hold certain accreditations or credentials can be reimbursed at rates that are up to 20 percent higher. CCAP policy also allows counties to pay higher rates to at-risk populations. At-risk factors include, but are not limited to, a federal or state disaster, limited English proficiency in a family, a history of abuse or neglect, a determination that the children are at risk of abuse or neglect, family violence, homelessness, age of the mother, level of maternal education, mental illness, developmental disability, or parental chemical dependency or history of other substance abuse, including environmental or familial factors that create barriers to a child's optimal achievement.</p>

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	<p>The Early Learning Scholarships increase access to high-quality early childhood programs for 3- and 4-year-old children with the highest needs to improve school readiness for all young children. Children birth to 2 years old are eligible if they meet one or more of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child of a teen parent • Currently in foster care • In need of child protective services • Experienced homelessness in the last 24 months • Younger sibling of a 3 to 4 year old with a scholarship if they attend the same program • Priority for scholarships will be given based on family income, child poverty, one of the special populations as noted previously, and geographic region. Families must meet eligibility requirements as outlined in Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.165.
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>DHS has developed and supports the delivery of eighteen hours of training on the topic of homelessness including the awareness, biological impacts to children’s brains and emotional development and how to support children in childcare settings. Head Start also offers training on the dynamics that cause and maintain poverty for providers working with low income families. This training is available to CCDF providers.</p> <p>The Department supports the availability of three courses for child care providers on serving children and their families who have experienced homelessness. The three courses teach child care providers how to identify children experiencing homelessness by describing the impacts of homelessness on children, how adverse childhood experiences effect childhood development and what behaviors can develop due to early childhood trauma. Child care providers, families and stakeholders can access resources on ParentAware.org, Minnesota's consumer education website. Resources include but not limited to food, housing, health care and financial supports.</p> <p>The training developed for child care providers serving homeless families is open to county and tribal agency staff who work with families. County and tribal agency staff could also participate in a series of trainings on homelessness also available through the Metro-wide Engagement for Shelter & Housing (MESH). DHS plans to present information about identifying and serving homeless families to Child Care Assistance Program workers at a conference in the fall of 2018. The material will include information about identifying families and children experiencing homelessness.</p>
<p>Mississippi</p>	
<p>Section 1.4, Coordination with partners</p>	<p>McKinney-Vento State Coordinators for Homeless Education were consulted regarding consumer education related to child care subsidies available to the homeless population. The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) administers the program for the state, and the Lead Agency coordinates closely with MDE to help ensure alignment of goals and works closely with McKinney-Vento state coordinators to develop recommendations and coordinate planning efforts. The overall goal of coordination is to expand accessibility and continuity of care and improve quality within the early childhood system.</p>
<p>Section 3.1.5., Priority populations</p>	<p>Priority populations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients – eligibility requirements are waived for TANF recipients • Transitional Child Care (TCC) recipients – eligibility requirements are waived for TCC recipients

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeless children, as defined by McKinney-Vento Act – eligibility requirements are waived for homeless children • Children under the supervision of the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services (MDCPS) – eligibility requirements are waived for children in the custody of MDCPS, children in foster care • Teen Parents • Children served by the Healthy Families Mississippi (HFM) home-visitation program • Special-needs populations, these clients include: • Children with documented special needs, 85% State Median Income (SMI) threshold applies. • Parent(s) with a documented disability, 85% SMI threshold does not apply. • Parent(s) deployed in the MS National Guard or Reserve, 85% SMI threshold applies. • Children of very low-income parents, the family’s gross income must be at 50% or below the State Median Income (SMI).
<p>Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families</p>	<p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize for enrollment • Serve without placing these populations on waiting lists • Waive copayments <p>Co-payments are reduced to no more than \$10 per month or waived if homeless family has no income.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility</p>	<p>Homeless children are referred clients and are a priority population, and receive priority status in the event a pending funding list is in effect. Eligibility for child care payment for homeless children is determined by the Referring Agency, and income requirements are waived. Homeless children are eligible upon referral from the designated Referral Agency and allowed a grace period to supply documentation.</p> <p>Outreach: Lead Agency accepts applications at local community-based locations, Partnerships with community-based organizations, Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents</p>	<p>Homeless children and children in foster care who receive child care payment assistance may be granted a 24 hour grace period from the date of admission into a child care payment-approved program to obtain the necessary immunization records. Payment for these children during the grace period shall not be considered an error or an improper payment. The timeframe for immunizations is established by the Mississippi State Department of Health for the enforcement of health, safety, and welfare.</p> <p>The Lead Agency waives family contributions/co-payments for other criteria established by the Lead Agency: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients and homeless families with no income.</p>
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6.</p>	<p>The Early Childhood Academy's expanding schedule will include provider workshops/webinars addressing the special needs and challenges of working with homeless children and their families. The workshops/webinars will be used to train both providers and staff as needed.</p>

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Missouri	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	The Lead Agency has provided and continues to provide trainings on the Child Care Subsidy program to community organizations who work with homeless families. The goal is for the community organizations to have an understanding of the policies and required documentation to educate homeless families on the Child Care Subsidy program and to assist them in the application process.
Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families	Homelessness has been defined as a need for child care. A family claiming homeless as a valid need must participate in a community based program designed to eliminate the homelessness situation. Homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters and other community based organizations may offer programs and resources to help families end homelessness. Eligibility specialists must verify the eligibility unit participates in activities with the community based program. Verification may include, but is not limited to a hard copy or collateral contact verification or with a telephone call to the community organization to verify the participation. If the family is participating in a community based program designed to eliminate the homeless situation, child care is authorized up to twenty-three (23) fulltime units. If the child is a school-aged child, child care is authorized based on the school schedule of the child.
Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility	<p>(1) When families are found to be eligible for child care subsidy, homelessness is a valid need for child care and children are authorized for 30 days while parents obtain documentation to verify homelessness. Legislation goes into effect August 28, 2018 allowing for the grace period to allow families to secure immunizations or documentation of immunizations. Providers will be notified of the new policy via email following the date it becomes effective.</p> <p>(2) The Missouri Workshop Calendar, maintained by Child Care Aware of Missouri offers child care professionals a variety of trainings on working with families experiencing homelessness. In addition, Educare contractors (Educare purpose is to improve the quality of child care and early learning programs), who serve registered providers, provide annual support group activities related to serving homeless families.</p> <p>(3) Outreach is conducted through participation in the Governor's Committee to Eliminate Homelessness. Participation includes conducting annual trainings for providers of homeless services and providing trainings on applying for child care benefits to social services agencies.</p> <p>Outreach: Partnerships with community-based organizations, Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care.</p>
Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents	Any child who is homeless or in the custody of the Children's Division and cannot provide satisfactory evidence of the required immunizations may be enrolled in childcare. Satisfactory evidence shall be presented within thirty days of enrollment and shall confirm either that the child has completed all immunizations appropriate for his or her age or has begun the process of immunization. If the child has begun the process of immunization, he or she may continue to attend as long as the process is being accomplished according to the schedule recommended by the Department of Health. The Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), Section for Child Care Regulation and the Lead Agency consulted on the need for the grace period. DHSS and DSS worked jointly on legislation required to allow for enrollment and establishment of the grace period.
Section 3.4.4., Waive copays	Families with children identified as having special needs and homeless families have the fee waived.
Section 4.1.3., Child care services	The Lead Agency will use grants or contracts for child care services to increase the supply and/or quality of specific types of care:

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through grants or contracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs to serve infants and toddlers • Programs to serve school-age children • Programs to serve children needing non-traditional hour care • Programs to serve children experiencing homelessness • Programs that serve specific geographic areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Urban
Section 4.4.1., Payment rates	The Lead Agency offers rate differentials to providers serving more than 50% children receiving child care subsidy, special needs children, homeless children, and accredited facilities. Parents may choose from licensed, licensed-exempt, or providers not required to be licensed, which offers different rate levels.
Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families	<p>Educare contractors provide support group opportunities to network with other programs, in an educationally-enriched environment. Support group networking opportunities shall occur at a minimum of once per month. Identifying and serving homeless children and families is an annual topic during at least one of the monthly support groups. In addition, the MO Workshop Calendar offers training opportunities that can be taken as part of a licensed childcare provider's annual clock hour requirement.</p> <p>The Lead Agency participates in meetings of the Governor's Committee to End Homelessness. The Lead Agency's contractors provides technical support and training for CCDF child care providers and also provide information on outreach to homeless families.</p>
Montana	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	<p>The State Coordinator for Homeless Education is housed in the Montana Office of Public Instruction. This person is involved with the BBAC and therefore closely collaborates with the Lead Agency regarding this topic. The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) has appointed multiple staff as representatives on the Best Beginnings Advisory Council, including, the OPI Montana Preschool Development Grant Coordinator, the Homeless and Title One coordinator, the Preschool Specialist for Special Education ages 3-5 and an Early Grades Specialist. They bring expertise in early literacy, homelessness, Title 1, Part B and C and preschool programming through the Preschool Development Grant. Several projects and services have been coordinated because of these relationships. The Lead Agency worked with the Public Health and Safety Division and Child Care Licensing Program of the Quality Assurance Division to establish a procedure for how a family experiencing homelessness would be able to comply with immunizations in order to participate in the Best Beginnings Scholarship Program.</p> <p>Goals: Increased access to child care services for families who may be homeless by reducing barriers regarding policies and statute. Policy development will support child care providers as well by increasing the resources and knowledge available on enrolling a child whose family is experiencing homelessness.</p>
Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families	If there was limited funding for child care assistance, a household experiencing homelessness is a priority. Administrative Rules of Montana 37.80.201(5), Nonfinancial Requirements for Eligibility and Priority for Assistance, includes the priority list that would be implemented if there are insufficient funds to provide benefits to all eligible households. A household experiencing homelessness is listed as priority number four, after a household receiving TANF, a household containing a child with special needs or a child with disabilities, and a household headed by a teen parent.

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<p>Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility</p>	<p>A family experiencing homelessness is eligible for a 90-calendar day eligibility period while families stabilize their living arrangements. In order to be eligible for 90-day eligibility period, the parent must submit two forms of documentation to prove homelessness. One form of documentation is the self-attestation from the parent on the application. The second form of documentation could be a letter from a homeless shelter or a statement from a friend or relative the family is living with. A parent must select a registered or licensed child care provider for child(ren) in the family. The 90-day eligibility period allows the family experiencing homelessness to meet all Non-TANF eligibility requirements. This includes the following: proving residency in Montana, citizenship of child(ren), and meeting both the income and activity requirements. Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agencies are available to provide support for families experiencing homelessness by providing referrals to available community services and identifying child care providers that meet the needs of the family.</p> <p>Outreach: Partnerships with community-based organizations, Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care.</p> <p>Child Care Resource & Referral agencies provide outreach information to places providing services to homeless families such as homeless shelters, and organizations that may work with homeless families such as Offices of Public Assistance, Good Will/Salvation Army stores, etc. services and identifying child care providers that may meet the needs of the family.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents</p>	<p>The Lead Agency worked with the Public Health and Safety Division and Child Care Licensing Program of the Quality Assurance Division to establish the procedure for how a family experiencing homelessness would be able to comply with immunizations. Montana requires children to have current immunizations to attend a child care facility, but a conditional enrollment form allows a family to have a plan from a medical professional to come current with immunizations. The conditional enrollment form allows a child to attend the child care facility as the child comes current with immunizations.</p> <p>The grace period varies with each child's individual needs. The length of time a child requires to become current with immunizations is determined on the conditional attendance form by their physician or Health Department official.</p>
<p>Section 3.4.4., Waive copays</p>	<p>Children referred by Child and Family Services Division do not have a copayment.</p>
<p>Section 4.1.3., Child care services through grants or contracts</p>	<p>Lead Agency is piloting a Slotcare Program.</p>
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>The Lead Agency provides an online training for providers on identifying and serving homeless children and their families. The course developed by the Center for Early Childhood Professional Development through the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma Child Care Services has been tailored to the needs of providers in Montana. The course is called "Insecure Housing and the Effects on Children" and is designed to help child care providers understand, define and identify children and families experiencing homelessness, as it is defined according to McKinney-Vento. The course also explains how being homeless affects the child's health and development and provided guidance strategies to support young children experiencing homelessness. Information and resources for homelessness are available on the Early Childhood Services Bureau website.</p>

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	The Early Childhood Services Bureau partners with the Office of Public Instruction McKinney-Vento Liaison State Coordinator to disseminate information and collect data to support access of services among children and families experiencing homelessness. Early Childhood Coalitions across Montana coordinate with community-level organizations to address homelessness and provide connections to child care services. Head Start and Early Head Start programs collect data on children and families experiencing homelessness and coordinate with child care providers, especially through the Early Head Start - Child Care Partnership program to provide access to high-quality care and community resources.
Nebraska	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	Initial coordination with McKinney-Vento started with a meeting to provide program overview of CCDF Subsidy and Nebraska’s McKinney-Vento Program out of the Nebraska Department of Education. The overarching goal between the Lead Agency and Nebraska’s McKinney-Vento will be to reach subsidy eligible children by educating and assisting in child care subsidy eligibility and authorizations, but also provide information on other economic assistance programs (SNAP, TANF, LIHEAP, etc.). The CCDF/Subsidy will create an informational brochure/handout for the McKinney-Vento liaison to distribute. Ongoing meetings and communication sharing will take place to implement these goals.
Section 3.2.1., Prioritized or targeted child care services	Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF: There is no priority for children experiencing homelessness as Nebraska does not have a waiting list for children to receive Child Care Subsidy if eligibility is met.
Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families	Pending Regulations will note that if the household meets the definition of homeless, child care may be authorized up to 40 hours per week for 3 calendar months to provide stability to the client’s child(ren) and to allow the parent(s) or usual caretaker the opportunity to seek out community resources. If the client is not meeting another need by the end of the 3 month period, they will no longer be considered eligible. The CCDF Application allows the client to indicate if they are experiencing homelessness. There are several child care and child development advocates and agencies who assist with outreach across Nebraska. Outreach is through their work and mission along with referrals to ACCESS Nebraska for economic assistance program eligibility. Partners include but are not limited to: First Five Nebraska, Nebraska Children Family Foundation, Nebraska Department of Education, Nebraska’s resource and referral, home visitors with various agencies, medical professionals, public/private schools and universities, domestic violence shelters, homeless shelters, health departments, and DHHS staff.
Section 3.2.3., Grace period	Children experiencing homelessness (as defined by CCDF). Within 30 days of a child’s enrollment , the provider must obtain a copy of the child’s immunization record. Providers may be exempt of this requirement if the child’s parent objects to immunization on religious grounds or if the child’s health would be harmed by immunization and this is certified by a physician, certified nurse practitioner, or a physician assistant. [No specific reference to homeless, but this is the response to a question about homeless children]. NOTE: All children have a 30 day grace period from the child’s enrollment to provide a copy of the child’s immunization record.
Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework,	Working with Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness: training that will assist child care providers to understand the nature of homelessness and needs of homeless and near homeless children and their families.

