

**Families with Children Experiencing Homelessness
FY2022-FY2024 Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plans**

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

State Name	Section Question	Response
Alabama		
Alabama	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) houses the McKinney-Vento State Homeless Program. Coordination efforts have resulted in training on Subsidy Program eligibility and services for city and county homeless liaisons and training for Child Care Management Agencies and Quality Enhancement Agencies and in the development of a priority eligibility policy for homeless families. ALSDE has representation on the Lead Agency's Child Care Coordinating Committee, which makes recommendations to the Lead Agency on the array of child care services offered by the Lead Agency.
Alabama	3.1.5. Eligibility determination	Homeless individuals, as defined by the Lead agency under the McKinney-Vento Act, 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 the requirements and prove they are in an allowable activity.
	3.3.2 Prioritization or Targeting	Homeless Children: Prioritized for enrollment in child care services Served without placing on waiting list
Alabama	3.3.3 Priority Groups	The Lead Agency has six (6) priority categories of eligibility. Those groups are as follows: 1. JOBS- Families receiving TANF and participating in the JOBS (Job Opportunity and Basic Skills) Program. 2. Transitional- Families whose TANF benefits have ended in the past 6 months and receive priority for care to avoid reapplying for TANF. 3. Homeless-Families meeting the homeless definition under the McKinney-Vento Act. 4. At-Risk Minor Parent- Minor parents under the age of 18, or under the age of 19, if the parent remains in high school or its equivalent. 5. Foster Care- Children that are in the legal custody of the state of Alabama. 6. Protective Services- Services provided by the Department to, or on behalf of, children in response to reports of alleged abuse, neglect or exploitation. The lead agency also includes families participating in the lead agency's Early Head-Start Child Care Partnership and as a subgroup protective service category.
Alabama	3.3.5a Procedures to support homeless enrollment	Families are allowed up to 90 days of service to allow time to obtain required documentation to establish eligibility. Lead Agency accepts applications at local community-based locations
Alabama	3.3.6 Grace period for homeless children	Families are allowed up to ninety (90) days of service to allow time to obtain required documentation to establish eligibility and to provide proof of immunizations. Child Care Subsidy Policies and Procedures Manual Chapter 5, Section 8 During the grace period, the Lead Agency provides assistance in locating resources to assist the family in providing documentation. Child Care Providers have access to log into Imprint, the Alabama Department of Public Health's online database of immunization certificates. Child Care Providers can locate a child's immunization certificate in the system to print a copy themselves for the record to ease the burden of the parent having to provide it themselves
Alabama	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	The Lead Agency collaborates with 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 Agency staff to help them identify training objectives and connections to provide TA to providers who work with families experiencing homelessness.
Alabama	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	Policy has been created to address identifying and serving families experiencing homelessness. Staff may submit questions for clarification, obtain further information on resources to assist families needing financial assistance and housing, as well as any other needs of the family. The state does not provide training to staff, however, staff are required to adhere to policies that align with the McKinney Vento Act. Training on those policies are provided to staff upon policy enactment by the lead agency.
Alaska		
Alaska	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The 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 CCPO and opportunity for increased collaboration and coordination with the McKinney-Vento state coordinator and local McKinney-Vento liaisons during the 2022-2024 CCDF plan cycle.
Alaska	3.1.8 Procedures for documenting eligibility	Per Child Care Assistance Program regulation 7 AAC 41.315(c)(1), at eligibility determination and redetermination the applicant must provide their mailing address. Per Child Care Assistance Program Regulations 7 AAC 41.300(a)(4) the family's children must be physically present and living in the state. The Child Care Assistance Program Application CC08 includes asking the applicant for their physical address, if the addresses provided are for contact information only, and if the family considers themselves homeless. Verification is the family's application, interview, and reported changes. This information is documented in the Integrated Child Care Information System (ICIS) and maintained in the family's case file. The Office of Children's Services verifies this eligibility requirement for children in protective services at the time they become licensed as foster parents.
Alaska	3.3.2 Prioritization or Targeting	Homeless children: Served without placing on waiting list
Alaska	3.3.3 Priority Groups	Per Child Care Assistance Program regulation 7 AAC 41.050, if a family includes one or more of the following individuals they will not be placed on a wait list: 1) a new child of a participating family; 2) a child with special needs; 3) a child with parents who are younger than 20 years of age and who are enrolled in a high school completion program; 4) a child of a family that has left a temporary assistance program within the last 12 months because of employment; 5) a child in protective services; or 6) a child in a family who is homeless.
Alaska	3.3.4 Prioritization	Per Child Care Assistance Program regulation 7 AAC 41.050, the family will not be placed on a wait list if the family includes: a new child of a participating family; an eligible child with special needs; a child with parents who are younger than 20 years of age and who are enrolled in a high school completion program; a child of a family that has left a temporary assistance program within the last 12 months because of employment; a child in protective services; or a child in a family who is homeless. If a wait list is established it is prioritized. The highest priority is given to participating or applying families in which the parent(s) are working or attending school, if attending school the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) has been paid for full-time student status for less than 5 years. The next priority is given to participating families in which the parent(s) are working or attending school, if attending school, CCAP has been paid for full-time student status for 5 years or more. If attending school, the family may be participating or applying for CCAP.
Alaska	3.3.5a Procedures to support homeless enrollment	Per Child Care Assistance Program regulation 7 AAC 41.315(e) and Child Care Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Manual section 4050-4., 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 an additional 30 days (one month) following the month of application, 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. Families experiencing homelessness are given up to an additional 30 days to provide verification.

Alaska	3.3.5b Procedures to support homeless enrollment	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 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.
Alaska	3.3.6a Grace period for homeless children	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 Child Care Program Office established this grace period in collaboration with the Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, Epidemiology.
Alaska	3.3.6a Procedures to support homeless children	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. Child care providers will receive guidance and clarification as needed from their licensing specialist regarding enrolling a child of a family experiencing homelessness. 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.
Alaska	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	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. Licensing discusses the regulatory requirement related to supporting families experiencing homelessness during the licensing orientation. This orientation will also be available in an online training platform in the coming years.
Alaska	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	In Alaska's Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, ensures all staff who provide child care referrals to families as well as training staff who deliver training to child care providers, have received training and indicators to assist them in identifying and serving 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.
Alaska	6.3.1a Training content	Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, funded by a grant through the Child Care Program Office, offers training on Strengthening Families (SF). Alaska's statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, funded by a grant through the CCPO, offers training on Strengthening Families (SF). One of the protective factors within SF is "concrete supports in time of need" and talks about how family situations change and the need to provide concrete supports. There is information about community resources to support families for a variety of situations including homelessness or unemployment. Thread training offered during FY20 included: Recognizing Signs of Trauma and How to Instill the Keys That Increase Resiliency in Children; and ACES and Trauma Sensitive Practices. Funded through CCDF.
American Samoa		
American Samoa	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	Although American Samoa does not have a designated McKinney-Vento liaison or state coordinator, the Lead Agency maintains its commitment to ensuring that all children whose families meet the financial and non-financial requirements for subsidized child care assistance are afforded equal opportunities and access to services. In addition and where practicable, the Lead Agency ensures that a child whose family meets the McKinney-Vento definition of being or are at risk of becoming homeless are prioritized for placement given the more urgent need for these families to gain more financial stability and increased self-sufficiency. <u>Coordination Goals:</u> However, the Lead Agency consults with the Children and Family Services Division of the Department of Human and Social Services, which administers emergency sheltering, rapid rehousing, and homelessness prevention programs, to offer prioritized access to child care for their clients who need child care assistance. <u>Processes:</u> Formal and informal interactions (meetings, telephone calls, emails, and other modes of communication) and dissemination of child care program brochures are employed so families who are or are at risk of homelessness can access child care assistance quickly. <u>Results:</u> Clients who are served at emergency shelters or needing rapid rehousing assistance have access to information about the American Samoa Child Care Program and their caseworkers can help them access these services right away.
American Samoa	3.1.2c	Protective Services are services provided to a child whose family is under investigation or supervision for child abuse, neglect, abandonment, or exploitation who is experiencing homelessness who is in foster care or kinship care whose family has been affected by a natural disaster or whose family members work as essential critical infrastructure workers under a governor declared state of emergency.
American Samoa	3.3.5	For the CCDF, American Samoa permits enrollment of children that are or are at risk of experiencing homelessness to qualify for 12-months of child care assistance, while the family secures the required financial and non-financial documentation. If the family needs child care assistance beyond the initial 12-months, but do not have all the documentation in order, an extension may be granted at the discretion of the Lead Agency.
American Samoa	3.3.6	For the CCDF, American Samoa permits enrollment of children that are or are at risk of, experience homelessness and allows a grace period of 90-days for the parents to secure the required immunization documentation and/ or update immunizations. The Lead Agency works in cooperation with the Department of Health's Immunization Program to assist families.
American Samoa	3.3.6	The Lead Agency collaborates with agencies and organizations that provide services for children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care and children receiving protective services to promote referrals and improved coordinated assistance for children and their families.
American Samoa	6.2.5	The Lead Agency consults with organizations that provide support services for homeless families with young children to increase awareness about the availability of subsidized child care assistance to increase economic self-sufficiency.
Arizona		
Arizona	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) houses the Arizona Homeless Education Program - The McKinney Vento Act. The Arizona Homeless Education Program ensures that all children and youth experiencing homelessness have access to the public education to which they are entitled under the federal McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act. ADE works towards this goal by ensuring that Arizona state policies comply with federal law, by providing technical assistance to Arizona's local homeless liaisons, and by providing informational and awareness materials to educators and other interested community members throughout Arizona. Children residing in homeless or domestic violence shelters are eligible for child care assistance upon verification of residency provided by a representative of the shelter. In partnership with ADE and other key state agency partners, ADES is reevaluating the policy specific to homeless families. The goal is to align definitions and eligibility across state agencies where appropriate and applicable.
Arizona	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	ADES is responsible for the administration of Arizona's state-operated TANF Cash Assistance (CA) Program under Title IV-A of the Social Security Act. Arizona's TANF Program is state-administered. The following organizational units work in concert to achieve the State's human service goals. These units administer programs funded by TANF or are impacted directly by TANF-funded programs: The ADES Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) is responsible for the state's Refugee Resettlement Program as well as services and programs for older Arizonans and other vulnerable populations such as victims of domestic violence, homeless families , and those in need of short-term crisis services. ADES is uniquely positioned to coordinate across the multiple TANF programs. In addition to the employment services/workforce development coordination, ADES is evaluating three other key areas of collaboration: Ensuring that families who qualify for the CA Grant Diversion Program are categorically eligible for child care assistance; leveraging the Refugee Resettlement Program services to support Family Child Care providers who are refugees, and building partnerships with homeless and domestic violence shelters to inform families of their eligibility for and coordinate access to child care services.
Arizona	2.4.1 Sharing information with parents	The CCR&R service operates statewide and shares information through its website, Child Care Information Line, and Community Engagement Specialists. The CCR&R website provides CCDF-eligible families and the general public specific information about the child care providers they select or consider. Finally, the Lead Agency interfaces regularly with partners in the ADCS, homeless and domestic violence shelters, Head Start, the ADHS, and the Department of Education, to raise awareness for eligibility and the availability of child care services and other ADES services available to families.

Arizona	2.4.3 Sharing information with parents	<p>ADES informs eligible parents verbally and on its website about other early childhood programs including Parents Partners Plus and the AzEIP. The CCR&R informs parents about other early childhood programs including Birth to Five Helpline, Reading Rockets, Zero to Three, and the AzEIP. The CCR&R website also provides CCDF-eligible families and the general public specific information about the child care providers they select or consider.</p> <p>The CCR&R engages families with information about AZ Find, Arizona's Child Find program within the ADE. Child Find is a component of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act that requires Public Education Agencies to locate, identify, and evaluate all children with disabilities, aged birth through 21, located within their boundaries of responsibility who need early intervention or special education services.</p> <p>The FTF website includes information across all domains of child development as well as resources and assistance for parents such as a new parent kit, the Birth to Five Helpline, and communications such as social media, podcasts, and blogs which provide additional information and support for parents in the care and education of their children.</p> <p>Child care providers are provided training opportunities through the Arizona Early Childhood Workforce Registry. The Arizona Early Childhood Workforce registry is a web-based system that enables early childhood professionals and those interested in a career in early education to find and register for professional development opportunities and also to keep a record of their experience, education, professional development, and credentials in a central location. Training is available in the areas of best practices concerning children's development, physical health and safety, healthy eating and physical activity, and information about successful parent and family engagement. The Empower Program provides best practice education in the areas to include, physical activity and screen time, sun safety, family-style meals, and oral health.</p> <p>Finally, the Lead Agency interfaces regularly with partners in the ADCS, homeless and domestic violence shelters, Head Start, the ADHS, and the Department of Education, to raise awareness for eligibility and the availability of child care services and other ADES services.</p>
Arizona	3.1.2a eligibility and reason for care	<p>Job Training definition: means to be present, at an activity outside of the individual's home on a regular and acceptable basis, as determined by the ADES Jobs Program or contracted Jobs vendor or homeless/domestic violence shelter case manager. If an individual is a TANF recipient and is required to participate in the ADES Jobs Program, child care services for any job training and educational program must be approved by the Jobs Program or contracted Jobs vendor. Attendance at structured work readiness activities (typically involving structured classes and employment preparation activities) as required by a homeless or domestic violence shelter is covered as part of the shelter case plan.</p>
Arizona	3.3.2 Prioritization or Targeting	<p>Homeless Children:</p> <p>Prioritized for enrollment in child care services</p> <p>Served without placing on waiting list</p> <p>If receiving TANF, co-pays may be waived on a case by case basis</p>
Arizona	3.3.4 Prioritization	<p>The following is the order of priority for determining programmatic eligibility:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children who are referred by ADCS or Tribal Child Protective Services 2. Families who are referred by TANF Jobs Program 3. Families who are receiving Cash Assistance 4. Families who are former Cash Assistance recipients (Transitional Child Care) 5. Families who are unable or unavailable to care for children due to special circumstances as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Require assistance due to a physical, mental, or emotional condition 2. Require assistance due to participation in a drug rehabilitation program or a court-ordered community service program 6. Teen parents who are under the age of 20 who are attending high school, GED, or remedial educational activity for the attainment of a high school diploma. 7. Families who are employed and meet income eligibility requirements. <p>The following categories of child care services are not subject to a waiting list, if applicable</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children who are referred by ADCS or Tribal Child Protective Services 2. Families who are referred by TANF Jobs Program 3. Families who are receiving Cash Assistance 4. Families who are former Cash Assistance recipients (Transitional Child Care) 5. Families who are residing in homeless or domestic violence shelters
Arizona	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	<p>The Lead Agency has entered into contracts with five residential homeless/domestic violence shelters to provide 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.</p>
Arizona	3.3.6 Grace period for homeless children	<p>All children who are enrolling at a ADHS licensed child care center, a ADHS certified group home, or a ADES ADES Certified Family Child Care Providers and ADES Certified In-Home Providers are given a 15-day grace period to collect immunization records as required by Arizona Administrative Code. ADES has partnered with ADHS and has prioritized homeless families residing in homeless shelters above all others when funding becomes limited; these families are not subject to the waiting list. In addition, children experiencing homelessness as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act will receive child care assistance upon presumptive eligibility determination which supports families to enroll their children without waiting for verification of documentation.</p>
Arizona	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	<p>Each of the scopes of work that the Lead Agency holds with contractors for delivering training and TA statewide includes the requirement that the training and TA shall be offered to staff from ADHS Certified Group Homes, ADHS Licensed Centers, ADES Certified Family Child Care Providers and ADES Certified In-home providers, Tribal Nations and Homeless Shelters holding a registration agreement with ADES and shall be conducted in locations convenient for participants (on-site, centrally located, or other locations as required), and provided in a culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate manner to the population served. The Lead Agency also has entered into contracts with five 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. Through these contracts, the Lead Agency has encouraged its Quality Set Aside training and TA contractors to provide direct support through training and TA opportunities for child care providers and staff. These training contractors include course offerings related to understanding trauma, including the impact of childhood trauma and building a trauma informed classroom. In addition, the Lead Agency is seeking support through its partnership with the ADE and its Homeless Education division to promote existing training opportunities and develop informational materials aligned with best practices for child care providers to support, identify and serve children experiencing homelessness and their families.</p>
Arizona	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	<p>Lead Agency 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 (CCA 2-05-01 General Eligibility Criteria). Staff are also aware of the policy related to Temporary Cessation of an Eligible Activity which allows for additional service authorization of up to three calendar months of Child Care Assistance to an ongoing client who reports a break or loss of an eligible activity. This Cessation policy is in place to promote continuity of care for children and families while the client engages in job search or resumes an eligible activity after a temporary break. The Lead Agency has encouraged its Quality Set Aside training and TA contractors to provide direct support through training and TA opportunities for child care providers and staff to enhance their education and understanding of identifying and serving children and families experiencing homelessness. In addition, the Lead Agency is seeking support through its partnership with the ADE and its Homeless Education division to promote existing training opportunities and develop informational materials aligned with best practices for identifying and serving children experiencing homelessness and their families.</p>
Arkansas		
Arkansas	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	<p>DCCECE coordinates with childcare providers and local agencies to provide services for families experiencing homelessness. DCCECE partners with the Arkansas Out of School Network (AOSN). AOSN serves as a bridge for all school age populations including the homeless and near homeless youth in terms of school community partnerships, providing technical assistance and professional development, and cross-sector collaboration to ensure quality out-of school time supports and programming would be doing this for all populations, not just homeless children and youth. Additionally, DCCECE collaborates with the TANF funded initiative "100 Families" which assists families experiencing homelessness and other significant risk factors to ensure a successful transition into employment and/or educational programs.</p>
Arkansas	3.3.1b Eligibility Determination	<p>Children whose family's income falls below 60% State Median Income. Eligibility determination is based on Arkansas's sliding fee scale at 85% of SMI. Families with very low income (under 60% State Median Income) receive free child care assistance. Prioritization for child care assistance is given to TANF, children in foster care, children with disabilities, teen parents, guardian/custodian, and homeless families.</p>

Arkansas	3.3.2 Prioritization or Targeting	Homeless children are prioritized: for enrollment Served without being placed on a waiting list Co-pays waived
Arkansas	3.3.5b Procedures to support homeless enrollment	Some eligibility requirements may be waived for children who are experiencing homelessness. The Family Support Specialist (FSS) provides case management services to obtain any information necessary to establish eligibility. 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
Arkansas	3.3.6 Grace period for homeless children	DCCECE allows a grace period of 15 days to obtain up to date immunizations records on all children (this includes children experiencing homelessness and children in foster care).
Arkansas	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	The McKinney-Vento Act seeks to address the challenges that homeless children and youths may face in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. The Family Support Procedures Manual outlines the procedure for homeless families. Homeless families are a priority population for CCDF. Family Support Procedures Manual
Arkansas	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	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		
California	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The Lead Agency will work with the McKinney-Vento state coordinator, and the Housing and Homelessness Branch within CDSS to support families accessing housing supports and coordination on the homeless education program. The CHSSCO and the CDSS Housing and Homelessness Branch will have shared responsibilities 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 intended outcome of this partnership is to foster and encourage local connections and outreach to homeless children and families by providing education and resources to the field. The alignment of CCDF programs, supports and services within the CDSS as the Lead Agency will facilitate and streamline services for children and families experiencing homelessness. The CDSS Housing and Homelessness Branch oversees programs vital to securing housing for families in poverty, including the CalWORKs Housing Support Program and the recently launched Project Roomkey. As the Lead Agency, CDSS will have the capacity to coordinate across programs to better support McKinney-Vento state coordinators through the homeless education program. The work of the CHSSCO, in regards to Regional Priorities, include working with the California Department of Public Health's Home Visiting Program, the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Home Visiting Program, and Oral Health Statewide Program, and the CDE's Homeless Education and Every Student Succeeds Act .
California	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The Lead Agency works closely with the California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) regarding the curriculum and quality of preventive health and safety training or child care providers. The Lead Agency provides reimbursement funding to R&Rs for both licensed and unlicensed early learning and care providers to assist with costs of pediatric first aid, pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and EMSA-approved preventive health practices training. California Health and Safety Training (CHST) R&R project (CCDF quality-funded) coordinators are required to provide technical assistance locally to connect providers and families with local disaster plan resources and training. EMSA has assisted in the collaborative work with the CDE and the CDSS-CCLD as participants on the state's ongoing Health and Safety Multidisciplinary Regulatory Workgroup committee. The partnership has been instrumental in supporting the work of this group in the published California Child Care Disaster Plan 2016, which assists local trainers to train early learning and care providers on disaster preparedness as well as recovery and to assist with connecting to local Office of Emergency Services (OES) local procedures. The OES continues to provide the necessary guidance to develop and revise the plan, which serves as an OES annex to the governor's state disaster plan. In response to a shortage of EMSA approved preventive health and safety training opportunities, the Lead Agency provides CCDF-quality grants to seventeen California Preventive Health and Safety Practices (CPHSP) local hubs in order to provide no cost multilingual training statewide. University of California, San Francisco School of Nursing is under contract with the CDE and provides R&R training of trainer certification and technical assistance to both R&R training staff as well as other local collaborative partners in order to provide ready access to this state mandated training as well as technical assistance for providing resources to support families experiencing homelessness due to disaster. Local provider training will also include preventive topics based on input from local early learning and care based on the CDSS-CCLD reported citations in that locale as well as training on existing local risk factors. Local (CPHSP) hubs staff are also charged with serving as a resource for connection to the local (OES) preparedness and disaster recovery as it related to early learning and care.
California	3.1.5 Eligibility determinati on	At initial determination of eligibility, the family is required to meet one criteria of eligibility and one criterion of need to be eligible for services. Families are then prioritized to receive services based on other factors including: (1) children who are identified as receiving, or identified as being at-risk including receiving child protective services, experiencing homelessness as defined in the Education Code, and domestic violence survivors, who are currently served until June 2022 with the use of short-term emergency subsidy vouchers. (2) income eligible families whose child has a disability. As time and funding permits, the Lead agency plans to review and adopt processes to remove barriers to services by providing streamlined eligibility and prioritize resources to those in need consistent with recommendations noted in the recently released Master Plan for Early Learning & Care. Since the Lead agency administers many other support service programs for vulnerable populations, the transition of child care services to CDSS will facilitate this process.
California	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	If the parent has been identified as experiencing homelessness on the application, the agency must permit the enrollment of the children to begin immediately upon the parent signing the application for services. The parent shall provide all required documentation, including immunization records, within 30 days from the date the application for services is signed. California does not exempt homeless children from the waiting list or waive co-pays for families experiencing homelessness.
California	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	As California continues to work to best serve families and children who are experiencing homelessness there are resources at the federal, state, and local level to support and assist programs. The Lead Agency has shared with agencies the Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families document titled, " Policies and Procedures to Increase Access to ECE Services for Homeless Children & Families ." This particular document provides some strategies for working with children and families who are homeless and identifies the policies specific to both Head Start and policies specific to the Child Care and Development Fund. The Lead Agency also has shared information from the Office of Head Start website Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center, secondly, modules as an interactive learning series to support and assist professionals in the early childhood field to learn how to identify and provide outreach to children and families who are experiencing homelessness. Increased funding for child care subsidies as proposed by the Biden Administration leveraged with state investments will help in serving the many low-income and homeless families who remain on waiting lists for services. In Management Bulletin (MB) 18-04, contractors were directed to sample documents on the CDE resources web page found at https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy/ and were encouraged to reach out to their Local Educational Agency (LEA) which designates a staff member as a local homeless educational liaison. This individual, among other things, links students and their families to the schools and community services, assists the student with enrolling in school, provides educational services for which they are eligible and gives referrals to health, mental health, dental and other appropriate services. Additionally, the Lead Agency shared the contact information for the Consultant and State Homeless Coordinator for the California Department of Education, Coordinated School Health and Safety Office.
California	3.3.6 Grace period for homeless children	Contractors are allowed to enroll homeless families without immunization records, giving families a grace period to obtain/provide proof of immunizations. The grace period for obtaining the immunization records can also be considered the 30-day period between the parent signing the application for service and the day the contractor approves or denies the application . This policy was determined in consultation with representatives from California Department of Social Services (CDSS), Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD).
California	3.3.6 Grace period for homeless children	General guidance from CCLD is that a child who is homeless may be admitted immediately even if the child arrives without immunization records. Contractors should utilize their resources to make sure these students have received all required immunizations as soon as possible. It is expected that if there is a delay in obtaining immunizations, that this information be documented and readily available during inspection by CCLD
California	3.3.6 Grace period for homeless children	Child care providers must admit a foster child or homeless child with unavailable or missing shot records. The child care and/or school must still get the shot records of the child to make sure the child has received all necessary shots.