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<p>Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>Early Childhood Training Center Approved training: By statute, the ECTC must approve training that is used to satisfy child care licensing criteria for required training, annual in-service, and training needed for participation or advancement in Step Up to Quality. Trainers wishing to provide training for licensing credit, submit their training plans to ECTC. Staff review the training outline for alignment with the Nebraska Early Learning Guidelines and Core Competencies, accuracy of information and length. The ECTC has created a training entitled Working with Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness. It has been offered in several places across the state. ECTC staff are working with the Early Learning Connection Coordinators across the state to offer it in each region. A train-the-trainer model will be implemented to ensure that the training is available. Lead Agency staff who may work with homeless children and their families receive extensive training on all Economic Assistance Programs offered from ACCESS Nebraska. This allows staff to provide all resources for all programs to homeless families. The Lead Agency also offers an array of trainings to staff to help them understand diversity in the population they are working with. Questions specific to homelessness are asked by Lead Agency staff when interviewing and working with families applying for services.</p>
<p>Nevada</p>	
<p>Section 1.4, Coordination with partners</p>	<p>McKinney-Vento, under the Department of Education, and CCDF are coordinating efforts to better understand how our providers interpret the meaning of "homeless" as we develop policy and procedures to ensure homeless families are prioritized in Nevada.</p>
<p>Section 3.1.5., Additional eligibility conditions</p>	<p>Per Child Care Program Manual Section 103, in the event of identified program funding shortfalls, otherwise eligible households will be prioritized in the following order: NEON (New Employees of Nevada), CPS/Foster, Special Needs At-Risk, Homeless At-Risk, Special Needs Discretionary, Homeless Discretionary, and Discretionary. Families who are experiencing homelessness, and families with a valid referral from CPS agencies who are participating in a "Voluntary Plan" to avoid formal CPS intervention, as well as those participating in a "Reunification Plan", are given priority when a wait list is in effect. Additionally, these households are given extended time to provide verifications required for final eligibility determinations. Children with special needs are given first priority when a wait list is in effect. Child care can take place within the child's home, under special consideration. Families at the lowest income levels on the State's income sliding fee scale are given priority when funding is limited. Waiting lists are imposed at higher income levels first. Families in the TANF/NEON program are served with reduced eligibility verification requirements and within a seven day application processing standard. Co-payments are waived for TANF/NEON households. When TANF/NEON households terminate from TANF assistance (e.g. loss of employment), they are given 90 days to successfully become eligible under another Purpose of Care. If no qualifying POC is obtained within this timeframe, these households' certificates are then terminated.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families</p>	<p>Per Child Care Program Manual Section 103, in the event of identified program funding shortfalls, otherwise eligible households will be prioritized in the following order: NEON, CPS/Foster, Special Needs At-Risk, Homeless At-Risk, Special Needs Discretionary, Homeless Discretionary, and Discretionary. Families who are experiencing homelessness, and families with a valid referral from CPS agencies who are participating in a "Voluntary Plan" to avoid formal CPS intervention, as well as those participating in a "Reunification Plan", are given priority when a wait list is in effect.</p>

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	<p>Additionally, these households are given extended time to provide verifications required for final eligibility determinations.</p> <p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize for enrollment • Serve without placing these populations on waiting lists • Waive copayments • Use grants or contracts to reserve slots for priority populations <p>Allow 90 days to provide post-approval verifications.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility</p>	<p>Households who meet the definition of "homeless" will be allowed up to 90 days to provide verifications that are not readily available or easily obtainable.</p> <p>218.1 Verifications - Households who meet the definition of "homeless" will be allowed up to 90 days to provide verifications that are not readily available or easily obtainable.</p> <p>218.3 Homeless - The CCDF recognizes the definition of a homeless household according to section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.11434a(2)), A homeless household includes children and youths who: (A) Lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence • Fixed nighttime residence: Stationary, permanent, and not subject to change. • Regular nighttime residence: Used on a predictable, routine, or consistent basis. • Adequate nighttime residence: Sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments.</p> <p>AND (B) Includes (1) Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement; (2) Having a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;(3) Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and (4) Migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (1) through (3). Households are considered homeless if they fit both part A and any one of the subparts of part B of the definition above.</p> <p>Outreach: Lead Agency accepts applications at local community-based locations, Partnerships with community-based organizations, Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents</p>	<p>Immunization requirements for CCDF can be waived for 90 days and additionally through special consideration to the Child Care Chief. Verifications are allowed a 90 day grace period for families experiencing homelessness or families working with protective services. Health and Safety requirements other than immunizations are not given a grace period.</p>
<p>Section 4.1.3., Child care services through grants or contracts</p>	<p>Contracted Slots are provided for "Delegate Agencies" including Before and After School Programs, Wraparound, and providers who exclusively serve Homeless families or families involved with Protective Services.</p> <p>For Wraparound, the rates are set based on the 2004 reimbursement rate.</p> <p>For Homeless, CPS, and Foster, the rates are set by capacity and available funds.</p> <p>The Lead Agency will use grants or contracts for child care services to increase the supply and/or quality of specific types of care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs to serve infants and toddlers • Programs to serve school-age children

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs to serve children experiencing homelessness • Programs to serve children in underserved areas • Programs that serve specific geographic areas • Rural
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>The CCDP subgrants CCDF funds to the Nevada Department of Education, who developed a survey to evaluate providers' understanding of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act's definition of homeless, the effects of homelessness on children and families, the effects of homelessness on child behavior and learning, identifying the barriers of providing service to homeless children, as well as ascertain information on what additional resources would be helpful for them to better serve this population. The Las Vegas Urban League partners with Homeless Youth Alliance and participates in their Project Homeless Connect and other events in order to find and assist homeless families. Information, training and webinars are shared with staff. CCR&R staff attended Child Care for Families Experiencing Homelessness: Lessons Learned and the Road Ahead on May 2, 2018 and Serving Young Children Experiencing Homelessness: Practical Strategies for McKinney-Vento Liaisons and School-based Staff on May 8, 2018. Both webinars are from School House Connection.</p> <p>Information, training and webinars are shared with staff. R&R staff attended Child Care for Families Experiencing Homelessness: Lessons Learned and the Road Ahead on May 2, 2018 and Serving Young Children Experiencing Homelessness: Practical Strategies for McKinney-Vento Liaisons and School-based Staff on May 8, 2018. Both webinars are from School House Connection. A survey was distributed at the 2018 Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children Early Childhood Conference to understand the topics of training and support is needed by child care providers. In addition, meetings have been held with the Nevada Department of Education McKinney-Vento liaison to discuss possible shared resources and training opportunities. We are in the process to determine if Initial on line trainings offered by the Office of Head Start and Child Care can be approved by The Nevada Registry for child care training hours.</p>
<p>New Hampshire</p>	
<p>Section 1.4, Coordination with partners</p>	<p>The BCDHSC (Bureau of Child Development and Head Start Collaboration) leads the state Homelessness Task Force, which includes the NH Department of Education Director of Education for Homeless Children & Youth and representatives from Child Care Aware of NH, ACROSS NH, the Head Start Training and Technical Assistance Office, the DHHS Bureau of Housing Supports and others. The Task Force's mission is to promote expedited access to child care for children without homes, as well as to train providers regarding the identification of, and support for, children in their care who are without homes. The Task Force also provides consumer education to families via the Child Care Aware of NH website. The Director of Education for Homeless Children & Youth is the liaison for the McKinney-Vento regional coordinators, who in turn, are liaisons to the local coordinators. BCDHSC staff presented a session at the May 11, 2018 Annual Statewide Homeless Education Liaison Meeting on expedited child care and consumer education.</p> <p>The BCDHSC will share with early childhood providers a guide developed by SchoolHouse Connection (a national organization working to overcome homelessness through education) entitled, "Pathways to Partnership: Early Childhood Education," which was designed to help</p>

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	<p>LEA liaisons and homeless service providers develop a basic understanding of, and build partnerships with, five key early childhood programs (including CCDF and Head Start). Available at: https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/pathways-to-partnership-early-childhood-education/.</p>
<p>Section 3.1.2., Eligibility criteria</p>	<p>The NH Child Care Scholarship Program allows parents at initial eligibility and redetermination to actively seek employment. Parent(s) experiencing homelessness are allowed to actively seek employment and housing in the same week. Job Search is available for initial and continuing eligibility for up to a 92-calendar day period. Job Search can be authorized whenever another approved employment related activity occurs in between the next job search request or six months has lapsed after job search ends with no other approved employment related activity. Job Search means that the person is seeking employment in compliance with NHEP (NH Employment Program) requirements, by virtue of being registered with the NH Job Match System or in accordance with unemployment benefits. No minimum number of hours is required.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families</p>	<p>Families who meet the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness are eligible for Expedited Child Care to improve access to child care services. Expedited child care must be determined within 7 calendar days of the date of application with a final eligibility decision made within 30 calendar days. The child care provider must be a currently enrolled DHHS child care provider. Expedited child care is allowed with a person's self-attestation as verification of homelessness and that the parent is participating in employment, training, education or job search. A parent is not required to verify income or complete Form 1863 "Provider Verification" to be determined eligible for expedited child care. NH requires the family services specialist to ask a family if they meet the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness, if they report they live in a home or apartment. Families are prompted to respond to this question when applying online through NH EASY. FSS (Family Service Staff) are trained to inform families of the opportunity to receive expedited child care to improve access to child care services. In addition, Child Care Aware of New Hampshire, statewide Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R), participates in the Homelessness Task Force and screens for indications of homelessness during the intake process when providing referrals for families. They are familiar with expedited child care and will also refer families experiencing homelessness to other resources and programs that might benefit them. If they identify a family as homeless, they track it in their referral database. He-C 4002.17(a), He-C6916.09(l), and He-C 6917.09(k) provide families experiencing homelessness and children in foster care 60 days to obtain immunization records.</p> <p>Services are prioritized as follows: Families who are receiving TANF or who have transitioned off TANF in the past 92 calendar days; families currently experiencing homelessness or whose families have found housing after experiencing homelessness within the past 92 calendar days; families whose preventive or protective child care services closed in the past 92 calendar days; and families receiving NH Child Care Scholarship with a single parent who is placed on orders or deployed for military service if the single parent will be out of NH for more than 30 calendar days and their legal guardian applies and is determined eligible for NH Child Care Scholarship. The legal guardian's income is not counted unless his or her own children are receiving NH Child Care Scholarship. Families whose single parent returns from military service out-of-state and reapplies for child care and is determined eligible are not subject to a wait list, when one is in effect. Families who are at or below 100% of FPL and not receiving TANF, but may be at risk for becoming dependent on TANF, are placed on a high priority wait list,</p>

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	<p>when one is in effect, and released twice as quickly from the wait list as other CCDF eligible families.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility</p>	<p>NH requires FSS to ask a family if they meet the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness, if they report they live in a home or apartment. Families are prompted to respond to this question when applying online through NH EASY. FSS are trained to inform families of the opportunity to receive expedited child care. In addition, Child Care Aware of NH (CCR&R) participates in the Homelessness Task Force and screens for indications of homelessness during intake when making referrals for families. Staff is familiar with expedited child care and will also refer families experiencing homelessness to other resources and programs that might benefit them. If they identify a family as homeless, they track it in their referral database. Currently enrolled DHHS child care providers aware of families experiencing homelessness inform the family of DHHS Expedited Child Care and refer the family to apply at DHHS. Expedited child care must be determined within 7 calendar days of the date of application with a final eligibility decision made within 30 calendar days. The child's child care provider must be a currently enrolled DHHS child care provider. Once expedited child care eligibility has been determined, a New HEIGHTS (eligibility data system) generated notice is sent to both the parent and currently enrolled child care provider indicating child care is authorized for 30 calendar days.</p> <p>BCDHSC staff presented at NH's Annual Statewide Homeless Education Liaison Meeting to inform the liaisons about the CCDF requirements on homelessness. The goal of this presentation was to ensure that the liaisons have the resources needed to support families in the schools who are experiencing homelessness if they also have young children enrolled in child care. Efforts are being made to recruit a cadre of liaisons to provide training for child care providers within their region around families experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>The Homelessness Task Force created a brochure providing information about applying for expedited child care. It also includes information about statewide resources for families experiencing homelessness. The brochure is available to families, child care providers, District Office staff and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Several Child Care Aware of NH staff attended trainings about homelessness, including, "Bridges Out of Poverty" presented by Prudence Pease (a certified "Bridges Out of Poverty" facilitator). Some staff also attended a poverty simulation through Child Care Aware of America to experience the potential effects of homelessness. As a result of these trainings, the Child Care Aware of NH staff is better equipped to support child care providers and the families they serve. Additionally, when staff members provide child care referrals to families with children from birth through age 12, they are better able to identify families as homeless and provide them with resources such as family resource centers, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, etc. Additionally, NH DHHS, Bureau of Family Assistance District Office staff who works with families to determine eligibility for the NH Child Care Scholarship Program has received training on identifying and serving children and their families experiencing homelessness. The Homelessness Task Force created a brochure "Are You In Temporary Housing and Do You Need Child Care?" for families. This brochure is distributed to a variety of stakeholders and partners (e.g., Child Care Aware of NH, DHHS District Offices, child care providers, homeless liaisons and others).</p>

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<p>Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents</p>	<p>Child Care Licensing Unit's Rules He-C 4002 permits children experiencing homelessness to enroll in a child care program without immunizations documentation. Families are allowed 60 days to obtain and provide documentation of immunizations from the first day of the child's attendance at the program. The 60 day period was established in consultation with the DHHS Public Health Division with consideration for length of time for physician responses and in alignment with the ongoing immunization plan recommended by the American Pediatric Association.</p> <p>He-C 4002, He-C 6916 and He-C 6917 permit children experiencing homelessness or children in foster care to enroll in licensed child care programs or license-exempt child care programs receiving NH Child Care Scholarship without immunizations documentation. Families are allowed 60 days to obtain and provide documentation of immunizations from the first day of the child's attendance at the program.</p>
<p>Section 4.6.3., Prioritize investments</p>	<p>NH has taken a data-driven approach through the application of various research projects and opportunities to gather information on issues such as cost, access, poverty, and quality that is needed to make investments regarding supply building strategies. NH has engaged in multiple, targeted research projects to identify issues of access and affordability. Issues of affordability can directly impact a parent's choice of child care. In addition, the bureau chief and staff meet with advocates, advisory groups, other community stakeholders, and convenes task forces (e.g., Homeless, QRIS) to gain input on how to prioritize investments. NH has a history of making investments to increase access to programs providing high quality child care and development services, particularly to children in families that experience significant poverty.</p>
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>In the renewal of the Child Care Aware of NH contract in 2017, a requirement was added regarding training and technical assistance to help providers identify and serve children and families experiencing homelessness. Sessions of the trainings titled, "Working with Homeless Youth," "Understanding Homelessness and its Impact on Children and Families," and "Strengthening Families Experiencing Homelessness" are offered. During Leadership Collaboratives presented by Child Care Aware of NH, the topic of homelessness has been discussed and resources have been provided to child care program directors. At several of these sessions, a homeless outreach specialist or a school district homelessness liaison talked about their work and the services for families experiencing homelessness that are offered through their agencies or communities. Additional examples of training and TA efforts in the area of homelessness include the following:</p> <p>Child Care Aware of NH has created a TA initiative titled Homelessness Identification and Assistance, through which staff provides intensive TA on homelessness to child care providers.</p> <p>The ACROSS NH contract also includes a requirement to provide training on homelessness. (ACROSS NH is a project to support high quality after school professionals.) The contractor has provided trainings entitled "Afterschool -Summer Concerns: Homelessness and Hunger" and "Afterschool - Working with Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness."</p> <p>NH DHHS Bureau of Family Assistance District Office (DO) staff members who work with families to determine eligibility for the NH Child Care Scholarship have received training on identifying and serving children experiencing homelessness and their families. From June 25 to July 10, 2017, the training unit provided in-person training a teach DO on the NH Child Care Scholarship changes. Child Care Scholarship training is included in the New Hire curriculum, which newly hired staff view independently during Structured Field Time (SFT) on Moodle</p>

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	<p>(Division of Client Service's learning management system) prior to classroom training. The training unit also provides one full day of Child Care Scholarship training during classroom time, which is offered every month in the new hire training curriculum. This training is not limited to new hires, as we sometimes get field requests for a seasoned worker to attend training on a specific topic offered in the curriculum. A Child Care Scholarship refresher training has been developed and posted in Moodle for all staff to view.</p> <p>The training unit provides many NH Child Care Scholarship handouts for this training, including, but not limited to Income Eligibility Levels for Child Care, McKinney Vento definition of Homelessness, Maximum Weekly Standard Rates and Child Care Aware of NH (CCR&R) information.</p>
New Jersey	
<p>Section 1.4, Coordination with partners</p>	<p>DHS/DFD (Department of Human Services/Division of Family Development) assembled a workgroup comprised of the County Welfare Agencies, homeless services providers, a shelter operator representative, CCR&Rs, Head Start representative and State Collaborator, as well as the DOE McKinney-Vento homeless liaison and other key partners to discuss strategies to coordinate services and proposed policy recommendations to effectively service families experiencing homelessness and met between March and May 2017. The goal of the workgroup was to outline both the CCR&R's and homeless service providers' role and responsibilities related to outreach, training collaboration, coordination and referrals to and from social service agencies, shelters, county welfare agencies and other key stakeholders. In Summer 2018, a draft policy was released for review and comment and is in the final review process for approval and dissemination.</p>
<p>Section 3.1.5., Additional eligibility conditions or priority rules</p>	<p>Currently, there is no waiting list in New Jersey; therefore, no priority rules are being applied. In the event there is a need to prioritize eligibility, regulations exist in various parts of N.J.A.C. 10:15 that spell out admission priorities. For example, priority ranking is based on things like Child Protection & Permanency involvement, status as a TANF recipient or being at risk of becoming homeless.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families</p>	<p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize for enrollment • Serve without placing these populations on waiting lists
<p>Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility</p>	<p>The applicant will self-identify as homeless on the Child Care application. A family will verify homeless status by completing a CCR&R provided "Waiver for Child Care Services" form which will be provided by the CCR&R. Forms transmitted by a community organization (shelter, transitional program, etc.) that indicates an applicant's need for child care services would be acceptable as well. CCR&Rs will examine all documentation and where appropriate, provide a one-month grace period that gives families more time to gather the required documentation. Applicants who identify as homeless and are not able to provide documentation to verify work, school, or employment qualify for the one month grace period at the time of application. Applicants will be eligible for a one month extension if additional time is needed.</p> <p>Outreach: Lead Agency accepts applications at local community-based locations, Partnerships with community-based organizations, Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care.</p>

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	DHS/DFD has consulted with the New Jersey State Coordinator of Education for Homeless Children & Youth Program to ensure that DHS/DFD has information on the full range of child care services. DFD also posts child care information in CWAs. DHS/DFD is developing additional outreach strategies.
Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents	For each child not enrolled in a public or private school, upon admission, the child care center shall maintain on file at the center a Universal Child Health Record (Department of Health Form CH-14) or its equivalent, updated annually, along with an immunization record, and a special care plan, if applicable. A 30-day grace period is permitted for children experiencing homelessness as defined by The McKinney-Vento Act, 42 U.S.C. § 11434a(2). The length of the grace period was established through DCF regulations, in alignment with DOH regulations.
Section 4.1.3., Child care services through grants or contracts	<p>The Lead Agency will use grants or contracts for child care services to increase the supply and/or quality of specific types of care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs to serve children with disabilities • Programs to serve infants and toddlers • Programs to serve school-age children • Programs to serve children needing non-traditional hour care • Programs to serve children experiencing homelessness • Programs to serve children in underserved areas • Programs that serve children with diverse linguistic or cultural backgrounds • Programs that serve specific geographic areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Urban ○ Rural
Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families	<p>DFD is in the process of building of a repository of targeted training resources for providers which will include interactive modules and technical assistance from the National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement: "Supporting Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness in Early Childhood Programs", the National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness: "Caring for the Health and Wellness of Children Experiencing Homelessness", as well as School House Connection's Early Care and Education Advocacy Training.</p> <p>Once trained, CCR&RS will also be responsible for delivering targeted technical assistance to child care providers in understanding the federal definition of homelessness, DFD's eligibility policy to support families experiencing homelessness, establishing connections with local service providers that work with children experiencing homelessness, and how to engage families experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>DFD will provide technical assistance and training to CCR&Rs on how to develop an outreach plan to establish partnerships that will help identify and refer families experiencing homelessness to the CCDF program. DFD-required elements of the CCR&Rs' outreach plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilizing a residency questionnaire that prompts families to answer key questions about their living situation and training staff to be able to ask sensitive questions; • Establishing partnerships with their counties' designated McKinney-Vento liaison(s). County-based McKinney-Vento liaison would provide technical assistance in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identifying children and youth experiencing homelessness; ○ Ensuring that children experiencing homelessness can enroll immediately and participate fully in school; ○ Supporting unaccompanied youth in school selection and dispute resolution;

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	<p>DFD's policy also includes a mechanism for helping CCR&Rs to identify and prioritize homeless children and families including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranking homeless families higher on the waiting/admissions list • Expediting application processing for homeless families; • Understanding the federal definition of homelessness • Utilizing a referral form (completed by an organization that provides services to homeless families) to verify a family's homeless status; • Posting program Subsidy Program flyers at sites that serve homeless families.
New Mexico	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	<p>The Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD) has met with the state McKinney-Vento liaison with the Public Education Department, to discuss access to child care services for homeless children. The goal of these conversations was to determine how to work together to improve access to child care for homeless children, and to ensure there is a communication process in place to address needs that arise for homeless children, and lastly, to build collaboration in addressing the needs of homeless children and their families.</p>
Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families	<p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize for enrollment • Pay higher rates for access to higher-quality care
Section 3.2.4., Prioritizing services	<p>As outlined in 8.15.2 and 8.16.2 NMAC, The Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) allows providers a grace period of a maximum of 30 days to obtain an up-to-date immunization record or a public health division approved exemption from the requirement for homeless children and youth. CYFD will work with homeless families to obtain missing immunization records by coordinating with Homeless Education liaisons when appropriate. Foster care children and families participating in At-risk child care do not have a co-pay.</p>
Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility	<p>As outlined in 8.15.2 and 8.16.2 NMAC, The Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) allows providers a grace period of a maximum of 30 days to obtain an up-to-date immunization record or a public health division approved exemption from the requirement for homeless children and youth. CYFD will work with homeless families to obtain missing immunization records by coordinating with Homeless Education liaisons when appropriate.</p> <p>Outreach: Partnerships with community-based organizations, Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care.</p> <p>Meetings are taking place with the New Mexico Coalition to End Homeless (NMCEH), a statewide association of agencies and individuals responsible for the system of housing and services. NMCEH is the Collaborative Applicant for New Mexico Balance of State Region for the federal Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance program. The purpose of the meetings are two-fold: to provide input in each other's implementation plans and include processes for ongoing collaboration and communication.</p> <p>In addition, The Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) is working with the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED), McKinney-Vento representative to collaborate on providing outreach to New Mexico's homeless families. This includes posters, flyers, referrals, brochures, posting on CYFD/NMPED websites, and mutual webinars. New Mexico</p>

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	has two child care centers that target the homeless population. One in Albuquerque, NM and one in Las Cruces, NM.
Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents	<p>The Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) allows providers a grace period of a maximum of 30 days to obtain an up-to-date immunization record or a public health division approved exemption from the requirement for homeless children and youth. CYFD will work with homeless families to obtain missing immunization records by coordinating with Homeless Education liaisons when appropriate.</p> <p>The Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) coordinates with the New Mexico Public Education Department Homeless Liaison and New Mexico Department of Health Immunization Program to provide support to help families with children receiving services during a grace period comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements. CYFD Licensing staff participate in the New Mexico Department of Health's Vaccine Advisory Committee who provides recommendations annually in regards to the School and Daycare Immunization Requirements. Also, New Mexico Department of Health administers a Statewide Immunization Information System (NMSIIS). NMSIIS is a confidential, computerized repository of individual immunization records that integrates information from birth and death records, public and private health care providers, and parental records. CYFD has coordinated with New Mexico Department of Health to provide child care provider's access to NMSIIS.</p>
Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families	<p>The New Mexico Council to End Homelessness (NMCEH) and The Early Childhood Services Division within the New Mexico Children Youth and Families Department are working together to provide better access to child care services and housing for families with young children experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>NMCEH and the Division meet on an ongoing basis to evaluate the effectiveness of the cooperation and determine next steps in helping homeless families in the most effective ways. NMCEH will provide training to Division Eligibility staff and Early Childhood Consultants about the statewide Coordinated Entry System operated by NMCEH, which provides access to most government funded housing programs in the state for people who are homeless and how to serve them. The goal is to make sure Division Eligibility staff and Early Childhood Consultants are familiar enough with the system to be able to assist homeless families they come in contact with in accessing the system quickly. The Early Childhood Services Division will provide training to case managers at NMCEH member agencies that serve families with children in the process for helping homeless children to quickly access child care services.</p>
New York	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	OCFS (Office of Children & Family Services) has consulted with NYS's McKinney-Vento liaison with the goal of increasing access and continuity of care to children who are homeless, including how OCFS can best outreach to homeless children. Ideas were generated about how best to prioritize homeless families for child care subsidies, and how to help child care providers better meet the developmental needs of children who are homeless. Lead agency staff and the McKinney-Vento liaison will continue discussions on coordination goals and process and the lead agency will continue to participate in the ECAC (Early Childhood Advisory Council) Supporting Families who are Homeless Workgroup.
Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality	<p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize for enrollment • Waive copayments

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child care for homeless families	LDSSs (Local Departments of Social Services) must pay eligible licensed and registered child care providers a differential payment rate of at least 5 percent above the actual cost of care or the applicable market rate for care of children in families experiencing homelessness. LDSSs may choose to set a differential payment greater than 5 percent above the actual cost of care or the applicable market rate provided the rate does not exceed 15 percent.
Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility	<p>In recognition that a family experiencing homelessness may not have access to all documentation needed to determine eligibility for child care services and may have an immediate need for child care services, LDSSs are required to establish procedures to permit an interim eligibility period, not to exceed three months, for child care services while that family obtains all required documentation. If upon the full determination of eligibility, it is determined that the family is ineligible, the child care provider must receive payment for child care services rendered during the interim eligibility period.</p> <p>Outreach: Partnerships with community-based organizations, Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care.</p> <p>The statewide network of Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (CCR&Rs) addresses the needs of and provides intervention and prevention services for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness. CCR&Rs prioritize responses to specific child care requests related to homeless children. CCR&Rs coordinate their services with many other community agencies assisting homeless families to achieve sustainable independence by supporting them with tailored services including shelter, food, personalized case management, and a diverse network of caring volunteers. The scope of one of the milestones of the performance-based contracts with CCR&Rs was broadened to allow CCR&Rs to do targeted outreach to homeless shelters and other emergency shelter locations (e.g., local motels, campgrounds) or dwellings known to have numbers of doubled-up families to help those families access child care. OCFS collaborates with the New York State Network for Youth Success to offer technical assistance to school-age child care (SACC) providers around quality services. The Network for Youth Success provides resources on effectively serving homeless children and their families. Additionally, LDSSs develop local strategies to coordinate community outreach and provision of services to homeless families. For example, the NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) has, in close collaboration with the New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS), developed a series of measures to better understand the needs of ACS child welfare-involved families in shelters and to increase interagency coordination to promote proper services and supports.</p>
Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents	Section 2164(7)(a) of the New York State Public Health Law (PHL) allows children, including homeless children and children in foster care, to be temporarily enrolled in a child care program while a family obtains documentation of immunizations. A child care provider must not unduly delay temporary enrollment of a child experiencing homelessness or a child in foster care due to a lack of immunization records. According to PHL, once attending the child care program, the parent or caretaker has a grace period of no more than 14 calendar days from the date the program began to provide care for the child to submit the required documentation of immunizations. The grace period can be extended by the child care program to 30 calendar days from the date the child care provider began to provide care to the child in cases where the child is from out-of-state or from another country and the parent or caretaker has shown a good faith effort to get the necessary documentation of the immunizations. This grace period applies to licensed, registered, and enrolled legally-exempt child care programs.

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	<p>OCFS Policy Statement 17-1; Grace Period for Enrolling Children without Medical Records and/or Immunization Documentation addresses how licensed and registered child care programs can support families who need assistance during the grace period. This includes referrals to the local health department or the NYS Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program, which provides free vaccines to children whose parents need help paying for them. Legally-exempt child care programs may contact the legally-exempt caregiver enrollment agency or the local department of social services for assistance in helping families during the grace period.</p>
<p>Section 4.3.2., Tiered rates</p>	<p>LDSSs must pay 5 percent (and can pay up to 10 percent) above the market rate to enrolled legally-exempt in-home and legally-exempt family child care providers that have taken 10 or more hours of approved training annually.</p> <p>LDSSs must pay eligible licensed and registered child care providers a differential payment rate of at least 5 percent above the actual cost of care or the applicable market rate for care of children in families experiencing homelessness. LDSSs may choose to set a differential payment greater than 5 percent above the actual cost of care or the applicable market rate provided the rate does not exceed 15 percent.</p>
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>New technical assistance offerings were developed and implemented in 2017 related to homelessness. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical assistance related to homelessness was offered to providers through the broadcast of a video titled "Identifying and Helping Children Who Have Experienced Trauma", shown live on May 19, 2016. The new regulations and stipulations were discussed in order for providers to better serve the homeless child population and understand Public Health law related to grace periods for immunizations (see next bullet). This broadcast was recorded and portions can be seen as a part of the video library on the PDP website www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu. Providers were also alerted to the grace period through the OCFS Policy 17-1 Grace Period for Enrolling Children without Medical Records and/or Immunization Documentation https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/policies/17-1.pdf. In addition, TA customized to a provider and family's specific situation is available to providers by contacting their licenser/registrar as well as through inspection visits. • New York State Public Health Law (PHL) allows children, including homeless children and children in foster care, to be temporarily enrolled in a child care program while a family obtains documentation of immunizations. A child care provider must not unduly delay temporary enrollment of a child experiencing homelessness or a child in foster care due to a lack of immunization records. According to PHL, once attending the child care program, the parent or caretaker has a grace period of no more than 14 calendar days from the date the program began to provide care for the child to submit the required documentation of immunizations. The grace period can be extended by the child care program to 30 calendar days from the date the child care provider began to provide care to the child in cases where the child is from out-of-state or from another country and the parent or caretaker has shown a good faith effort to get the necessary documentation of the immunizations. This grace period applies to licensed, registered and enrolled legally-exempt child care programs. • A family experiencing homelessness may not have access to all documentation needed to determine eligibility for child care services and, may have an immediate need for child care services. LDSSs must establish procedures to permit an interim eligibility period for child care services while a family experiencing homelessness obtains all required documentation. LDSSs have the discretion to establish the

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	<p>circumstances under which a family experiencing homelessness can qualify for an interim eligibility and the durations of the interim eligibility period, consistent with applicable regulations and statutes. However, the interim eligibility period may not exceed three months. If upon the full determination of eligibility, it is determined that the family is ineligible, the child care provider must receive payment for child care services rendered during the interim eligibility period. Claims for such LDSS expenditures are reimbursable up to the LDSS's allocation through the New York State Child Care Block Grant or its Title XX allocation. Payments made during the interim period of eligibility for families experiencing homelessness will not be considered errors or improper payments for the purpose of federal or state audits. Further, the LDSS must not seek recoupment from the family for payments made during the interim period of eligibility, unless fraud is involved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 NYCRR §415.9(h) was revised to include a new differential payment rate for families experiencing homelessness and to set new requirements for the differential payment rates for nontraditional hours and accredited programs. Differential payment rates apply to the actual cost of care or the applicable market rate, whichever is less. For more information on market rates, consult the most recent market rate Local Commissioner's Memorandum (16-OCFS-LCM-18). https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/policies/external/OCFS_2016/LCMs/16-OCFS-LCM-18.pdf <p>In addition to the circulation of the Local Commissioners Memorandum (17-OCFS-LCM-05) (https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/policies/external/OCFS_2017/#LCM) to all LDSS commissioners, director of services, child care unit supervisors and Temporary Assistance Unit Supervisors, the required Child Care Subsidy Program training incorporated the new statutes, regulations and policies to the curriculum in order to inform local district participants of the requirements, procedures and processes to follow in support of homeless families receiving child care subsidy and child care for their children. All associated documents are posted to the OCFS/PDP website and available for stakeholders with authorized access to the site.</p>
<p>Section 8.1.4., Anti-fraud measures</p>	<p>In addition to flagging errors, CCTA (Child Care Technical Assistance) help to prevent unintentional program violations through enforcement of NYS regulations regarding financial eligibility, payment of the lower of Market Rate or billed amount and payment of rate differentials for homelessness, non-traditional hours and nationally accredited programs as specified in the districts CFS plan.</p>
<p>North Carolina</p>	
<p>Section 1.4, Coordination with partners</p>	<p>DCDEE (Division of Child Development and Early Education) participates in the NC Yay Babies Initiative to increase early intervention and early education services delivered to children birth to 5 years experiencing homelessness. The initiative is following recommendations from "Policy Statement on Meeting the Needs of Families with Young Children Experiencing and At Risk of Homelessness" by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and U.S. Department of Education. These recommendations include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Support a two-generation approach by developing and strengthening partnerships across early childhood and housing programs and systems 2) Enhance early childhood program and system integration with the Continuum of Care (CoC)'s coordinated entry process 3) Improve, leverage, and integrate early childhood homelessness data.