California	4.1.6 Use of grants and contracts	California allows grants and contracts to be used to meet the needs of families experiencing homelessness.
California	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	Trainings for providers occur virtually and/or in-person at statewide conferences, local regional area trainings and at individual contractor level trainings. All trainings focus on how contractors can meet the regulatory requirements of identifying and serving families experiencing homelessness. Additionally, the Lead Agency provides professional development and training opportunities and resources to support families experiencing homelessness. A full list of resources can be found at Resources for Homeless Children and Youth and Professional Development Training.
California	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	Staff attend trainings provided at the national and state level. Staff share the information from these trainings with other state staff. These trainings focus on how contractors can meet the regulatory requirements in identifying and serving families experiencing homelessness. Additionally, the Lead Agency provides resources to support families experiencing homelessness. A full list of resources can be found at Resources for Homeless Children and Youth including the recently released resource: Identification Strategies in Response to Coronavirus for Homeless.
California	6.3.1a Training content	A combination of CCDF funds and other state and federal funds, are authorized to support quality activities to improve the quality of child care services for all children. Professional development services are prioritized to those programs serving children in high needs areas and to those participating in their local QCC. There are resources available under the Quality Counts California umbrella such as: CDE's Responsive Early Education for Young Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness document which was released in 2020 on serving children and families who are homeless; this document will serve as the source document for the development on professional development modules and Addressing the Needs of Vulnerable Families: The Use of Strengthening Families™ in QRIS A Best Practices, resources addressing serving children and families who are homeless. Additional resources are included as part of the Quality Counts California Early Learning and Care System.
California	7.10.1 Other activities	California's Early Learning and Care Professional Development System (ELC-PD) for professional development, training, coaching and other supports is used by the QCC consortium. The Lead Agency has been implementing changes to the system in order to better align and come into compliance with this funding. In 2021-22, the majority of the Quality Contracts that support the ELC-PD have been realigned with a new approach focused on the delivery of service – product development, coaching, training, professional development and evaluation. This improved structure will reduce duplication and focus on the effectiveness of California's quality improvement efforts. While these adjustments are being made for the state's continuous quality improvement, the expectation is that the providers and families will reap the benefits of a more streamlined system of care. As the evaluation contract is developed and executed, metrics for progress and improvement will be available. In addition to the activity of streamlining the ELC-PD, the Department will be leveraging the funds received by the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHSA) for the Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five Renewal (PDG-R). Efforts of these PDG-R funds will be to increase the support and capacity for family, friend, and neighbor (FFN) care providers, family child care providers, and home-visiting providers to provide quality care for underserved populations, particularly infants and toddlers and low-income children and families living in rural and isolated communities and/or experiencing trauma stemming from homelessness, disasters, or other sources. California's Home visiting program provides a variety of evidence-based models of home visiting targeting the right model for the family circumstances and balancing resources with services. The Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children provides a variety of supports and services to facilitate smooth transitions for foster children and their families including trauma-informed care. The QRIS rating matrix measures a variety of elements used to evaluate the progress on improving the quality of child care programs and services including but not to minimum qualifications of providers for academic achievement and professional development and training hours. Data from the QRIS is used in conjunction with data from professional development and training contractors and the Workforce Registry to monitor utilization of professional development and training activities throughout the state.
Colorado		
Colorado	1.4.1a 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. Strategies include: 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. One output of this collaboration and coordination is that child care licensing aligns its rules on health care requirements including immunizations to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment regulations in compliance with McKinney-Vento.
Colorado	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	Coordination with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) revolves around goals related to child care rules regulated by both departments. Specifically, goals and processes to address immunization requirements and how the length of the grace period reasonably supports the enrollment of children experiencing homelessness. Section 725 of Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Act (42 U.S.C.11434a), defines homeless children and youths as those who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. In Colorado, the grace period for children experiencing homelessness for meeting school-entry immunization requirements is 90 days , as established by the Colorado Board of Health. While inspections include a review of immunization records to ensure requirements are being met, the two agencies will continue to work to determine whether additional technical assistance or training is needed in this area. Another output of this coordination, is the requirement in the Colorado Department of Human Services child care licensing rules for all staff members involved in the collection of immunizations to complete the immunization course developed and offered by CDPHE.
Colorado	3.1.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	The following additional eligibility requirements are applied at application: Counties may optionally require cooperation with Child Support Services. Adult caretaker(s) or teen parent(s) shall verify that his/her gross income divided by the number of hours worked equals at least the current federal minimum wage. Self-employed individuals must not have business expenses that exceed their average income. Current (not in arrears), court-ordered child support payments for children not living in the household are deducted from monthly gross income. If a wait list is in place, 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.
Colorado	3.3.2 Prioritization or Targeting	Families experiencing homeless are provided a minimum 60-day stabilization period where no verifications are required. Counties may offer a stabilization period that is greater than 60 days. Homeless children: prioritized for enrollment served without being on a waiting list waives co-pays uses grants or contracts to reserve slots
Colorado	3.3.5a Procedures to support homeless enrollment	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 if care is provided outside of the child's home by a non-relative qualified exempt provider., (3.909 9 CCR 2503-9).
Colorado	3.3.5b Procedures to support homeless enrollment	Procedures used to conduct 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
Colorado	3.3.6 Grace period for homeless children	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 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.
Colorado	3.3.6 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	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 health departments, and other partners when needed, in order to attain the required documentation.

Colorado	4.1.6. Grants and contracts	Colorado allows the use of grants and contracts to increase the supply of child care for homeless children and to increase the quality of child care for homeless children.
Colorado	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	<p>The Colorado Shines Professional Development Information System (Colorado Shines PDIS) operates as a statewide learning management system. Supporting Children and Families Impacted by Homelessness reviews how to determine if a family meets the definition of being “homeless” and the services available for these families. It also covers what early care and learning programs can do to support children and families experiencing homelessness. After completing this course, learners will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define who is considered homeless as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act 2. Dispel myths about homelessness in early learning programs 3. Help families and children experiencing homelessness find local resources <p>In addition, the National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement eLearning course is published to the Colorado Shines PDIS. This course reviews how to determine a family's homeless situation, build relationships with families and how to find state and local partners who can support community outreach to families experiencing homelessness. After completing this course, learners will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify who is considered homeless as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act 2. Understand the challenges and barriers facing families experiencing homelessness 3. Identify state and local partners who can support efforts to provide community outreach to homeless families <p>Identify strategies to increase access to and participation in programs for children and families experiencing homelessness</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. This training includes details for how the family's contribution will be calculated and to whom it will be applied. These staff also have access to the two earlier mentioned eLearning courses that address supporting families experiencing homelessness within the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program Learning Management System.</p> <p>The 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>The Provider Self Service Portal offers a help desk to access additional technical assistance if needed.</p>
Colorado	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	<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 in partnership with the Colorado Shines Call Center and county departments of human services. Both eLearning modules review how to determine if a family meets the definition of being “homeless” and the services available for these families. These courses also include information regarding the required grace period of at least 90 days to gather documentation of immunizations and other health and safety requirements for families experiencing homelessness for licensed providers. The grace period for licensed exempt care is at least 60 days.</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 and families experiencing homelessness. Course content specifically addresses the required grace period. These staff also have access to the two earlier mentioned eLearning courses that address supporting families experiencing homelessness within the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program Learning Management System.</p> <p>The Provider Self Service Portal offers a help desk to access additional technical assistance if needed.</p>
Connecticut		
Connecticut	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	OEC coordinated with Department of Public Health and State Department of Education regarding the removal of religious exemptions to immunization requirements pursuant to CT Public Act 21-6, and the associated transition and phasing in of the new requirements in state law. During the COVID-19 crisis, the OEC and CT UW (CCR&R) worked closely with the Department of Public Health (DPH) to coordinate mass administration of COVID-19 vaccinations. As part of this effort, child care staff were prioritized for vaccination to keep child care open and safe for children, families and staff. The COVID-19 crisis has heightened the awareness of the importance of vaccinations and the need for coordinated access to health and immunization records for families, especially those experiencing homelessness and children residing in foster care. Ongoing collaboration with DPH will continue to address these issues.
Connecticut	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The OEC 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 provides state-wide training to child care providers on The Trauma of Homelessness: The Impact on Very Young Children & Families. The training focuses on the McKinney Vento definition of homelessness. The OEC requires local McKinney Vento Liaisons to be members of local School Readiness Councils. This coordination improves child care provider's knowledge serving children experiencing homeless. OEC is working through the Head Start Efforts around homelessness with the Department of Housing to assign 150 housing vouchers specifically to families with young children. We are also working with the Coalition to End Homelessness on homeless diversion with flexible funds for families to avoid homelessness through PDG.
Connecticut	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The CT's CCDF Administrator and OEC staff continue to work with the McKinney Vento State Administrator, who is a staff member of the State Department of Education, on relevant issues related to the Plan's activities in order to better serve families experiencing homelessness. Furthermore, three members of the Governor's Early Childhood Cabinet (SAC) are staff from the State Department of Education, including the Deputy Commissioner and the IDEA Part B State Coordinator. In addition, the OEC works collaboratively with the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents and continues to work collaboratively to ensure all health and safety requirements are being met for children in public schools who receive a childcare subsidy. The OEC's Quality Improvement Division works collaboratively with the state's Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs) and CTAEYC our state NAEYC affiliate to provide training and coaching to public school preschool staff around best practices for curriculum, instruction and assessment. This collaboration also supports the building and strengthening of relationships between the public school preschools and the local community based preschool programs for continuity of services and effective transition.
Connecticut	2.1.1 Outreach to targeted groups	During COVID-19, OEC and the State Department of Education worked collaboratively to align public health guidance, develop programming for summer and met regularly with Superintendents with SDE to answer questions and address concerns.
Connecticut	2.1.1 Outreach to targeted groups	The OEC has a multi-year contract with the O'Donnell Company to increase awareness of why quality childcare is important and what services are available to families. This campaign will ensure consistent messaging through a set of communications that are easily accessed by families. Through this contract a list of community partners, non-profits who work with families, and key influencers, for example, local community action groups and churches are given print friendly and attractive materials for distribution in five languages. These materials include information regarding the importance of quality child care, what to look for in quality childcare and the important roles families play in their child's life. 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.
Connecticut	2.4.3 Sharing research and best practices	OEC is developing partnerships to support other sector's increased knowledge of early childhood services and best practices, for example homeless shelters. Routine communication topics on child development will include, at minimum: (1) CT Early Learning Development Standards: overview, tips, and reminders for incorporating into everyday teaching practices as well as new supplemental child-level assessment against these standards, Documentation and Observation for Teaching System (DOTS), to support teaching practices. (2) Best Practices for Family Engagement: OEC and CT State Department of Education (CSDE) have jointly developed, with the support of the Early Childhood Funders' Collaborative, a definition and best practices paper on high impact family engagement that focuses on relationships and partnership with families. OEC will support delivery of these best practices. (3) Healthy Eating and Physical Activity: OEC has participated in the “I Am Moving” campaign and will continue to share best practices for nutrition and physical activity.

Connecticut	2.4.4 Social emotional development and behavioral issues	Existing materials and strategies on social-emotional and behavioral issues and early childhood mental health of young children: (1) OEC, in collaboration with Eastern Connecticut State University, has developed a series of video rich training modules for home visitors to improve their knowledge and skills in serving young children and families. These videos are posted on the Center of Early Childhood's website and are available to the public. (2) The OEC also collaborated with the Connecticut Health and Development (CHD) to develop training tools for child health care providers on infant mental health and maternal depression. These tools were utilized in workshops with pediatricians. (3) The OEC's "Help Me Grow" staff regularly hosts community networking sessions that bring together the public to share information. The OEC is implementing the use of enhanced technology in the form of a phone based mobile application, Sparkler, for early screening (ASQ) and (ASQ-SE). Families and providers can now track children's development through Sparkler and alerts are sent to the child's pediatrician, home visitor and child care providers. The Connecticut State Department of Education has requested that all school districts in CT post the link to the free app, Sparkler on their district website for families. (4) OEC continues to fund the work of the Association of Infant Mental Health to provide trainings, an infant mental health credential, and materials. (5) The OEC also continues to invest in the distribution of over 100 online training courses free of charge, to all providers, through CCEI/registry. The OEC plans to continue contracting with partners to provide community-based, free in-person and online training on social/emotional and behavioral issues. (6) The state currently provides limited access to the Early Childhood Consultation Partnership (ECCP) for providers, and expanded access to providers through the Preschool Development Grant. ECCP provides both in-person and remote professional learning opportunities as well as technical assistance for staff working with children with social-emotional and behavioral concerns. (7) OEC's home visiting program was awarded an Innovation Grant to develop online trainings for the field, which include a focus on infant mental health and social-emotional development and related issues. Public Information Communications: As indicated in the Agency's Early Care and Education Action Plan, the OEC is currently developing improved ways to routinely communicate with parents, providers, and the public and build feedback loops to better inform stakeholders and to better include stakeholder feedback in policy setting. Additionally, OEC is developing partnerships to support other sector's increased knowledge of early childhood services and best practices, for example, workers that refer families to homeless shelters and homeless shelter staff. OEC is working with the O'Donnell Company to develop ongoing communication about social-emotional developmental and behavioral issues and early childhood mental health of young children. The OEC and CSDE have jointly developed information on best practices on family support working with the Early Childhood Funder's Collaborative. The has culminated in a statewide definition and best practices white paper on high impact family engagement that focuses on relationships and partnership with families. CT is a Pyramid Model State and promotes the use of Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Competence in infants and young children through training and technical assistance to childcare providers. The OEC is a member of the Pyramid Model Consortium and three divisions of the OEC (Family Support, Quality Improvement, and the CT Head Start State Collaborative Office) provide resources, trainings and conferences to assist programs and providers in implementing the Pyramid Model for supporting social emotional competence in infants and young children.
Connecticut	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	Higher rates are paid for providers serving children experiencing homelessness (but not prioritized enrollment, not exempt from waiting list, and no co-pays waived).
Connecticut	3.3.5a Procedures to support homeless enrollment	Public Act 18-172 A ninety-day waiver of immunization documentation is provided to families experiencing homelessness. All families experiencing homelessness as defined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001,42 U.S.C. 11434a. and who are applying for child care subsidy (Care 4 Kids) will be granted a 90-day grace period to obtain required Care 4 Kids documents necessary for program eligibility. At the end of the 90-day grace period all documents must be received by Care 4 Kids to continue program eligibility. Link to policy transmittal: https://www.ct.gov/oec/lib/oec/90_Day_Grace_Period_for_Families_Experiencing_Homelessness.pdf
Connecticut	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	Connecticut is using a dedicated outreach process to inform families of the Care 4 Kids Subsidy 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 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.
Connecticut	3.3.6 Grace period for homeless children	The OEC defines homeless based on the McKinney Vento definition. Connecticut's Public Act 18-172 provides a 90-day grace period for families experiencing homeless to complying with immunization and physical examination requirements.
Connecticut	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	The OEC has contracted with the regional Education Service Center (EASTCONN) to provide a series of train- the- trainer events to inform providers about the trauma of homelessness. The target audience for this activity is providers who receive the Care 4 Kids subsidy, and other key partners that work with this population including the Coordinated Access Networks and the state's McKinney Vento Liaisons. The purpose of the training is twofold: 1) increase the knowledge base of trainers around the trauma of homelessness and 2) prepare them to be facilitators and trainers on this and related topics. The contractor's activities include provision of training and technical assistance on identifying and serving children and families experiencing homelessness based on the McKinney-Vento definition; designing and implementing statewide technical assistance to providers in screening homeless families utilizing OEC approved technical assistance personnel; providing a needs assessment to OEC regarding statewide TA needs; and developing and implementing a TA plan and delivering four trainings. The training participants will be linked with relevant OEC initiatives including Pyramid Model Training.
Connecticut	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	The OEC has designated a lead staff to guide the work of the contractor identified above and these staff participate in training as appropriate. The OEC staff lead is also the Pyramid Model project lead who holds responsibility for integrating Pyramid and efforts to identify and serve children and families experiencing homelessness.
Delaware		
Delaware	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The lead agency has a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Education (DOE). This MOA 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 developed "Supporting Children When They Are Homeless," a free three-hour training offered online through www.depnow.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 enhancement and alignment of quality services for children who are considered part of this vulnerable population.
Delaware	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	Homeless children: Prioritized for child care services Served without placing on waiting list Waives co-pay
Delaware	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	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. Additionally, client must have a need such as employment and/or Employment & Training. Lead Agency accepts applications at local community-based locations Partnerships with community-based organizations
Delaware	3.3.6 Grace period	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.

Delaware	3.3.6 Grace period	The Lead Agency currently has a grace period of 3 months (90 days) 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. The policy references The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act definition of homeless which means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. 11000 Child Care Subsidy Program (delaware.gov)
Delaware	3.3.6 Grace period	The lead agency ensures that all involved parties are aware of the 90 day 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.
Delaware	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	Through DIEEC, the State developed "Supporting Children When They Are Homeless," a free three-hour training for providers offered online through Delaware's learning management system for early childhood, DEPNow: http://www.depnow.com/ . This course provides early childhood program 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, and strategies and resources to assist families. The Department of Education also offers this online training for Homeless Liaisons in each local education agency (school district or charter school) to prepare them to train their teaching staff on identifying and serving homeless children and their families.
Delaware	6.2.5 Training & TA for Lead Agency	All Lead Agency staff are able to access the same training as providers on DEPNow: "Supporting Children When They Are Homeless." Lead Agency partner staff at Department of Education are encouraged to take Delaware Homeless Educator Training. This online or in-person course focuses on the definition of homelessness, signs of homelessness, the impact of homelessness on students, and the steps that should be taken once a potentially homeless student is identified, including how to connect the student with appropriate housing and service providers is required. The training presentation, "McKinney-Vento ESSA Law" was developed by the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAECHY) and the US Department of Education to ensure that children and youth, including unaccompanied youth, experiencing homelessness enroll in and have a full and fair opportunity to succeed in school and to ensure that families, children and youth have access to and receive educational services for which they are eligible.
Delaware	6.4.1a Early Learning and Development al Guidelines	The Early Learning Foundations allude to culturally and linguistically appropriate practice in its description of activities. When the early learning guidelines change, it will require a CCDF plan amendment. Looking ahead, the ELOF meets each child focus indicator by providing services and resources that are inclusive (e.g. Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP) and Individualized Education Programs (IEP)), supports multilingual learning (e.g. Dual Language Learners Toolkit, Planned Language Approach (PLA)), and equitable (e.g. healthy gender development guide; multicultural principles; supporting children and families experiencing homelessness).
Delaware	6.4.1a Early Learning and Development al Guidelines	Delaware's Early Learning Foundations differentiates between knowledge, skills, and behaviors for infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children. Looking ahead, the ELOF meets each child focus indicator by providing services and resources that are inclusive (e.g. Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP) and Individualized Education Programs (IEP)), supports multilingual learning (e.g. Dual Language Learners Toolkit, Planned Language Approach (PLA)), and equitable (e.g. healthy gender development guide; multicultural principles; supporting children and families experiencing homelessness). The ELOFs promote individualizing for children who need more support in reaching widely held expectations. Using children's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals is part of effective teaching, individualizing, and creating inclusive environments to support children's positive outcomes.
District of Columbia		
District of Columbia	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) McKinney-Vento Liaison partners with the CCDF Administrator and Co-Administrator (from OSSE's Division of Early Learning-DEL) to provide training to OSSE's McKinney-Vento team and to the homeless liaisons and registrars in local education agencies (LEAs). The trainings help build awareness of and eliminate barriers children and families experiencing homelessness face in accessing subsidized child care. 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, the CCDF Co- Administrator and a representative from one of the District's child care providers that work primarily with families experiencing homelessness delivered a joint training with local early care and general education leaders on supporting these children and families. OSSE also 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 to facilitate the timely provision of child care for families experiencing homelessness. 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.
District of Columbia	3.1.2c Eligibility, Reason for Care	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: (1) Resides with parent(s) who are working or attending a job training or education program; (2) Resides with parent(s) who is seeking employment or engaging in job search; or (3) Receives, or need to receive, protective services or is considered a vulnerable child, as defined herein. 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.
District of Columbia	3.2.4 Co-pay waiver	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 100 percent but less than or equal to 250 percent 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 months with no co-payment from the effective date of adoption before beginning co-payments if payment requirement has been established. The District of Columbia Mayor's Order 2009-3, dated Jan. 15, 2009 nunc pro tunc to Aug. 16, 2009, designates OSSE as the lead agency for CCDF and delegated the authority of the Mayor to administer the District law that governs subsidized child care, D.C. Code § 4-401 et seq. The copay requirements and exemptions are set forth in Section 400.1 of OSSE's Eligibility Determinations for Subsidized Child Care Policy Manual and 5-A DCMR §§ 204.2 and 204.3
District of Columbia	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	The lead agency does not currently have a waiting list. Should the need arise for a waiting list, the lead agency will give priority to these special populations: (1) Children of families with very low family income; (2) Children with special needs, including vulnerable children; and (3) Children experiencing homelessness. Homeless Children: Prioritized for enrollment in child care services Served without placing on a waiting list Waiving co-pays
District of Columbia	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	Upon initial eligibility determination, children eligible for subsidized child care categorically due to experiencing homelessness shall be permitted to enroll in the subsidized child care placement prior to completion of all required documentation and are provided a 60 calendar day grace period in which to provide full documentation of eligibility. The Child Care Referral Form 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. 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 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.

District of Columbia	3.3.6 Grace period	A licensee shall provide a 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 for a child experiencing homelessness or a child who is a ward of the District in foster care. This policy was established by the lead agency without input of the D.C. Department of Health.
District of Columbia	3.3.6 Grace period	DC Code § 7-2036 provides that OSSE enforce and establish minimum standards of operation for a child development facility, which includes grace periods for homeless children and children in foster care to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements, as set forth in 5-A DCMR § 152.2.
District of Columbia	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (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 population, including topics relevant to homeless children and their families such as the McKinney- Vento Homeless Assistance Act 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. OSSE facilitates collaboration and partnership with the District's community-based organizations that serve homeless families to improve developmental outcomes for at-risk children. 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.
District of Columbia	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) and the Department of Human Services (DHS) continue 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 DHS child care intake staff and community staff in Level II child development sites on the eligibility criteria. Families experiencing homelessness are categorically eligible for child care subsidy and Head Start and Early Head Start.
Florida		
Florida	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The Homeless Education Program in the 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 SR 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.
Florida	1.8.1 Disaster Planning & Relief	Following Hurricane Michael, Florida received supplemental disaster relief funding for children and families who are either receiving or eligible to receive CCDF services. The funding is used to assist child care programs and partnering agencies with restoring their capacity to serve CCDF families at pre-Michael levels. The funding also assists families with health, developmental and mental health screenings. OEL's primary approach to making the funding available to the ELCs of Northwest Florida (NWFL) and the Big Bend (Big Bend) Region will be through grant agreements and Notice(s) of award. These two ELCs serve the counties where the hurricane had the greatest impact to CCDF families and child care providers (Bay, Calhoun, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, and Liberty counties). More than a year after the storm, thousands of residents remained homeless and there remains a continued need to rebuild and restore child care to pre-Michael status in the affected areas.
Florida	3.1.2c Protective Services	For the purposes of eligibility, protective services participants are defined as "at-risk" in s. 1002.81(1), F.S. "At-risk child" means: A child from a family under investigation by 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 DCF-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 entered kindergarten is also defined as in need of "protective services" as identified as a vulnerable population. 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. A child who is in the care of an essential worker as defined by the state, during a state of emergency due to an officially recognized natural or man-made disaster, or health crisis pandemic is also defined as in need of protective services and identified as a vulnerable population. This is not to exceed thirty days beyond the conclusion of the declared state of emergency but the state may choose to end this practice earlier.
Florida	3.1.8 Procedures for documenting eligibility	ELCs can use the following documents to verify residence: Utility bill (electric, gas, water), cable, internet or home phone bill dated within 12 months of the date the child application is submitted Pay stub from a current employer dated within 12 months of the date the child application is submitted Current and signed residential rental agreement or receipt from rental payment dated within 12 months of the date the child application is submitted Government-issued document (e.g., Florida driver's license, Florida identification card, property tax assessment showing a homestead exemption), or Military order showing that the child's parent is a service member in the United States Armed Forces and is assigned to duty and resides in Florida when the child attends the SR program (e.g., permanent change of station) For children identified in s.1002.87, F.S., the child's status as a TANF recipient, as indicated on a child care authorization submitted by the referring agency, is sufficient to establish the child's residency For children identified in s.1002.87(1)(b) and (1)(e), F.S., the child's Medicaid- eligible status, as indicated on a child care authorization submitted by the referring agency, is sufficient to establish the child's residency If no supporting documents listed above are available, an ELC may accept a notarized statement provided by the child's parent and a letter from a landlord or property owner, which confirms that the child resides at the address shown in the notarized statement. If no supporting documents listed above are available, for a homeless child as defined in s.1003.01, F.S., an ELC shall document residency based on other supporting documents showing that the child is homeless and resides in Florida (e.g., letter from a shelter or a notarized statement provided by the child's parent).
Florida	3.2.4 Waiving co-pays	A ELC may, on a case-by-case basis, waive the copayment for an at-risk child or temporarily waive the copayment for a child whose family's income is at or below the federal poverty level and whose family experiences a natural disaster or an event that limits the parent's ability to pay, such as incarceration, placement in residential treatment, or becoming homeless, or an emergency situation such as a household fire or burglary, or while the parent is participating in parenting classes. See s. 1002.84(9), F.S.
Florida	3.3.3 Prioritization or targeting	In accordance with s. 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 DCF or a designated sheriff's office for child abuse, neglect, abandonment, or exploitation, (b) 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 DCF-prescribed activities, including education, health services, or work, (c) a child from a family that is under supervision by the DCF 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 DCF 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 DCF certified homeless shelter. Homeless children are prioritized for receipt of child care subsidy (but they can be placed on a waiting list).
Florida	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	Notwithstanding their inability to provide full documentation at the initial eligibility determination, an ELC shall permit enrollment after initial eligibility determination to children experiencing homelessness as verified by a DCF certified homeless shelter (Rule 6M-4.208(2), F.A.C.). 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

Florida	3.3.6 Grace period	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. The DCF recognized referring entities authorize the need for child care services for their clients. The referring entity or the family submit the child care authorization (referral) to the applicable ELC to receive child care services. Immunization records are not collected by the SR 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.
Florida	4.1.6. Grants and contracts	One ELC currently uses contracted slots to provide child care services to a limited number of children. Grants and contracts are used to increase the supply of child care and to improve the quality of child care for children who are experiencing homelessness.
Florida	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	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 DEL’s SharePoint site for ELCs contains resources and links to training and technical assistance to be shared with providers regarding serving homeless children and families. The DEL program staff continuously research and take courses in trauma and serving children experiencing homelessness to provide technical assistance to coalition staff. The DEL CCR&R Network staff provides training to each ELC CCR&R. DEL also created the Florida’s Child Care Resource and Referral Specialist Training Service Delivery modules. Each training model encourages trainees to be mindful of children and families who may be experiencing homelessness, aware of local services and supports for these families, and other agencies that may also provide assistance. Module 2 of the series specifically discusses definitions of “homelessness,” factors that may lead to homelessness, related statistics, and important ideas and responses to keep in mind when serving families.
Florida	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	The OEL’s SharePoint site for ELCs contains resources and links to training and technical assistance to be shared with providers regarding serving homeless children and families. The OEL program staff continuously research and take courses in trauma and serving children experiencing homelessness.
Georgia		
Georgia	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	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.
Georgia	2.4.3 Making information available	The Lead Agency makes general information on best practices in child development; information on supporting social-emotional development; inclusion of children with disabilities; developmental monitoring and screening; nutrition; and other topics available to families, educators, and community members through a variety of sources including general websites and social media. The Lead Agency partners with state agencies such as the Department of Public Health, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, the Department of Education and nonprofit and community agencies to ensure that families, providers, and the general public have access to research-based information on children’s development. Community grants to support local communities in increasing resources for family engagement. Communities may apply for 2Gen Innovation Grants that can be used to increase alignment between child care services and workforce supports. The second type of grant, Trauma-Responsive Care grants, supports communities in increasing their understanding of the impacts of trauma and how they can best help families and young children who have experienced trauma. Finally, the Lead Agency is offering Community Transformation Grants where communities will implement a new project that can address one of nine needs identified in Georgia’s PDG B-5 Needs Assessment. These needs include food insecurity, homelessness, reducing suspensions and expulsions, and mental health supports.
Georgia	3.1.8 Procedures for documenting eligibility	CAPS Priority Groups Policy provides the following list of acceptable documents to verify priority group categories: Child Protective Services (CPS) and court-ordered supervision cases – referral from CPS; children enrolled in Georgia’s Pre-K Program – Georgia’s Pre-K Program referral form; children in Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) custody – referral from DFCS; families of children with disabilities – written diagnosis from a licensed medical doctor, mental health professional, psychologist, psychiatrist, or an Individualized Family Service Plan (Part C of IDEA), and Individualized Education Program (Part B, section 619, of IDEA), an Individual Accommodation Plan (Section 504), a Medicaid waiver for persons with disabilities (Katie Beckett, NOW, or COMP), or proof of Supplemental Security Income for a child who is blind or disabled; families with very low income as defined by CAPS – verification of income as discussed previously; grandparents raising grandchildren (GRG) – verification that parental authority is in the Division of Family and Children Services GRG program; minor parents (age 20 or younger) – verification of parental authority’s age; families experiencing domestic violence – verification from Georgia Department of Human Services (or report to TANF, police report, court documents, shelter residence, etc. if not verified through DHS) establishing need for care as domestic violence. A written or verbal attestation from the parent noting need for care due to domestic violence can be accepted if no other documentation is available; families who lack fixed, regular, and adequate housing – a letter from homeowner/lease holder, an emergency shelter, or agency that provides homeless assistance programs in Georgia, or an attestation from the parent that they lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; families who have experienced a natural disaster – the family’s county of residence must have been identified by government officials as an area included in the state or federal disaster area; TANF applicants, recipients, or families transitioning from TANF – a referral for child care from the TANF program; need to protect – a referral for child care from the TANF program – a completed Statement of Guardianship (Appendix EE) is required for grandparents, relatives, and other caregivers raising children who are not in DFCS custody; referral from a community service program; copy of a case plan or verification from DFCS for families who had a substantiated CPS case that closed within the last 12 months; other documentation verifying need to protect. Verification documentation of priority population is required at redetermination. Families may have to be a member of one of the CAPS priority populations at redetermination. When their circumstances have changed, and the verification supports placement in a priority population where a higher payment rate will be authorized, or approved activity requirements may be reduced, submission of verification documents is required.
Georgia	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	The Lead Agency partners with community agencies who support families of children experiencing homelessness to ensure that applications are prioritized. Additionally, the Lead Agency partners with the Department of Human Services Families (DHS), the agency that administers the TANF program, to prioritize referrals and applications for child care subsidy. Homeless children: Prioritized for receipt of child care subsidy Served without placing on a waiting list
Georgia	3.3.5a Procedures to support homeless enrollment	CAPS Policy Manual 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, 7.10, and 7.11 allow families experiencing domestic violence, families who lack fixed, regular, and adequate housing, and families who have experienced a natural disaster an additional 90 days to submit all verification documents without postponing their eligibility determination.
Georgia	3.3.5b Procedures to support homeless enrollment	The Lead Agency and the Head Start State Collaboration Office 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 training for staff to enhance outreach efforts. The Lead Agency added a feature to the Contact Us form on the CAPS website to enable community programs supporting families who are homeless to communicate and expedite their subsidy applications. The Lead Agency understands that communication may be a challenge for families with limited access to technology, so this feature allows staff to work with the system on their behalf. In addition, the Lead Agency developed a series of visual aids specific to community partners in the Continuum of Care who serve families experiencing homelessness to explain the process for child care and subsidy assistance. 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