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	<p>This workgroup meets quarterly with sub-committees representing each of the areas following recommended strategies and activities given in the report as recommended and appropriate. DCDEE also coordinates with Salvation Army and CCR&Rs through contracts to conduct outreach events at homeless shelters, transitional living programs, hotels, and/or other venues accessible to the target population across the state that include the following components:</p> <p>Coordinate with local Department of Social Services offices to determine early care and education program eligibility for children on site at the events. Provide early care and education consumer education materials for parents through the NC CCR&R System. Provide age appropriate books, educational items, bus passes, clothing, shoes, and/or other necessities to families experiencing homelessness as incentives for participation. Administer surveys to parents to assess the impact of the event.</p> <p>Another goal of the coordination is to provide technical assistance and training to homeless family service providers and to early childhood technical assistance staff.</p>
<p>Section 3.1.5., Additional eligibility criteria</p>	<p>All Departments of Social Services (DSS) and Local Purchasing Agencies (LPA's) prioritize vulnerable populations including families experiencing homelessness and children with special needs. This policy also requires DSS/LPAs to add prioritization of these populations to their local policies. DSS/LPAs will now use the 4% set aside to serve vulnerable populations which includes children identified as having special needs and children and families experiencing homelessness or those who are in a temporary living situation. Counties must establish a separate waiting list for children and families who are in one of these vulnerable populations. Payment for these services is made with the vulnerable population set-aside. Once the minimum set-aside amount is encumbered, families experiencing homelessness who are currently being served should be served with funds in the DSS/LPAs regular subsidy allocation. DSS/LPAs may continue to serve new families experiencing homelessness who apply as long as the DSS/LPA does not overspend their regular subsidy allocation.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families</p>	<p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize for enrollment • Serve without placing these populations on waiting lists <p>Procedures will be developed and implemented by October 2018 that allow for an initial eligibility determination to be made based on a family's statement and the family will be given 30 days to provide documentation of their income and need for care. When this occurs, the child(ren) will be authorized to begin child care immediately once the parents choose a provider and the provider will receive payment for services provided even if it is found that the family is not eligible once documentation has been provided.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.3., Priority groups</p>	<p>All Departments of Social Services (DSS) and Local Purchasing Agencies (LPA) prioritize the vulnerable populations of children with special needs and children experiencing homelessness. In addition to these vulnerable populations, each DSS/LPA can establish additional populations to prioritize based on the needs of the individual county. The county's individual prioritization plan is shared with and approved by the Lead Agency. Because this additional prioritization is completed at the local level, this is variation as to which additional vulnerable populations are prioritized.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility</p>	<p>Procedures will be developed and implemented by October 2018 that allow for an initial eligibility determination to be made based on a family's statement and the family will be given 30 days to provide documentation of their income and need for care. When this occurs, the child(ren) will be authorized to begin child care immediately once the parents choose a</p>

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	<p>provider and the provider will receive payment for services provided even if it is found that the family is not eligible once documentation has been provided.</p> <p>Outreach: DCDEE will contract with Salvation Army to develop community based outreach teams across the state. Goals of these teams will be to develop strategies to connect families to ECE services, coordinate training opportunities and share data with partners.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents</p>	<p>All families have 30 days to submit immunization records and a medical report.</p>
<p>Section 4.6.2., Increasing supply and improving quality</p>	<p>Technical assistance support is provided for homeless families on available subsidized services and community resources.</p>
<p>Section 4.6.3., High poverty areas</p>	<p>Higher market rates are set for North Carolina's most economically distressed counties to incentivize programs to enroll in subsidy.</p> <p>An introductory training, Serving Young Children Experiencing Homelessness, has been created to help providers identify families who are homeless and help direct these individuals to services. Future trainings on this or related topics are under consideration. A county by county listing of community resources for the homeless is in a toolbox which is included on the Serving Young Children Experiencing Homelessness training site. These listings can also be accessed on the Division's website. https://www.dcdee.moodle.nc.gov/course/view.php?id=65 Click on My Courses, Early Childhood Professional Development, Child Care Development Fund, then Homelessness.</p> <p>As a result of the additional funds for infants and toddlers, a project will be implemented in 2018-19 offering infant toddler child care health consultation services for economically distressed counties. The activities will include health and safety assessments, child care health consultation, training, and technical assistance. A particular focus will be given to identifying and targeting children with special health care needs, medication needs or disabilities for CCHC support. Trainings provided will include topics such as infant toddler safe sleep training, nutrition, developmentally appropriate activities, infant toddler teacher interactions, medication administration and primary caregiving.</p>
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>DCDEE developed an introductory training video for the early childhood field on understanding and serving children experiencing homelessness. In addition, DCDEE developed and disseminated a Toolkit. Both of these are available online at no charge and can be accessed at any time. This training is made available to Lead agency staff, child care providers, local CCR&R staff and local DSS eligibility workers. The training and toolkit were and will be promoted through a DCDEE newsletter, News You Can Use, which reaches approximately 75% of all child care providers, and it will be promoted through technical assistance staff.</p> <p>DCDEE will consider providing an annual review of the videos and toolkit to include new research that may come out. DCDEE will consider ways to encourage the use of the Self-Assessment Tool for Early Childhood Programs Serving Families Experiencing Homelessness. Current national webinars related to homelessness and early childhood programs will be evaluated for future potential use.</p>

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North Dakota	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	The Lead Agency and Child Care Aware of North Dakota continue to meet with the McKinney-Vento State Coordinator for homeless education to work on consistently, accurately and effectively identifying families experiencing homelessness, as well as coordinating professional development for child care providers so they can best support the children and their families that are experiencing homelessness.
Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families	<p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize for enrollment <p>Households who are experiencing homelessness are prioritized by allowing CCAP (Child Care Assistance Program) eligibility at the time of application or review for caretakers who have only job or activity search as an allowable activity. These households are also provided services during a 30-day grace period to provide required verifications.</p> <p>The Lead Agency does not have a waiting list as all applicants for CCAP have been able to be assisted by the Lead Agency. In the event the Lead Agency would have to implement a waiting list, children experiencing homelessness would be identified as a priority for services.</p>
Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility	<p>Households who indicate on an application or review that they are experiencing homelessness must be approved for services for the month of application before supplying all necessary verifications. Households are provided a 30-day grace period from the date of application to supply all necessary verifications to continue assistance.</p> <p>Outreach: Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care. Outreach is conducted for CCAP eligible families at each local county level by conducting referrals to programs and services in the area that assist homeless families and families with low incomes. Families who are TANF eligible work with JOBS program contractors who provide outreach TANF families by connecting them with services. McKinney-Vento liaisons provide outreach and referrals to homeless families.</p>
Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents	<p>Children experiencing homelessness are allowed a 30-day grace period to supply immunization records. The Department of Health was consulted on the length of the grace period.</p> <p>The Lead Agency trains child care providers on identifying homelessness and on immunization requirements. Families who are eligible for CCAP are informed of immunization requirements and how to access immunizations through the Application for Assistance Handbook.</p>
Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families	<p>The Lead Agency works closely with homelessness providers (such as Youthworks, the North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People) throughout the state to provide training and technical assistance to childcare providers, as needed.</p> <p>The Lead Agency works with a variety of agencies to include Head Start State Collaborative Office, Child Care Aware, Economic Assistance as well as The Department of Public Instruction to collaborate on ways to provide training and technical assistance to providers on identifying and serving homeless children and families. This has included conference sessions, identifying community resources and collaborating with local, community homelessness providers to support local efforts.</p> <p>It's easy to think of child homelessness as a problem that happens somewhere else. However, North Dakota's rate of child homelessness is 25th in the nation. North Dakota's Homelessness e-Learning course serves to dispel myths about homelessness in early learning</p>

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	<p>programs, raise providers awareness of the definition of homelessness according to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, understand the reasons behind child homelessness, how being homeless affects children's development, and what they can do to help. Child Care Aware of North Dakota staff have been trained on homelessness and helping providers identify families that may be experiencing homelessness and getting them connected to community resources where possible. The new Quality Initiatives and Quality Rating and Improvement System modules in the Insights database serve as one place providers can indicate that they are working with children experiencing high needs. Efforts are ongoing to help providers understand needs indicators, homelessness being one indicator of high need.</p>
Northern Mariana Islands	<p>No state plan posted. http://www.cnmicclp.gov.mp/child-care-development-fund/</p>
Ohio	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	<p>The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services collaborates with the Coordinator for Homeless Education at the Ohio Department of Education. Required staff orientation training for all child care program staff included information on identifying and serving homeless families. Feedback from our partner was extremely valuable in guiding the content of this training. A goal of continued collaboration is to enhance current efforts to assist homeless families and children.</p>
Section 3.1.2., Reasons for care	<p>Ohio allows already eligible families who lose a qualifying activity job search for up to 13 weeks. All caretakers must have a qualifying activity at initial eligibility and re-determination of eligibility. The exception to this requirement is that homeless families can have up to 90 days of child care without a qualifying activity but must have a qualifying activity by the end of the 90 days to continue to receive publicly funded child care.</p>
Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families	<p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waive copayments
Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility	<p>Homeless child care is publicly funded child care provided when a caretaker and child either temporarily reside in a facility providing emergency shelter for homeless families or are determined by the county agency to be homeless. If the homeless caretaker does not meet the qualifications pursuant rule 5101:2-16-30(A)(3) which include a work or education requirement or OWF(Ohio Works First)/SNAP participation, the family shall be eligible for homeless child care without regard to income or assets and the copayment shall be waived. Homeless child care shall be approved for ninety calendar days or the period of time that the caretaker and child are homeless, whichever period is shorter. A family shall not receive homeless child care more than once in a twelve-month period. http://emanuals.ifs.ohio.gov/ChildCare/ChildCareManual/Chapter16/5101-2-16-30.st</p> <p>Outreach: Partnerships with community-based organizations, Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care.</p>

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	<p>The application and consumer statement can be found: http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/num/JFS%2001138/. County agencies across the 88 counties have outreach programs in place to reach homeless families. The child care resource and referral (CCR&R) agencies have implemented a variety of methods to be proactive to meet the needs of homeless families including participating in community events, offering parent education programs, participating in local task force and non-profit organizational efforts. Additionally, connections have been established with local shelters, libraries, food/clothing pantry, schools, food banks, Catholic Charities, YWCA, Head Start, Habitat for Humanity and housing coalitions to assist families in securing needed resources. Many CCR&Rs have created and distributed brochures or other forms of communication informing of their services and have hired staff who focus specifically on outreach to families including assisting homeless families and children.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents</p>	<p>Licensing regulations allow all families to enroll in a child care program and then provide a medical statement (including immunizations) within 30 days of the first day of care. The only information required upon starting care is a short enrollment form completed by the caretaker/parent.</p>
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>All child care staff are required to complete training that includes information on identifying and serving homeless children and their families. The child care resource and referral (CCR&R) agencies have implemented a variety of methods to be proactive to identify and serve homeless families including participating in community events, offering parent education programs, participating in local task force and non-profit organizational efforts. Additionally, connections have been established with local shelters, libraries, food/clothing pantry, schools, food banks, Catholic Charities, YWCA, Head Start, Habitat for Humanity and housing coalitions to assist families in securing needed resources. Many CCR&Rs have created and distributed brochures or other forms of communication informing of their services and have hired staff who focus specifically on outreach to families including assisting homeless families and children. Additionally, county agencies who work directly with families to assist at the time of application provide needed services are required by rule to complete training that includes all CCDBG requirements, including training on identifying and serving children and their families experiencing homelessness.</p>
Oklahoma	
<p>Section 1.4, Coordination with partners</p>	<p>Meetings have been held with the Oklahoma State Department of Education and the Head Start Collaboration office to gather information and resources that are available to programs serving homeless children and families. A publication was developed by the Lead Agency for use by anyone working with children and families experiencing homelessness across the state, including public schools. The publication is designed to inform families of services that might be available including child care subsidy, SNAP, WIC, Sooner Care (Medicaid) and TANF. The Lead Agency works to expand the availability of child care to homeless families through contact with CCR&R and other local and state public and non-profit agencies. Eligibility determination staff is out-stationed at several homeless shelters around the state to take applications and distribute informational materials regarding subsidized child care.</p>
<p>Section 2.4.2., Partnerships formed</p>	<p>Child Care Resource and Referral, Child Welfare, Homeless Coalition, Early Childhood Curriculum and Instruction Director at the OSDE, Head Start Collaboration Office, child care providers, medical clinics for low income families, Homeless Alliance, 211, and other community partners help with outreach.</p>

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<p>Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families</p>	<p>Homeless families may receive assistance under the protective need factor when not participating in work or school to help stabilize the family's living arrangements. Copayments are waived in certain situations. There are no waiting lists for subsidized child care. All eligible families are served.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility</p>	<p>Oklahoma allows a grace period of at least 30 days for homeless families to comply with immunization and health and safety requirements. In addition, homeless families may initially qualify for 30 days of protective/preventive care with waived verifications to help stabilize living arrangements. When verifications are provided, a full eligibility determination is made and care is extended for the remainder of the 12 month eligibility period.</p> <p>Outreach: Lead Agency accepts applications at local community-based locations, Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care. A work group comprised of staff from several agencies including the State Department of Education and the State Head Start Collaboration office was formed to explore possible ways to meet the needs of children experiencing homelessness and to increase access to child care. Oklahoma took the objective from two points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Getting information to homeless families who might qualify for subsidized childcare via agencies/organizations who work with these families; and 2) increasing professional development opportunities for child care providers on identifying and working with families experiencing homelessness. <p>As a result of this workgroup the Lead Agency produced a bookmark type publication that schools, shelters, agencies, etc. may give to families who meet McKinney Vento qualifications. The purpose of the publication was to improve awareness of child care services and conduct outreach to families with young children who may be experiencing homelessness. The bookmarks have been distributed across the state and are available by request. Child Care provider professional development is available at The Center for Early Childhood Professional Development, a contractor of Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Care Services, at www.cecpd.org . Courses include: It Takes a Village: Providing Education and Services for Homeless Children and Helping Children Heal from Trauma of Being Homeless. Bridges Out of Poverty training was offered to DHS staff and community members at no cost. The Lead Agency will work with the Homeless Alliance and other community partners to conduct outreach to families by distributing application forms, brochures, and other information materials to these locations. In addition, DHS staff is out-stationed at several homeless shelters around the state to take applications and distribute informational materials regarding subsidized child care.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents</p>	<p>Oklahoma waives immunization and health and safety requirements for homeless children for at least 30 days to allow for expedited enrollment in child care.</p>
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6.</p>	<p>It Takes a Village: Providing Education and Services for Homeless Children and Helping Children Heal from Trauma of Being Homeless (okregistry.org) are available courses through www.okregistry.org. Child care directors and staff may also attend community based training on the book, Bridges Out of Poverty. Technical assistance is available through Resource and Referral Agencies along with the previously noted trainings.</p>

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Supporting homeless families	The Lead Agency conducts outreach to homeless families to improve access to child care services and other public assistance programs. Outreach is provided at local agencies serving the homeless. A bookmark format flyer has been developed to distribute to families listing resources including assistance with paying for childcare. The Lead Agency provides Bridges Out of Poverty training to staff and child care subsidy staff receive guidance on homeless families in the QUEST online training program.
Oregon	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	The Oregon Department of Education's State Coordinator for Homeless Education Program and the Early Learning Division co-convene a group with child care policy staff from the Department of Human Services with goals to assess services to homeless families and develop continual improvement plans that enhance educational outcomes for children whose families are experiencing homelessness.
Section 3.1.5., Additional eligibility criteria	Priority processing allows homeless families who apply for ERDC (subsidy program) to start receiving benefits immediately. The caretaker will initially self-report income and work hours. Once the case is open the client is given 45 days to supply any required income verification. When the immunization requirement is not met families are given 12 months to comply or supply verification of a religious or medical exemption.
Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families	Children experiencing homelessness are allowed to enroll in the subsidy program while required documentation is located.
Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility	Children experiencing homelessness are given priority processing which allows families to apply for ERDC to start receiving benefits immediately. The caretaker will initially self-report income and work hours. Once the case is open the client is given 45 days to supply any required income verification. When the immunization requirement is not met families are given 12 months to comply or supply verification of a medical or non-medical exemption. Outreach: Partnerships with community-based organizations, Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care.
Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents	ERDC is opened immediately for children in families experiencing homelessness. The caretaker can self-report gross family income and workhours. After the case is open the family is given 45 days to supply any needed verification. This results in a case being open for 2 to 3 months depending on the date benefits are requested. The time period can be extended. Families who mark "no" to immunization are given up to 3 months to comply with immunization requirements or supply verification of a medical or non-medical exemption. The Lead Agency worked in consultation with the Oregon Health Authority to establish the immunization grace period. Families who receive a grace period to comply with immunizations are referred to county public health in order to develop a plan to complete immunizations.
Section 4.1.3., Grants and contracts	The Lead Agency will use grants or contracts for child care services to increase the supply and/or quality of specific types of care: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs to serve children with disabilities • Programs to serve infants and toddlers • Programs to serve school-age children

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs to serve children needing non-traditional hour care • Programs to serve children experiencing homelessness • Programs to serve children in underserved areas • Programs that serve children with diverse linguistic or cultural backgrounds • Programs that serve specific geographic areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Urban ○ Rural
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>Oregon has a self-study training opportunity "Serving Families Experiencing Homelessness." The goal of the training is to help early learning professionals identify and serve families experiencing homelessness or other difficult times.</p> <p>The Early Learning Division works with the McKinney-Vento program coordinator at the Oregon Department of Education and the liaisons in each school district. Staff members of the Lead Agency, the Department of Human Services and school district liaisons are made aware of the self-study "Serving Families Experiencing Homelessness". The McKinney-Vento program coordinator participates in engagement efforts and presents to early learning audiences on request.</p>
<p>Pennsylvania</p>	
<p>Section 1.4, Coordination with partners</p>	<p>OCDEL (Office of Child Development) issued policy Announcement OCDEL-13 #01 "Children Experiencing Homelessness" in May 2013 and a follow-up announcement " At-Risk Tracking for Infants/Toddlers Experiencing Homelessness" in November 2014. The purpose of these announcements was to provide guidance for identifying children experiencing homelessness so that their access to quality early childhood programs under OCDEL can be improved. The announcements were applicable to all programs managed by OCDEL: EI, HSSAP, CCW (ELRC's), DHS-certified Child Care, Pre-K Counts, and Home Visiting Programs (Parents as Teachers, Nurse-Family Partnerships, EHS, and Healthy Families America).</p> <p>OCDEL works with peers in PDE (PA Department of Education) to identify the coordinators for services to families experiencing homelessness in each of the state's 500 school districts. Through this collaboration, OCDEL works to identify where these families are and how it can best meet their child care needs as part of their broader plan to secure permanent, stable housing, and greater self-sufficiency. OCDEL also actively tracks information about families experiencing homelessness to determine how best to serve the educational and child care needs of those families. OCDEL convened a workgroup with PDE's Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program to develop a plan to better connect children with early childhood programs. This group also connects with the DHS Executive Housing group to ensure that early childhood programs are an area of focus. OCDEL will work with the Executive Housing group to provide cross-systems trainings for service providers in the field of early childhood education and housing security.</p> <p>Beginning in November 2017, OCDEL implemented waivers for certain verification and immunization requirements for families and children experiencing homelessness. Under presumptive eligibility, families experiencing homelessness may receive up to 92 days of child care while seeking employment. Children from families experiencing homelessness are also</p>

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	<p>prioritized for funding to ensure expedient connection to services. Head Start now has a 3% capacity they can hold to serve families experiencing homelessness. The Head Start Collaboration Office continues to educate the field about this new rule. OCDEL continues to present our services at the PA Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness State Conference.</p>
<p>Section 3.1.2., Reason for care and Section 3.1.5., Additional eligibility (same language)</p>	<p>As of the submission date of this plan, Pennsylvania has amendments pending for subsidized child care regulations at 55 Pa. Code 3041. These regulatory amendments will improve the state's ability to honor the full intent of the CCDBG re-authorization and would permit a 92-day period of presumptive eligibility at intake and redetermination during which families experiencing homelessness could conduct a job search. A plan amendment will be submitted when the state's regulations are finalized.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families</p>	<p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize for enrollment • Waive copayments
<p>Section 3.2.3., Other priority groups</p>	<p>The following children are placed on a prioritized waiting list: foster children – defined as a child in the legal custody of a children and youth agency, which maintains that custody while paying a licensed foster parent to care for the child; children who are enrolled in PA Pre-K Counts, Head Start, or Early Head Start who need wrap-around child care at the beginning and/or end of the program day; newborn siblings of children who are already enrolled and whose parent needs timely care so she can return to work; children experiencing homelessness as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; and teen parents – defined as children under the age of 18 who are attending high school or participating in a GED program on a full-time basis; children 18 through 22 years of age who are attending high school or a cyber school as approved by the child’s school district, on a full-time basis.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.5., Enrollment flexibility</p>	<p>For families experiencing homelessness, a non-working parent is provided presumptive eligibility for 92 days, during which the parent may conduct a job search. The following eligibility requirements may not be waived: child's age; income limits; PA residency; child's citizenship. Verification of eligibility requirements may be waived for up to 183 days. Children experiencing homelessness are placed on a prioritized waiting list and receive funding sooner than others on the waiting list.</p> <p>Outreach: Partnerships with community-based organizations, Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents</p>	<p>A 90-day period from the date the family is determined eligible to receive subsidy, to get immunizations if the child does not have them. Immunizations are not required if the child has a medical reason or the parent has religious reasons for not obtaining immunizations (§ 3041.46 (relating to immunization)). Immunizations are self-certified, meaning the parent self-attests to the fact that the child is properly immunized; this is accepted as sufficient proof of the child's immunization status (§ 3041.63(b)(3)(relating to self-certification)).</p> <p>Parents can be determined eligible and receive an additional 30 days to provide documentation by "self-declaring" information that can be documented within the next 30 days (§ 3041.64 (relating to self-declaration)). Lastly, regulations state that the ELRC (Early Learning Resource Centers) may not deny or terminate subsidy to a family when the parent</p>

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	<p>has cooperated in the verification process and needed verification is pending or cannot be obtained due to circumstances beyond the parent's control (§ 3041.61(h)(relating to general verification requirements)).</p>
<p>Section 4.6.3., Prioritizing investments</p>	<p>OCDEL annually produces a "Reach and Risk Report" that clearly defines areas of significant concentrations of poverty and unemployment where vulnerable children and families reside. Pennsylvania defines "vulnerable" as those children living in families at or below 300 percent of the federal poverty level, children enrolled in the child welfare system, migrant families, children living in families experiencing homelessness, and children with special needs. The OCDEL Reach and Risk Assessment combines multiple data sources to produce an analysis of key economic, maternal, birth outcome, academic, and toxic stress risk factors that can harm a child's chances of doing well in kindergarten and beyond.</p> <p>To identify areas of significant concentrations or poverty/economic risk Indicators, the following information and data sources were used: Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) data for percentage of children receiving free/reduced lunch; and American Community Survey Five Year Estimates as it relates to: the percentage of children under age five living in economically high-risk families, 100 percent federal poverty level; and the percentage of children under age five living in economically at-risk families, 300 percent federal poverty level. The findings support OCDEL administrators to make decisions on where vulnerable and underserved children live, and how best to target resources to serve them.</p> <p>An Average Risk Level (ARL) score is determined for each of Pennsylvania's counties. Each of the risk indicators are reported as a percentage at the county, allowing for comparison across counties of varying population sizes. The percentages are placed into four equal sized groups called quartiles, each containing 25 percent of the counties. A rating of one (low risk) to four (high risk) is assigned to each quartile for each risk factor; the top 25 percent are high risk and the bottom 25 percent were low risk. The sums of the risk indicators for each county are averaged to determine an overall ARL. This is the average quartile ranking for a county across the risk indicators. The ARLs are then classified into risk categories. ARL scores are combined with data that identifies funding sources and the enrollment number of children serviced through programs that directly support quality ECE and those that operate through community and school level systems that support quality and access to quality ECE. The subsequent analysis then presents a picture of the children and regions most likely to benefit from continued, increased investment.</p>
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>Pennsylvania released policy guidance setting new standards for interagency collaboration at state and local levels to identify young children experiencing homelessness and ensure access to quality early learning programs. A webinar focusing on this announcement and offering information about available resources is posted on the PA Key and EITA (Early Intervention Technical Assistance) websites. A two-page informational document titled "Caring for Young Children Who Are Experiencing Homelessness" is also posted on the PA Key website at www.pakeys.org.</p> <p>OCDEL, in partnership with the PA Key and EITA, has developed PD on connecting EI to infants, toddlers, and preschoolers who are experiencing homelessness. The topics include: resources for administrators, staff, and families, accessing programs through OCDEL, overview/discussion on child developmental milestones, basics of early intervention, the impact of homelessness on child development, and an overview of the ASQ.</p>

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Puerto Rico	Not posted. Plan posted is FY2016. http://childcare-kpg.star-knowledge.in/resources-links/
Rhode Island	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	<p>Many of our state's homeless children are served through Head Start. The DHS (Department of Human Services) child care subsidy system is preparing to more effectively serve this at-risk population by facilitating a streamlined eligibility process which then leads to prompt, immediate enrollment. This enables our licensing body to prioritize homeless children by fast-tracking certain key licensing considerations to ensure at-risk families are appropriately supported at a time when they clearly need it the most. The Lead Agency (DHS) also has ongoing discussions with the Head Start Collaboration Office to develop strategies which will address the ongoing child care needs of these families for comprehensive services in ways that will support these children and families securing self-sufficiency and out of homeless status. The Office of Child Care at DHS does not have a wait-list for families seeking child care assistance. As such, the Department is able to prioritize the enrollment of homeless children into care immediately.</p> <p>The McKinney-Vento Coordinator sits at the Department of Education and participates on the Early Learning Council. Discussions occur regularly between the McKinney-Vento Coordinator, TANF Administrator and RI Coalition for the Homeless, to inform the need for services for this population and to provide policy guidance to the lead agency. A priority of the Children's Cabinet is to ensure all children experiencing homelessness have access to high quality early care.</p>
Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families	The DHS child care subsidy system is preparing to more effectively serve this at-risk population by facilitating a streamlined eligibility process which then leads to prompt, immediate enrollment. This enables our licensing body to prioritize homeless children by fast-tracking certain key licensing considerations to ensure at-risk families are appropriately supported at a time when they clearly need it the most.
Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility	<p>If an applicant child is experiencing homelessness, eligibility may be determined without all usual eligibility documentation through supervisor override. The household has up to 90 days to get all verification submitted. Additionally, if a child is experiencing homelessness, a grace period of 90 days can be granted to obtain the annual health examination documentation.</p> <p>Outreach: Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care.</p>
Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents	<p>If a child is experiencing homelessness, a grace period of 90 days can be granted to obtain the immunization documentation. If a child is experiencing homelessness, a grace period of 90 days can be granted to obtain the annual health examination documentation.</p> <p>The Department of Health was consulted. They did not think that any grace period was appropriate due to health and safety concerns. The Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) discussed with other state partners, and in an effort to remain consistent, DCYF applied the Head Start standard of 90 days. In focus group discussions with the public, this was also vetted as a reasonable period of time.</p> <p>The Lead Agency (DHS) has ongoing discussions with the Head Start Collaboration Office to develop strategies which will address the ongoing child care needs of these families for comprehensive services in ways that will support these children and families in securing self-sufficiency and out of homeless status. The McKinney-Vento Coordinator sits at the Department of Education and participates on the Early Learning Council. Discussions occur</p>

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	<p>regularly between the McKinney-Vento Coordinator, TANF Administrator and the RI Coalition for the Homeless to inform the need for services for this population and to provide policy guidance to the lead agency. A priority of the Children's Cabinet is to ensure that all children experiencing homelessness have access to high quality early care.</p>
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>In collaboration with the Center for Early Learning Professionals (CELP), DHS has several initiatives to support professional development and technical assistance to providers who work with homeless families and children including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborating with Rhode Island State agencies and community partners to explore training opportunities and identify providers with expertise in working with this population • Continue to provide and approve and seek out PD that addresses family stress and trauma • Incorporate trauma informed care concepts required training for CCDF providers • Develop Training Modules for online access <p>The Center for Early Learning Professionals offers a three-session professional development series for educators on the topic of trauma and young children. Included in the series is a focus on the relationship between homelessness and toxic stress and the adverse effects of homelessness on young children's development. The community has access to several online resources on the topic of serving children and families experiencing homelessness through the Center-ELP website. These resources, produced by reputable national organizations such as the federal Administration for Children and Families, provide relevant information to the ECE community on the following topics: the McKinney-Vento Act, the federal definition of homelessness, understanding the impact of homelessness on children and families and strategies for supporting these children and families. The Center is working with DHS leadership to develop and produce a recorded webinar that will provide information to child care providers about specific state policies related to serving these children and families in child care settings.</p> <p>The Lead Agency works closely with other state departments and community based organizations to prioritize, and effectively serve, children and families experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Lead Agency trains its field staff to support comprehensive service support for those individuals who identify as homeless upon application.</p>
<p>South Carolina</p>	
<p>Section 1.4, Coordination with partners</p>	<p>The DECE (Division of Early Childhood Education) has been partnering with the SDE's (State Department of Education) McKinney-Vento State Coordinator, the SC Coalition for the Homeless, and the four regional Coalitions for the Homeless to develop referral processes for child care vouchers to increase access to high quality care. The SDE (State Department of Education) administers the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Title X, Part C, of the No Child Left Behind Act), which is the primary federal legislation dealing with the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>The coordinator oversees work of the local school district liaisons which includes outreach, determining eligibility, school placement, enrollment, and providing transportation. The coordinator also administers grants to selected school districts that provide additional coordinated services. While some local school district liaisons are able to identify families with very young children, their primary focus is on the 4k through grade 12 population. DECE is</p>

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	<p>augmenting this by coordinating additional referral processes with the four regional Coalitions for the Homeless. They operate the majority of the family shelters as funded through HUD and can serve as a valuable source of referrals for families with very young children. The South Carolina Coalition for the Homeless functions as a coordinating and service entity, designed to assist the local coalitions.</p>
<p>Section 1.5.1., Combining funds</p>	<p>CCDF funds will be used to provide child care within defined parameters in support of other programs' services to children such as Head Start, Early Head Start, TANF, Child Welfare, programs administered by the Lead Agency (Child Protective Services and Foster Care), state and private pre-k programs funded by the SDE Improvement Act (EIA) and the Child Early Reading Development and Education Program (CERDEP), SDE's McKinney-Vento homeless education program, state and regional Coalitions for the Homeless, county First Steps to School Readiness Partnership offices' specifically - defined child care services funded by state appropriations, local United Way programs that provide specifically-defined child care services funded by private funds; the DHEC program "South Carolina's Public Health Actions to Prevent and Control Diabetes, Heart Disease, Obesity and Associated Risk Factors and Promote School Health funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in support of ABC Grow Healthy activities of the DECE; institutions of higher education funded by multiple state, federal, and private sources; multiple early childhood professional associations (SCAEYC, SCECA, SCAECE); and SDE's Office of Special Education Services, the preschool committee of the SC Advisory Council on the Education of Students with Disabilities, Family Connections of SC (for families of children with special abilities and needs) funded by federal, state, and private funds.</p>
<p>Section 2.4.2., Partnerships</p>	<p>The DECE has formed partnerships with homeless coalitions, the CCR&R Network, TANF, SDE (family literacy vouchers), Child Welfare, SC First Steps to School Readiness, local First Steps County Partnerships, Head Start, Well care (serves soon-to-be mothers receiving Medicaid), and the SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault.</p>
<p>Section 3.1.2., Reasons for care</p>	<p>Children under the age of 13 whose physical health, mental health, or welfare is harmed or threatened with substantial risk of harm by acts of omissions of parent(s), guardian(s), or others responsible for the child's well-being. The child may need individualized materials, equipment, or instruction; the child is diagnosed with developmental delays; the child demonstrates a delay in cognitive, communication, motor, or social development. Referral sources include SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, BabyNet (IDEA, Part C), SC School for the Deaf and Blind, Children's Rehabilitative Services, and Individual Education Plan or 504 Plan developed by the local school districts. The child may have an open child protective services case or have a parent(s) who are permanently or temporarily disabled.</p> <p>Child care is also provided for children with an open foster care case. The foster parent(s) must need child care in order to work, school, training or have a verified disability. The monthly gross income shall not exceed 150% of poverty based on a family size of one. The child may remain in child care as long as other eligibility criteria are met and the child's monthly gross income does not exceed 175% of poverty for a family of one. To assure continuity of care, a foster child whose case is transferred to Adoption Services remains eligible for child care benefits until the adoption is finalized by the court, as long as the foster parent and/or adoptive parent meet the eligibility criteria or until the child care eligibility period ends.</p>

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	<p>Child care assistance for children experiencing homelessness and Dual Language Learners are considered vulnerable populations and therefore are included in this definition. Program criteria requires that the CPS and Foster Care children must be in a licensed child care facility. For situations in which a licensed facility is not available for a child, a waiver to policy must be requested by the CPS or Foster Care worker and sent to the state office. The CPS or Foster Care worker will assess the facility to ensure that it meets the need of the child and staff the situation with their supervisor. Children may be in the custody of a caregiver due to potential risk factors with their parents, law enforcement interaction, or other need for removal from their parents. These cases are reviewed to ensure they meet program criteria and may be approved without regard to income.</p>
<p>Section 3.1.5., Additional criteria</p>	<p>Priority is given to children with special needs and families experiencing homelessness.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families</p>	<p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize for enrollment • Serve without placing these populations on waiting lists • Waive copayments <p>Funding is set aside for families experiencing homelessness. Referrals are made to McKinney-Vento coordinators in the local school districts along with the 4 regional homeless coalitions throughout the state.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.3., Priority groups</p>	<p>Children experiencing homeless and Dual Language Learner families.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.5., Enrollment flexibility</p>	<p>The ABCQ (ABC Quality) assessment, CCL (Child Care Licensing), and SC Voucher protocols are updated to provide for a grace period to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements to expedite enrollment for children who are homeless or in foster care. Internal LA reports will be reviewed for verification of client status.</p> <p>Outreach: Partnerships with community-based organizations, Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care.</p> <p>In South Carolina, the Department of Education administers the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Title X, Part C, of the No Child Left Behind Act). The McKinney-Vento State Coordinator oversees work of the local school district liaisons which includes outreach, determining eligibility, school placement, enrollment, and providing transportation. The State Coordinator also administers subgrants to selected school districts that provide additional coordinated services. While some local school district liaisons (especially those receiving subgrants) are able to identify families with very young children, their primary focus is on the 4k through grade 12 population. The State Coordinator will interface with local liaisons who currently outreach to homeless families and then coordinate with the LA on those families that appear to meet eligibility requirements for subsidies.</p> <p>The South Carolina Coalition for the Homeless functions as a coordinating and service entity, designed to assist the local coalitions. However beginning in 2016, the board for the South Carolina Coalition for the Homeless was expanded to include state agency representatives such as the Department of Social Services. The expanded board will further solidify agency partnerships. The LA recognizes the need for trainings with the Department of Education and the Homeless Coalitions on procedures to access subsidies and other services through the Lead Agency. The LA is coordinating referral processes with the four regional Coalitions for the</p>