Georgia	3.3.6 Grace period	CAPS Policy Manual 6.6 specifies that families experiencing homelessness have at least 90 days to verify immunization requirements . CAPS Procedure Manual 3.5.5 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 for a child to receive appropriate immunizations.
Georgia	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	The Lead Agency has contracted with experts in the area of homelessness to help develop training materials for early learning and development providers and Lead Agency staff. The training covers 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 has been shared with Lead Agency-approved trainers through a "train the trainer" model and offered to trainers from all areas of the state. Trainers in turn deliver the two-hour training to early learning and development providers in their catchment area. The training is Lead Agency-approved and qualifies as training to meet licensure requirements. CAPS family support consultants received the training and delivered to early learning and development providers across the state. The statewide Homelessness Committee will review the training for updates.
Georgia	6.2.5b Training & TA for lead agency	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 experiencing homelessness and coordinates the two funding sources to ensure that families experiencing homelessness have access to full-day, full-year care. Third, children who are experiencing homelessness are categorically eligible for the Lead Agency's Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership grant. Children experiencing homelessness are also a priority group for the Lead Agency's CAPS program. Additionally, an internal Homelessness Committee meets regularly to coordinate efforts among the divisions in the Lead Agency to connect with and serve Georgia's homeless populations.
Georgia	7.1.2 QRIS assessment findings	Results from the Lead Agency's quality assessment activities demonstrate that the state has made significant progress in increasing access to higher quality programs. The same assessment data shows that the percentage of programs rated two or three stars has remained relatively consistent, while the percentage rated zero stars has decreased. In 2019, the state published the final report from its Quality Rated Validation Study. This study found that the state's tiered quality rating and improvement system, Quality Rated, effectively discriminates levels of quality. The report found some positive impacts of Quality Rated on children's growth and development and that workforce supports were greater in higher rated programs. The report also documented that quality in infant and toddler classrooms was lower, on average, than quality in preschool classrooms. This report can be found at: http://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/QRValidationReport4.pdf . As part of its PDG B-5 activities, the state has also concluded its needs assessment. The results from the needs assessment support providing more training and resources related to mental health. Results from the needs assessment also demonstrate that the state should invest in additional activities related to raising the quality of infant and toddler classrooms, increasing access to ECCE programs for children and families in rural areas, and supporting the workforce. Surveys related to the COVID-19 pandemic suggest that the state's Short Term Assistance Benefit for Licensed Entities (STABLE) grants, which used funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, have been effective in helping providers mitigate the impact of this public health emergency. Results from that survey can be found at: http://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/STABLE_Survey_Report.pdf . In collaboration with the Georgia's Children's Cabinet and Cross-Agency Child Council, the Lead Agency has increased its two-generation focus and has begun providing more resources and supports, such as the Two-Generation Innovation Grant, at the community level. This focus is supported by ongoing research of CAPS data that demonstrates increased needs for student parents. Based on results from the Lead Agency's ongoing assessment process, formal evaluations, and its PDG B-5 needs assessment, the Lead Agency has identified the following goals: 1. Increase the percentage of children receiving subsidies who attend programs rated two or three stars, the highest levels of quality; 2. Increase the quality of the state's infant and toddler classrooms; 3. Increase supports for special populations of children, including dual language learners, children with challenging behaviors, children experiencing homelessness, and children with disabilities; 4. Increase supports for the early childhood workforce with an emphasis on teachers of specialized age groups, particularly infant and toddler teachers and school-age/afterschool teachers; 5. Increase supports related to appropriate language and literacy instruction; 6. Increase supports for providers related to the COVID-19 pandemic; 7. Increase activities and resources related to a two-generation focus; 8. Increase supports offered to programs serving school-age children and raise the quality of school-age environments; and 9. Increase social emotional training and resources for early childhood teachers and families and providing access to infant early childhood mental health services to support young children with (or at risk for) social, emotional, and behavioral health needs.
Guam		
Guam	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The Lead Agency has plans to coordinate and provide support to village (municipal) mayors to develop and increase the supply of quality child care in villages of highly vulnerable populations. The Lead Agency has initiated plans to meet monthly with village mayors with the goal of enhancing their school-age programs that provide child care in out-of-school time settings within their municipalities. This initiative was prompted by the recognition of village mayor needs as they sought out subaward opportunities to enhance/develop their school-age programs and shared their concerns through the Guam Early Learning Council (State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care). Through consultation with municipal representatives, the Lead Agency intends to offer subaward opportunities to increase the supply of school-age child care and enhance the quality of care in out-of-school time settings. Such programs will benefit children with disabilities, children experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care.
Guam	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The Department of Public Health & Social Services' Division of Public Welfare, Bureau of Social Services Administration (BOSSA) in conjunction with the Guam housing and Urban Renewal Agency assist in the tracking of the homeless population on Guam and makes referrals to the CCDF office for homeless families with children in need of child care. Homeless shelters also work directly with the CCDF office to assist their clients obtain child care while their parent(s) try to seek housing and/or employment. This 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 homeless families/children applying for child care are prioritized. CCDF provides consultation to the GELC: Social Emotional Wellness Work Group in the development of guidelines for children that have experienced toxic stress and are wards of the state. CCDF has provided input to ensure children that are homeless or wards of the state are provided child care services immediately to support the child's need for a stable and nurturing environment during the day and return to the foster parents, or emergency residential Shelters in the evenings. Through monthly consultation with the GELC Social Emotional Wellness Work Group, the CCDF program is strengthening its collaboration and working to improve/implement a more timely and supportive process for homeless families, foster children, and children who are wards of the state to obtain quality child care services.
Guam	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The Department of Education (DOE) is the lead agency for the Part C: Guam Early Intervention Services (GEIS) and Part B: Early Childhood Special Education (Section 619). GEIS provides services for infants and toddlers with or at risk for disabilities and their families. For children 3 through 21 with disabilities, the DOE Special Education Program provides special education and related services for children that identified with having a disability and in need of special education and/or related services. The GEIS and special education program representatives are present at quarterly GELC meetings which enables the Programs to discuss processes and procedures for ensuring a smooth transition between programs or for children who are in child care settings into school settings. This process enhances and aligns the quality of services for infants and toddlers through school-age children and supports for a smooth transition for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with or at risk for disabilities that are enrolled in early intervention services or preschool special education services to school entry. Children with Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSPs) and Individualized Educational Program (IEPs) are required to have in place a transition plan for ensuring a smooth transition between settings. In addition, the IFSP or IEP process ensures that children and families continue if appropriate, to comprehensive services. Under the Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Guam has in place the Guam Interagency Coordinating Council (GICC). The GICC is comprised of members from early child serving agencies. The GICC's role and responsibility is to advise and assist DOE: GEIS in the implementation and monitoring of early intervention services with a focus on child find, early childhood transition, and payor of last resort. The CCDF Administrator is an active member of the GICC. The CCDF Program in collaboration with the GICC plans to review and expand the DOE – Division of Special Education Early Childhood Transition Procedures to include children in child care settings, children experiencing homelessness, and children that are wards of the State.

Guam	3.2.4 Co-pay waiver	The family contribution (co-pay) is waived for those experiencing homelessness, in foster care, eligible for TANF services, minor parents, and families with income below 100% of the federal poverty level.
Guam	3.3.1 Definition of special needs	a child or youth who may require a level of care above the norm for his age due to disability, emotional or behavioral disorder, or a special health need; children with mental illness, children with severe mental illness, homeless children , teenage parents/pregnant teens, children involved in the child welfare system and the juvenile justice system (dually involved) or under court supervision.
Guam	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	Children of families experiencing homelessness are permitted enrollment and are given 30 days to comply with required documentation.
Guam	3.3.6 Grace period	The Lead Agency allows a 30-day grace period for parents to come in to compliance with the immunization requirement for children experiencing homelessness. From consultation with the Lead Agency's Deputy Directors, who oversee the Guam Immunization Office and the Guam Public Community Health Centers, it was determined that a 30-day grace period was an adequate timeframe to meet these needs.
Guam	4.1.8e Increase quality of care (and supply)	The Lead Agency has plans to offer contracts for training and technical assistance related to identifying and serving children and families experiencing homelessness to increase the quality of care.
Guam	6.1.1 Professional Development	At the current time, Guam's CCDF Program continues to adhere to the requirements identified in the Guam Public Law 31-73: An Act to Establish the Administrative Rules and Regulations of the Department of Public Health & Social Services relative to child care facilities and group child care homes, under Article 1 of Chapter 1, Division 1, Title 26, Guam Administrative Rules and Regulations, and in Conformance with Article 4, Child Welfare Services Act, Chapter 2, Division 1, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated which was signed into law on June 2, 2011, provides the framework for Guam. Specifically, Appendix A- Guam's Plan for Professional Development (GPPD) details the framework for training and professional development in Guam. Additionally, the Rules and Regulations for Licensed Child Care Facilities and Group Child Care Homes (P.L. 31-73) details the licensing requirements for these facilities and specifically identifies the GPPD as the guideline to follow for all training and professional development requirements. The GPPD follows "Core Standard for Professional Preparation" from the National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). These five standards provide the foundation for professional practices that – 1) Promote child development and training; 2) Are culturally respectful and responsive; 3) Promotes ethical behavior and professional advocacy; and 4) Provides in-depth field experience in high quality professional preparation. Standard 1: Promoting Child Development and Learning; Standard 2: Building Family and Community Relationships; Standard 3: Observing, Documenting, and Assessing to Support Young children and families; Standard 4: Teaching and Learning; and Standard 5: Being a Professional. These Core Standards provide the framework for early childhood professionals' education and training. Core Topics and General Competencies are the foundation of fundamental skills that early childhood personnel should acquire and strengthen to increase their knowledge and skills. The CCDF Program continues to implement, monitor, and evaluate the professional development activities as identified in the current GPPD. The CCDF Program in partnership with other early childhood serving agencies from the PDG B -5 Early Learning Council (ELC) Leadership will update GPPD with the target of completion by Spring 2022. This updated GPPD plan will ensure the alignment with the Early Care and Education training plan and the quality standards of providers. The revised policies and procedures will comprise of the evidence-based practices, funding cross-collaboration and efficiency strategies among early childhood and community partners that is inclusive of child care providers. Further refinement of the training plan will be aligned with Guam's Early Care and Education needs assessment and strategic plan anticipated to be completed by Fall 2021.
Guam	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	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 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.
Guam	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	The Lead Agency has plans to offer contracts for training and technical assistance for providers related to the identifying and serving of children and families experiencing homelessness to organizations whose mission is to protect, serve, and support such populations. CCDF Program staff will also attain this training and technical assistance to enhance our services and support the child care providers with identifying and supporting these families. This training and technical assistance will also be supported with resources through the child care resource and referral network.
Hawaii		
Hawaii	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The Head Start State collaboration director position that oversees the grant has been established under the Executive Office of Early Learning. The Hawaii Department of Human Services works with the Head Start State collaboration director through a variety of early childhood community meetings to ensure that Head Start and the Department align efforts to ensure serving children eligible for Head Start and CCDF subsidies, including children experiencing homelessness, special needs, or from families with at-risk factors, such as low income or limited-English proficient families.
Hawaii	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The Hawaii Department of Human Services is the lead CCDF agency, and the Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division, which houses the CCDF administrators, continues to 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 Hawaii, on strategies to improve coordination of services for homeless children whose families may be eligible for child care subsidies and other early childhood services which may be needed to meet the needs of homeless children. The Homeless Program Office will 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. 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.
Hawaii	3.3.1 Definition of 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: 1. Has a physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional health condition that is outside of the normal range; 2. 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 . Per the Department of Health, part C eligibility includes those who are developmentally delayed, or at biological risk.
Hawaii	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	Homeless children: Priority for child care subsidy receipt Served without placing on a waiting list Pay higher rates for access
Hawaii	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	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 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.

Hawaii	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	The Department's contracted service provider along with the statewide branch for public assistance programs conducted outreach services to homeless providers in urban Honolulu and the west side of Oahu. Continued outreach efforts were paused by the onset of the pandemic. Once the Department is able to resume lobby services, the Department's eligibility program advisors will continue outreach efforts. The Department's contracted service provider was present at two (2) "fairs" held through the shelter programs to provide families with resources for child care services. 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
Hawaii	3.3.6 Grace period	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 Hawaii through the administrative rule-making public process.
Hawaii	5.1.2 License Exempt	Exemptions for child care homes or centers that: 1. Care for children less than 6 hours per week; 2. Care for two or fewer children who are unrelated to the caregiver by blood, marriage, or adoption; 3. Any person who enters a home in a child caring capacity and only cares for children who are of that household; 4. Provides exclusively for a specialized training or skill development for children, including but not limited to programs providing activities such as athletic sports, foreign language, the Hawaiian language, dance, drama, music, or martial arts; 5. Are multi-service organizations or community associations duly incorporated under the laws of the State that operates for the purpose of promoting recreation, health, safety, or social group functions for eligible pupils in public and private schools through seventeen years of age; 6. Are county operated child care programs pursuant to section 302A-408; 7. Are a kindergarten, school or child care program licensed or certified by the Department of Education or the U.S. Department of Defense and located on federal property; 8. Operate for only two consecutive weeks in a 3-month period and are for children four years of age and older; 9. Are an afterschool, weekend, and summer recess program conducted by the Department of Education pursuant to section 302A-408, HRS; and 10. Are a provider agency operating or managing a homeless facility or any other program for homeless persons authorized under part XVII of HRS chapter 346.
Hawaii	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	The Hawaii Department of Human Services will continue the existing partnership 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.
Hawaii	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	The Hawaii Department of Human Services will continue discussions 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 public health pandemic halted discussions during the past year. 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. The Department's contractor is part of Hawaii's Childhood Homelessness Action Team and works alongside the Department of Education Community Liaison focusing on outreach efforts providing resources with organizations serving homeless families. The contractor provides curriculum on the Education Leads Home Series, Understanding the Impact of Unstable Housing, Family Engagement and Supportive Program Policies. By going through the curriculum, providers are expected to: develop empathy towards families that may be experiencing homelessness; develop an understanding of policies and procedures; and discuss supportive strategies that may lead to best practices when working with families.
Idaho		
Idaho	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The Lead Agency is part of efforts to align and coordinate services where possible with both McKinney-Vento and 619, both programs within the State Department of Education (SDE). State funded prekindergarten is not available in Idaho, so the partnership with the SDE pertains only to McKinney-Vento and 619. The goal is to improve access to and alignment with McKinney-Vento services between the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and the SDE. The process will be accomplished via cross training staff and teams throughout the state and providing professional development opportunities for teachers on how best to serve families experiencing homelessness. These efforts results in more homeless children having access to child care and school districts knowing what resources are available for serving families.
Idaho	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The CCDF administrator and McKinney-Vento coordinator sit on various state councils together, and they strive to coordinate meetings when mutually beneficial to share information and develop resources and tools that can assist both statewide coordinators in the schools and community partners serving families in local communities who are experiencing homelessness.
Idaho	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	Because Idaho does not have a waitlist, children from all three eligibility groups - those with special needs, experiencing homelessness, or in the foster care system - are automatically enrolled; as a result, Idaho does not have an articulated process for prioritization of populations. (IDAPA 16.06.12.105.03 and 16.06.12400.02.c.) Children with a verified special need may qualify for in-home care (care provided in their home), and may remain eligible for child care subsidies through age 18. Families participating in TAFI and TANF are not required to pay a copay; they receive the entire Local Market Rate for which they are eligible. For children experiencing homelessness, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) has created a verification form and trained community partners on the process for which a customer provides the child care activity form showing that the 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 DHW when the customer ends the program. Children experiencing homelessness are prioritized for services.
Idaho	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare 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 which allows approval of child care. Once verified, children may enroll in child care while other required components are completed and or obtained. 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
Idaho	3.3.6 Grace period	IdahoSTARS supports child care providers serving children participating in foster care or experiencing homelessness by offering resources to connect families to agencies that provide immunizations. Children experiencing homelessness (as defined by the CCDF Final Rule). Immunization policies allow all children to receive care for up to 14 days before completing immunization requirements. This requirement was established years ago in partnership with the Division of Health.
Idaho	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	"Strengthening Families Who are Homeless", a current training only available through a live training experience, is in transition to become available as an online training opportunity. This online training will be available to IdahoSTARS staff and child care providers. Once available online, staff are encouraged to access this training to increase individual awareness and develop an understanding and empathy for families and child care programs who experience homelessness.
Illinois		

Illinois	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The Lead Agency works with the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services as needed due to current projects and with the goal of resolving to resolve both on-going issues and to address changes needed due to the CCDBG reauthorization, such as providing immunization grace periods in licensed child care programs for children experiencing homelessness. As a result of these content-based and project-based collaborations, the Lead Agency has been able to take holistically informed steps toward improving policies surrounding immunization grace periods, for instance, in order to meet federal requirements.
Illinois	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The Lead Agency coordinates with McKinney-Vento state coordinator (ISBE) on serving families experiencing homelessness. The McKinney-Vento state coordinator is a member of the Child Care Advisory Council with the goal of reducing barriers to child care services for children experiencing homelessness. The result of this coordination is greater representation of issues affecting children experiencing homelessness on the Lead Agency's advisory council, and greater expertise in council discussions regarding potential policy changes to better support children experiencing homelessness.
Illinois	1.5.1 Combine Funds	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 recipients, teen parents in school, children with special needs, children experiencing homelessness , families in education and training programs, and children in protective services.
Illinois	3.1.2c Eligibility, Reason for Care	Families impacted by a state/federal disaster; Essential workers during a state of emergency, Families transitioning from the Intact Family Services Program, Families experiencing homelessness (per the McKinney-Vento Act definition).
Illinois	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	Homeless children: Prioritized for enrollment in child care services Served without placing on waiting list
Illinois	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	Children from a family experiencing homelessness 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 and Site Agencies must allow a family experiencing homelessness 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. Outreach: Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care
Illinois	3.3.6 Grace period	The Lead Agency, in coordination with the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services, has notified all providers of the policy concerning the grace period for medical records/immunizations, to allow a 90-day grace period for families or children experiencing homelessness to submit copies of all required supporting documentation for enrollment. The Department will provide CCAP Protective Service Child Care Assistance to eligible families who indicate on an Application, Redetermination, or Change of Information Form that they are experiencing homelessness in order for them to obtain or maintain a child care arrangement. Families that indicate and provide documentation that they are experiencing homelessness will be allowed two 90-day periods immediately following notification of experiencing homelessness within a 12-month period to establish a CCAP eligible activity (employment, education...) and to submit required eligibility documentation including paystubs and school schedules. Procedure: Eligibility Criteria: A family's circumstances must meet the Department's definition of homelessness. Families not in a CCAP eligible activity after the initial 90-day eligibility period will not be eligible for additional CCAP approval unless the family indicates they are still experiencing homelessness, in which case a second 90-day Protective Service Child Care eligibility period can be approved. If the second Protective Service Child Care period is immediately following the first 90-day approval, a new Certification of Temporary Living Arrangement Questionnaire is not required. If more than 30 days have passed, a new Certification of Temporary Living Arrangement Questionnaire is required. For new applicants documenting homelessness, the child care arrangement schedule shall be approved as listed on the application. If the application does not include a schedule, the case should be approved for full time days, Monday through Friday. Once approved for an eligible activity, the child care schedule will be determined according to the time in that activity per CCAP policy. The Family Co-payment shall be assessed at \$1.00 per month during the 90-day approval period. The \$1.00 copayment also applies to the second 90-day approval period. Families that document they are experiencing homelessness that are engaged in a CCAP eligible activity will be approved for 12 months. Under the Protective Services guidelines, the family will be assessed a monthly copayment of \$1.00 monthly for the first 3 months after the client submits the Certification of Temporary Living Arrangement Questionnaire.
Illinois	3.3.6 Grace period	The Lead Agency participates in inter-agency meetings through the Cooperative Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals task force. Other participating agencies include The Illinois Department of Public Health, Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Human Services and the Illinois State Board of 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.
Illinois	4.1.8c Increase supply	Technical Assistance and training is available on collaboration between child care providers and community agencies (including special needs service providers and homeless shelters).
Illinois	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	The Lead Agency has made available to all child care providers in the State: 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 families experiencing homelessness 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 post questions or seek guidance. 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 offers a "Homelessness training" that covers legal and social justifications and requirements for caring for homeless children, basic best practices for caring for families experiencing homelessness, requirements for caring for homeless children. CCR&R staff may refer families experiencing or in danger of becoming homeless to the Lead Agency for more information about program/services to help or prevent homelessness.
Illinois	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	The state partners with multiple entities serving families experiencing homeless, including the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO). The HSSCO continues to support access to services for children and families experiencing homelessness. This is done by communicating to the Head Start grantees that the Head Start Performance Standards allow for grantees to reserve slots for children and families experiencing homelessness. The Lead Agency has established policies within the Child Care Assistance Program, 01.03.10, that addresses and provides supports for families that are experiencing homelessness, as explained in section 3.3.6. The Illinois Early Learning Council's Access Committee has identified children experiencing homelessness as a priority population. Finally, the state of Illinois' State Coordinator for McKinney-Vento Homeless Education is a member the Child Care Advisory Council and works closely with the Lead Agency staff, located in Lead Agency central offices, across the state by providing guidance on CCDF policy implementation as it relates to support for children experiencing homelessness as well as providing technical assistance when requested.
Indiana		