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	<p>Homeless. These four coalitions operate the majority of the family shelters (primarily funded through HUD) and other homeless services in local communities and have well-established relationships and outreach programs. They can serve as a valuable source of referrals for families with very young children. The Lead Agency will provide information and training to the child care providers via scchildcare.org, ABC Quality assessors, CCL specialists, and SC Voucher childcare eligibility and control center staff to inform them of the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness. Child care providers will be made aware of available child care resources. The following McKinney-Vento definition and checklist will be used: McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children and youth as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and youth who are: sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as doubled-up); living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations; living in emergency or transitional shelters; abandoned in hospitals; or awaiting foster care placement; • Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings; • Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and • Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.
<p>Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents</p>	<p>The DECE has been partnering with SDE's McKinney-Vento State Coordinator, the SC Coalition for the Homeless, and the four regional coalitions for the homeless to assist in identifying homeless families in need of child care assistance and to develop referral processes for subsidy vouchers to increase access to high quality child care. Beginning January 1, 2016, a specified amount of voucher slots and a policy prioritizing homeless children was implemented.</p> <p>The ABCQ, CCL, and SC Voucher protocols are updated to provide for a grace period to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements to expedite enrollment for children who are homeless or in foster care. Internal LA reports will be reviewed for verification of client status.</p>
<p>Section 3.4.4., Waiving co-pays</p>	<p>Copays are waived for TANF recipients, foster children, and families experiencing homelessness.</p>
<p>Section 4.6.2., Methods to increase supply</p>	<p>The LA provides CCDF-funded child care subsidies for all known children experiencing homelessness based on the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness. In FFY2017, the number of children served nearly doubled as the result of the LA's outreach efforts. The LA intends to continue its practice of providing child care subsidies for all children experiencing homelessness.</p>
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>One of the strategies used by CCR&R through its homeless support liaison is providing training on the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) including homelessness, early childhood brain development, health and well-being, the original ACE study and South Carolina ACE data, as well as strategies to empower communities to prevent ACES. The homeless support liaison supplements the ACES training with information about how to support children experiencing homelessness, child care homeless voucher referral process, identifying homeless service providers and developing networks in participants' respective regions. The training is provided on demand to families, homeless service providers, child care</p>

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	<p>staff, school personnel, CCR&R quality coaches, and any other organizations providing services to "at risk" families in the state of South Carolina.</p> <p>The CCR&R, through its homeless support liaison, collaborates with the DECE director and the SC Voucher staff who oversee the distribution of the homelessness vouchers to discuss eligibility enrollment and subsidy use. The CCR&R also coordinates its outreach efforts with the DECE staff to support families experiencing homelessness with other initiatives in the state, including the lead coordinator of McKinney-Vento Act at the SDE and the four SC homeless coalitions. The DECE and CCR&R staff provide members of the coalition current data about vouchers for families experiencing homelessness, including detailed information based on the total vouchers utilized, and how many were referred by CCR&R.</p>
South Dakota	
<p>Section 1.4, Coordination with partners</p>	<p>The Division of Child Care coordinates with the South Dakota Department of Education Title X Part C - McKinney-Vento Homeless Education office and the SD Housing Development Authority to ensure child care services are known and accessible to the homeless population in South Dakota. The Homeless Education Director provides information and links to shelter coordinators and Homeless Education Liaison Offices. The information relates to licensing, child care assistance, car seats, training and technical assistance, and other child care services. The Early Childhood Self-Assessment Tool for Family Shelters, developed by the Administration for Children and Families/US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), has been shared with the Housing for Homeless Consortium.</p> <p>Child Care Services staff will continue to attend the annual state conference on homeless populations with a goal to share services and resources available that support families, including those experiencing homelessness. A representative from the Division participates in the Youth Committee for the Consortium of Care as part of South Dakota Housing for the Homeless to share services, develop new partnerships and coordinate new initiatives that effect youth experiencing homelessness. A goal for this plan period is to provide a presentation at the statewide conference overviewing child care services, child care assistance, time extensions available when needed for families experiencing homelessness who do not have documentation readily available, resources, etc.</p>
<p>Section 3.1.5., Additional criteria</p>	<p>Child Care Services (CCS) requires parents to cooperate with the Division of Child Support in opening and maintaining an active enforcement case for all children in the home as a condition of eligibility for assistance. In some cases, good cause is acknowledged. South Dakota does not have a wait list, so all families are currently served and all applications are processed within 10 days. For TANF recipients, CCS has developed a simplified application process, which allows employment specialists to request child care hours to fit the applicant's needs within child care guidelines. This reduces the need for the CCS caseworker to request additional documentation, such as paystubs or schedules, allowing for expedited processing in many cases. TANF applications are printed on colored paper to make them more prominent, and one person in the office processes all TANF applications. Foster parent applications are also simplified and printed on colored paper to make them easier to identify. Foster families are allowed to self-declare work or provide school schedules.</p> <p>If the application from a family experiencing homelessness is missing any of the required verifiable documents, the caseworker will attempt to make contact with the appropriate entities to obtain the information. If the verifications are made, a 12- month certificate is</p>

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	<p>issued within 10 days of receipt of the application. If the information cannot be verified within 2 working days, eligibility will be determined based on the information provided on the application and a 30-day certificate will be issued, allowing the recipient additional time to provide the required documentation. Upon receipt of the required documentation the certificate is extended to 12-months. If the family is determined to be ineligible upon receipt of documentation, the case is closed. There is no overpayment considered in these cases of families experiencing homelessness.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.1., Special needs</p>	<p>Children with special needs is defined as a child under the age of 19 and physically or mentally incapable of self-care (as verified by a physician, physician's assistant, nurse practitioner, psychologist, psychiatric social worker, special education teacher, physical or occupational therapist, or social worker) or who is under court supervision. Currently, all eligible families are served in South Dakota, with no wait list. Applications that include a child with special needs are prioritized by being evaluated promptly as they are received. An overall higher rate is allowed for providers caring for children with special needs requiring additional care. A special rate can be negotiated depending on the need which allows for a 20% income disregard and consideration of income at a maximum of 85% of the SMI.</p> <p>If South Dakota implements a waiting list, applicants with children with special needs also receive priority for service per Administrative Rule of South Dakota (ARSD) 67:47:01:29. If the department does not have sufficient funding to serve an applicant eligible for child care assistance, the department shall place the eligible applicant on a waiting list. An applicant must meet all eligibility requirements in order to be placed on the waiting list. If a waiting list is implemented, the department shall assign a level of priority. The first level of priority status consists of: 1) TANF recipients and those transitioning off TANF; 2) Applicants with children with special needs; 3) Applicants with children who will be receiving or need to receive protective services; and families experiencing homelessness. A change in an applicant's circumstances may warrant a change in an applicant's level of priority on the waiting list. If at any time, an applicant on the waiting list no longer meets eligibility requirements, the applicant shall be removed from the waiting list.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families</p>	<p>Serve families experiencing homelessness without placing these populations on waiting lists.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.5., Enrollment flexibility</p>	<p>Providers who enroll a family who does not have access to all documentation at the time of application will be provided a grace period of 10 days to obtain the documents. CCS works with child care providers, sharing resources for obtaining the necessary information including using the South Dakota Immunization Information System to obtain immunization records; other DSS agencies, etc.</p> <p>Outreach: Lead Agency accepts applications at local community-based locations, Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents</p>	<p>Children from a family experiencing homelessness are offered a grace period to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements. In SD, a two-week time frame is set in policy from the date of enrollment for obtaining immunization records, but the licensing specialist and child care provider work with the family to obtain the</p>

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	<p>information needed even if it takes longer than two weeks. Child care providers are required to notify the licensing specialist if additional time is needed. An immunization record is required for all children, these situations are simply allowed extra time to obtain the information if needed. Resources such as the South Dakota Immunization Information System, a database of immunization records in South Dakota, are used to assist families in obtaining this information. Personnel from the South Dakota Department of Health concurred with this time frame for the grace period policy.</p> <p>Program directors were notified that extra time can be allotted for obtaining required documentation for families who are homeless or children in foster care. Licensing staff in collaboration with Department of Health staff, work with child care providers and families to obtain information from local clinics or through the South Dakota Immunization Information System (SDIIS), an online immunization database. Licensing specialists also share other resources available to support families in meeting enrollment requirements.</p>
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>Information on identifying and serving homeless children and families is embedded into a number of state and regional training opportunities through the Early Childhood Enrichment (ECE) agencies. The decision to embed the information in this way rather than develop a stand-alone course was made based on how the system could impact the greatest number of providers with this information. In each class, the information presented is relevant to the class topic, for example, in a class regarding child development, information is included on the effects that experiencing homelessness can have on a child's development and how children may respond to their experiences. Resources such as the availability of local DSS Resource Guides, and other state and national resources are shared as a way for providers to support families. State curriculums such as the Infant and Toddler Care Entry Level Series, Family Child Care Entry Level Series, and the South Dakota Child Development Associate (SD CDA) Training Program have all formally integrated this information. To facilitate the ongoing integration of this information, the Division of Child Care Services developed and routinely reviews a list of key resources and talking points for the Early Childhood Enrichment (ECE) agencies to use in embedding information into existing training.</p> <p>Technical assistance is also provided to child care providers to share resources for families experiencing homelessness upon request. Child Care Assistance caseworkers also provide resources to families who apply for assistance that identify themselves as homeless. Child Care Services (CCS) Licensing Specialists, Subsidy Caseworkers, and Administrative Staff along with the regional Early Childhood Enrichment trainers, participated in a train-the-trainer session that focused on eligibility for and services provided through McKinney-Vento Act by the South Dakota Department of Education Homeless Coordinator. Ongoing training will occur with CCS agency staff. A CCS Representative participates in the statewide Housing for the Homeless Consortium and the Continuum of Care Youth subcommittee.</p>
<p>Tennessee</p>	
<p>Section 1.4, Coordination with partners</p>	<p>The Lead Agency established relationships with the Tennessee Association of Community Action (TACA) through a partnership with the DHS Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) program to collect data on children (ages 0 to 5) statewide experiencing homelessness and the Tennessee liaison to the National Center for Homeless Education to share information and coordinate activities associated with services for homeless children and families. Community Action Agencies (CAAs) are private nonprofit and public organizations created out of Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to combat poverty. CAAs assess community needs and</p>

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	<p>resources, establish priorities, determine strategies to address local poverty issues, and in partnership with community organizations, deliver a broad range of comprehensive services to create economic opportunity and have a measurable impact in the lives of those in our communities.</p> <p>The Lead Agency is also establishing a partnership to liaison with the National Center for Homeless Education as well as with other community agencies, such as the United Way of Middle Tennessee, to provide resources for students experiencing homelessness.</p>
<p>Section 3.1.5., Additional criteria</p>	<p>The Lead Agency has a policy on prioritization of need in the event of a waiting list for childcare services. The Lead Agency currently does not have a waiting list. The following groups will be given priority in the event of a waiting list: Homelessness, Children with a Diagnosed Disability, Military.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families</p>	<p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize for enrollment
<p>Section 3.2.3., Priority groups</p>	<p>The following groups are given prioritized consideration by the Lead Agency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeless Children • Children with a Diagnosed Disability • Military Status of the Adult Parent- currently active duty (i.e. serving full-time) in the U.S. Military or a member of either a National Guard unit or a Military Reserve unit.
<p>Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility</p>	<p>The following exceptions were added to the rules of the Department of Human Services - Licensure Rules for Child Care Agencies Chapter 1240-04-01: The agency shall not admit a child into care until the parent/guardian has supplied the agency with a completed application, valid Tennessee Department of Health Official Immunization Certificates record (for children over two (2) months of age), and a health history. After an initial eligibility determination, children who are homeless and/or children in state custody may receive care prior to providing all required documentation as determined by the Department. Care without documentation of immunizations shall not exceed sixty days. The agency shall maintain written documentation that the parent/guardian performed an on-site visit to the agency prior to the child being enrolled into care and that the agency provided and reviewed parent engagement strategies recognized by the Department with the parent during the required pre-placement visit.</p> <p>Exception: A pre-placement visit is not required for children of homeless families. All children, including related children younger than age nine (9), shall have required records on file before care is provided.</p> <p>Exception: After an initial eligibility determination, children of homeless families and/or children in state custody may receive care prior to providing required documentation as determined by the Department. Exceptions to this immunization record requirement may be made only if: Care for children of homeless families and/or children in state custody is needed before documentation of immunizations can be confirmed. Care without documentation of immunizations for such children shall not exceed thirty days.</p> <p>Outreach: Partnerships with community-based organizations, Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care.</p>

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Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents	Families may receive care for up to 60 days without documentation of immunization requirements.
Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families	The Lead Agency provides training for Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) on serving children and families experiencing homelessness. CCR&R provides statewide training to child care agencies on identifying and providing resources for children experiencing homelessness statewide. The Lead Agency and CCR&R Family Engagement Quality Coaches provide outreach services to families experiencing homelessness by implementing strategies to increase networks to families experiencing homelessness and support effective cross-sector collaboration. The Lead Agency provides training to its Child Care Services staff on identifying and serving homeless children and families. CCR&R provides training to child care agencies on identifying and serving homeless children and their families to child care agencies.
Texas	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	Boards coordinate with local homeless shelters and organizations serving homeless families. Boards also work with ISDs (Independent School Districts) to identify and provide outreach to homeless children served by public schools. This coordination is also in conjunction with workforce services to homeless families through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).
Section 3.2.1., Reason for care	TWC (Texas Workforce Commission) Child Care Services rule §809.2(16) defines "protective services" as services provided when a child: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is at risk of abuse or neglect in the immediate or short-term future and the child's family cannot or will not protect the child without the intervention of CPS (this includes respite care provided to custodial parents of children in protective services); • is in the managing conservatorship of DFPS and is residing with a relative or a foster parent; or • has been provided with protective services by DFPS within the prior six months and requires services to ensure the stability of the family. Additionally, for purposes of waiving the co-payment and income eligibility requirements for child care, children experiencing homelessness are included in the definition "protective services" for CCDF.
Section 3.1.5., Additional criteria	Consistent with CCDF regulations, the first priority group consists of children residing in families with very low income. The second priority group consists of children with special needs, including children experiencing homelessness . A third priority group includes any other priority adopted by the Boards. However, a Board must not establish a priority group based on parent choice of an individual provider or provider type. Boards must ensure that children in the first and second priority groups are enrolled before enrolling children from Board-established priority groups. See Sections B-400 through B-403 of the TWC Child Care Services Guide.
Section 3.2.1., Special needs	A child with special needs is defined as a child: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • receiving, or needing to receive, protective services; • of a qualified veteran; • of a foster youth; • of a parent in military deployment; • experiencing homelessness; • of teen parents; or

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> with disabilities.
Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families	<p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize for enrollment Waive copayments
Section 3.2.4., Priority groups	<p>The first priority group is assured child care services and includes children of parents eligible for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choices child care TANF Applicant child care SNAP E&T child care Transitional (former Choices) child care <p>The second priority group is served subject to the availability of funds and includes, in the order of priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children who need to receive protective services child care Children of a qualified veteran or qualified spouse Children of a foster youth Children experiencing homelessness Children of parents on military deployment whose parents are unable to enroll in military-funded child care assistance programs Children of teen parents Children with disabilities
Section 3.2.5., Enrollment flexibility	<p>For children experiencing homelessness, TWC Child Care Services rule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> §809.19 exempts the family from the parent share of cost; and §809.52 requires that the child is initially enrolled for a period of three months to allow the parent to provide documentation verifying the child's eligibility. <p>Additionally, HHSC (Health & Human Services) CCL (Child Care Licensing) regulations provide a 30-day grace period to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements.</p> <p>Outreach: Partnerships with community-based organizations, Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care.</p> <p>Boards coordinate with local homeless shelters and organizations serving homeless families. Boards also work with local ISDs to identify and provide outreach to homeless children served by public schools. This coordination is also in conjunction with workforce services to homeless families through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA).</p>
Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents	<p>TWC's Child Care Services rule §809.2(6) defines a child experiencing homelessness as "A child who is homeless as defined in the McKinney-Vento Act (42 U.S.C.11434(a)), Subtitle VII-B, §725."</p> <p>CCL regulations provide a 30-day grace period to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements.</p>
Section 3.4.2., Family contribution calculation	<p>The family's contribution will be calculated as follows: The fee is a dollar amount and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fee is per child and is discounted for two or more children. <p>The contribution schedule varies because it is set locally/regionally (as indicated in 1.2.1).</p>

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	<p>Boards must have a policy that provides for the parent share of cost:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • being assessed to all parents, except those who are parents of a child receiving Child Care for Children Experiencing Homelessness; and • being an amount determined on a sliding fee scale based on family size and gross monthly income (number of children in care may also be considered). <p>Boards must ensure that the sliding fee scale is based on family size and gross family income expressed as a percent of the FPG (Federal Poverty Guideline) or SMI (State Median Income) for the appropriate fiscal year.</p> <p>In establishing the parent share of cost policy, Boards also may consider the number of children in care by including an additional amount for each additional child in care.</p> <p>Consistent with CCDF regulations at §98.45(k), Boards must ensure that the parent share of cost policy does not consider the cost of care or the amount of the provider reimbursement.</p> <p>Teen parents not covered under the exceptions defined in response 3.4.3 must be assessed a parent share of cost, solely based on the teen parent's income and family size. If the parent share of cost, based on income and family size, is calculated to be zero, then the Board or its child care contractor must not charge the parent any minimum share of cost amount.</p>
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>As a collaborative effort to provide technical assistance to child care providers on identifying and serving homeless children and families, the TWC, working with federal, state, and local partners, encourages providers to visit the resources listed below on education and homelessness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Center for Homeless Education <p>Funded by the U.S. Department of Education (Department), the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) serves as the Department's technical assistance and information center for the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program.</p> <p>In this role, NCHE provides research, resources, and information enabling communities to address the educational needs of children experiencing homelessness. The center also supports educators and service providers by means of training and awareness materials and by providing training at regional and national conferences and other events.</p> <p>Printed Materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who Is Homeless? http://nche.ed.gov/downloads/briefs/who_is_homeless.pdf • Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness: An Introduction to the Issues http://nche.ed.gov/downloads/briefs/introduction.pdf • Early Care and Education for Young Children Experiencing Homelessness http://nche.ed.gov/downloads/briefs/early-childhood.pdf • Determining Eligibility for Rights and Services under the McKinney-Vento Act http://nche.ed.gov/downloads/briefs/det_elig.pdf <p>Videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determining Eligibility for McKinney-Vento Rights and Services: In this webinar, NCHE staff members discuss the McKinney-Vento definition of "homeless," including such categories as doubled-up, awaiting foster care placement, unaccompanied homeless youth, and substandard housing. Presenters also recommend guiding principles to use when determining McKinney-Vento eligibility. Participants discuss scenarios to apply the knowledge presented during the webinar and may ask questions of presenters. • Understanding "Doubled-Up": Participants join presenters from NCHE in an exploration of the issue of doubling-up. "Doubled-up" is the informal term used to describe a concept included in the McKinney-Vento Act's definition of "homeless." The term refers to shared living arrangements, some of which are considered to