Indiana	1.3.1 Consultation in CCDF state plan development	<p>OECOSL consults with the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) through monthly planning meetings. During these meetings, the Lead Agency shares information found within the State Plan and receives feedback which was incorporated into the plan. OECOSL and IDOE engaged in numerous cross-agency initiatives related to early childhood and out-school time. For example, OECOSL has worked with IDOE on workforce and professional development activities over the course of the last several years. Lastly, OECOSL supports public school preschool programs through the Indiana Accreditation Project and supports public school preschool teachers through the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® INDIANA scholarships as well as state agency/agencies responsible for programs for children with special needs, including early intervention programs authorized under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (Part C for infants and toddlers and Section 619 for preschool). The OECOSL Director is an appointed member of the Inter-Coordinating Council (ICC) for Indiana's IDEA Part C early intervention program (First Steps). The Lead Agency provided the State Plan to the Director of First Steps for feedback and incorporated feedback into the plan. The OECOSL funds the Indiana Early Childhood Higher Education Forum (IECHEF) and meets with the Forum to share initiatives and to collaborate on workforce issues. The Lead Agency presented the opportunity to comment on the State Plan to members of the Higher Education Forum and requested feedback that was incorporated into the State Plan. The Forum membership includes representatives from the state community college system and other 2- and 4-year higher education institutions. The Indiana Head Start State Collaboration Office (IHSSCO) is housed within the Lead Agency, which allows for close collaboration on system building initiatives between Head Start, Early Head Start, Child Care, State funded Pre-K, and the Early Head Start-Childcare Partnerships. The IHSSCO has been directly involved in drafting the State Plan. State/Territory office/director for Head Start State collaboration OECOSL and the IHSSCO have worked closely with the EHS- CC Partnership grantees to support the success of these partnerships through collaborative coaching and technical assistance and the use of CCDF subsidies to support full day/full year services. Indiana United Ways, and three Child Care Provider Advisory Groups representing a wide range of provider types. The Lead Agency contracts with Child Care Resource and Referral agencies and the Child Care Resource and Referral Central Office (CCR&RCO) to improve family access to high quality, affordable child care. This includes licensed provider recruitment and trainings; community awareness; parent resources and referrals; work-life solutions; and data collection and support. The Lead Agency contracts with the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children (INAEYC) for professional development systems planning, provider career counseling, and education and professional development training. This is done through the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® INDIANA project, CDA non formal training, an annual Indiana Early Childhood Conference, and provider support for accreditation. The Lead Agency consults with State and local health departments on a variety of health concerns related to child care including immunizations, prevention of illness, lead exposure prevention, and appropriate actions when unexpected health concerns arise. The Lead Agency has partnered with the Indiana State Department of Health to support their application for the Help Me Grow project, which they were awarded. The Lead Agency has supported the implementation of the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Endorsements (IMH-E)® and initiatives designed to improve access for providers and families to mental health consultants and mental health training opportunities. This has most recently included putting together a team of individuals from Indiana to work on systems building and identification of barriers to mental health services for Hoosier children. The Lead Agency consults with the McKinney-Vento State coordinators for Homeless Education and the McKinney-Vento state coordinator through the Indiana Inter-Agency Coordinating Council for First Steps. The Lead Agency presented the opportunity to comment on 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. The Lead Agency also partners with the State/Territory agency responsible for mental health. The State agency responsible for mental health in Indiana is the Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA) in the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA). The Lead Agency is housed within the same agency (FSSA) and coordinates with DMHA on efforts and issues contained within the State Plan.</p>
Indiana	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	<p>OECOSL has aligned CCDF policies and procedures with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act. OECOSL's goal is to increase the availability of provider trainings on best practices for serving children and families who are experiencing homelessness and housing insecurities and to increase awareness of PTQ and the CCDF voucher program among agencies serving homeless families.</p> <p>OECOSL will coordinate with the Indiana Department of Education McKinney-Vento state coordinator to align and share resources for identifying and supporting children who are experiencing homelessness and housing insecurities. OECOSL will continue to provide training and technical assistance through Spark Learning Lab and the Department of Education McKinney-Vento liaison to child care providers serving families who are experiencing homeless and housing insecurities. Through this partnership, the IHSCO Director is now connected to the Education Leads Home (both national and local) and the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project. The three year goal is to increase providers' knowledge and skills around serving children and families who are experiencing homelessness and housing insecurities and continue to promote collaboration between partners. The OECOSL team will also begin to create strategies to support these efforts and provide additional education, data, and resources across the system.</p>
Indiana	1.7.1 CCR&R	<p>The Lead Agency contracts with 5 agencies to provide CCR&R services: Parent education and referral support. The Lead Agency contracts these local CCR&R Agencies to provide consumer education and referrals to families using diverse and culturally responsive methods, including face to face referrals at locations throughout the community as appropriate. They also provide enhanced referrals in accordance with processes set by The Child Care Resource and Referral Central Office (CCR&RCO) for families seeking programs for children with special needs, including but not limited to offering specialized technical assistance to programs ultimately selected by the family. Enhanced referrals may also be offered to families of infants and toddlers, school age children, and families experiencing homelessness or housing insecurities. Individualized family support is also available to all families. Supply building efforts: The Lead Agency contracts with 5 local CCR&R Agencies to build quality and supply of child care providers in Indiana. Each local agency utilizes the available provider and family data to identify areas in need of intentional supply and capacity building activities, including building the supply of providers of all types and increasing the supply of infant/toddler care, care available for non-traditional hours, accessibility of pre-k eligible programs and other areas of identified need. The local agencies work to establish partnerships with public and private community partners, including faith-based, public and non- public school based, and community based ECE providers, including Head Start, to increase the supply and quality of services. Local coalition building: Agencies build and support state and local networks through a variety of collaborative outreach activities including but not limited to, local coalition building, participation in local and statewide initiatives, and responding to issues impacting the ECE and OST systems. The Local agencies work to become the recognized local expert in ECE and OST system building responsiveness to community needs and events and are able to participate and provide feedback on local coalitions to continue to move the work forward in a productive and systemic way. Data collection and assessment. Each CCR&R agency is responsible for collecting data for their catchment area to assist in data collection and analysis related to supply and demand issues, family needs, community needs, employer engagement issues, and analysis of that information to inform local and state wide policy development. Additionally, each Child Care Resource and Referral Agency creates an annual report that reflects the data and analysis from their respective service delivery area.</p> <p>The Child Care Resource and Referral Central Office (CCR&RCO) coordinates and supports the five (5) local CCR&R agencies. The Local agencies work to become the recognized local expert in ECE and OST system building responsiveness to community needs and events and are able to participate and provide feedback on local coalitions to continue to move the work forward in a productive and systemic way. The Child Care Resource and Referral Central Office (CCR&RCO) supports the five (5) local CCR&R agencies with provider recruitment, parent and community training, family engagement, data collection and assessment on the supply and demand for ECE program and supports.</p>
Indiana	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	<p>Special Needs: Documentation of a child with special needs must be made by evidence of enrollment in one or more of the following programs or services: Children with Special Health Care Services as provided by the State of Indiana First Steps Early Intervention System Head Start for a child professionally diagnosed with disabilities A copy of the child's Individualized Education Plan Verification of Supplemental Security Income Statement from a health care professional which includes the child's diagnosis. Special needs are identified on the CCDF application, and children with special needs receive priority over other CCDF eligible families. Very Low Income: Very low Income level is defined as below 100% of the federal poverty level. Families receive the same priority as other CCDF eligible families. Copayments are waived for families with income under 100% of the Federal Poverty Level. Homelessness: 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. TANF:TANF families receive priority over non-TANF families to receive CCDF services. Co payment is waived for families who are below poverty level. The Lead Agency coordinates with the TANF offices in receiving referrals.</p> <p>Children experiencing homelessness: Prioritize for enrollment in child care services Waive co-payments (on a case-by-case basis). As described in 3.2.4 Pay higher rate for access to higher quality care Using grants or contracts to reserve spots</p>
Indiana	3.3.3 Increasing Access for Vulnerable Children	<p>A CCDF Household declaring a priority must provide verification of their priority (i.e. TANF Impact, AIS, SNAP, DCS, Ivy Tech, special needs, homeless, or CPS with the exception of OMW. These families are determined by the State).</p> <p>A TANF Impact applicant must provide a valid TANF Impact referral. A TANF AIS applicant must provide a valid TANF AIS referral.</p> <p>SNAP applicant must provide a valid SNAP referral.</p> <p>A DCS or Ivy Tech applicant must provide a valid referral.</p> <p>A child with special needs must provide appropriate special needs documentation.</p> <p>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 are excluded from this priority group.</p> <p>A CCDF household who has demonstrated employment in a business designated as essential under Executive Order 20-18. This priority group will remain in effect until such time that either Executive Order 20-02, which declared that a public health emergency exists throughout the State of Indiana expires, or Executive Order 20-18 is no longer in effect.</p>

Indiana	3.3.4 Prioritized Groups	<p>A TANF Impact priority: A TANF AJS priority For families that have a priority of TANF Impact and TANF AJS, these families are put immediately on using TANF funds only. At the completion of the families Impact or AJS activity if the family meets CCDF eligibility requirements the family can immediately utilize CCDF funds for continued assistance.</p> <p>DCS or Ivy Tech Priority: For families that have a priority of DCS or Ivy Tech, these families are put immediately on using CCDF funds only. At the completion of the families DCS priority if the family meets CCDF eligibility requirements the family can continue to utilize CCDF funds for continued assistance.</p> <p>SNAP priority: For families that have a priority of SNAP, these families are put immediately on using SNAP funds only. At the completion of the families Impact activity if the family meets CCDF eligibility requirements the family can immediately utilize CCDF funds for continued assistance.</p> <p>A child with special needs priority: A child with a priority of special needs is the first 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>A homeless priority: 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>A CPS applicant must provide a valid CPS referral. A child with a priority of CPS is the third 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>Families participating in the OMW program: Children with a priority of OMW are enrolled during the OMW Pre-K enrollment period for the following pre-k school year. For families that have a priority under Executive Order 20-08 these families are put immediately on using CCDF funds only.</p>
Indiana	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	<p>A licensed child care center, licensed home, unlicensed 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-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referralsto child care</p>
Indiana	3.3.6 Grace period	<p>A licensed child care center, licensed home, unlicensed 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>The 90 day grace period was established through coordination with multiple sources. The Lead Agency is part of Indiana's Health and Human Services agency. Additionally, the FSSA Secretary and OECOSL Director hold regular meetings with both the Indiana State Department of Health and Department of Child Services to ensure program coordination.</p>
Indiana	3.3.6 Grace period	<p>The Lead Agency allows a 90 day grace period for child care providers to collect immunization records for children in foster care and families that indicate they are homeless.</p> <p>The Lead Agency is responsible for the licensing/registration/certification of child care providers and works directly with providers on the grace period for homeless and foster children.</p> <p>The 90 day grace period was established through coordination with multiple sources. The Lead Agency is part of Indiana's Health and Human Services agency. Additionally, the FSSA Secretary and OECOSL Director hold regular meetings with both the Indiana State Department of Health and Department of Child Services to ensure program coordination.</p>
Indiana	3.3.6b Procedures to support homeless children	<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: 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.</p>
Indiana	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	<p>The Lead Agency, along with a cross sector group of early childhood professionals, has worked together 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. 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 SPARK Learning Lab staff who train local providers on an ongoing basis. SPARK Learning Lab provides technical assistance to providers as needed. This training was updated in the Fall of 2019; however, we intend to reevaluate this training with our partners and the Education Leads Home initiative during this plan period.</p>
Indiana	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	<p>The training is available on demand via Indiana Learning Paths. Additionally, there is training 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 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. Lead Agency staff are able to attend these opportunities and access training when needed. OECOSL staff also meet with McKinney-Vento Liaisons and are able to gather up to date information when needed.</p>
Iowa		
Iowa	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	<p>Lead Agency staff met with the McKinney-Vento staff from the Department of Education with the goal of discuss connections and ways to support those experiencing homelessness. The discussion lead to the ideas of adding information about Child Care Assistance to the Department of Education page on homelessness and to adding a Lead Agency staff to the discussion board used by all the local McKinney- Vento liaisons throughout the state. This is in the process of being completed. The discussion resulted in a plan for additional ways to support families experiencing homelessness and both parties anticipate the outcome will be additional knowledge on the part of the local liaisons and families experiencing homelessness.</p>
Iowa	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	<p>Homeless children: Prioritized for child care subsidy Served without placing on a waiting list Pays higher rates</p>
Iowa	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	<p>Regulations require child care programs to have required documentation prior to caring for children, however child care programs are instructed to provide families experiencing homelessness additional time to obtain required documentation when enrolling in the program. Child care programs are allowed to care for and receive payment for children during this time period. 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</p>
Iowa	3.3.6 Grace period	<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>

Iowa	3.3.6 Grace period	Children in foster care are included in the definition of homelessness. 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
Iowa	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	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.
Iowa	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	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.
Kansas		
Kansas	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The office was consulted with specific plans for services to homeless families, training for child care providers and providing consumer education on the KQN website. Goal to increase consumer education regarding homeless thru child care professional development opportunities. 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 a collaborative effort with members of the Kansas State Agencies Early Childhood team and the Kansas Inservice Training Service (KITS) project. The expected results would be that more child care providers are better positioned to assist homeless families with meeting their needs or identifying resources.
Kansas	1.5.1 Combine Funds	Outcomes of combining funding includes: extending the day for services available to children in Head Start and Preschool Programs; increase services to families experiencing homelessness , increase 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
Kansas	3.1.5 Eligibility Determination	Although Kansas currently provides child care for all families who apply and meet financial and non-financial eligibility criteria, priority rules exist for eligibility determination in the event of a wait list. 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 250% 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 250% of the federal poverty level. Additional eligibility requirements include that a person must apply and be able to act on their own behalf. The client must supply information essential to the establishment of eligibility or give written permissions for release of information when needed. The family and the child must live in Kansas. They must provide requested income information and meet the income limits, the identity of the person making the application and any other adult in the household will need to be verified, the family must pass the resource test, and documentation of US citizenship or of eligible non-citizen status for the children being applied for will be needed. If parents are absent from the home, the one in the home must work with Child Support Enforcement unless good cause for not cooperating is established. To be eligible, the client must have a qualifying personal need for child care and care for a child that is under the age of 13 or 13 through 18 if the child is incapable of caring for themselves.
Kansas	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	Homeless children are prioritized for services
Kansas	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	When a child experiencing homelessness needs child care assistance, the agency may delay citizenship verification according to the following policy. This policy can apply to other situations when needed. As per KEESM 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. As per Kansas Child Care Regulation - The Kansas Department of Health and Environment 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. A. Displaced children and youth entering regulated child care facilities for temporary emergency care. I. Not required to provide documentation of current immunizations and health assessment for up to 60 days. II. Obtain as much information as possible about the children's/youth's health needs including any current medications being taken and any know medication, food or other allergies.
Kansas	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	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- 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 (CCA). Both contracts address homelessness education and outreach as part of these agreements. Outreach: Lead Agency accepts applications at local community-based locations <i>Partnerships with community-based organizations</i>
Kansas	3.3.6 Grace period	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 entering 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. 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. KDHE or The Kansas Department of Health and Environment consists of three divisions: Environment, Health Care Finance and Public Health, so it is the health agency for Kansas.
Kansas	4.1.8b Strategies to increase supply	The Lead Agency contracts with KCCTO for training and technical assistance through the Infant Toddler Specialist Network contract. KCCTO provides three intensity levels of technical assistance available to all programs and providers of child care services for infants and toddlers. At Level 1: Proactive/General Technical Assistance, resources include professional collaboration, linkages, information opportunities generally supporting development of core knowledge and competencies for the infant toddler workforce including health and safety requirements and use of the Kansas Early Learning Standards. At Level 2: Focused Technical Assistance is designed to enhance core knowledge and competencies and anticipate and meet licensing needs of new and existing programs and providers. Technical assistance at this level can involve developing and providing access to core training and resources that support a workforce training program or career pathway and/or short-term consultation or coaching to assist programs or providers in identifying training and resources available to meet their needs. At Level 3: Intensive Professional Development is based on a written plan developed collaboratively with an ITSN TA provider. Referrals can come directly from a program or provider, from DCF, KDHE or KCCTO. Technical assistance must target improvement of services to infants and toddlers through application of core knowledge and competencies in specified priority such as developmental delays or disabilities, English language learners, in tribal care, migrant or homeless , in foster care, in care during nontraditional work hours and in need of other special assistance and support. Level 3 technical assistance is guided by considerations proposed by Blasé (2009). Level 3 technical assistance will be geographically representative of childcare centers and family childcare homes in regions across the state.

Kansas	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	Lead Agency's identifies this topic as a CCDF priority course in the workforce professional development contract. At a minimum, the course must cover identifying, serving and providing resources for families experiencing homelessness under the McKinney-Vento definition. The course, Recognizing and Supporting Families Experiencing Homelessness, is available through our workforce professional development. Another course, Trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences, incorporates homelessness into this course to assist providers in finding strategies to develop resiliency in young children. ITSN specialists are available who have knowledge and skills to provide TA on serving special populations that includes homelessness.
Kansas	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	The state level interagency early childhood MOU has been updated and completed with agency signatures. It was developed to include the KSDE, McKinney Vento program. 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, staff participate in the Topeka Impact Project, where EES staff members are present at the community center to work with individuals on their applications and updates to their cases every Thursday. Employment Service staff help clients navigate to partners or talk about next steps in their employment preparations. 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 Wichita region also has staff on the Child Start Policy Council to provide monthly updates regarding DCF business and programs. Staff connects Child Start staff without-stationed workers to fulfill training and resource needs, and to answer policy questions. The KC region participate in the Impact KCK event where staff attend and participate. They also participate in Project Home with Shawnee Mission Schools and Impact Olathe with Olathe Schools. These events are outreach-connection events that provide holistic services and supports to those families identified by the McKinney-Vento school liaison. Families identified are then directed to specific staff for interview and overview of available services. KC Community Affairs staff also attend many community agency meetings and provide contact for any needed services that is identified for any household or agency staff. EES staff also provide direct training for programs, including Childcare, to community agency staff as requested. The training for the KC staff is hands-on. Bridges Out of Poverty Training is a common training for new staff within EES.
Kentucky		
Kentucky	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	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 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 the other documentation.
Kentucky	1.5.1 Combine Funds	Continued outcomes, as funds are available, include: Ensure access to childcare services for homeless children; Maintain qualifications and reliability training for licensing inspectors; Maintain a system for annual inspection of child-care providers to ensure compliance with licensing standards and regulations; Provide a comprehensive criminal background checks for child-care providers and childcare staff members; Continue to enhance current quality activities that relate to improving the quality of care for infants and toddlers; Maintain recent addition of initial 90-day job search to support workforce development and self-sufficiency of families; and Maintain a graduated phase-out of assistance for families whose income has increased at the time of redetermination.
Kentucky	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	Children experiencing homelessness: Prioritized for child care services Served without placing on a waiting list Income based sliding scale is utilized for assigning co-payments. 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.
Kentucky	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	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
Kentucky	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	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 the 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.
Kentucky	3.3.6 Grace period	During eligibility, families experiencing homelessness have a three calendar month period to return all verifications. Households that return all required information by 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.
Kentucky	3.3.6 Grace period	During eligibility, homeless households are placed in their applicable eligibility, but have a three calendar month period to return all verifications. To better serve our providers, we have a provision in our regulation that gives the providers a 30 day window to obtain the child's immunization report. We also have an exception for this, in that the providers are not required to obtain an immunization report on children that are attending public school or are enrolled in Head Start, as these are entities that already require the report. The lead agency is exploring the possibility of adding the immunization requirement to our current application flow which would require the Family Support Staff to communicate with the client the requirement. This requirement and available resources could be added to our Fact Sheet that the client receives with their application.
Kentucky	6.2.5a Training & TA for Lead Agency	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 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. Child Care Aware of Kentucky developed resource sheets with supports for homelessness specific to each region.
Kentucky	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	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, Head Start, and child mental health and other appropriate services. 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 months 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. All of this is outlined in Policy Manuals and eligibility staff are trained on all of the components listed above.
Louisiana		

Louisiana	1.4.1a 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 due to a family's homelessness. This integration is required to be documented in the local community's coordinated enrollment plan.
Louisiana	3.1.5 Eligibility Determination	A household shall be prioritized for funding if the household has members who are: 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; children actively participating in an early head start-child care partnership (EHS-CCP); or children of families involved in the response and recovery of the natural, man-made or public health disasters/emergencies such as children of essential workers.
Louisiana	3.2.4 Waive copays	The Lead Agency waives copays for families that are in our most vulnerable populations and are deemed categorically eligible according to bulletin 139. This is found in Bulletin 139 sections (507) "Certification for Categorically Eligible Households" including STEP and children in foster care. In addition, those that are in the EHS-CC Partnership households and homeless families also do not have a copay.
Louisiana	3.3.1 Increasing access for vulnerable families	The Lead Agency defines economically disadvantaged children as children living in families with a home income below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. The agency ensures copayments that are specific to income level and offers lower income families services at 100% reimbursement. In accordance with the sliding fee scale, families with income under 43% of the state median income have no copayment requirement. This ensures this most vulnerable population is least affected by copayments that may make affordable childcare difficult. Copayment is tiered from \$0 at 43% SMI, \$44 monthly for 44-59% SMI, and \$66 monthly for 60-65% SMI Additionally, services for homeless families, special needs children, and families participating in Findwork (STEP) program (very low income) are prioritized and not put on the waiting list.
Louisiana	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	Homeless children: Prioritized for child care services Served without placing on waiting list Waive co-pay
Louisiana	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	In the event of a disaster or public health emergency, any or all of the above prioritization or targeting methods may be used to support the identified populations. Specific to families experiencing homelessness, they are certified eligible and receive a 90 day grace period to secure eligibility documentation. They are also 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. Beyond the methods identified in the chart and previous two paragraphs, vulnerable children in Louisiana are prioritized during the community enrollment process. Each community in Louisiana is required to have a coordinated enrollment process. The goal of coordinated enrollment is to empower families with choice and easy access to high-quality options for early childhood care and education in their community, such that every child is on track for success when they enter kindergarten. The coordinated enrollment process in Louisiana communities involves four key areas: 1. Coordinated Information Campaign: Inform families about the availability of publicly-funded programs. 2. Coordinated Eligibility Determination: Ensure families easily know for which programs they qualify, and are referred to other programs if they are ineligible for their primary choice. 3. Coordinated Application: Use a unified application to collect family preferences regarding enrollment choices for publicly-funded programs. 4. Matching Based on Preference: Enroll children based upon stated family preferences.
Louisiana	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	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 state's homeless coordinator role is housed in the CCDF Lead Agency. The State's Homeless Coordinator, also known as the McKinney-Vento Liaison, works with local education agencies to coordinate these services. In addition, through coordinated enrollment and Community Networks to reach out to families experiencing homelessness. 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 Other: Lead Agency accepts applications at local community-based locations on an as needed or as requested basis (emergency shelters, community events, etc.).
Louisiana	3.3.6 Grace period	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 begin 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 housed within the Lead Agency and therefore, are under constant consultation. In addition, the Lead Agency has access to Louisiana Department of Health's LINX system to verify immunizations.
Louisiana	3.3.6 Grace period	State law and policy allow for a grace period for families experiencing homelessness to comply with reporting and documentation requirements of child care assistance. Such families can begin receiving child care assistance prior to producing such documentation, including the requirement for documentation of immunization.
Louisiana	4.1.9 Prioritized Investments	The CCDF Lead Agency increased child care assistance rates to providers (centers) statewide in 2021. These actions support providing assistance to families in areas of greatest need. In addition, every community in Louisiana performs a count of all publicly-funded children attending early childhood programs ages birth to five, organized by funding source, twice annually. These counts support community planning for funding and seats to serve the highest need families. Communities use these counts of publicly-funded children to plan for coordinated enrollment processes across all publicly-funded early childhood programs. Coordinated enrollment requires communities to reach and recruit families for publicly-funded seats, with a focus on the highest need families. Communities submit plans for how they will recruit and enroll these families, including families of children with special needs, homeless families, and families requiring language assistance. These counts and plans also inform the state's analysis of access gaps across communities, and support state-level planning for addressing access gaps statewide.
Louisiana	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	Providers receive training on identifying and serving children and their families experiencing homelessness during technical assistance training for providers, regional forums, and provider conference sessions. The CCAP homeless liaison also provides direct assistance to providers and families
Louisiana	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agencies	The Lead Agency attends regional and Departmental training on identifying and serving children and families experiencing homelessness. The Lead Agency is the Louisiana Department of Education which includes the State Homeless Coordinator who works with the 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 on the community resources available for them. The CCAP homeless liaison is trained and provides direct assistance to providers and families in accessing resources. In addition, through coordinated enrollment, Community Networks reach out to families experiencing homelessness and assist them in accessing community resources.
Maine		
Maine	1.4.1 Coordination with partners	The Lead Agency and DOE's Homeless Education Consultant (McKinney-Vento state coordinator) continue to have interdepartmental exchanges that require updates and coordination between the two departments including work on the initial PDG grant. Maine does not have a resource and referral agency. The Lead Agency in partnership with MRTQ/PDN takes place to reach goals pertaining to the website for locating Child Care Providers in Maine, child care consumer education organizations, and providers of early childhood education training and professional development. Recent goals have been to develop and provide access to trainings on Homelessness, Health and Safety topics, and access to statewide technical assistance (T/A) that include onsite consultation with the addition of District Early Childhood and Youth Coordinators (DCs) located in each Region of the State.

Maine	3.3.1 Eligibility determination	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 (20 U.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 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.
Maine	3.3.1 Eligibility determination	Very Low Income refers to when the Gross Income or Allowable Net Income, adjusted to Family size, does not exceed one hundred percent (100%) of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Children with special needs, who are homeless or who are from a family with very low income must be given 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.
Maine	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	Children who are experiencing homelessness are given priority for subsidy assistance
Maine	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	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
Maine	3.3.6 Grace period	A ninety-day (90) grace period shall be granted while parents are taking the necessary actions to comply with required documentation. Provide the citation for this policy and procedure. <u>10-148 Code of Maine Rules Chapter 6 CCSP Rule Section 3: Eligibility (B)(1)</u>
Maine	4.1.9 Prioritized Investments	CCSP families with children who are homeless, who come from low income families, or who have special needs receive a priority on the waiting list to ensure children who are at-risk have access to high-quality programs. Currently there is no waiting list for CCSP.
Maine	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	MRTQ PDN 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 for free and on demand. 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.
Maine	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agencies	MRTQ PDN technical assistance staff are trained on the components of homelessness as it pertains to ECE settings.
Maine	6.3.1a Training content	MRTQ PDN services are offered statewide to all areas of the state. Because Maine is a rural state with many areas with significant concentrations of poverty and unemployment, all of MRTQ PDN's Core Knowledge Trainings address working with children and families at-risk. An on-demand training addressing working with families and children experiencing homelessness has been developed.
Maryland		
Maryland	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The Division of Early Childhood's Office of Child Care Scholarship branch has a staff person assigned to the Homeless Advocacy Workgroup. That staff person shares information relevant to the provision of child care scholarship services to homeless families and works with the LDSS/vendor to expedite child care scholarship application processing. The goal is to strengthen services provided to, and advocate for, homeless families. In addition, an advocate for homeless children is an appointed position on the Early Childhood Advisory Council to strengthen and align the coordination of services, including child care for extended day and transitions, for the education of young children experiencing homelessness. McKinney-Veto is housed within the Maryland Department of Health and is an integral part of the state advisory councils.
Maryland	1.6.1 Public-Private Partnerships	PACT: Helping Children with Special Needs – Therapeutic Nursery - delivers high quality care and early education to children whose families are struggling with homelessness. The Nursery provides mental health and family support, developmental therapies, health care services, referrals and coordination of services in the community, and Family Traditions Groups. Both PACT: Helping Children with Special Needs – World of Care and PACT: Helping Children with Special Needs – Therapeutic Nursery- are affiliated with Kennedy Krieger Institute. The goals of this partnership are to provide: mental health and family support; developmental therapies (speech/occupational/physical); health care services; referrals and coordination of services in the community; and Family Traditions Groups. Further, through this partnership, MSDE leverages the services of the University of Maryland's Center for Infant Study, Healthcare for the Homeless and the Kennedy Krieger Institute to provide medical services and developmental therapies, and deliver health interventions specifically designed to improve parent-child attachment. Further, MSDE supports this partnership by: conducting annual/bi-annual audits; via observations and site visits; and attending quarterly meetings and training events. The partnership with PACT:Helping Children with Special Needs – Therapeutic Nursery was established as a result of a bidding solicitation. Activities include the development of individualized child care plans which address issues specific to homeless infants and toddlers who often demonstrate language delays, delays in development of imaginative play and difficulty in their attachmentrelationships.
Maryland	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	Children experiencing homelessness: Prioritized for child care services Served without placing on a waiting list
Maryland	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	A 60-day child care scholarship is issued to allow the parent to come in compliance with eligibility requirements. Once a parent comes in compliance with eligibility requirements, the parent is issued a 52 week child care scholarship. Outreach: Lead Agency accepts applications at local community-based locations

Maryland	3.3.6 Grace period	<p>Licensing has temporary admission to care regulations, which allow for a grace period to comply with immunizations and other health and safety requirements. Temporary Admission to Care</p> <p>1) A provider may temporarily admit or retain a child in care if the child's parent or guardian is unable to provide documentation of immunization required in A(2)(b) of this regulation.</p> <p>2) For a child temporarily admitted or retained in care, the parent or guardian shall present evidence of the child's appointment with a health care provider or local health department to:</p> <p>(a) Receive a medical evaluation to include if applicable, a lead screening test;</p> <p>(b) Receive a required immunization,</p> <p>(c) Acquire evidence of age-appropriate immunizations on a form approved by the office; or</p> <p>(d) Reconstruct a lost record.</p> <p>3) The date of the appointment, set to D(2) of this regulation, may not be later than 20 calendar days following the date the child was temporarily admitted or retained.</p> <p>4) A provider shall exclude from care a child who has been temporarily admitted or retained in care if the parent fails to provide documentation required by A(2) of this regulation within 3 business days after the date of this appointment made pursuant to D(2) of this regulation.</p> <p>While licensing regulations for child care programs give a 20 day grace period, the Child Care Scholarship Program allows an Immunization grace period of 60 days. The child is issued a child care scholarship during this time period to enable the parents experiencing homelessness to come into compliance.</p> <p>The Child Care Scholarship (CCS) Program issues scholarships to all school-age and non-school-age children applying for a child care scholarship. Any non-school-age child with a parent electing to use informal child care must provide proof of age-appropriate immunization. Any family that cannot produce proof immunization for a non-school-age child needing to use informal care will be issued a 90 day scholarship in order to come in compliance with this regulations. MSDE Consulted with DHMH about the length of time a family should be able to come into compliance. The CCS Program allows the public school and the child care program to enforce and monitor immunization compliance for all children enrolled.</p> <p>CCS Drafted COMAR 13a.14.02.(62) "Priority Placement means" assisting the most vulnerable population with access to child care by not requiring the applicant's household to be subject to:</p> <p>(a) Frozen status; or</p> <p>(b) Meeting full-eligibility requirements for up to 90 days from the initial CCS application submission for the following applicants:</p> <p>(i) Pending TCA;</p> <p>(ii) Customers pursuing court-ordered child support;</p> <p>(iii) Parents missing immunization records for non-school age children placed in an informal child care setting;</p> <p>(iv) Customers experiencing homelessness, engaged in an approved CCS activity, and missing all documentation required to authorize CCS services; and</p> <p>(v) Customers missing immunization records for foster care children.</p>
Maryland	3.3.6 Grace period	<p>We coordinate with regional licensing managers/specialist to make them aware of this priority. These representatives communicate this to child care providers that have a more first-hand knowledge of families experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Child Care Scholarship Program coordinates with the CCS Vendor and/or the LDSS to issue a 60 day scholarship to any parent that needs to meet the immunization requirement. This procedure enables the parent to access child care services while the immunization requirements are being met.</p>
Maryland	4.1.6 Grants & contracts	Maryland uses grants and contracts to increase the supply of child care to expand access for children experiencing homelessness.
Maryland	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	<p>Maryland State Department of Education provides specific training and technical assistance to all providers on identifying and serving homeless children and families. Training is provided through the Maryland Child Care Resource and Referral Network and Maryland State Department of Education 's approved training organizations. Information is provided to the approved trainers at quarterly trainer's meetings on topics that trainers are required to develop and make available to providers. Technical assistance is provided by the Maryland Child Care Resource and Referral Network and Division of Early Childhood staff to providers including providers serving children and their families experiencing homelessness on strategies for working with homeless families.</p> <p>Family Support Centers (FSC)- FSCs serve all children and families to support their individual needs and goals. When a family who is experiencing homelessness is referred to a FSC, an intake meeting is completed as well as a partnership agreement, where strengths and weaknesses are identified and goals are determined. The FSC will continue to work with that family to become stable.</p> <p>There are two FSC that are co-located with a homeless shelter and provide support to those children and families. Two FSC sites have partnerships with the local homeless shelters to provide services to families experiencing homelessness</p>
Maryland	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	<p>Maryland State Department of Education provides specific training and technical assistance to all providers on identifying and serving homeless children and families. Training is provided through the Maryland Child Care Resource and Referral Network and Maryland State Department of Education 's approved training organizations. Information is provided to the approved trainers at quarterly trainer's meetings on topics trainers should develop and make available to providers. Technical assistance is provided by the Maryland Child Care Resource and Referral Network and Division of Early Childhood staff to providers on strategies for working with homeless families. Through a contract with Maryland Family Network (LOCATE: Child Care) support families experiencing homelessness by connecting them to Child Care Scholarship programs and child care options.</p> <p>Based on the Scholarship program's policy & procedures, families with children experiencing homelessness are categorized as Priority 1 cases and are handled and immediately expedited to support the child(ren) in transition.</p>
Massachusetts		
Massachusetts	1.4.1 Coordination with partners	ESE, which sits within EOE, 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
Massachusetts	3.1.3 Eligibility Reasons for Care	EEC defines "protective services" as "any Parent authorized for a Child Care Subsidy based on a clinical decision by the Department of Children and Families, including foster care, or any parent who is unable to provide child care for any portion of a 24-hour day due to a situation of domestic violence or homelessness ; a physical, mental, emotional or medical condition; or participation in a drug treatment or drug rehabilitation program."
Massachusetts	3.1.5 Asset test	EEC waives the asset limit for homeless families, active TAFDC recipients, and for families with active protective services cases with DCF. See EEC Financial Assistance Regulations and the EEC Financial Assistance Policy Guide found at https://www.mass.gov/guides/child-care-subsidy-management-and-ccfa
Massachusetts	3.1.9 Documenting Eligibility	For DCF-related child care, applicants must obtain a referral from DCF, which verifies open protective services cases based on supported allegations of abuse or neglect. For DTA-Related child care, applicants must obtain a referral from DTA verifying an open cash claim for TAFDC benefits. For homeless families who want to use homelessness as a service need, in addition to the requirements above, applicants must obtain a referral from DHCD or DCF confirming residence in a shelter program, a referral letter from a non-DHCD or DCF shelter, or certification of McKinney-Vento homelessness. For teen parent contracts, in addition to the requirements above, applicants must verify participation in high school or GED program or receipt of high school diploma or GED and participation in any approved work, education or training program.

Massachusetts	3.3.3 Prioritization or targeting	Children experiencing homelessness: Prioritized for enrollment for child care subsidy Served without placing on a waiting list For Children with Special Needs: EEC provides funding upon request for assistance to children with special needs, including the funding of one-on-one aides. EEC also allows children with special needs to remain in care up to the age of 16. Finally, EEC allows full time care for a child with special needs even if the parent only has a part time service need. Children experiencing homelessness: In addition to prioritizing access through contracts for families in shelter through DHCD or DCF, EEC also prioritizes access to all families who meet the McKinney-Vento definition through vouchers. EEC also allows all families who meet the McKinney-Vento definition to use homelessness as a service need in lieu of employment, education, or training, and waives the asset limit for homeless families. For families receiving TANF: Massachusetts law, through the state budget, requires that subsidized early education and care shall be available to (a) recipients of transitional aid to families with dependent children benefits; (b) former participants who are working for up to 1 year after termination of their benefits; (c) participants who are working for up to 1 year after the transitional period; and (d) parents who are under 18 years of age who are currently enrolled in a job training program and who would qualify for benefits under chapter 118 of the General Laws but for the consideration of the grandparents' income. EEC is required to serve all children referred by DTA under category (a) above and such families do not pay a co-payment. Under EEC regulations, families transitioning off of TANF benefits, categories (b) and (c) listed above, are required to meet service need requirements, be below 85% of the SMI, and may pay a parent co-payment depending on income and household size.
Massachusetts	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	EEC allows families experiencing homelessness to be granted a provisional authorization to access child care if the parent(s) is unable to submit complete income verification at the time of initial assessment. 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
Massachusetts	3.3.6 Grace period	EEC child care licensing and funded program 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. Subsidy Administrators are then required under their contracts with EEC to provide referrals to MassHealth and other community resources to help families comply within the 6 month time period. 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. For any families unable to comply with child health and medical records requirements due to lack of health insurance, the Program shall provide a referral to the local MassHealth Enrollment Center for the purpose of linking the family to the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). No family shall be excluded from care due to paperwork delays beyond their control.
Massachusetts	4.1.7 Grants & contracts	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 DCF-Related child care, teen parent child care, and homeless child care , contracted providers receive an additional \$20 per day for support services. "Support services" include required case management/social services as well as transportation costs, if needed.
Massachusetts	4.1.7 Grants & contracts	Massachusetts provides grants and contracts to increase supply and improve the quality of child care for children experiencing homelessness.
Massachusetts	4.1.9 Strategies to support access	Through its Priority Populations contracts, programs awarded contracts to serve children in protective services, children of teen parents, and homeless children receive an additional \$20 per day. Additionally, EEC has implemented a 3% rate increase for any programs serving infants and toddlers through the child care subsidy program that have achieved a Level 2 or above rating in QRIS.
Massachusetts	4.1.9b Strategies to support access	Infants and Toddlers. 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, including a specific number of slots for infants and toddlers.
Massachusetts	4.1.9b Strategies to support access	Tiered payment rates. Through its Priority Populations contracts, programs awarded contracts to serve children in protective services, children of teen parents, and homeless children receive an additional \$20 per day. Additionally, EEC has implemented a 3% rate increase for any programs serving infants and toddlers through the child care subsidy program that have achieved a Level 2 or above rating in QRIS.
Massachusetts	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	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. In trying to respond to the growing needs of families with young children that may be experiencing housing instability or are already homeless during this pandemic, the HSSCO Director, and the MHSA Executive Director, worked closely with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) McKinney-Vento State Coordinator, to help address the needs of MA homeless families with young children. The HSSCO Director, the MHSA Executive Director and the ESE McKinney-Vento State Coordinator, developed and distributed a survey to better understand the immediate needs of Head Start and Early Head Start families and helping Head Start and Early Head Start programs strengthen their relationships with their local LEA Homeless Liaisons to serve the growing number of families that are experiencing housing instability. In August 2020, the HSSCO Director, the MHSA Executive Director, the DESE McKinney-Vento State Coordinator and the ESE Regional Homeless Liaisons hosted a meeting with the Head Start and Early Head Start Family Service Supervisors, Family Advocates and Program Directors to help build and strengthen relationships with local LEA homeless liaisons, learn more about accessing resources and what schools can offer and offer support to Head Start and Early Head Start programs to serve our most vulnerable families and young children. Mapping out Homeless Liaisons to Head Start & Early Head Start Programs In response to the Family Service survey and to create resources for the Head Start and Early Head Start programs and the ESE Homeless Liaisons, the HSSCO Director and the new HSSCO intern, worked with the DESE McKinney-Vento State Coordinator to update and map out all of the local ESE Homeless Liaisons with Head Start and Early Head Start programs. This resource was created to connect and strengthen the relationships with the Homeless liaisons and early childhood programs to assist in serving families/children that are experiencing housing instability or homelessness. The ESE McKinney-Vento State Coordinator invited the HSSCO Director to present the work that the HSSCO was doing in partnership with the ESE McKinney-Vento State Coordinator at the McKinney-Vento Grantee December 2020 statewide meeting. The HSSCO Director and the ESE McKinney-Vento State Coordinator will continue to work together to address homelessness in MA as the HSSCO Director serves on the ESE Educational Stability Advisory and the ESE McKinney-Vento State Coordinator serves on the HSSCO Advisory committee.
Massachusetts	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agencies	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. The Homeless Education State Coordinator has presented trainings to the Massachusetts Housing & Shelter Alliance (MHSA), the HSSCO Advisory Committee, and the HSSCO Homeless 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. Further, EEC is exploring how it may utilize the newly released Supporting Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness Interactive Learning Series webinars to train EEC staff on family homelessness and the McKinney-Vento definition of "homeless" as it refers to children and youths.

Michigan		
Michigan	1.4.1 Coordination with partners	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 GSQ 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.
Michigan	1.4.1 Coordination with partners	The goal of the CDC program is to support low-income families by providing access to high-quality, affordable, and accessible early learning and development opportunities and to assist the family in achieving economic independence and self-sufficiency. The CDC program is intended to promote continuity of care and to extend the time an eligible child has access to child care assistance by providing a subsidy for child care services for qualifying families. In order to ensure access to the most vulnerable of this population, 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 supplemental 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 and is determined on a case-by-case basis. Additionally, children experiencing homelessness and those placed in licensed foster care are determined under expedited processing and presumptive eligibility that waives most verification requirements temporarily. MDE meets regularly with MDHHS staff from child welfare/foster care to ensure the policies and practices in place or proposed are serving this vulnerable population.
Michigan	3.1.2 Eligibility criteria	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 supplemental 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.
Michigan	3.2.4 Co-pay waiver	Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 703, Child Development and Care (CDC) protective services, includes Children's Protective Services, foster care, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)/supplemental security income (SSI), migrant farmworkers, and homeless. These groups are income waived and co-payment waived.
Michigan	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	Children experiencing homelessness: Prioritized for enrollment in child care services Served without placing on waiting list, Waive co-payments (on a case-by-case basis).
Michigan	3.3.3 Prioritized groups	Homeless children, migrant farm workers, SSI recipients, foster care, children's protective services.
Michigan	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	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. 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
Michigan	3.3.6 Grace period	At application, applicants are asked whether the child is up to date on immunizations. 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. Child care subsidy requirements were aligned with TANF requirements to provide the most consistency for parents applying for assistance.
Michigan	3.3.6 Grace period	A cross-agency policy workgroup was designated to identify what immunization policies are already in place and where alignment across programs might happen in a way that would provide consistency to parents and children. The following policy areas coordinated their policy requirements of parents as it relates to children's immunizations: MDHHS; Child Welfare/Children's Services/Foster Care, Family Independence Program (FIP), Public Health Code (PHC); Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), CCLB; MDE, CDC. Additional support was provided by: MDHHS, Medical Assistance (MA) program; MDE, Homeless Education Program. Several areas were reviewed to identify potential alignment; changes were recommended in the following areas: vaccination schedule, grace period, waiver, and verification requirements. The recommendations include the following: Communications from all entities strive to allow room for physicians to provide guidance in the child's best interest, over and above those minimum State of Michigan vaccination minimum requirements. The Center for Disease Control and prevention immunization recommendations should be encouraged. Child care subsidy align with TANF subsidy in allowing families one year from the time it is discovered that a child is not age appropriately immunized to become compliant with immunization requirements. In an effort to prevent an additional burden on parents, it was recommended that child care subsidy adopt the same or similar self-certification as utilized by TANF and child care homes.
Michigan	4.1.8 Strategies to increase supply	Tiered payment rates. All age-eligible children whose family has a need, and the child is in foster care, the family receives temporary assistance for needy families (TANF), the parent or child receive supplemental 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 category and shall be considered without an income test, determined on a case-by-case basis.
Michigan	4.1.13 Prioritized investments	Michigan has implemented policy around CDC protective services for a child in foster care, a family receiving TANF, a parent or child receiving SSI, a parent who is a migrant farm worker, a child experiencing homelessness , or a family with an active substantiated neglect/abuse case. Additionally, children experiencing homelessness and those placed in licensed foster care are determined under expedited processing and presumptive eligibility that waives most verification requirements temporarily. Today, 1.4 million Michiganders (20% of children) fall below the poverty level, but more importantly, the United Way's ALICE Report shows that 43% or 4.3 million of working Michigan households struggle to afford the necessities like housing, childcare, food, technology, health care and transportation. https://www.michigan.gov/leo/0,5863,7-336-78421_97193---,00.html
Michigan	4.1.3 Prioritized investments	Michigan has implemented CDC protective services for a child in foster care, a family receiving TANF, a parent or child receiving SSI, a parent who is a migrant farmworker, a child experiencing homelessness, or a family with an active substantiated neglect/abuse case. Additionally, children experiencing homelessness and those placed in licensed foster care are determined under expedited processing and presumptive eligibility that waives most verification requirements temporarily. In addition, if a family chooses a 3, 4, or 5 star rated program the family contribution is waived.
Michigan	5.3.1 Prevention & control of infectious disease	A center that enrolls a homeless child pursuant to Michigan section 722 of the McKinney-Vento act will not be cited for noncompliance when a homeless child is unable to produce health and immunization records. Regardless of provider assignment, to be eligible for CCDF payments in Michigan, the child's parent must self-certify that the child is up to date on immunizations (shots) or that the child is not up to date based on a medical or religious objection.
Michigan	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	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 Resource Centers. In December 2020, we updated the data in the training and have a survey planned in April 2021 to allow current trainers to reflect on the content and the feedback received from attendees. In the fall of 2021, we will reconvene a stakeholder group with trainers, our McKinney Vento Coordinator, and several McKinney Vento liaisons to determine updates and next steps for a second training. Current trainers have connected and invited their local liaison to support delivery of the training. The state's Social Emotional Consultants (SEC) are qualified to complement and support the state's three-hour training, designed to identify and service children and their families experiencing homelessness. 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.
Michigan	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agencies	Our Resource Center staff that deliver the training were trained by the McKinney Vento (MV) Coordinator and several regional liaisons. They have built relationships with the regional/local homeless liaisons and coordinators and use those relationships to support their knowledge and competency around identifying and serving children and their families experiencing homelessness. Having the MV Coordinator located at MDE also allows for continued communication and support to ensure the trainers feel comfortable providing training and some technical assistance to the field.

Michigan	6.3.1 Professional Development	Our state developed McKinney Vento training on supporting families experiencing homelessness has content around families experiencing unemployment, food insecurity, and poverty. There are several great hands-on activities to reinforce these concepts. This training is funded by CCDF and delivered by GSQ Resource Center trainers. There are also privately funded professional development offerings in MiRegistry that support this topic.
Minnesota		
Minnesota	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The Department's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) coordinated with the Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness, local CCAP agencies and the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to design an expedited application process for families applying for CCAP. The process began in September 2020 and was implemented in Sept. 2021. In addition, the department established two grant contracts with local agencies that provide enhanced outreach and referral services for families to connect them to child care and CCAP. Another round of grants are currently in process. The Department has also developed training for child care providers on serving homeless families. It is delivered through the Child Care Aware system.
Minnesota	3.3.1 Eligibility determination	Children with special needs are those who due to a disability require specialized training, services or environmental adaptations. A disability is defined as a functional limitation or health condition that interferes with a child's ability to walk, talk, see, hear, breathe or learn. A special need may be any special medical, developmental, and/or atypical behavior or condition that requires additional support to help the child successfully grow and develop to his or her full potential. 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.
Minnesota	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	Child care subsidies are guaranteed to TANF families and families transitioning off TANF. 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. 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. Activity requirements are waived for three months and applications are processed within five business days for families experiencing homelessness if the family appears to be eligible. Indicate how services are prioritized for children experiencing homelessness, as defined by the CCDF. Check all that apply: (None of the below are checked). Prioritize for enrollment in child care services Serve without placing on waiting list Waive co-payments (on a case-by-case basis). Pay higher rate for access to higher quality care Using grants or contracts to reserve spots
Minnesota	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	Applications from families experiencing homelessness are processed within five business days of receipt, prior to receiving verifications if the family appears to be eligible. Children experiencing homelessness can be enrolled while required verifications are obtained. Families have three months to provide verifications. 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
Minnesota	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	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.
Minnesota	3.3.6 Grace period	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.
Minnesota	3.3.6 Grace period	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. https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/ed/homeless.html
Minnesota	4.1.9 Prioritized Investments	Minnesota's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) is funded to ensure that all families receiving TANF, families who recently left TANF due to employment, and parents under the age of 21 who have not completed high school or obtained a GED are prioritized and served without being subject to a waiting list. Early Learning Scholarships also address this priority, and all families under 185 percent federal poverty guidelines (FPG). DHS coordinates efforts and alignment of policy and priorities with scholarship staff at the Minnesota Department of Education. 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. 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: Child of a teen parent; Currently in foster care; In need of child protective services; Experienced homelessness in the last 24 months; or 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, and geographic region. Families must meet eligibility requirements as outlined in Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.165.

Minnesota	6.2.4 Professional Development Requirements	<p>Professional development requirements for licensed and certified child care providers are the same regardless whether the program receives child care subsidies. Minnesota developed requirements to meet federal requirements and address developmentally appropriate needs of all children in care. The Department of Human Services requires some providers to take training through the state's Child Care Aware training delivery system. Other providers are strongly encouraged to take training through the system but not required. Legal non-licensed providers who receive child care subsidies and care for at least one unrelated child must take training through the Child Care Aware training system. The department ensures that training through the state's Child Care Aware training system meets the needs of children of different age groups, English-language learners, children with developmental delays and disabilities and Native Americans through multiple means.</p> <p>Through grant contracts, the department ensures that training is available through the state's Child Care Aware or CCR&R training delivery system, as well as other training organizations, which addresses the knowledge and skills needed to provide quality early education and care services to children of different age groups, to children who are English-learners and children with disabilities. This training is available to all Minnesota child care providers, including those caring for children receiving subsidies. The department has also developed training which addresses the care and education needs of children who are English-learners. Through the services of the Center for Inclusive Child Care, a department grantee, multiple trainings are available related to providing care to children with disabilities and working with behavioral challenges. The Positive Indian Parenting Curriculum, which can be adapted to meet child care providers' professional development needs, is offered through the CCR&R training delivery system as well as through tribal organizations.</p> <p>The department has developed and supports the delivery of a 120-hour state Infant and Toddler Certificate which partially meets the training requirement for the nationally recognized Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) and for Parent Aware, Minnesota's Quality Rating & Improvement System (QRIS).The credential also fully meets all of the training requirements for Level One of the Minnesota Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Endorsement. as well as. In 2018, the Infant and Toddler certificate curriculum was expanded to a full 120 hours and currently meets all the training requirements for the national CDA.</p> <p>The department 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. The department will continue to use a Universal, Multicultural Instructional Design Framework developed through a contract with the University of Minnesota Center for Early Education and Development The Framework is a tool that: (a) reflects current and emerging theory and practice for supporting all learners and instructors;(b) supports instructors in valuing the knowledge and experience of the learners in addition to the content and activities in the curriculum; and, (c) supports a variety of early childhood learning experiences and audiences in order to be inclusive in training design and delivery. In 2018, the department conducted a study to examine the supply of and demand for training by child care professionals. The study used department administrative data as well as a survey to people who were minimally or not using the department's training delivery system in place. The results of the study were used to inform service delivery improvements and inform policy makers of availability, access and cost of training across the state.</p> <p>The department also provides funds to community-based organizations that work with family, friend and neighbor caregivers to provide training and other supports. Caregivers serving children from low- income families, families of color, Tribal communities, or families with limited English language proficiency are prioritized for these supports.</p>
Minnesota	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	<p>The Department of Human Services 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>
Minnesota	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	<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). The CCAP Policy Manual has guidance for county and tribal agency staff on how to identify families experiencing homelessness for purposes of determining eligibility for the expedited child care policy.</p>
Minnesota	7.1.2 Assessments	<p>As part of ongoing strategic planning, the Department of Human Services tracks measures connected to the goals listed below. The annual review of data informs of next steps needed such as additional analysis, stakeholder engagement or program improvement strategies. Examples of the ongoing assessment completed in the last two fiscal years are described below:</p> <p>Goal 1. Child care programs are of high quality and engage in continuous improvement. Some department Results Based Measures include: Number and Percent of Programs Rated, Number of Highly Rated Programs, Number of Racially Diverse programs Rated (FCC), Number of Linguistically Diverse Programs Rated, Number/Percent of programs whose Rating increased over time, Number of programs engaged in continuous improvements. Using these measures, and community engagement, the structure and amounts of grants for Parent Aware-participating programs were changed in SFY21. Additional stakeholder engagement with family child care occurred as part of the Family Child Care Task Force.</p> <p>Goal 2. Parents have information needed to find quality care and other services that support their child's success in school and life. Child care programs have information to support families. Some department Results Based Measures include: the number of unique visitors to ParentAware.org, number of completed searches on ParentAware.org, Percent of programs with rates on ParentAware.org. Besides the annual review of these measures, a formal assessment was completed by Child Trends in SFY19. The study looked at Google analytics including key terms used on the search engine, as well as community engagement with those using the site. he study can be found at DHS-7937A-ENG. Parts of the study will be completed in the upcoming fiscal years as part of the OPRE Research Partnership Study with Child Trends. Based on the first study, more targeted marketing occurred during key times of the year. Additionally, Minnesota contracted with NORC, University of Chicago who recently completed the National Survey of Early Care and Education Survey (NSECE) (SFY19). An expanded sample size for Minnesota will give us more information about how families are using care.</p> <p>Goal 3. Professionals working in childcare programs have the knowledge and skills to support children. Some department Results Based Measures include the number of approved training events, Number of unique courses trained on, number of persons attending events, number of professionals in our Registry system, number of professionals working in child care programs reached through financial supports, number of Results Based Professional Development Coaches, number of trainers, number of Professional Development Advisors. In SFY19, Child , Trends completed a full study (DHS-7758A-ENG) on the training delivery system. Based on findings, training opportunities were diversified, and a more collaborative approach on scheduling across the state was initiated. This study will be continued as part of the ongoing OPRE Research Partnership in the upcoming year, 2021. The supplemental NSECE FY19 data will also give us provide more information about the professionals working in child care. Additional information has been gained from the Family Child Care Advisory Council Taskforce (SFY20 - 21), and stakeholder meetings regarding the redesign of the Trainer Requirements (SFY19-20)</p> <p>Goal 4. Each and every child in Minnesota has the opportunity to access quality early learning opportunities that meet their individual needs. Some of our Results Based Measures we annually reviewed annually include the number/percent of young children attending Parent Aware Rated programs, and partnering with Child Care Assistance Program, the number/percent of young children receiving CCAP attending Parent Aware Rated Programs, including a review by ethnic groups, the number of child care programs reporting serving homeless children. We have a goal to reach 65 percent of this population in Parent Aware Rated programs, which we have now exceeded as of the end of our SFY20, with 68 percent of children in Parent Aware Rated programs.. This goal is directly tied to the number of programs, especially those highly Rated, As part of the OPRE Research Partnership, work as well as the NORC NSECE study, will help inform future decisions.</p>

Minnesota	7.10.1 Quality improvements	Quality funds are used to help child care programs implement the early learning guidelines through training, coaching, and consultation. Minnesota's early learning guidelines are the framework used across all quality improvement initiatives funded with CCDF funds. The guidelines are used by trainers, coaches and consultants to help early educators understand developmentally-appropriate expectations for children. For example, the guidelines are used whenever training, coaching or consultation addresses one of the following topics: child development, how to choose a curriculum, how to choose an assessment tool, how to plan lessons. Parent Aware, Minnesota's Quality Rating and Improvement System, is the statewide program for improving child care and early childhood program quality across Minnesota. It encourages and incents programs to use the early learning guidelines in lesson planning, to choose a curriculum or assessment that is aligned with the early learning guidelines, and to receive training on child development and how to use the early learning guidelines. The department's measurable indicators are listed below, including current data on how the State has met these performance measures: (SFY20) Parent Aware Rated Programs: (n Value – 10,134) Rated (#/%) : 2,821/28 percent Highly Rated(#/%) : 2,089/74 percent of those Rated The state of Minnesota prioritizes families experiencing homelessness to access child care via the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). CCDF Quality Dollars are being used in conjunction with prioritization and eligibility changes to better support families experiencing homelessness to enroll their child in a child care program and pay for childcare, including establishing CCAP eligibility. Activities such as outreach, meeting specific documentation needs required for CCAP eligibility, and supporting the mental and physical wellbeing of families who have a child care need are included in the services offered by grantees. The Department of Human Services CCAP partners with community based organizations to administer grant funds to support this population.
Minnesota	8.1.3b Internal controls	Department staff conduct in-person and online trainings for both department staff and members of other agencies that administer the CCDF program when program requirements involve major changes. In the fall of 2020, 8 trainings were offered in around the state to nearly 300 CCAP eligibility workers on program changes related to expedited child care for families experiencing homelessness. Online trainings are developed to enhance the in-person trainings or as a policy or program integrity refresher. The expedited child care training was recorded and made available for workers to access and review at any time.
Mississippi		
Mississippi	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	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.
Mississippi	3.1.5 Eligibility Determination	Priority to receive certificates will be based on whether or not a child falls into a priority population. Priority populations include: -Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients Transitional Child Care (TCC) recipients - Homeless children, as defined by McKinney-Vento Act -Children meeting the definition of Protective Service -Children served by the Healthy Families Mississippi (HFM) home-visitation program -Teen Parents -Special-needs populations, these clients include: 1. Children with documented special needs, and 2. Parent(s) with a documented disability -Children of parent(s) deployed by a branch of the U.S. Armed Services -Children of very low-income parents -Children of qualifying parents whose income is between 50-85% of SMI. Unmarried parents must be in cooperation with child support enforcement on behalf of each child for which they are applying for subsidy.
Mississippi	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	For children with special needs, co-payments are reduced to no more than \$10 per month. For children experiencing homelessness, co-payments are reduced to no more than \$10 per month, or waived if the family has no income. Children experiencing homelessness: Prioritized for child care subsidy receipt Served without placing on a waiting list Waive co-pays
Mississippi	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	Homeless children may be self-referred or referred by an agency and are a priority population receiving priority status in the event a pending funding list is in effect. If agency-referred, eligibility is determined by the Referring Agency. If the family has no countable income, income requirements are waived if eligibility is verified by the Lead Agency. If self-referred, eligibility is determined by the Lead Agency and income requirements are waived if the family has no countable income. Families experiencing homelessness are allowed a grace period to supply documentation. Children in this group are allowed a 24-hour grace period to supply immunization records. Once eligibility determination is complete, a family has a 24 grace period to supply immunization records after attendance with a provider has begun. 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
Mississippi	3.3.6 Grace period	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.
Mississippi	4.1.6 Grants & contracts	Mississippi uses grants and contracts to increase the supply of child care available to meet the needs of children experiencing homelessness.
Mississippi	6.2.4 Professional Development Requirements	The resource and referral sites and the Mississippi Department of Health (MSDH) provide professional development through workshops on a variety of rotating topics. In the upcoming cycle, several new topics will be introduced which will focus on the developmental and individual differences of children including, individualized training by child's age group, English-language learning and cultural differences. Training coaches will receive certification to be sensitive to children of all backgrounds and cultures represented in the state including families identifying with Native American, Hispanic, and Asian cultures. Resource & referral coaches will receive certification to be sensitive to children of all backgrounds. In addition, the Mississippi Early Childhood Inclusion Center (MECIC) at the Institute of Disabilities Studies (IDS) at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) provides trainings for child care providers to help enable them to identify children with special needs and provide appropriate care for those children. In addition to the direct service provided by MECIC, IDS serves as a resource to child care providers with disabilities by providing an array of programs to meet the needs of the individual including support for housing, transition to adulthood, wellness and recreation, and assistive technology. There will also be particular attention to children, families, and CCDF center-based and family-care providers experiencing challenging situations, e.g. homelessness, remote locations with limited transportation. To facilitate professional development for these groups, the Lead Agency, and its partners (MSDH, MECIC) will develop strategies for on-site or place-based professional development opportunities by utilizing local offices and trainers. The Lead Agency, in collaboration with the CCDF management team will develop specific professional development and technical assistance targeted to Family Child Care over the next plan cycle through the development of a Family Child Care Network within the state. The Lead Agency is also consulting with the Mississippi Department of Education to expand the offering of the specialized early childhood training currently offered by this agency. This training results in professional development hours and/or a specialization on a teaching license to allow for teaching in public PreK classrooms.
Mississippi	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	In October 2021, the Lead Agency will begin to use the course titled, Supporting Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness offered by the Office of Head Start Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center to train eligibility and call center staff. This course is designed for a variety of roles including Lead Agency staff. This course offers 9 modules that include how to identify families experiencing homelessness, conduct community outreach, etc. This course can be accessed at: https://edlkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/family-support-well-being/article/supporting-children-families-experiencing-homelessness The resource and referral sites offer topics to support providers caring for families experiencing homelessness. These resources 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.
Mississippi	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	The resource and referral sites offer topics to support providers caring for families experiencing homelessness. These resources 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.