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	<p>constitute homelessness, while others do not, depending on a range of factors. In this session, participants explore some of these factors in detail and ask questions about concepts covered throughout the session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additionally, the April 2017 edition of the Texas Child Care Quarterly, a journal geared specifically toward child care providers, includes the article, "Reach Out to Homeless Families." The article provides information about understanding who is considered homeless and tips for serving homeless families and children. The article is available at: https://www.childcarequarterly.com/spring17_business.html <p>Finally, TWC is developing guidance for release in 2018 that will assist Boards in identifying and serving families and individuals experiencing homelessness. Boards will use the information to inform assistance and training offered to providers.</p> <p>Additionally, TWC's Workforce Program Policy and Technical Assistance departments provide ongoing policy clarifications and technical assistance on issues related to homelessness to both TWC staff and Board staff.</p>
Utah	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	<p>The Lead Agency coordinates with the McKinney-Vento state coordinators through the Utah State Board of Education's involvement on the OCC (Office of Child Care) Advisory Committee. In addition, the Lead Agency includes the state's Division of Housing and Community Development. This division is engaged in serving Utah's homeless population and supporting homeless service providers. As a result, child care is incorporated in discussions with serving the needs of families experiencing homelessness. In addition, the Lead Agency has homeless outreach workers located in shelters and housing sites throughout the State to assist families who are homeless or facing eviction. The workers are trained to assist families in obtaining employment and applying for various types of assistance. Connecting families to child care assistance, Child Care Resource and Referral agencies and other child care services is an important component of this homeless outreach initiative. Additionally, the Utah Office of Child Care regularly presents child care assistance and resource information at homeless conferences and coordinates with the outreach teams located at the shelters. The goal of the coordination across these agencies is to ensure children experiencing homelessness have access to high-quality child care and education programs.</p>
Section 3.2.1., Reason for care	<p>The Lead Agency defines "families with very low incomes," as families who are TANF eligible or homeless.</p>
Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families	<p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize for enrollment <p>Homeless families may receive Homeless Child Care Assistance when referred by a homeless agency. The Homeless Child Care program is available to families who are in sheltered care and do not meet the Employment Support Child Care work requirements. A referral must be provided by the recognized homeless agency to approve the Homeless Child Care program. Families may receive up to three months of child care to support activities including, but not limited to, employment, job search, training, shelter search, or working through a crisis situation. After three months, they may transition into Employment Support or TANF child care without having to reapply.</p>
Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility	<p>The Lead Agency implements the following procedures for enrollment of children experiencing homelessness while required documentation is obtained. Homeless families applying for child care assistance who appear to meet the Employment Support Child Care requirements may receive an Upfront child care payment during the application period. In that case, families have 30 days to obtain additional documentation. Homeless TANF customers who meet with</p>

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	<p>an employment counselor may receive an expedited child care payment, even in the absence of required documentation.</p> <p>Outreach: children experiencing homelessness (as defined by CCDF Rule) and their families. Lead Agency accepts applications at local community-based locations, Partnerships with community-based organizations, Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care.</p> <p>During the 2018 Utah General Legislative Session, a bill was passed that waives fees for obtaining birth certificates and state identification for qualified individuals and family members experiencing homelessness. The Lead Agency is instrumental in verifying the homeless status of an individual and assisting individuals to obtain this free waiver. The homeless status verification is valid for 60 days. Additionally providers are offered a TA resource for serving families experiencing homelessness. There are 30 minutes modules for staff.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents</p>	<p>The Utah Department of Health, Child Care Licensing requires providers to ensure families are in compliance with immunizations and health and safety requirements. Homeless families are given a three-month grace period to provide immunization records and/or obtain immunizations. The homeless family completes an attestation for the provider establishing they are homeless, granting a grace period to comply with the requirements. The length of the grace period and procedures were established in consultation with the Lead Agency and the Child Care Licensing program. Additionally, the Lead Agency has staff that work within the homeless community and shelters. These staff provide customers with information and resources in order to support them in obtaining records or immunizations needed for child care.</p> <p>The Lead Agency developed an informational flier about homeless children that has been distributed to child care providers and is accessible online through the Child Care Licensing website and the consumer education website. The flier is a tool that can be used to assist providers to know how to help homeless families and connect them to community resources.</p>
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>The Lead Agency contracts with the Child Care Licensing program to verify that all required training is completed each year by every provider. Training regarding identifying and serving children and families experiencing homelessness is one of the required topics Child Care Licensing verifies.</p> <p>As technical assistance, and at the request of providers, the Lead Agency has created an informational one-sheet document programs and providers can use to meet this requirement. The document defines homelessness and identifies special needs, issues and behaviors that may be exhibited by children without a stable place to live and how to work with them effectively in a responsive and supportive manner. Additionally, the document includes information on how providers can recognize signs of homelessness and how to identify children and families that may be experiencing homelessness or may lose their homes. Lastly, the document provides a list of community resources that provides services to homeless families to which providers may be able to refer families.</p>
<p>Vermont</p>	
<p>Section 1.4, Coordination with partners</p>	<p>The Vermont Agency of Education is the designated McKinney-Vento state coordinating agency for homeless education. Staff from the DCF (Department for Children and Families)/CDD (Child Development Division) and the HSSCOD (Head Start State Collaboration</p>

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	<p>Office), sits on an interagency group convened by the Agency of Human Services to address family homelessness with the AOE Coordinator of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons. The group coordinates and aligns efforts around addressing the needs of homeless children and families including early learning and development and education. The goals of this coordination include: providing access to high quality Early Learning and Development (ELD) and out of school time programs for vulnerable populations; linking comprehensive, trauma informed services to ELD and out of school time programs; and smoothing transitions for children between programs or as they age into school.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families</p>	<p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay higher rates for access to higher-quality care <p>The Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CC FAP) application requests information regarding homelessness status. If client identifies as homeless, the application is forwarded to the Specialized Child Care Coordinator in Children's Integrated Services (CIS) for processing as a Family Support application. Family Support guidelines state that homeless families are automatically approved for child care at 100% of the state's subsidized rate.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility</p>	<p>The Licensing Unit has established the practice of allowing childcare providers 30 days to obtain the necessary immunizations for children that are homeless or in Foster Care. New rules will also require children's physical exams to be included in the child's file upon entry into a child care program (as of Sept. 2016) but any information required in a child's medical file is subject to the same grace period for homeless and foster children. Licensing Field Specialists have been trained on this grace period for compliance; Resource Development Specialists in CCCSAs are trained on this information and communicate it to child care providers.</p> <p>Outreach: Lead Agency accepts applications at local community-based locations, Partnerships with community-based organizations, Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care</p>
<p>Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents</p>	<p>Children experiencing homelessness (as defined by the Lead Agency's CCDF Rule). If a parent discloses that they are homeless, or the provider has information that indicates a family might be homeless, documentation is placed in the child's enrollment file. Licensing staff will use this documentation to the child care program additional time to complete enrollment requirements. If a family is experiencing homelessness does not have immunization records in the registry, the provider will work with the family to obtain the records. If the child is not up-to-date with immunizations, the family will be referred to Help Me Grow for assistance.</p> <p>Documentation of the steps to obtain this information is sufficient until required immunizations have been obtained. Provide the citation for this policy and procedure. Center Based Child Care and Preschool Programs licensing rules in section 5. Family Child Care Home licensing rules in section 5. Vermont Center Based & Preschool Programs Guidance Manual, pages 37-38 and Vermont Family Child Care Homes Guidance Manual, pages 46-47. These regulations/guidance manuals may be accessed on DCF's Child Development Division's website (http://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/laws-regs/childcare).</p>
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework,</p>	<p>Professional development related to homelessness has been identified as a required topic for Northern Lights @ CCV (Community College of Vermont) to include in their annual trainings to regulated childcare providers. Homelessness - Impact on Early Childhood Settings (2 hours; offered as requested). This training will address definitions of homelessness and trauma and</p>

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<p>Section 6.2.5. and Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>explore the ways homelessness may affect access to quality care and education, medical services, and nutrition. It will also look at the physical, social-emotional, and educational impacts of homelessness. This training meets the Advanced Specialized Care training requirement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening Families trainings that address family stress including homelessness continue to be offered through VT AEYC for 2018 and then has been identified as a required topic for Northern Lights @ CCV to include in their annual trainings to regulated child care providers • Training on trauma-informed practice for homelessness has been identified as a required topic for Northern Lights @ CCV to include in their annual trainings to regulated childcare providers. • Basic Specialized Care training is required for all child care providers wishing to care for a child in state protective custody or otherwise considered at risk and addresses homelessness broadly. • One of the Child Care Financial Assistance Program enrollment categories is Family Support Child Care which means that the family is experiencing significant stress in areas such as shelter, safety, emotional stability, substance abuse, children's behaviors, and parenting issues. When homelessness is identified as a service need, Specialized Child Care services through CDD Children's Integrated Services begins, which can provide additional supports to the child care provider. For the child care program, this includes the connection with a regional Child Care Coordinator who is able to assist with technical assistance and connecting providers to additional training resources. <p>The CDD has been working with the Office of Economic Opportunity within DCF and has designed and offered shared training and TA around child trauma directly related to homelessness. The CDD continues to work with the Agency of Human Services on a plan to end homelessness by 2020 and CDD efforts is in partnership with this statewide plan.</p>
<p>Virgin Islands</p>	<p>No FY2019-2021 CCDF state plan posted. http://www.dhs.gov.vi/OCCRS/applications_listings.html</p>
<p>Virginia</p>	
<p>Section 1.4, Coordination with partners</p>	<p>The McKinney-Vento State Coordinator serves on various Lead Agency child care workgroups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Coordinator assisted with a needs assessment to identify underserved areas of the state (which looked at quality child care, infant and toddler child care, non-standard hours of care, and care for children with special needs) and formulated strategies to address these areas; and participated in the development of a statewide child care disaster plan. • The Coordinator worked with the Lead Agency to develop a training module for local departments of social services staff on outreach to homeless families, as well as resource materials and training for providers. • The Coordinator developed a webinar on characteristics and appropriate assistance for families who may be experiencing homelessness and this webinar is posted on the Lead Agency's website.
<p>Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a family experiencing homelessness cannot be served immediately due to a lack of funds, they are part of a priority group for the waiting list for services. • Funding is reserved to serve families residing in homeless or domestic violence shelters.

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<p>Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility</p>	<p>Families of a child experiencing homelessness that cannot provide the required documentation needed to determine eligibility at the time of application or redetermination may be conditionally approved for services for a period not to exceed 90 days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Such documentation may include, but is not limited to, verification of immunizations, verification of child's citizenship or verification of income. • The Lead Agency consulted with the Department of Housing and Community Development to establish that the 90-day grace period was a reasonable length of time to allow families experiencing homelessness to comply. <p>Outreach: Partnerships with community-based organizations, Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care</p>
<p>Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents</p>	<p>Families of a child experiencing homelessness that cannot provide the required documentation needed to determine eligibility at the time of application or redetermination may be conditionally approved for services for a period not to exceed 90 days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Such documentation may include, but is not limited to, verification of immunizations, verification of child's citizenship, or verification of income. • The Lead Agency consulted with the Virginia Department of Health to determine whether a 90-day grace period was a reasonable length of time to allow families experiencing homelessness to comply. <p>Both the Subsidy Program and Licensing functions are provided through the Department of Social Services. Licensing staff are made aware of the grace period and do not cite violations for families experiencing homelessness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Subsidy Program and the Department of Housing and Community Development, a sister state agency, work together to assist families experiencing homelessness. • Subsidy Program staff has access to the Virginia Immunization Information System through the Virginia Department of Health to verify immunization information for children whose families may not have written documentation of immunizations.
<p>Section 3.3.1., 12 month eligibility</p>	<p>The recipient is a family of a child experiencing homelessness that was conditionally approved because they could not provide required documentation. If the documentation is provided to the local department within 90 days of case approval, the recipient may remain eligible for the remainder of the 12-month eligibility period. If documentation is not provided to the local department within 90 days, or the recipient is determined ineligible after full documentation is provided, the child care case will be closed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once eligibility has been approved, recipients will retain eligibility despite any change in residency within the State. Recipients will also retain eligibility despite any eligible child turning 13 or 18 (child with special needs) years of age during the eligibility period. During the eligibility period, the child shall be considered eligible and shall receive services at least at the same level, regardless of: (i) a change in family income, if that family income does not exceed 85% of state median income; or (ii) any temporary change or cessation of work or attendance at a training or education program.
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Section 6.2.5. and</p>	<p>VDSS (Virginia Department of Social Services) offered a webinar on homelessness characteristics and resources available for child care providers in the state. This webinar was recorded and is available on the public website.</p>

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Section 6.2.6. Supporting homeless families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future webinars may be offered through our partnership with Project HOPE, an initiative of the Virginia Department of Education housed at the College of William and Mary. • Parent Paks for families at risk for or experiencing homelessness were developed by the Homeless Education Project through the College of William and Mary in response to McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth requirements and the CCDBG Act final rule. The Parent Pak contains a sturdy folder designed to help families organize and keep immunization records for their children and other important information. Also in the Pak are McKinney-Vento rights and state resources, a developmental wheel, and a children's book. Currently the Paks are free from Project Hope. Project Hope also includes VDSS resources in their training of school division liaisons. • The Lead Agency maintains an online file of homelessness resources that staff members are encouraged to consult in the pursuit of their planning and day-to-day work, including: "Supporting Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness: CCDF State Guide," "Supporting Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness: CCDF State Self-Assessment," and "Self-Assessment Tool for Early Childhood Programs Serving Families Experiencing Homelessness." • A VDSS webinar on homelessness characteristics and resources available to child care providers is on VDSS' public website and can be viewed by local and Lead Agency staff.
Washington	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	DCYF (Department of Children, Youth & Families) coordinates with OSPI's (Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction) McKinney-Vento State Coordinator for Homeless Education through its Partnerships and Collaboration division, by periodically attending and participating in McKinney-Vento Liaison training, and through collaboration on specific projects impacting families experiencing homelessness. Partnerships and Collaboration assists the State Coordinator on, e.g. data requests regarding families experiencing homelessness participating in DCYF administered programs. Goals for the collaboration include expanding access to quality early learning programs for families and children experiencing homelessness so all children, including the most vulnerable, arrive to kindergarten ready to learn, impacting their later academic and professional success, and to assist providers serving children and families experiencing homelessness. DCYF works with the Coordinator and CCA to develop training and technical assistance to providers on identifying and serving children and their families experiencing homelessness.
Section 3.1.2., Reasons for care	<p>DCYF's definition of protective services includes families who qualify for WCCC (Working Connections Child Care) under WAC (Washington Administrative Code) 110-15-0023, children who are homeless because of a disaster, children receiving family assessment response (FAR) services under RCW26.44.260, and children in the parental control of a non-needy relative (NNR).</p> <p>NNR means the adult caring for an eligible child in the absence of the biological, adoptive, or step-parent and who is the child's adult sibling or step-sibling, nephew or niece, aunt or uncle, great-aunt or great-uncle, grandparent or great-grandparent. DSHS verifies an individual's NNR status using the following documentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A court-order; • A closed case with Children's Administration; or