Missouri		
Missouri	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The Lead Agency attends regular meetings with the City of St. Louis (e.g., Northeast Housing and Childcare Committee meetings with Economic Development and elected officials), participates in advocacy hosted legislative information sessions and, when appropriate, conducts outreach with other government and elected officials. The goal of participation in these activities is to provide increased transparency of the Child Care Subsidy program, identify challenges and celebrate successes. The Lead Agency partners with such groups to inform them of upcoming changes and listen to areas where improvement is needed. The Lead Agency will continue its coordination efforts by conducting outreach activities through public forums and informational meetings with various local government groups to identify challenges and gaps in service delivery, barriers to child care provider access, and to facilitate effective practices unique to local communities. The Lead Agency recognizes the value in collaborating with other social service agencies as well as child serving organizations including, but not limited to, local Head Start programs, child welfare organizations, homeless prevention programs, and local health departments.
Missouri	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The Lead Agency's homeless coordinator collaborates with state social service agencies through participation in the Special Education Advisory Panel and State Interagency Coordinating Council. These councils include members who are professionals working in the areas of health and mental health, preschool programs, community organizations and other agencies. One of the goals of these councils is to improve the provision of comprehensive education and related services to homeless preschool-aged children and their families. Additionally, the state homeless coordinator conducts at least two webinars each year and presents at a number of conferences (e.g., Governor's Council to End Homelessness, Continuum of Care, Federal Programs Conference, DHSS School Nurses Conference, National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Conference, and the Conference on the Young Years) in order to raise awareness on topics relevant to the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program. The state homeless coordinator and the assistant director of Missouri State Head Start Collaboration Office are participating members of the Governor's Task Force on Homelessness. The Lead Agency provides ongoing training to ensure all LEAs are compliant with the school of origin inclusion for preschool students and to ensure that preschoolers experiencing homelessness have equal access to public preschool programs administered by the Lead Agency and LEAs as provided to other children. The Lead Agency reviews and monitors preschool policies and practices of LEAs through the Tiered Monitoring System, including the requirement that LEAs ensure that homeless preschool-aged children are identified by school personnel. This includes children with disabilities under Part B of the IDEA or qualified students with disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Finally, the Lead Agency provides trainings on the Child Care Subsidy program for community organizations who serve homeless families. One of the goals for these community organizations is to have an understanding of the policies and the necessary documentation required for the Child Care Subsidy program so the organizations can assist families in the application process.
Missouri	3.2.4 Co-pay waiver	The lead agency waives co-payments for families receiving protective services from the DSS Children's division, for families experiencing homelessness or for children with special needs . Beginning June 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 the Lead Agency will waive sliding fees for all families.
Missouri	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	Special Needs: A child classified with having a special need is a valid need if there is no other traditional need for care in the household as long as a certified physician, psychologist, psychiatrist, licensed clinical social worker, licensed professional counselor, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant provides an annual statement verifying the special need for child care, as indicated in the Child Care Subsidy program manual at: https://dssmanuals.mo.gov/child-care-manual/2010-020-00/ . A child is authorized in the Child Care Subsidy program is based on the medical professional statement that includes the reason care is needed, the number of hours of care needed per day, the number of days per week child care is needed, and the anticipated duration of the need for care. Very Low income: For families with very low incomes, the sliding fee is no more than \$1.00 per child per year. The full child care rate is paid to the subsidy provider. Homelessness: Homelessness has been defined as a valid need for child care. A family claiming homelessness as a valid need must participate in a community-based program designed to eliminate the homelessness situation. Homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, Head Start programs, EHS programs, and other community based organizations may offer programs and resources to help families end homelessness. Eligibility specialists must verify that the eligibility unit participates in activities with the community based program. Verification may include, but is not limited to, a hard copy document or collateral contact verification or with a telephone call to the community organization to verify participation. If the family is participating in a community-based program designed to eliminate the homeless situation, child care is authorized up to 23 full-time units. If the child is a school-age child, child care is authorized based on the school schedule of the child. Authority to waive the sliding fee is outlined per Missouri statute (§ 208.046, RSMo) at: https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=208.046&bid=10967&hl=sliding+fee%u2044 .
Missouri	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	Children experiencing homelessness: Served without being placed on a waiting list Co-pays are waived
Missouri	3.3.4 Prioritized Groups	For all families receiving protective services from DSS Children's Division, for families experiencing homelessness or for children with special needs the Lead Agency waives the sliding fees. In addition, the child care provider is prohibited from charging any additional fees to the families.
Missouri	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	(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 23 full-time days while parents obtain documentation to verify homelessness. Legislation went into effect August 28, 2018, allowing for a 30-day grace period to allow families to secure immunizations or documentation of immunizations, as per Missouri statute (§ 210.003.2(3), RSMo) at: https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=210.003 . Providers were notified of the policy via email. (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, who serve registered providers, provide annual support group activities related to serving homeless families. (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. 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
Missouri	3.3.6 Grace period	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 child care. As noted above, § 210.003.2(3), RSMo, provides that "[s]atisfactory 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 and Senior Services". Missouri law does not require immunization records for child care programs that serve fewer than 10 children so this is not a barrier for enrollment.
Missouri	3.3.6 Grace period	Under the Office of Childhood, the Lead Agency will be the child care licensing agency. The Lead Agency consults with the Bureau of Immunizations to coordinate efforts and support families experiencing homelessness. Child care providers can access the appropriate information to share with the families enrolled in their program. The Lead Agency's Early Connections website at: https://earlyconnections.mo.gov/ , is designed specifically for parent and professional resources. On this site, under the Families tab, there is a link to the DHSS' Healthy Living website that provides information on immunizations. In addition, there is a link to a Directory of Local Public Health Agencies that provide immunizations for children
Missouri	3.4.1a 12 month eligibility	Families receiving Child Care Subsidy, either initially or as a redetermination, are determined eligible for a period of 12 months. Authorizations for child care are entered for the entire eligibility period. This policy can be found in the Child Care Manual 2020.005.00: Authorizations. Families are required to report any changes in income or temporary changes in employment, training, education, or homelessness. Families are only required to report limited, specific changes (child leaves home, income increase over 85% of the SMI, child care need has ended without further need, no eligible child remains in the home; eligibility unit has not paid sliding fees to a child care provider; or eligibility unit has an active claim and has not entered into a repayment agreement or the eligibility unit is not making payments on an agreement plan.). The eligibility system has been updated to only accept changes that would increase the family benefit. The eligibility specialist will disregard all known changes that are not required to be reported unless the benefit will be increased or until the eligibility unit reapplies for Child Care Subsidy. 2030.005.00 This policy can be found in the Child Care Manual 2030.000.00: Simplified Reporting.

Missouri	4.4.3 Payment practices	The choice for care is based on parental choice. Parents who are eligible to receive child care subsidy may take their child to any program that is registered with the Lead Agency and has an opening in their program. To increase the pool of available providers, the Lead Agency offers rate differentials to providers who serve more than 50% children who receive child care subsidy, have special needs children, have homeless children, and/or have an accredited facility. These rates incentivize providers to enroll children who receive child care subsidy. Parents may choose from licensed, licensed-exempt, or providers not required to be licensed, each of which offers different rate levels. Additionally, providers who are working toward accreditation and serve more than 50% children who receive child care subsidy, may also receive the rate differential.
Missouri	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	The Lead Agency's contractors in the Educare program provide support group opportunities to network with other programs, in an educationally-enriched environment. Support group networking opportunities occur at least once per month and Identifying and Serving Homeless Children and Families is a required topic for at least one support group per year. In addition, the Missouri Workshop Calendar offers training opportunities that can be taken as part of a child care provider's annual training requirement. The Lead Agency also provides training to community partners who support families who are homeless. These trainings provide an overview of the Child Care Subsidy program and how to help the family apply for subsidies. These community partners are able to communicate quickly with a family advocate and send applications to the Lead Agency for expedited processing for these situations.
Missouri	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	The Lead Agency's contractors in the Educare program provide outreach, technical support, and training to help with the identification and provision of services to families who are experiencing homelessness. The Lead Agency's homeless coordinator collaborates with state social service agencies through participation in the Special Education Advisory Panel and State Interagency Coordinating Council. These councils include members who are professionals working in the areas of health and mental health, preschool programs, community organizations, and other agencies. One of the goals of these councils is to improve the provision of comprehensive education and related services to homeless preschool-age children and their families. Additionally, the Lead Agency's homeless coordinator conducts at least two webinars each year and presents at a number of conferences (e.g., Governor's Council to End Homelessness, Continuum of Care, Federal Programs Conference, DHSS School Nurses Conference, National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Conference, and the Conference on the Young Years) in order to raise awareness on topics relevant to serving children and families experiencing homelessness. Staff in the Lead Agency complete a required diversity and sensitivity training regularly to increase awareness and educate staff to the various needs of those with whom they will interact.
Montana		
Montana	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The State Coordinator for Homeless Education is housed in the Montana Office of Public Instruction. This person is involved with the Advisory Council and closely collaborates with the Lead Agency regarding this topic. They bring expertise in early literacy, homelessness, Title 1, Part B and C and preschool programming. 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 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. 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. Results of this work include updates to subsidy program policy allowing for greater flexibility to gather documentation provided to families experiencing homelessness, and providing support to eligibility staff in R&Rs to support those families.
Montana	2.4.1 Information sharing	The Lead Agency's website provides information about child care services available, along with other programs that the family may be eligible. Our site has separate pages based on audience, so families can access a variety of resources and information about services that support families. Child Care Resource and Referral agencies share information with families in the following ways: Consumer Education information for families and providers in the following areas: Information about quality, quantity of child care services, and provider training opportunities or participating in Montana's QRIS system; Referrals include data on the supply and number of child care inquiries, the types of facility, and other personal preferences for child care providers; and Working with the state Advisory Council, Best Beginnings local coalitions, non-profits, and child care providers located in the CCR&Rs regions to increase supply of providers available for families. Community services available to assist families and providers regarding special needs including community availability of IDEA services, homelessness , immunizations, etc. Information is shared electronically, and through direct communications. Information about subsidy is also provided in brochures.
Montana	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	Special needs: If there was limited funding for child care assistance, a household containing a child with special needs or a child with disabilities 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 containing a child with special needs or a child with disabilities is listed as priority number two after a household receiving TANF. Families with very low incomes: If there was limited funding for child care assistance, Non-TANF households are ranked by household income as a percentage of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG). 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 Non-TANF household is the lowest priority. The household with the lowest percentage of income, relative to FPG, has the highest priority when funding becomes available. Children experiencing homelessness: 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. Families receiving TANF: If there was limited funding for child care assistance, a household receiving assistance funded by the TANF program while participating in employability activities that require child care 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 receiving TANF is the number one priority listed.
Montana	3.2.2 Prioritization or Targeting	Children experiencing homelessness: Prioritized for child care subsidy assistance Waives co-pays
Montana	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	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) agency are available to provide support for families experiencing homelessness by providing referrals to available community services and identifying child care providers that may meet the needs of the family.
Montana	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	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. 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
Montana	3.3.6 Grace period	The Lead Agency worked with the Public Health and Safety Division and Child Care Licensing 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. 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.

Montana	4.1.9 Prioritized Investments	<p>The Lead Agency defines areas with significant concentrations of poverty and unemployment based on various data and resources within local, regional, and state areas. The following resources are used:</p> <p>Census data - The Census and Economic Information Center provides current, easily accessible, and thorough economic and demographic analysis, maps, data, and expert assistance to meet the needs and requests of Montanans. Information regarding demographics, economics, education, energy, housing, and boundaries which also includes the American Community Survey is accessed through this agency.</p> <p>Montana Kids Count - Montana KIDS COUNT is the leading resource for data on child and family wellbeing in the state. They are a member of the national KIDS COUNT Network, and is housed in the Montana Budget and Policy Center. They are a non-profit, non-partisan organization that compiles data from public sources and publishes it online and in the Montana KIDS COUNT Data Book. Montana Kids Count also shares current, comprehensive data on child and family wellbeing in each of Montana's 56 counties. The data addresses six domains: demographics, health, education, family and community, economic wellbeing, and safety and risk behaviors.</p> <p>CCR&R Agencies - Each regional CCR&R agency submits a detail quarterly report to the Lead Agency. The report, among other data points, includes information on the caseloads of eligibility specialists. Eligibility specialist's caseloads are capped at 125 cases at one time and includes TANF cases. The number of TANF cases open or increasing can be an indication of a significant concentration of poverty in that region. The quarterly report also indicates the number of referrals for families experiencing homelessness in a region as reported through eligibility determination. If this number increases it can be an indication of a rise in families experiencing homelessness in a particular region which could indicate a myriad of other social determinates including a significant concentration of poverty and unemployment.</p> <p>Child Care Aware of America® - Child Care Aware® of America works with more than 400 state and local Child Care Resource and Referral agencies nationwide. Its vision is that every family in the United States has access to a high quality, affordable child care system. The child care system supports children's growth, development and educational advancement and creates positive economic impact for families and communities. The organization's mission is to advance a child care system that effectively serves all children and families. This work is strengthened by a national network of Child Care Resource and Referral agencies and diverse members and partners. To achieve this mission, the organization leads projects that increase the quality and availability of child care, undertakes research, and advocates child care policies that positively impact the lives of children and families.</p>
Montana	4.1.9 Prioritized Investments	<p>All programs that participate in STARS to Quality must serve a percentage of children with high needs based on their STAR level. Programs participating in STARS to Quality must serve a minimum 10% high needs children in their programs at STAR 1, STAR 2, and STAR 3. STAR 4 and STAR5 programs must serve a minimum 15% high needs children. This percentage is figured from the Average Daily Attendance (ADA) or licensed capacity, whichever is less. High needs is defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children receiving services from the following: Part B, Part C, Home Visiting programs, Children's Mental Health Bureau, Children and Family Services Division - Evidence that the child has special healthcare needs (such as food allergies, asthma, diabetes, special dietary restrictions, on extended prescribed medication, etc.) - Infants age 0-19 months (program must be serving this population, not just licensed for this population) - Enrolled Tribal member - Children of teenage parent(s) - Children being served through Best Beginnings subsidy - Children of migrant families - Children who are homeless - Other children as identified by the Early Childhood Services Bureau <p>CCR&Rs recruit new providers, and support providers to increase their quality in areas that have significant concentrations of poverty and unemployment, and that do not have access to high-quality programs.</p>
Montana	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	<p>The Lead Agency provides an online training for providers on identifying and serving homeless children and their families. Previously Montana utilized 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 but recently switched to a new course through the office of Head Start. The course is called, "Supporting Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness" 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>
Montana	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	<p>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.</p>
Nebraska		
Nebraska	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	<p>The McKinney-Vento program and the CCDF Subsidy program have met over the years to provide each other program overviews and updates. Representation from the McKinney-Vento has also participated in the state's ECICC council. When subsidy regulations changed, the Lead Agency notified the McKinney-Vento program that CCDF Subsidy now uses the McKinney-Vento definition for homelessness.</p> <p>Homelessness is now a need for services for families newly applying for child care subsidy, which allows families time to seek employment and secure employment while receiving full-time child care subsidy. The overarching goal between the Lead Agency and Nebraska's McKinney-Vento will continue to 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. Results will lead to increase access to child care for homeless families, which can assist in securing stable housing and employment.</p>
Nebraska	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	<p>Children experiencing homelessness: Prioritized for enrollment in child care services Served without placing on waiting list</p>
Nebraska	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	<p>Citizenship is verified through either a birth certificate or legally recognized documentation (i.e. Lawful Permanent Resident status or paperwork). Relationship verification is also required to determine child care eligibility. Citizenship is only required for the child receiving the service. The Lead Agency, when working with new applicants (homeless or not) born in Nebraska have internal access to Vital Statistics, which will verify these requirements. Declaration can also be taken initially and extra time allowed to obtain verifications, so long as the applicant is cooperating during the initial request. The Lead Agency will allow the amount of time it takes to obtain the out-of-state birth certificate request as long as the applicant continues to cooperate with the request. The child can begin services while awaiting this verification. The Lead Agency will request and pay for out-of-state birth certificates if the applicant needs assistance.</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>
Nebraska	3.3.6 Grace period	<p>The Division of Public Health, which administers the Child Care Licensing Services and the Immunization Program, determined that each licensed program must require the parent or guardian of each child enrolled in such program to present immunization records within 30 days of enrollment. This applies to all children, including children experiencing homelessness and children who are in foster care. The Division of Children and Family Services aligned subsidy requirements with the grace periods established by Public Health. Providers can direct families to the Lead Agency's Immunization Program website, with web pages specific for child care, children, schools, general public, etc. Resources are available on the website and direct contact to the immunization program is also available. 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.</p> <p>The regulation compliance review for licensing monitors if immunizations records are available for review, up-to-date, and were obtained within 30 days of the child's enrolment. The license-exempt compliance review also monitors proper immunization documentation.</p>

Nebraska	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	Lead Agency staff who may work with homeless children and their families receive extensive training on all Economic Assistance Programs offered by ACCESSNebraska. 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.
Nebraska	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	Lead Agency staff who may work with homeless children and their families receive extensive training on all Economic Assistance Programs offered by ACCESSNebraska. 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.
Nevada		
Nevada	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	CCDP has coordinated policy and processes with the Nevada McKinney-Vento Homeless Outreach program to facilitate and streamline the referral and application process for families experiencing homelessness.
Nevada	3.1.5 Eligibility Determinati on	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. 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.
Nevada	3.2.4 Waive co- pays	Families are not required to provide a copayment if they are Wraparound, Homeless, TANF NEON, CPS, or Foster Care, and, on a temporary basis, if they lost their job due to COVID-19.
Nevada	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	Children experiencing homelessness: Prioritized for child care subsidy assistance Served without placing on waiting list Waives co-pays
Nevada	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	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. 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
Nevada	3.3.6 Grace period	Immunization requirements for CCDP can be waived for 90 days and additionally through special consideration to the Child Care Chief.
Nevada	4.1.6 Grants & contracts	For OST/OSR, the rates were initially set through a funding formula that included geographical area, their average daily program attendance, and the free and reduced lunch rates of the schools in their service delivery area. This was multiplied by the working population and the result was the number of children that could be funded for each agency. Contract amounts were calculated by using the daily reimbursement rate for the geographical area, type of care, and age of child multiplied by the number of children to be served and then multiplied by the number of days in the year care was provided. This amount was dependent upon the total amount available per geographical area, which was determined based on percentage of overall need. Now, funding is based on this historical precedent, and will be reevaluated as funding comes available in the future. For Wraparound, the rates are set based on the 2004 reimbursement rate. For Homeless, CPS, and Foster, the rates are set by capacity and available funds. For children experiencing homelessness, grants and contracts are used to increase the quality of care.
Nevada	4.1.9 Prioritized investments	CCDP is currently targeting these populations through Head Start programs, One Stop Shops, and QRIS implementation. Parents who are participating in the TANF cash program, are homeless and at risk without services receive 100% subsidy (no copay) for 12 months to help the family secure stable employment. Head Start/Early HS services are also covered at 100% subsidy to support these families.
Nevada	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	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.
Nevada	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	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 online trainings offered by the Office of Head Start and Child Care can be approved by The Nevada Registry for child care training hours.
New Hampshire		
New Hampshire	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The NH Department of Education serves as the lead agency for McKinney-Vento. The goal of the coordination is to ensure that child care and Head Start programs have DOE and local school liaison contact information for making mutual referrals. Internal to DHHS, DES, BCDHSC partners with the DEHS Bureau of Housing Supports to provide consumer information/education to early childhood/school age programs and families via the NH Connections website Resources on Homelessness pages, which include information (including videos) on McKinney-Vento, what homelessness looks like, health and wellness of children experiencing homelessness, homelessness in NH, and resources for providers and families. Behavioral Health will partner to explore strategies to better support the child care/Head Start needs of children and families without homes over the next three years.
New Hampshire	3.1.5 Eligibility Determinati on	Each child for whom the NH Child Care Scholarship Program is requested must be a resident of New Hampshire; except for children of migrant workers who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described in the McKinney-Vento Act. Each child for whom the NH Child Care Scholarship Program is requested must also reside in the same household as the parent/caretaker relative/legal guardian who is requesting NH Child Care Scholarship Program, and must be a U.S. Citizen, or a noncitizen who meets TANF criteria for noncitizen eligibility.

New Hampshire	3.1.8 Procedures for documenting eligibility	At a minimum, the following information must be provided by the applicant at the time of application for each member of the assistance group: His/her full name, including maiden name, if applicable, and any other names used previously; His/her date and place of birth; His/her current address; and A description of the current household composition, such as whether the family lives independently, or with a relative(s) or others, is homeless, or if the child(ren) living with him/her is a foster child.
New Hampshire	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	A child experiencing significant special needs means a child through the age of 17 who has a verified medical, physical, developmental, educational and/or emotional disability requiring additional funds for accommodation or classroom adaptation in the child care setting, and children receiving preventive or protective child care through general funds. DHHS prioritizes these children by providing a differential payment to child care providers who certify that they need additional funds to care for a child experiencing significant special needs and that a physician, physician's assistant, advance practice registered nurse, licensed mental health professional or a SAU Special Education Director or Area Agency Director certifies that a child's significant special need requires additional support. For a child age 13 through 17 years of age, the physician, physician's assistant, advance practice registered nurse, or licensed mental health professional must certify that the child's condition limits the child's ability to care for him/herself or he/she would cause harm to him/herself or others without supervision. The payment is made weekly based on the child's full-time, half-time or part-time attendance. As noted in 3.1.6 i., the weekly differential payment was increased in 2020 from \$50 to \$100 for full time attendance, from \$30 to \$75 for half time attendance is \$30, and from \$15 to \$50 for part time attendance. Children with special needs receive the same eligibility priority as other CCDF-eligible children. Children receiving preventive or protective child care (supported with general funds, not CCDF) or who are within 92 days of transitioning out of preventive or protective child care are exempt from a wait list when the parent applies for employment-related NH Child Care Scholarship Program. Cost share may be waived for these families on a case-by-case basis. Child care providers who are serving children with special needs may receive specialized technical assistance to their program at no cost with the express intent of including children in the program and preventing suspension and expulsion. Families whose income is at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level who are not receiving TANF; and 2) Families currently receiving TANF benefits or are within 92 calendar days of TANF benefits ending. Families in the first category would be placed on the high priority wait list, when one is in effect, where they will be released twice as quickly as those families on the non-priority wait list. Families in the second category are guaranteed to receive NH Child Care Scholarship Program and are exempt from the wait list, when in effect. Currently there is no wait list in NH. 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 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.
New Hampshire	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	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 Program 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 Program. The legal guardian's income is not counted unless his or her own children are receiving NH Child Care Scholarship Program. 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, when one is in effect, and released twice as quickly from the wait list as other CCDF eligible families.
New Hampshire	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	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. In this instance, the family would be enrolled in NH Child Care Scholarship for 30 days while DHHS awaits the family's verifications. 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
New Hampshire	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	The Child Care Aware of NH include 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. Child Care Aware of NH created a TA Initiative titled, <i>Homelessness Identification and Assistance</i> . Child Care Aware of NH training and TA staff provides intensive TA on homelessness to child care providers through this initiative. The ACROSS NH contract, renewed in June 2021, also includes a requirement that training on homelessness is provided. The contractor has provided trainings entitled, "Afterschool - Summer Concerns: Homelessness and Hunger" and "Afterschool - Working with Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness." BCDHSC has fostered a cadre of liaisons to provide training for child care providers within their region around families experiencing homelessness. Child Care Aware of NH, the state's resource and referral contractor, has continued to provide ongoing staff attended trainings about homelessness to ensure staff are better able to identify families as homeless and provide them with resources such as family resource centers, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, etc. A dedicated resource tab on the NH Connection website for related to homelessness for providers and families. Additionally, NH DHHS, Bureau of Family Assistance District Office staff working with families to determine eligibility for the NH Child Care Scholarship Program receives training on identifying and serving children and their families experiencing homelessness. The Homelessness Task Force created brochure, "Are You In Temporary Housing and Do You Need Child Care?" for families 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).
New Hampshire	3.3.6 Grace period	Child Care Licensing Unit's Rule 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.
New Hampshire	3.3.6 Grace period	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 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.
New Hampshire	4.1.9 Prioritized investments	The State of New Hampshire, while not having a legislative definition, does define "areas with significant concentrations of poverty and unemployment" using these major factors, utilizing data available at the time of assessment: Those areas with 25% or more households that fall below the national poverty threshold (e.g., \$26,500 for a family of four) Those areas with overall poverty rates that are above the statewide average of 7.6% (e.g., Coos County at 13.1%) Those areas where more than 25% of households are accessing one or more of the following services: TANF, SNAP, unemployment compensation, and other social services Those areas where number of children under age 18 living in poverty is higher than the national and state threshold. Those areas where unemployment rates are below the state and national averages. Those areas where substance abuse, crime, and homelessness are higher than the state and national averages

New Hampshire	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	There continues to be a requirement in the Child Care Aware of NH contract 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. https://www.nh-connections.org/providers/experiencing-homelessness/ 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: 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. The ACROSS NH contract also includes a requirement to provide training on homelessness. The contractor has provided trainings entitled "Afterschool - Summer Concerns: Homelessness and Hunger" and "Afterschool - Working with Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness." BCDHSC continue to have a presence at NH's Annual Statewide Homeless Education Liaison Meeting and a role on the Homelessness Task Force. Efforts continue to be made to provide training for child care providers within their region regarding families experiencing homelessness. The Homelessness Task Force formal meetings were paused during the pandemic response, but are expected to resume in the fall of 2021.
New Hampshire	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	Child Care Aware of NH provides a resource page on the consumer education website (NH Connections) offering trainings, articles, videos and other resources to support both providers and the Lead Agency's staff ability to serve children and families experiencing homelessness. Additionally, when the Child Care Aware of NH 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 resources to families, such as family resource centers, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, state and federal financial assistance, etc. 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. Child Care Scholarship training is included in the New Hire curriculum, which newly hired staff view independently during Structured Field Time (SFT) on Moodle (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. 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.
New Hampshire	6.2.6 Training Content	Child Care Aware of NH offers several trainings for all providers that address caring for children in geographic areas with significant concentrations of poverty and unemployment. Recently, Child Care Aware offered the training "Understanding Homelessness and its Impact on Children and Families." Child Care Aware of NH also offers regional Collaborative groups centered on the challenges, including poverty and unemployment, in each region. Funding for these trainings is a blend of federal and state resources, as noted in iv.
New Jersey		
New Jersey	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The NJ Department of Agriculture, Division of Food and Nutrition administers the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). CACFP provides meals to children residing in homeless shelters and snacks to youth participating in after-school programs. These meals are vital to the children in child care settings. The child care program and the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are both under the authority of DHS/DFD. At the State level, joint meetings between the two programs are held regularly with the goals of improving coordination in the delivery of services, sharing information about policy and program changes, and collaborating to achieve shared goals. Both programs are county administered; SNAP is managed by the local Boards of Social Services, and child care through the CCR&Rs. The two agencies have a close working relationship. Two CCR&Rs are within county government; some CCR&Rs are co-located within the county boards of social services, while the majority are community-based agencies that offer additional supportive services to the same families receiving child care assistance. Additionally, in many instances, CCR&Rs also serve as the vendors for the Child Care Food Program (CCFP). A major role of the CCR&Rs is to encourage Family Child Care Providers to participate in CACFP. At the local level that are several coordinate efforts, which effect seamless and streamlined processes for child care services. During the intake process across both agencies, families are informed and screened for both SNAP and child care. DHS/DFD also coordinates child care services through the integration of Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT). Families that receive both SNAP and child care can use the same benefit card to access services and benefits. This cross functional process helped to identify families with children eligible for the COVID-19 Pandemic-EBT food assistance program quickly.
New Jersey	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The McKinney-Vento homeless liaison is housed within the Department of Education and is part of the DHS/DFD Child Care Advisory Group. In 2019, DHS/DFD assembled a workgroup comprised of local government, homeless services providers, a shelter operator representative, CCR&Rs, Head Start State Collaborator, as well as the DOE McKinney-Vento homeless liaison to develop a policy to make access to child care easier for families experiencing homelessness. McKinney-Vento liaisons provided training to CCR&Rs to provide better support and more effectively serve families experiencing homelessness. Additionally, DHS/DFD provided technical assistance to the CCR&Rs regarding policy implementation and how to help community-based homeless service agencies understand how to assist families' access child care services quickly. The workgroup involvement contributed to a new policy in alignment with DOE and Head Start, (i.e., priority group and services) and led to statewide standardized practice across CCR&Rs related to outreach, collaboration, coordination and referrals to and from social service agencies, and shelters.
New Jersey	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	Children experiencing homelessness: Prioritized for enrollment in child care services Waive co-pays
New Jersey	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	The applicant can self-attest on the child care application, or a social service agency can complete the McKinney-Vento Intake Form (CC213) and submit to the CCR&R which permits enrollment and a grace period of up to six months to gather the required documentation (DFDI 190502). DHS/DFD has consulted with the New Jersey State Coordinator of Education for Homeless Children & Youth Programs to ensure that DHS/DFD has information on the full range of child care services. DFD also posts child care information on its website and distributes information to partners and stakeholders. 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
New Jersey	3.3.6 Grace period	Children experiencing homelessness are provided with a 30 day grace period in alignment with Department of Health regulations. Parents either self-identify as homeless or CCR&Rs notify parents that they have been identified as meeting the definition of homeless as per the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and of their priority status as it relates to child care subsidy eligibility. CCR&Rs provide technical assistance to licensed and registered providers servicing families experiencing homelessness to ensure they are aware of New Jersey's immunization policy. For foster children, the Division of Child Protection and Permanency notifies the parent of the grace period to comply with immunization requirements. The New Jersey Department of Health sets the length of the grace period at 30 days, as per N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.5(e).
New Jersey	3.4.2a Job search	For applicants who self-identify as being homeless or who are referred by a service provider, meet the McKinney-Vento definition for homelessness, and are unable to provide the required employment documentation, the employment verification is waived and job search activity is granted a grace period of up to six (6) months to establish eligibility while their child receives child care services. Applicants will have until the end of the grace period to establish eligibility by submitting the proof that the applicant meets program eligibility requirements. The case will be re-determined using (25hrs /250% FPL) criteria for a twelve (12)-month eligibility period. This procedure applies at initial eligibility determination and redetermination of eligibility

New Jersey	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	Coordination and partnerships with local service providers that work with children experiencing homelessness, is a required standard through DHS/DFD's contract with service providers. McKinney-Vento liaisons, provide awareness and sensitivity training to CCR&Rs in the effort to support providers working with families experience homelessness. Additionally, DHS/DFD is in the process of building 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. Once trained, DHS/DFD contracted service agencies, will also be responsible for delivering targeted technical assistance to support child care providers to identify homeless families they work with and refer them to child care services.
New Jersey	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agencies	DHS/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. DHS/DFD required elements of the CCR&Rs outreach plan include: - 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: 1. Identifying children and youth experiencing homelessness; and 2. Ensuring that children experiencing homelessness can enroll immediately and participate fully in school and child care DHS/DFD partners with CCR&Rs to identify and prioritize homeless children and families. CCR&Rs work closely with homeless shelters to ensure families in need of child care are identified and receive support services. Technical assistance is provided by the CCR&Rs to homeless shelters servicing families access child care services, and understand the federal definition of homelessness. Some CCR&Rs are members of their County Continuum of Care (CoC) to end homelessness and have MOUs with the local McKinney Vento liaisons and participate in annual training. Technical assistance and training is provided through DHS/DFD various quality service provider contracts to ensure child care providers receive the support needed to best meet the needs of families and children experiencing homelessness, as well as the array of supports that families may need (e.g., early childhood mental health consultation or other services related to supporting children).
New Mexico		
New Mexico	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The Lead Agency oversees the New Mexico Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO). The HSSCO Director serves as a liaison between Head Start Programs, state agencies, and other agencies within the community. The following coordination goals were developed based on the results of the Annual Report and Annual Head Start Needs Assessment (https://www.nmcecd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/NM-Head-Start-Annual-Needs-Assessment-Report-2021.pdf): (1) Implement and launch the media plan for the Opioid/Substance Misuse campaign; (2) Increase participation of Tribal Head Start programs in state initiatives; (3) Increase oral health promotion with the support of Oral Health Liaison from the Department of Health; (4) Strengthen collaboration with tribal and non-tribal social welfare programs; (5) Develop an MOU/MOA with the NM Head Start Association; (6) Deepen collaboration with the new Migrant Seasonal Head Start grantee; (7) Host the first New Mexico Transition Summit by Summer of 2021; (8) Increase Infant Mental Health Consultation; and, (9) Strengthen collaboration with state McKinney-Vento Liaison to support families experiencing homelessness. The HSSCO Director resides within ECECD and engages with the child care team regularly. As ECECD oversees the collaboration office and child care, coordination is naturally integrated into the Department's goals. In some instances, Head Start grantees also provide wrap-around care as a child care provider, again supporting organic opportunities for collaboration and coordination.
New Mexico	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The Lead Agency partners with state McKinney-Vento liaisons within the Public Education Department to improve access to child care services for homeless children. Coordination goals entail working jointly to improve access to services and addressing the unique needs of homeless children and their families. The Head Start State Collaboration Director held monthly meetings with McKinney-Vento liaisons to develop a joint process for referrals and outreach. The Lead Agency distributed program brochures to liaisons to support their referral and outreach efforts. A survey of liaisons was also conducted to gauge the level of awareness of the CCDF and child care assistance.
New Mexico	2.5.1 Information on Developmental Screenings	Regulation: 8.9.8.10 NMAC Early intervention (Part C) provider agencies shall collaborate with the New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department and other state, federal and tribal government agencies in a coordinated child find effort to locate, identify and evaluate all children residing in the state who may be eligible for early intervention services. Child find efforts shall include families and children in rural and in Native American communities, children whose family is homeless, children in foster care and wards of the state, and children born prematurely. Early intervention provider agencies shall collaborate with the New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department and shall inform primary referral sources regarding how to make a referral when there are concerns about a child's development. Primary referral sources include: hospitals; prenatal and postnatal care facilities; physicians; public health facilities; child care and early learning programs; school districts; home visiting programs; homeless family shelters; domestic violence shelters and agencies; child protective services, including foster care; other social service agencies and health care providers. Early intervention provider agencies in collaboration with the New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department shall inform parents, medical personnel, local education agencies and the general public of the availability and benefits of early intervention services. This collaboration includes an ongoing public awareness campaign that is sensitive to issues related to accessibility, culture, language, and modes of communication. The following procedure is used for developmental screenings: (1) A developmental screening for a child who has been referred may be conducted using a standardized instrument to determine if there is an indication that the child may have developmental delay and whether an evaluation to determine eligibility is recommended. (2) A developmental screening should not be used if the child has a diagnosis that would qualify them under established condition or biological medical risk or where the referral indicates a strong likelihood that the child has delay in their development, including when a screening has already been conducted. (3) If a developmental screening is conducted: (a) the written consent of the parent(s) must be obtained for the screening; and (b) the parent must be provided written notice that they can request an evaluation at any point during the screening process. (4) If the results of the screening: (a) Do not indicate that the child is suspected of having a developmental delay, the parent must be provided written notice of this result and be informed that they can request an evaluation at the present time or any future date. (b) Do indicate that the child is suspected of having a developmental delay, an evaluation must be conducted, with the consent of the parent(s). The 45-day timeline from referral to the completion of the initial IFSP and all of the referral and intake requirements of this rule must still be met.
New Mexico	3.2.4 Co-pay waiver	Co-payments are paid by all clients receiving child care assistance benefits, except for at-risk child care and qualified grandparents or legal guardians as defined by the Lead Agency. "At-risk child care" means a program for families at-risk as determined by the Department (e.g., homeless or families referred by Child Protective Services). In addition, under approved waivers during a disaster or state emergency, ECECD may waive co-payments for families enrolled in the CCDF Child Care Assistance program. ECECD is currently waiving co-payments under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act fund for income eligible families through June 30, 2022.
New Mexico	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	If a family is identified as at-risk, they may be prioritized and targeted as eligible under the at-risk priority and the family may be exempt from income, work/education requirements, and co-payments waived. Families experiencing homelessness are targeted by working closely with Homeless Education liaisons within the Local Education Agency to provide child care services. Children experiencing homelessness: Prioritized for enrollment in child care subsidy services Served without placing on waiting list Waives co-pays
New Mexico	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	As outlined in 8.16.2.22[E](1)(e) NMAC, the Lead Agency 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. ECECD will work with families experiencing homelessness to obtain missing immunization records by coordinating with Homeless Education liaisons when appropriate. Families experiencing homelessness may be served through the at-risk category. The income, work, and education requirements and co-payments are waived for clients in the at-risk category. This allows the family 12 months to acquire all required documentation.

New Mexico	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	The Lead Agency meets regularly with the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness (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 twofold: to provide input in each other's implementation plans and include processes for ongoing collaboration and communication. In addition, ECECD works with the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) McKinney-Vento representative to collaborate on providing outreach to families experiencing homelessness. This includes posters, flyers, referrals, brochures, posting on ECECD and PED websites, and mutual webinars. There are two child care centers in New Mexico that serve the homeless population (Albuquerque and Las Cruces). 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
New Mexico	3.3.6 Grace period	ECECD 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. ECECD will work with homeless families to obtain missing immunization records by coordinating with Homeless Education liaisons when appropriate
New Mexico	3.3.6 Grace period	The Lead Agency coordinates with the Public Education Department homeless liaison and the Department of Health Immunization Program to provide support to help families with children receiving services during a grace period to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements. Licensing staff are members of the Department of Health's Vaccine Advisory Committee which provides annual recommendations with regard to School and Daycare Immunization Requirements. The Department of Health administers a Statewide Immunization Information System (NMSIIS) which is a confidential, computerized repository of individual immunization records that integrates information from birth and death records, public and private healthcare providers, and parental records. The Lead Agency has coordinated with the Department of Health to provide child care providers access to NMSIIS.
New Mexico	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	New Mexico currently does not have specific training focused on identifying and serving children and their families experiencing homelessness. When needs for support are identified, the child care provider may contact ECECD to be connected to a consultant, if not already connected. ECECD staff also coordinate with the McKinney Vento liaisons within the public schools for additional support. ECECD is partnering with the Public Education Department's State Coordinator for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth to develop a training program. The partnership will also include a focus on planning more intentional supports and technical assistance for child care providers who serve children and families experiencing homelessness.
New Mexico	6.2.5b Training & TA for lead agency	Many families experiencing homelessness qualify for child care assistance through at-risk child care. ECECD partners with the state McKinney-Vento liaisons within the Public Education Department to improve access to child care services for homeless children. These collaborative efforts entail working jointly to improve access to services and addressing the unique needs that arise for homeless children and their families. Referral processes are in place for staff liaisons to coordinate services. ECECD has designated staff to process such referrals and provide outreach as needed. Recently, the McKinney Vento State Liaison Coordinator and the Head Start State Collaboration Director met to develop a plan to support these efforts. In addition, the partnership will focus on identifying training opportunities for staff from ECECD to enhance supports provided to children and families experiencing homelessness.
New York		
New York	1.3.1 No harm in delay of narrow cost waiver	OCFS certifies that the health, safety, and well-being of children served through CCDF will not be compromised as a result of the one-year waiver for the Narrow Cost Analysis. During the one-year waiver period, payment rate maximums will stay the same and this will not compromise the health and safety of children. OCFS's child care subsidy payment rates are set at a high level, the 69th percentile of the most recently conducted MRS from 2017-18, close to the 75th percentile benchmark for equal access. In addition, differential payments are available for care during non-traditional hours, care by accredited providers, and care for families experiencing homelessness. The one-year waiver means that payment rates will not change over this year. OCFS has sought to expand payments during the pandemic by offering counties the ability to waive certain regulations, including expanding payments for absences and waiving the family share co-payment. These regulatory waivers have resulted in lower out-of-pocket costs for many families, coupled with increased and/or more stable payments for providers. Note: 69th percentile of 2017-2018 market rate survey.
New York	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The NY Head Start Collaboration Director has shared resources developed for Head Start programs that can be useful to LDSSs in their efforts to identify families who are homeless and to providers who serve children who are homeless with the goal - shared by OCFS - of increasing access to a child care setting that provides support and continuity of care to children experiencing the trauma of not having a stable home. In addition, the Lead Agency and the Head Start Collaboration Director continue to work together on supporting implementation of the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership grants.
New York	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	OCFS works 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. Efforts to prioritize homeless families for child care subsidies, and help child care providers better meet the developmental needs of children who are homeless remain as priorities. Lead Agency staff will consult with the McKinney-Vento liaison to continue work related to coordination of goals and process. The Lead Agency will continue to participate in the ECAC Supporting Families who are Homeless Workgroup.
New York	3.2.4 Co-pay waiver	415.3(e)(1) provides that families receiving Temporary Assistance, families experiencing homelessness, and families caring for children in foster care must not be required to pay a family share for child care services. A proposed amendment to 415.3(e)(1) was filed on July 19, 2021 as part of a notice of proposed rulemaking and published in the NYS register on August 4, 2021. If adopted, this amendment would add families where child care assistance is provided to a child as a protective or preventive service, or when such assistance is provided to a child where the child care services unit is comprised of the eligible child(ren) only.
New York	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	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. Some TANF families participating in employment or required activities are guaranteed child care. The co-pay is waived for families on TANF. For these families transitioning off TANF due to increased income or child support are guaranteed child care for 12 months after their TANF case has closed provided they meet financial and programmatic requirements. Employed families that are eligible for TANF but request child care assistance in lieu of TANF are also guaranteed child care as long as they remain eligible for TANF. As they become financially ineligible for TANF, these families are guaranteed child care assistance for 12 months provided they meet financial and programmatic requirements. Children experiencing homelessness: Prioritized for child care subsidy services Waive co-pays
New York	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	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. 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
New York	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	The statewide network of Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (CCR&Rs) addresses the needs of, and provides intervention and prevention services for families experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness. CCR&Rs prioritize responses to specific child care requests related to children who are homeless. CCR&Rs coordinate their services with many other community agencies assisting families experiencing homelessness 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 children and families experiencing homelessness. Additionally, LDSSs develop local strategies to coordinate community outreach and provision of services to families who are homeless. For example, the NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) has, in close collaboration with the NYC 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.

New York	3.3.6 Grace period	Section 2164(7)(a) of the NYS Public Health Law (PHL) allows children, including children experiencing homelessness 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.
New York	4.3.3 Differential rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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.
New York	4.5.2 Charging above the co-pay	OCFS policy requires families to pay additional amounts when a provider's private pay rate exceeds the maximum child care subsidy payment rate. OCFS believes this policy promotes access because providers do not automatically forgo their full price by virtue of enrolling subsidized children in their programs. Furthermore, maximum child care subsidy payment rates are calculated at the 69th percentile of the 2017-18 Market Rate Survey (MRS), allowing families to access roughly 7 out of 10 providers without having to pay additional amounts. OCFS also has several differential payment options (non-traditional hours, accreditation, serving families experiencing homelessness), which raise subsidy payments and reduce the need for and amount of additional payments, when applicable. For those families who select a provider with rates above the subsidy payment rate ceilings, if the provider has a contract with the LDSS, typically the contract would include an agreed upon payment rate no greater than the maximum subsidy reimbursement rates, and as such the family would not be expected to pay any additional amount, thereby increasing affordability and access. Data are not available at the case-level on the interaction between required family co-payments, additional amounts charged by providers and current subsidy payment rates. However, the available data suggest that current maximum subsidy payment rates are sufficient to provide access to care without additional fees for most families. It is anticipated that affordability of care, even if it requires an additional payment by the family, will further increase effective April 16, 2021 with OCFS's family share policy change limiting the copayment to a maximum of 10% of the family's income that exceeds the federal poverty level.
New York	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	<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 Professional Development Program website (www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu). In addition, TA customized to a provider and families specific situation is available to providers by contacting their licensureregistrar as well as through inspection visits. New York State Public Health Law (PHL) allows children, including children who are homeless 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. <p>LDSSs have the discretion to establish the 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) provides for a differential payment rate for families experiencing homelessness and sets 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, 19-OCFS-LCM-23, https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/policies/external/OCFS_2019/https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/policies/external/ocfs_2019/LCM/19-OCFS-LCM-23.pdf.
New York	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	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. OCFS also collaborated with other partners as part of an ECAC workgroup to develop a guide for Early Care and Education Services in New York State for Young Children Experiencing Homelessness. This can be found on the OCFS web site at: https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/assets/NYS-Services-for-Young-Children-Experiencing-Homelessness.pdf .
North Carolina		
North Carolina	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	<p>Four coordination goals NC DCDEE has with the Office of Head Start include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Include NC Pre-Kindergarten programs and programs that have completed technical assistance(TA) with the statewide TA Specialist using the Self-Assessment Tool for Early Childhood Programs Serving Families Experiencing Homelessness on the Head Start Referral Application for Children Experiencing Homelessness. 2) Collaborate with Head Start in outreach to plan where each entity will create children sub-committees of Continuum of Cares to not duplicate efforts. 3) include Head Start programs in PDG Activity 4.2 Transition to Kindergarten work. 4) include Head Start on local Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) teams to ensure coordination for trainings, transition plans, local agreements, and mental health services. <p>Process: Goals will be achieved through, as needed, meetings with a newly hired statewide TA Specialist, DCDEE, the state McKinney Vento Coordinator, Head Start and ESSA Team.</p> <p>Results: NC Pre-Kindergarten programs uploaded on the Head Start Referral Application for Children Experiencing Homelessness. Programs completed TA using the Self-Assessment Tool for Early Childhood Programs Serving Families Experiencing Homelessness with the Statewide TA Specialist will be uploaded on the Head Start Referral Application for Children Experiencing Homelessness. NC DCDEE and Head Start will keep a spreadsheet on a shared drive which will document locations of Continuums of Care sub-committees to support children and locations of Head Start county collaborations which support families experiencing homelessness. Head Start will be included in the 18 communities implementing a transition plan which will provide child observation data to future kindergarten teachers. Head Start data will be included in the NC Early Childhood Integrated Data System Head Start will be included in coordination achieved through ESSA.</p>

North Carolina	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	NC DCDEE participates in the NC Yay Babies Initiative with state McKinney Vento coordination staff to increase early intervention and early education services delivered to children birth to 5 years experiencing homelessness. Current coordination goals are to ask the McKinney-Vento state coordinator to provide feedback for the CCDF Plan on activities related to homelessness, make data recommendations to the NC Early Childhood Action Plan and collaborate to work on homeless support activities which are a part of the Preschool Development Grant and Yay Babies work. Additionally, NC DCDEE is coordinating with the McKinney-Vento state coordinator on the inclusion of NC Prekindergarten programs and programs that have completed specialized technical assistance related to supporting families experiencing homelessness on the Head Start referral application which will be used by homeless education liaisons to refer parents experiencing homelessness to child care programs. The process for coordination will be emails and meetings with the McKinney Vento coordination staff, and the results are the number of NC Pre-Kindergarten programs and programs completing specialized TA listed on the referral application and the number of joint projects completed (Eg. jointly provided trainings).
North Carolina	2.3.1 Information	The Division's website offers several features which make it consumer friendly and easily accessible. A wide range of users, including parents, providers and the general public will find information needed within a few clicks. Users, whether on a computer, mobile phone, tablet or other device can search for a child care program, review resources, access webmaster email and search an employee directory. A significant tool on the consumer education website is the Child Care Facility Search site. Beginning with a plain language introduction for users on how to use the tool and interpret visit summaries, it proceeds to provide information about specific child care programs to assist families in making decisions about child care, including information on the program's star-rated license and regulatory visit summary information. The search function is robust, so that a user can enter a word and the site bring back results to help them refine their search. Providers can toggle to the Spanish version of the tool. The responsive web design has been built from the ground up to accommodate all modern, web-enabled devices; including smartphones, tablets, laptops, desktops, digital projectors and smart TV devices. It provides easy navigation with minimum resizing, panning and scrolling. Valuable information can be accessed through the website tabs. The Home tab provides links to accessibility tools, assistive technology resources and contact information for the Division and for the Webmaster. Under the Parent tab, resources and information can be found on topics such as financial assistance; the Child Care Rules; how to report non-compliance to child care rules and maltreatment; children with special needs; and developmental assessment information. Two consumer education brochures can be found under the Parent tab. One of these titled, "Child Care in North Carolina", provides information about licensing, the star-rated license, quality child care, steps to finding a child care program and contact information for regional Child Care Resource and Referral. The second, titled, "Resources for families with young children in North Carolina", provides resources related to financial assistance, developmental delays, child emotional and social development, and homelessness. Child care forms, emergency planning information, the criminal background check portal, and training and professional development information can all be accessed under the Provider tab. Under both the provider and parent tabs, links are provided for parents, providers and the general public to access other child care related resources. https://ncchildcare.ncdhs.gov/Provider/Provider-Resources https://ncchildcare.ncdhs.gov/Parents/Additional-Resources
North Carolina	3.1.5 Eligibility Determination	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.
North Carolina	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	Children with special needs: DSS/LPAs will use the 4% set aside to serve vulnerable populations which includes children identified as having special needs. Counties must establish a separate waiting list for children identified as having special needs. Payment for these services is made with the vulnerable population set-aside. In addition, a local purchasing agency may supplement the provider's approved rate for additional costs incurred for a child with special needs who is enrolled in an inclusive setting. The supplement is paid from the set aside for vulnerable populations. Families with very low incomes: Local purchasing agencies may establish priorities for serving children from the waiting list. In addition, fees are not assessed to families whose only source of income is "not countable"(as defined in child care subsidy policy); and fees are not charged for children with no income who live with someone other than a biological or adoptive parent, or with someone who does not have court-ordered financial responsibility. Children experiencing homelessness: DSS/LPAs will use the 4% set aside to serve vulnerable populations which includes children experiencing homelessness. Families experiencing homelessness are made eligible at the time of application based on information reported by the recipient. If the recipient does not have all required documentation on the day of application, the recipient's reported need for care and reported income are used to complete an application. If the reported information meets all eligibility criteria, the application is approved, and child care services can begin immediately. The recipient then has 30 days to provide all needed documentation to support their eligibility for child care services. If it is determined that the recipient is not eligible for child care services once all required documentation has been submitted, the child care case is terminated with a 10-day notice provided to the recipient and the child care provider. If this occurs, the child care provider shall be paid for services provided based on the start date on the voucher through the last day of the 10-day notice. Any payment made to the child care provider prior to the final eligibility decision shall not be considered in or error or an improper payment and shall not be recouped from the provider. Children experiencing homelessness: Prioritized for child care subsidy services Served without placing on the waiting list Families receiving TANF: Redetermination can be completed by phone with a follow-up signature on the paper application that will be mailed to the family. Parents may also complete an application and mail, email, or fax it to the local purchasing agency.
North Carolina	3.3.3 Priority groups	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. Other populations that are prioritized at the local level are families receiving care due to Child Protective Services and Child Welfare Services, children in foster care, families receiving Work First Family Assistance, and teen parents continuing their education with the local school system. The county's individual prioritization plan is shared with and approved by the Lead Agency.
North Carolina	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	Families experiencing homelessness are made eligible at the time of application based on information reported by the recipient. If the recipient does not have all required documentation on the day of application, the recipient's reported need for care and reported income are used to complete an application. If the reported information meets all eligibility criteria, the application is approved, and child care services can begin immediately. The recipient then has 30 days to provide all needed documentation to support their eligibility for child care services. If it is determined that the recipient is not eligible for child care services once all required documentation has been submitted, the child care case is terminated with a 10-day notice provided to the recipient and the child care provider. If this occurs, the child care provider shall be paid for services provided based on the start date on the voucher through the last day of the 10-day notice. Any payment made to the child care provider prior to the final eligibility decision shall not be considered in or error or an improper payment and shall not be recouped from the provider.
North Carolina	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	A DCDEE contractor holds either virtual or in person resource fairs to conduct outreach to families experiencing homelessness. At the resource fairs information is provided about child care subsidy, how to find child care and how to access other early childhood services. Other types of outreach are currently being considered, especially in regards to how DCDEE can work with coordinated entry staff to increase access to child care subsidies. Child Care Resource and Referral agencies also conduct outreach to families experiencing homelessness both virtually and in person (e.g., shelters, motels and laundromats). Outreach: Partnerships with community-based organizations, Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referralsto child care
North Carolina	3.3.6 Grace period	All families have 30 days to submit immunization records and a medical report.DCDEE will be considering recommendations to the NC General Assembly whichwould allow a longer time frame for submitting documentation.
North Carolina	4.1.6 Grants & contracts	NC DCDEE will pilot the use of contracts to increase the supply of care for infantsand toddlers, then consider in the future the use of contracts for vulnerablepopulations, such as for programs serving families experiencing homelessness,programs serving children with disabilities, and non-traditional care.