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A written document or verbal statement from the child's biological, adoptive or step-parent. <p>In the case of an NNR, income eligibility will be determined solely based on the income received by the eligible child as indicated at WAC 110-15-0015(f). DSHS staff cross-reference residence information stated in the CCSP application with information in other systems such as ACES. If the statement on the application is questionable in light of the information available to staff, staff request a collateral statement from a landlord. Families experiencing homelessness can qualify for the Homeless Grace Period (HGP) under WAC 170-290-0023 and have 30 days from initial application to provide a collateral third party statement verifying their homeless status.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families</p>	<p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize for enrollment <p>Families experiencing homelessness have four months to move into and verify participation in approved activities, and to resolve any outstanding copayment issues. DSHS authorizes the family for full-time care, and the family's copayment is waived during the four-month period. If at any point during the period the family verifies participation in approved activities, the family will qualify to receive the rest of their 12 months of eligibility. See WAC 110-15-0023. DCYF coordinates services to homeless families available under these programs through regular inter- and cross-divisional planning and collaboration. DCYF's ongoing goals for this coordination are to expand capacity to assist families in crisis and to expand access to quality full-day, full-year programs with comprehensive services under WCCC, SCC, ECEAP, Head Start and Early Head Start. DCYF prioritizes homeless families for services under all these programs and continues to explore layered funding strategies through ECEAP expansion and Early Head Start- Child Care Partnerships to improve access to quality comprehensive services for this vulnerable population.</p> <p>In addition, DCYF contracts with CCA (Child Care Aware), who assists families experiencing homelessness to navigate the DSHS eligibility determination under the rules described above. CCA, using a separate statewide phone line, provides these families expert guidance on eligibility rules affecting them. CCA works with DCYF and DSHS when it identifies eligibility barriers for these families in policy or service delivery. As a result, families experiencing homelessness are given tools to provide DSHS the information needed to determine eligibility based on their true circumstances.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility</p>	<p>WCCC eligibility rules allow families experiencing homelessness, according to the McKinney-Vento definition, who would otherwise be WCCC ineligible because they are not participating in approved activities or cannot verify that they are, or have outstanding copayment issues, to be eligible to receive WCCC. The client whose family is experiencing homelessness states that they are homeless according to the definition within the past 12 months. DSHS determines whether documentation in the Automated Client Eligibility System (ACES) or Electronic Jobs Automated System (eJAS) for other benefits programs corroborates the statement. If so, no further verification is required. If ACES and eJAS information does not corroborate the statement, DSHS requires a corroborating written or verbal statement from a third party who knows the family's homeless status.</p> <p>Further, CCSP does not require families to produce immunization records to qualify for child care subsidies. Immunizations records are required for children to attend licensed child care but families have time to either obtain the child's immunization, re-start immunizations, or</p>

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	<p>provide documentation according to WAC 110-300A-7020 and WAC170-300B-3275. DCYF contracts with CCA to provide outreach to these families and assist with obtaining immunization records.</p> <p>Outreach: Lead Agency accepts applications at local community-based locations Partnerships with community-based organizations, Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care. DCYF contracts with CCA to provide outreach to families experiencing homelessness. CCA created a separate menu choice on its Family Center telephone hotline for families who are experiencing homelessness. CCA ensures that Family Center employees who answer the line are able to consult with these families to determine early learning/child care service(s) for which the family maybe eligible to include, but not limited to: WCCC, Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), Head Start or WCCC through TANF, and information on how families can obtain these services.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents</p>	<p>WCCC eligibility rules allow families experiencing homelessness, according to the McKinney-Vento definition, who would otherwise be WCCC ineligible because they are not participating in approved activities or cannot verify that they are, or have outstanding copayment issues, to be eligible to receive WCCC. The client whose family is experiencing homelessness states that they are homeless according to the definition within the past 12 months. DSHS determines whether documentation in the Automated Client Eligibility System (ACES) or Electronic Jobs Automated System (eJAS) for other benefits programs corroborates the statement. If so, no further verification is required. If ACES and eJAS information does not corroborate the statement, DSHS requires a corroborating written or verbal statement from a third party who knows the family's homeless status.</p> <p>If eligible under the rules described above, families have four months to move into and verify participation in approved activities, and to resolve any outstanding copayment issues. DSHS authorizes the family for full-time care, and the family's copayment is waived during the four-month period. If at any point during the period the family verifies participation in approved activities, the family will qualify to receive the rest of their 12 months of eligibility. See WAC 110-15-0023.</p> <p>CCSP does not require families to produce immunization records to qualify for childcare subsidies. Immunizations records are required for children to attend licensed child care but families have time to either obtain the child's immunization, re-start immunizations, or provide documentation according to WAC 110-300A-7020 and WAC 170-300B-3275. DCYF consulted with Department of Health in developing all health and safety standards, including provisions related to immunization.</p> <p>DCYF coordinates services to homeless families available under these programs through regular inter- and cross-divisional planning and collaboration. DCYF's ongoing goals for this coordination are to expand capacity to assist families in crisis and to expand access to quality full-day, full-year programs with comprehensive services under WCCC, SCC, ECEAP, Head Start and Early Head Start. DCYF prioritizes homeless families for services under all these programs and continues to explore layered funding strategies through ECEAP expansion and Early Head</p>

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	<p>Start - Child Care Partnerships to improve access to quality comprehensive services for this vulnerable population.</p> <p>In addition, DCYF contracts with CCA, who assists families experiencing homelessness to navigate the DSHS eligibility determination under the rules described above. CCA, using a separate statewide phone line, provides these families expert guidance on eligibility rules affecting them. CCA works with DCYF and DSHS when it identifies eligibility barriers for these families in policy or service delivery. As a result, families experiencing homelessness are given tools to provide DSHS the information needed to determine eligibility based on their true circumstances.</p>
Section 3.4.4., Co-payment waivers	Families experiencing homeless may qualify for the HGP (Homeless Grace Period), under which the family contribution is waived.
Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Sec. 6.2.5 Supporting homeless families	<p>Through DCYF's coaching framework, providers serving children receiving subsidy have access to an Early Achievers coach. The state's pre-service requirement Child Care Basics incorporates an intro to serving homeless children and their families and the content is also available in an online standalone module for all to access. This allows for providers and coaches to both be trained on serving children experiencing homelessness and for that learning and implementation of practice to happen within the coaching framework of the state's QRIS system.</p> <p>All DCYF licensing staff are required to take the CCDF-related trainings on the Learning Management System (LMS), including a two-hour homelessness and trauma module. Further, the training opportunities for providers are also open to staff. The LMS hosts trainings for agency staff to learn about the same practices and content that providers learn about for serving children and families experiencing homelessness.</p>
West Virginia	
Section 1.4, Coordination with partners	The Division of Early Care and Education in conjunction with the WV Department of Education Office of Federal Programs reviewed and discussed the State Plan expectations for planning and implementation.
Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families	<p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All families who apply and are income and qualifying activity eligible are accepted.
Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility	The Lead Agency allows agencies serving the homeless population to provide verifications of need for care and activity. Child Care Resource and Referral agencies perform in-person outreach to agencies serving homeless populations.
Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents	<p>The provider must submit the request for a waiver or variance in writing, must cite the specific requirement for the waiver or variance, and address all of the requirements outlined in the registration requirements.</p> <p>2.10.1 Considerations in Granting Waivers or Variances Family child care regulatory specialists must consult with the child care supervisor in considering a waiver or variance.</p> <p>2.10.2 Notification of Decision on Waivers and Variances All regulatory staff shall notify the provider in writing of the decision with regard to the waiver or variance. The written decision shall include the following:</p> <p>A. Conditions applied to the approval of the request;</p> <p>B. A time frame for the existence of the waiver or variance;</p> <p>C. The date at which the waiver or variance will be reviewed; or</p>

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	<p>D. Reason for denying the request</p> <p>The licensing agency resides within the Lead Agency.</p>
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Sec. 6.2.5 Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>The Division of Early Care and Education has developed partnerships with Child Abuse Prevention programs, such as in-home family education, family resource centers and starting points to develop a system of support for child care providers. Providers have the opportunity to receive technical assistance and training through the collaboration with these programs.</p>
Wisconsin	
<p>Section 1.4, Coordination with partners</p>	<p>DPI (Department of Public Instruction) Education for Homeless Children and Youth staff participate in Collaborating Partners along with staff from the Lead Agency to ensure coordination for serving homeless families in determination of eligibility for Wisconsin Shares. Braided funding supports staff time for a Homeless Outreach Specialist to promote collaborations and connections between regional stakeholders. This position promotes effective practices related to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, ensuring equal access to early childhood educational opportunities.</p>
<p>Section 2.1.1., Reaching families whose first language is not English</p>	<p>Application in other languages (application document, brochures, provider notices)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informational materials in non-English languages • Bilingual caseworkers or translators available • Partnerships with community-based organizations <p>The Lead Agency has identified potentially eligible families through coordination with local county/tribal human services agencies, family resource centers (FRCs), CCR&R agencies, migrant worker service providers and through local TANF agencies. This outreach will be expanded to include homeless service programs, domestic abuse service programs, and housing programs. Spanish and Hmong are the predominant languages in addition to English. The Lead Agency has the ability to provide interpretation and translations for all languages. The Lead Agency provides training and technical assistance in other languages.</p>
<p>Section 2.5.1., Developmental screening</p>	<p>The Lead Agency has a major role in supporting families so that they also consider, and better understand the importance of, high-quality early education practices and the impact that early experiences can have on brain development, social-emotional development, and future success in school and life. The Lead Agency launched a targeted marketing campaign to increase awareness of these issues among families, especially families experiencing homelessness, teen parents, urban populations, migrant and seasonal families, tribal communities, and families with children with special needs.</p> <p>Some highlights from this campaign include:</p> <p>1) The creation of three videos to educate families on YoungStar and early brain development including "What is YoungStar," "Start with Experiences," and "Toxic Stress." All videos are available on the parent section of the YoungStar website at https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/parents/resources.</p> <p>2) The development of resource materials for families around topics such as developmental milestones, early literacy, family engagement, and early brain development. These resources are available at https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/parents/resources.</p>

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	<p>3) The completion of a paid advertising campaign, geared towards families, including messages about high-quality child care through such media as Google AdWords, YouTube, Twitter, print advertisements, and radio.</p> <p>4) Individualized parent outreach called "Parent Huddles" in which parents were invited by members of their community to learn more about quality child care. These huddles and "Front Porch Chats" were conducted by grassroots outreach organizations contracted with the Lead Agency.</p> <p>5) The Lead Agency has also developed a web section devoted entirely to Early Childhood Inclusion. The site includes: resources if a family has a concern about their child's development; services available for families of children with special needs and disabilities; and information regarding selecting an early education setting for a child with special needs. All information is available at https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/eci.</p> <p>6) The Lead Agency contracts with SFTA (Supporting Families Together Association) to provide Parent Cafés as a method of disseminating child care information as a family-friendly strategy. Parent Cafés are managed through SFTA, the umbrella agency for CCR&Rs, and are contracted to put families in direct contact with local community supports, such as family resource centers, churches, and community centers which assist in disseminating information about the availability of high-quality child care and local family supports.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.2., Increasing access to high quality child care for homeless families</p>	<p>Services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF::</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve without placing these populations on waiting lists <p>Families experiencing homelessness may be determined eligible and receive services prior to completing address verification. No other verification requirements are waived. Per Wis. Statutes, s.49.145(2)(g) an extension may be available for families in need of more time to obtain the required verification. The Lead Agency does not currently have a priority enrollment type; through use of TANF funds it has assured that all families have equal access to the subsidy program. All financially and non-financially eligible families are served. In addition, all providers who have a 4 or 5 Star quality rating receive a separate YoungStar Adjustment (10% and 25% respectively) for each authorized child in their care.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.5, Enrollment flexibility</p>	<p>Families experiencing homelessness are not required to provide verification of homelessness, but must verbally state that they reside in Wisconsin and intend to continue residing in Wisconsin. Families may be determined eligible and receive services prior to completing address verification. No other verification requirements may be waived. Wis. Statutes, s.49.145(2)(g) allows extensions to the verification time limits for families who need more time to obtain required verification. Families may also request assistance from the local agency to obtain needed verification information.</p> <p>Outreach: Partnerships with community-based organizations, Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.6., Grace period for documents</p>	<p>Wis. Statutes, s.252.04(2) and Wis. Admin. Code DHS 144.07(1m) allow a 30-day grace period (six calendar weeks) after the date on which a child is admitted (first day of attendance) to a child care center to supply immunization records. Many resources are available on the Lead Agency's website to assist child care programs in strategizing ways to best serve and work with families experiencing homelessness. Resources include guidance for programs to utilize the grace period in which children can receive services while families are taking the necessary</p>

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	<p>actions to comply with the immunization and other documentation requirements, and also to work closely with families to help them collect the appropriate documentation.</p> <p>The Lead Agency partners with the state Department of Health Services (DHS) as well as with local health departments to ensure providers are aware of local services where they can refer families to meet immunization and other health and safety requirements.</p> <p>The Lead Agency in collaboration with the State Cross Sector Homelessness Task Force has developed a Homelessness Tool Kit to help serve families and children experiencing homelessness: http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/CPlinkedDocs/Final-Proof.pdf. This kit contains resources and information for assisting families with children in child care programs. A set of modules will be created to compliment the information found in the tool kit. The Lead Agency will disseminate the tool kit and modules to CCR&R and other agencies that are in direct contact with families that may be experiencing homelessness to inform the families of how to access Wisconsin Shares child care funding. The Lead Agency has developed a webpage dedicated to supporting families experiencing homelessness: https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/providers/homelessness</p> <p>The CCR&Rs provide referrals to families (via phone, in person and email) related to available child care, information on Shares subsidy qualifications and the application process, as well as local community supports to avoid homelessness.</p>
<p>Section 6.1. Professional Development Framework, Sec. 6.2.5 Supporting homeless families</p>	<p>The Lead Agency in collaboration with the State Cross Sector Homelessness Task Force has developed a Homelessness Tool Kit to help serve families and children experiencing homelessness: http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/CPlinkedDocs/Final-Proof.pdf. This kit contains resources and information for assisting families with children in child care programs. A set of modules is being created to compliment the information found in the tool kit. The Lead Agency will work to disseminate the tool kit and modules to CCR&R and other agencies that are in direct contact with families that may be experiencing homelessness and to inform them of how to access Wisconsin Shares child care funding.</p> <p>The Lead Agency has developed a webpage dedicated to supporting families experiencing homelessness. It includes information specific to Milwaukee County residents, links to other agencies and resources that technical assistance providers can use to support the child care providers that care for children of families experiencing homelessness: https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/providers/homelessness.</p> <p>Lead Agency staff have received training on homelessness and poverty in early care and education. Lead Agency staff work in collaboration with the DPI McKinney-Vento Homeless Program Team to share and disseminate information. Through the State Cross Sector Homelessness Task Force, the Lead Agency has worked on strengthening its collaboration and coordination with Head Start Directors, WCCAA, ECAC, statewide CCR&R agencies and, through DPI, with Wisconsin Homeless Education Coordinators, to help ensure that young children experiencing homelessness are accessing quality early childhood programs.</p> <p>The Lead Agency continues to encourage collaboration and individual partnerships at the local level to expand capacity to meet the needs of families and children experiencing homelessness. This includes, but is not limited to, local educational agencies/school districts/local homeless liaisons, local early intervention or early learning councils, Head Start</p>

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	and Early Head Start programs, local child care providers, HUD Continuums of Care, domestic violence shelters, homeless coalitions, CCR&R agencies and the Salvation Army.
Section 7.3.1., Funding the child care workforce professional development	Local CCR&Rs connect families to resources and other services in their communities around child development, developmental screening, human and social services agency programming, Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program requirements, WIC, FoodShare, W-2, Child Find, Energy Assistance, and services to support families experiencing homelessness. Services are available via phone, walk-in, or online. CCR&R agencies also connect families to parenting programs and Family Resource Center activities.
Section 7.8.2., Measurable indicators of progress	<p>The Lead Agency regularly analyzes program ratings at the indicator and overall level. Using this data, rating and indicator attainment change over time is measured and analyzed as well. The percent of children in high-quality care (3 Star or higher) and the number of programs rated as high quality (3 Star or higher) are captured monthly and reported on the Governor’s data dashboard. The Lead Agency measures the percent of children from high-needs populations (children from families experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, children of teen parents, and children with special needs) who attend high-quality childcare programs. The number of programs that receive onsite technical assistance, training, and/or micro-grants to improve quality is measured by the Lead Agency on a regular basis. The Lead Agency reviews the analytics reports from the ERS scoring tools. The reports provide comparisons and changes in classroom ERS scores over time, both at the individual item score level and at the average program score level. The reports can also show assessor reliability and reliability percentage for visits and number of visits conducted.</p> <p>The Lead Agency increased its goal around the percent of programs rated as high quality from 49% to 52% in January, 2018. The Lead Agency has met or exceeded the 52% goal since September, 2016. At the end of the first quarter of 2018, Wisconsin met this indicator with 55.2% of programs rated 3 Star or higher. The Lead Agency also increased its goal around the percent of children attending high-quality programs from 69% to 73% in January, 2018. The Lead Agency has met or exceeded the 73% goal since March, 2016. At the end of the first quarter of 2018, Wisconsin met this indicator with 75.6% of children authorized to programs rated 3 Star or higher.</p>
Wyoming	No State Plan Posted for any year.

Source: FY2019-FY2021 CCDF State Plans, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/state-plans>

This chart was prepared by [Child Care Services Association](#) with the support of the [Early Learning Policy Group](#).