North Carolina	4.1.8a Strategies to increase supply	Child Care Resource and Referral, Smart Start Partnerships, licensing and others provide targeted and varied technical assistance to improve the quality of child care programs across the state. For example, the Infant Toddler Quality Enhancement Project and Healthy Social Behaviors Projects of NC CCR&R offer technical assistance support statewide. The local purchasing agency provides technical assistance to programs related to Subsidy requirements which, if followed, could potentially increase the supply of Subsidized Child Care across the state. In partnership with local networks and CCR&Rs, a shared service contractor provides technical assistance to providers on the shared service contractor platform in the form of coaching, technical support, tax planning assistance, and a provider community of practice. NC DCDEE has contracted with Salvation Army to provide technical assistance to child care programs related to increasing access to child care for families experiencing homelessness. A statewide homelessness technical assistance specialist will coach programs using the Self-Assessment Tool for Early Childhood Programs Serving Families Experiencing homelessness and the nine module series, from the National Center on Parent, Family and Community Engagement, titled, "Supporting Families Experiencing Homelessness." Once programs have successfully reached their technical assistance goals and meet certain standards within the tool, the program will be added to a Head Start referral app which will be used by the Homeless Education Coordinators who are employed throughout the state. One activity of the Preschool Development Grant is the provision of technical assistance for emergency homeless shelters. Part of the technical assistance will involve the use of the ACF, Early Childhood Self-Assessment Tool for Family Shelters and outreach to early childhood programs.
North Carolina	4.1.9 Prioritized investments	Higher market rates are set for North Carolina's most economically distressed counties to incentivize programs to enroll in subsidy. 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. The eight module series, Supporting Families Experiencing Homelessness, by the National Center on Parent, Family and Community Engagement, has been uploaded to the DCDEE Moodle training platform. 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.dcdde.moodle.nc.gov/course/view.php?id=65 Click on My Courses, Early Childhood Professional Development, Child Care Development Fund, then Homelessness. Infant toddler child care health consultation services are offered in select economically distressed counties. The activities 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.
North Carolina	4.5.1 Co-pay waiver	DCDEE is considering sending recommendations to the NC General Assembly related to subsidy policy. One of the recommendations will be to waive the parent fee for families experiencing homelessness on a case by case basis.
North Carolina	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	NC DCDEE has available an introductory training video on understanding and serving children experiencing homelessness for early childhood teachers and staff. In addition, NC DCDEE developed and disseminated a toolkit to go with this training. Both of these are available online at no charge and can be accessed at any time. DCDEE has also uploaded the Supporting Families Experiencing Homelessness training modules developed by the National Center on Parent, Family and Community Engagement onto Moodle, DCDEE's training platform. These trainings are made available to Lead agency staff, child care providers, local CCR&R staff and local DSS eligibility workers. The trainings and toolkit will be promoted through a DCDEE newsletter, News You Can Use, which reaches approximately 90% of all child care providers, and it will be promoted through technical assistance staff. DCDEE recently contracted with a Salvation Army for a Statewide Homelessness Technical Assistance Specialist dedicated to increasing access to child care for children experiencing homelessness. This specialist will use the "Self-Assessment Tool for Early Childhood Programs Serving Families Experiencing Homelessness" and the eight modules to provide technical assistance to child care programs. Trainings will potentially be developed for coordinated entry staff, DSS eligibility staff who work with families experiencing homelessness access subsidy and child care programs. One activity of the Preschool Development Grant is the provision of technical assistance for emergency homeless shelters. Part of the technical assistance will involve the use of the ACF, Early Childhood Self-Assessment Tool for Family Shelters and outreach to early childhood programs.
North Carolina	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	NC DCDEE has an introductory training video for the early childhood field on understanding and serving children experiencing homelessness. In addition, DCDEE developed and disseminated a toolkit to go with this training. Both of these are available online at no charge and can be accessed at any time. DCDEE has also uploaded the Supporting Families Experiencing Homelessness training modules developed by the National Center on Parent, Family and Community Engagement onto Moodle, DCDEE's training platform. These trainings are made available to NC DCDEE staff, child care providers, local CCR&R staff and local DSS eligibility workers. The trainings and toolkit will be promoted through a DCDEE newsletter, News You Can Use, which reaches approximately 90% of all child care providers, and it will be promoted through technical assistance staff. DCDEE recently contracted with the Salvation Army to provide a Statewide Homelessness Technical Assistance Specialist dedicated to increasing access to child care for children experiencing homelessness. This specialist will use the "Self-Assessment Tool for Early Childhood Programs Serving Families Experiencing Homelessness" and the eight modules to provide technical assistance to programs. She can serve as a resource for lead agency staff. Trainings will potentially be developed for coordinated entry staff, DSS eligibility staff who work with families experiencing homelessness access subsidy and child care programs. Lead agency staff can also participate in these trainings.
North Dakota		
North Dakota	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The Department of Health (State agency responsible for public health) and the Lead Agency coordinate regularly regarding a variety of topics, including inspections, licensing and providing safe and healthy environments for children. Work continues to align the inspection requirements for child care licensing and DoH in terms of kitchen/food preparation, fire inspections, etc. Department of Health and Lead Agency consulted and agreed on the grace period allowed to obtain immunization records for families experiencing homelessness. The most current work has involved supporting programs during the pandemic, the lead agency and the department of health worked hand in hand to provide resources to programs that were affected by covid 19.
North Dakota	1.4.1a 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.
North Dakota	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	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 with special needs, families with very low incomes, and children experiencing homelessness would be identified as a priority for services.
North Dakota	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	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.
North Dakota	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	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. Outreach: Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referralsto child care
North Dakota	3.3.6 Grace period	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.
North Dakota	3.3.6 Grace period	All children, including children experiencing homelessness or whom are in foster care, are allowed a 30-day grace period to provide proof of immunization or a certificate of immunization. The Department of Health was consulted on the length of the grace period.
North Dakota	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	The Lead Agency contracts with Child Care Aware of North Dakota to offer an online, self-paced course to help providers learn about reasons behind homelessness, how being homeless affects children's development and what they can do to support children experiencing homelessness.

North Dakota	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	North Dakota's Homelessness e-Learning course serves to dispel myths about homelessness in early learning 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 organization profiles in the Growing Futures Registry 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.
North Dakota	6.3.1a Training and Professional Development	As a contractor of the Lead Agency, Child Care Aware® of North Dakota develops competency- based, self-paced e-learning training modules that align with the North Dakota child care licensing health and safety standards, best practices identified through the Caring for our Children Basics, North Dakota's Core Competencies for Early Childhood Practitioners and North Dakota's Early Learning Standards, and North Dakota Growing Future's training approval standards. https://ndchildcare.org/training/catalog.html Future course development will require subject matter experts and instructional designers in order to enhance the skills of child care professionals as resources allow. Current content includes, but is not limited to, learning about the reasons behind child homelessness, how being homeless affects children's development, and what providers can do to help. CCDF and registration fees funded the development of these courses.
Northern Mariana Islands		
Northern Mariana Islands	3.1.8 Eligibility criteria	Other documents that maybe requested to cross reference information may include, but is not limited to the following: current CW 1 permits, Green Card, Individual Education Plan (IEP), Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), SSI documents, WIC documents, Medicaid Documents, any and all documents pertaining to income, court documents related to custody, foster care documents, letter of referrals from partner agencies related to homelessness, and Affidavit of Living Arrangements.
Northern Mariana Islands	3.2.4 Co-pay waiver	The following families identified to be receiving or needing to receive protective services will have their co-payments waived: a. Teen Parent b. Military parents/legal guardians who are deployed c. Parents who are off island due to medical reasons d. Families who are considered to be homeless e. Families who are affected by a local or federally declared disaster or emergency. f. Families who are on Job Search Policy Citations: FY15No.4 Aug. 25,2015; FY15 No. 10 Dec. 15, 2015. Teen Parent: an unmarried, minor parent under the age of 19 who has not obtained a high school diploma or GED equivalent, who lives at the home of his/her parents, an adult relative, or a legal guardian and is attending education full time; Military deployment: a parent or legal guardian who has been deployed off island due to military activities. The children will continue to be eligible to receive child care services regardless of the needs of the persons acting in locos parentis parent is Off island treatment: a treatment that is medically necessary and not available on island, as verified and recommended by a medical physician or Medical Referral Office; the children will continue to receive child care services regardless of the needs of the persons acting in locos parentis. Child Care services will be provided for at least 90 calendar days. Homelessness: individuals who lack a fixed (stationary, permanent, and not subject to change), regular (used on a predictable, routine, or consistent basis), and adequate nighttime (sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments) residence and includes children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship 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; children and youths 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 youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; On a case-by-case basis families affected by a federally or state declared disaster who may be at risk of disaster related hazards such as environmental, health and mental health. During a federally or state declared disaster, the following will fall under protective services: 1. families caring for a family member with a serious disaster related medical condition. 2. families who are rebuilding their homes and/or are now temporarily living in shelters 3. Homeless families as defined above 4. families assisting in the rebuilding of their place of work or employment 5. volunteers and first responders who are assisting in rebuilding the community 6. all families affected by a federally or territory declared emergency or disaster. 7. Families who are on Job Search.
Northern Mariana Islands	3.3.1 Prioritization or Targeting	Families with gross monthly income that does not exceed 85% of the SMI. These families prioritized after children with special needs and children experiencing homelessness. Families who are engaged in full time education and/or training with zero income will have their co-payments waived and will be considered a high priority within this group.
Northern Mariana Islands	3.3.4 Prioritized Groups	Front liners, Emergency and essential workers will be given highest priority followed by families with special needs, families experiencing homelessness, and low income families.
Northern Mariana Islands	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	Children experiencing homelessness will be accommodated as soon as eligibility is determined and placed in a Star 3, 4, or Star 5 level provider. At a minimum, the CCDF Program will ask for the IDs of the children. In cases where the child is under Wards of Court (DYS), within 10 working days after the wardship to DHS, the Case Worker with contact the CCDF Program for placement of the child in a CCDF provider site. The Case Worker will complete an application with the following attachments: Court Documents, Birth Certificate, Immunization Card. Upon receipt of the application and documents, CCDF Staff will prepare the Certificate of Confirmation within 2 workdays. Upon completion of all signatures, the child is placed in a CCDF Provider.
Northern Mariana Islands	3.3.6 Grace period	Children who are experiencing homelessness will be provided the grace period of 15 calendar days to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements. This was in consultation with the Division of Youth Services (DYS) who works with the territory health agency.
Northern Mariana Islands	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	Trainings are offered or in partnership with other agencies, such as the Division of Youth Services (DYS) in identifying and serving children and families experiencing homelessness.
Northern Mariana Islands	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	Lead agency staff are trained or will participate in training offered by partner agencies, such as the Division of Youth Services (DYS) in identifying and serving children and families experiencing homelessness. CCDF will work with DHS to ensure that trainings and TA efforts address the needs of homeless families. CCDF also has launched one of its new initiatives focused on Family Engagement and Strengthening. This initiative will focus supporting the essential Life Skills of children that include: Focus and Self Control, Perspective Taking, Communicating, Making Connections, Critical Thinking, Taking on Challenges, and Self Directed and Engaged learning. These trainings and succeeding TA efforts will focus on the executive function-process that involve managing thoughts, actions, and emotions to achieve goals.
Ohio		
Ohio	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services collaborates with the Coordinator for Homeless Education at the Ohio Department of Education. The required staff orientation training for all child care program staff includes information on identifying and serving homeless families. Feedback from our partners 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.
Ohio	3.3.3 Prioritization or targeting	Children experiencing homelessness: Served without being placed on a waiting list Co-pays are waived
Ohio	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	Homeless child care is publicly funded child care (PFCC) 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 which include a work or education requirement or OWF/SNAP participation, the family shall be determine eligible for homeless child care without regard to income or assets and the copayment shall be waived. Homeless child care shall be authorized for ninety calendar days. At the end of the 90 days, the family must have a qualifying activity so the county agency can authorize for child care for the remainder of the eligibility period, or the family can remain identified as homeless by the county agency who will authorize child care for an additional 90 days. This allows a homeless family to receive PFCC for more than one 90-day period.

Ohio	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	The application and consumer statement can be found: www.odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/num/JFS 01138/ County agencies across the 88 counties have outreach programs in place. 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. 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
Ohio	3.3.6 Grace period	At the end of the 90 days, the family must have a qualifying activity so the county agency can authorize for child care for the remainder of the eligibility period, or the family can remain identified as homeless by the county agency who will authorize child care for an additional 90 days. This allows a homeless family to receive PFCC for more than one 90-day period.
Ohio	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	All child care staff are required to complete the pre-licensing or staff orientation which includes information on identifying and serving homeless children and their families.
Ohio	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	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.
Ohio	6.3.1a Training & Professional Development	“Managing Behavior by Influencing the Environment in Programs Serving Toddlers and Preschoolers,” addresses how environmental changes affect children’s behavior, adaptations to environment to manage behavior, design and evaluation of daily schedules and routines, role of the teacher and effects on managing the environment. “Applying Ohio’s Core Knowledge and Competencies to Your Practice” addresses why core knowledge and competencies are beneficial to all professionals in the early childhood and out-of-school time fields, how to use core knowledge and competencies in various professions, roles, and responsibilities, aligning competencies to professional behaviors and creating a professional development plan. “Homelessness in the Early Care and Education System: Providing Education and Support for Child Care Professionals” addresses the effects of homelessness on child development and how program design and activities vary for children living in temporary living situations. “The Inclusion Umbrella: Strategies for Supporting children of Diverse Backgrounds and Needs” addresses strategies for self-awareness, cultural responsiveness, and practices for honoring children’s and families diversity to provide equitable and includes services; “Why Race Matters in Infant Mental Health Outcomes” address the presence and relevance of cultural diversity and impact on infant mental health and early childhood. “Sensory, Creative Arts, and Science Experiences for Infants and Toddlers” addresses sensory experiences that support the five senses, guidelines for appropriate creative art experiences and the teacher’s role. Two online asynchronous modules, also available in face-to-face format, were developed on caring for children with special needs: “Different Yet Alike: Teaching Practices for Children with Special Needs” addresses designing early childhood environment to provide access for all children and strategies to promote participation for all children in early childhood programs; “Preparing for Inclusion: Early Care and Education and the Child with Special Needs” addresses understanding of federal and state regulations for care for children with special needs in early care and education programs and recommended practices that improve learning outcomes and promote the development of young children with developmental delays or disabilities. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services has a contract with the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association (OCCRRA). OCCRRA facilitates the Ohio Professional Registry which house the Ohio Professional Registry (OPR). The OPR includes a wide variety of professional development opportunities for early childhood educators. Funding is allocated as part of the contract.
Ohio	6.3.1a Training & Professional Development	Online asynchronous training module “Homelessness in the Early Care and Education System: Providing Education and Support for Child Care Professionals” addresses the effects of homelessness on child development and how program design and activities vary for children living in temporary living situations.. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services has a contract with the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association (OCCRRA). OCCRRA facilitates the Ohio Professional Registry which house the Ohio Professional Registry (OPR). The OPR includes a wide variety of professional development opportunities for early childhood educators. Funding is allocated as part of the contract.
Oklahoma		
Oklahoma	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The goal of working with other agencies serving homeless children and families is to increase access to quality child care for all families. Child Care Services personnel collaborate with the Oklahoma State Department of Education to promote awareness of and services to families and children experiencing homelessness. 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. https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/okdhs/documents/okdhs-publication-library/17-17.pdf 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. Lead Agency and Head Start Collaboration Director collaborate to provide ways to meet the needs of families experiencing homelessness by partnering together to offer full-day, full year care.
Oklahoma	2.3.1 Information	The Lead Agency website is easy for consumers to access from mobile devices, tablets and desk tops. It utilizes a format that easily identifies content, areas of interest to families needing information, assistance and resources. The website tabs line the top and left side of every page of the child care services specific area. The tabs on the left side include: Parents and Families section that provides information on finding/assessing child care, benefits and social services for families and specific information on community services, child development, nutrition, developmental milestones and Child Care Locator; Providers and Educators section that provides information on licensing requirements, criminal background investigations and fingerprint process, Early Learning Guidelines, QRIS, and professional development resources and a how to report abuse and neglect; Partners and Public section contains resources available at state agencies, health and safety guidelines, parent information, and services for the homeless and hungry. There are connections to Quick Links at the bottom of the homepage that include: applying for benefits, filing a licensing complaint, reporting child abuse and neglect, Oklahoma Professional Development Registry and the Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association. The tabs on the left side of the page also includes a section for all of the licensing requirements, law’s, rules, standards and competencies, child development, health and safety, government relations section and contact us page. The design makes it easy to locate topics of interest. The content is written so the general public can understand and contact information allows for viewers to call with questions. The website is 508 compliant so that the content is available to the public. Additional consumer friendly information supported by the Lead Agency is found on the Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association website: https://www.oklahomachildcare.org/ . Partnering agencies such as Center for Early Childhood Professional Development, Scholars for Excellence in Child Care and Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association include links to the Child Care Services website. https://oklahoma.gov/okdhs/services/child-care-services.html
Oklahoma	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	Oklahoma allows a grace period of at least 30 days for homeless families to comply with immunization and health and safety requirements. Oklahoma waives co-pays for families experiencing homelessness on a case by case basis. 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

Oklahoma	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	A workgroup 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: Getting information to homeless families who might qualify for subsidized child care 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. 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 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.
Oklahoma	3.3.6 Grace period	Oklahoma waives immunization and health and safety requirements for homeless children for at least 30 days to allow for expedited enrollment in child care.
Oklahoma	6.2.4 Professional Development Requirements	The Oklahoma Professional Development Registry allows for caregivers at multiple educational qualifications and professional levels to enter into the field at many levels. The Professional Development Ladder and Oklahoma Director's Credential allow for increasing levels based on education and professional development achievements. Licensing requirements are inclusive of care for children of all ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds. Ongoing professional development opportunities include training and education on working with children of all ages (infant/toddler, pre-school, school age children), children with varying abilities, engaging children and families across racial and cultural divides, cultural and linguistic abilities, children experiencing homelessness, trauma responsive care of children and challenging behaviors among many others. The Center for Early Childhood and Professional Development has a statewide training calendar with a searchable index for professional development. https://okregistry.org/v7/trainings/search Online training is available that includes many of these topics available on demand. https://cecpdonline.org/
Oklahoma	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	Homelessness and Young Children: Education and Services, Homelessness and Young Children: Dealing with Trauma, Homelessness and Young Children: The Role of the Early Childhood Educator, and Understanding Homelessness, are training opportunities provided by the Center for Early Childhood and Professional Development (CECPD) and are available for all caregivers and educators within the state through professional development registry site. https://okregistry.org/v7/trainings/search The Lead Agency offers training based on the book Bridges out of Poverty which includes information on families that experience homelessness and is made available to child care providers. Technical assistance through the Child Care Resource and Referral is available to providers dealing with children and homelessness.
Oklahoma	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	The Lead Agency has staff that work in community outreach programs to assist families seeking services including needs for food and shelter due to being homeless. The Lead Agency was instrumental in leading the effort to begin a new licensed program type Hope Centers that has agency staff housed within the program assisting families with critical needs including food and shelter and offering professional resources for these families as well. Information through publications is available for licensing staff to use during consultation and technical assistance. The Child Care Resource and Referral technical assistance specialists are available to consult with programs who may have families experiencing homelessness. The Lead Agency offers Bridges out of Poverty training to all staff as well.
Oregon		
Oregon	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	Coordination Goals: Assess services to families who are homeless and develop improvement plans that enhance education outcomes for children whose families are experiencing homelessness. Processes: 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 Oregon Department of Human Services. Results: Services to families who are homeless are assessed, and continual improvement plans are developed in order to enhance educational outcomes for children whose families are experiencing homelessness.
Oregon	3.1.5 Eligibility Determination	Priority processing allows families experiencing homelessness who apply for child care assistance to start receiving benefits immediately. Priority processing also allows for families applying for care for a foster child to qualify 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 verification. When the immunization requirement is not met families are given 45 days to show that they are moving forward with gaining the appropriate immunizations or medical/non-medical exemption.
Oregon	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	Children experiencing homelessness and families applying for foster children are allowed to enroll in the subsidy program while required documentation is located. This "priority processing" was developed as a way to speed up eligibility for families who may not have immediate access to all required verification When the ERDC reservation list is implemented, families who meet specific requirements are able to bypass the list. Those able to bypass the reservation list include families transitioning off TANF. Children in families experiencing homelessness are prioritized for child care subsidy (but still allowed to be on a waiting list).
Oregon	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	Children experiencing homelessness are given priority processing which allows families to enroll in the subsidy program while required documentation is being located. 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. 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
Oregon	3.3.6 Grace period	Child care assistance is opened immediately for children in families experiencing homelessness who have not yet documented immunization. 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. In order to comply with immunization requirements, families just need to show they are moving forward in the process. This could mean applying for medical insurance, scheduling an appointment or taking the courses required for the non-medical exemption form. The Lead Agency worked in consultation with the Oregon Health Authority to establish the immunization grace period.
Oregon	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	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. The self-study training is available to all early educators in Oregon and provided on the Lead Agency website. It includes a list of McKinney-Vento liaisons and contact information for each school district in Oregon.
Oregon	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	The McKinney-Vento program coordinator at the Oregon Department of Education and the liaisons in each school district assist families that are experiencing homelessness. Staff members of the Lead Agency, the Oregon 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.
Pennsylvania		
Pennsylvania	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	OCDEL continues to coordinate with the PDE McKinney-Vento liaison to provide guidance for identifying children experiencing homelessness so that their access to quality early childhood programs under OCDEL can be improved. OCDEL works with PDE to identify the coordinators for services to families experiencing homelessness in each of the state's 500 school districts. Through this collaboration, OCDEL continues to identify families and how to best meet their child care needs as part of their broader plan to secure permanent, stable housing, and greater self-sufficiency. To support families experiencing homelessness, OCDEL implemented waivers for certain verification and immunization requirements. 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 prioritized for funding to ensure expedient connection to services. Head Start now has a 3 percent capacity they can hold to serve families experiencing homelessness. HSSCO continues to educate the field about this new rule and OCDEL continues to present its services at the Pennsylvania Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness State Conference.

Pennsylvania	3.1.5 Additional eligibility criteria	Families experiencing homelessness, not meeting the work requirements at application, may be eligible to complete a job search for up to 92 days.
Pennsylvania	3.2.4 Co-pay waiver	Families experiencing homelessness and families experiencing domestic violence may have their co-payment waived to the lowest co-payment, which is \$5 per week. Foster parents' income is waived, and they are charged the lowest co-payment, which is \$5 per week. TANF families that are in an unpaid work activity do not pay a co-payment.
Pennsylvania	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	Children experiencing homelessness: Prioritized for enrollment in child care services Waive co-pays
Pennsylvania	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	For families experiencing homelessness, a non-working parent is provided presumptive eligibility for 92 days , during which the parent may conduct a job search, at application and redetermination. Verification of eligibility requirements may be waived for up to 92 days; however, the following eligibility requirements may not be waived: child's age; income limits; Pennsylvania residency; child's citizenship. Children experiencing homelessness are placed on a prioritized waiting list and receive funding sooner than others on the waiting list. 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
Pennsylvania	3.3.6 Grace period	OCDEL allows all families, if needed, 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. Immunizations are self-certified, meaning the parent self-attests the child is properly immunized; this is accepted as sufficient proof of the child's immunization status.
Pennsylvania	3.4.2a Job search	At application and redetermination, a family experiencing homelessness is eligible for 92 days while competing a job search.
Pennsylvania	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	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 websites. Additional resources were added to the resource section of the recorded webinar. A two-page informational document titled "Caring for Young Children Who Are Experiencing Homelessness" is posted on the PA Key website at www.pakeys.org . State Early Intervention office added children who are experiencing homelessness to the statewide at-risk tracking system. This tracking system regularly provides the parent with the Ages and Stages Questionnaire. If developmental delays are indicated by the ASQ the local Early Intervention Program will perform an evaluation to determine if the child is eligible for EI services. Since 2015, data is collected in the on-line system PELICAN and evaluated for patterns. The Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) interactive learning series Supporting Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness has been embedded into the Pennsylvania PD Registry and is available to all early learning providers across the Commonwealth in both English and Spanish. This interactive learning series is intended for professionals in Head Start, Early Head Start, and child care, including early childhood and school-age child care providers, CCDF Lead Agency staff, and other key stakeholders. Participants learn how to identify families experiencing homelessness, conduct community outreach, and much more. All early learning providers have been made aware of the training modules and encouraged to complete them. In partnership with the PA HSSCO, regional training opportunities will be provided for all licensed child care staff by the PA Education for Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) staff. These trainings will be provided annually at no cost to providers and will occur annually. Additional individual supports will also be made available by the ECYEH staff should they be requested.
Pennsylvania	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	OCDEL, in partnership with the PA Key and EITA, developed PD on identifying children and families experiencing homelessness, 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. Early Learning Resource Center staff working in resource and referral will be provided a series of interactive trainings by Dr. Grace Whitney in September, 2021. These trainings will provide clarification on the McKinney Vento definition of homelessness, the impact of homelessness on young children and families and the importance of forming local partnerships with housing and homeless providers. All Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants will be provided a series of interactive trainings by Dr. Grace Whitney on services to children and families experiencing homelessness in the fall of 2021. These trainings will focus on the McKinney Vento definition of homelessness, impacts of homelessness on young children and families as well as those children and staff often "left behind" in the classroom when children suddenly leave. Dr. Whitney will also share strategies for identifying children and families experiencing homelessness, building local partnerships with housing and homeless providers, and making timely referrals. Early Intervention staff will be provided a series of trainings by Dr. Grace Whitney on services to children and families experiencing homelessness, specific to children with diagnosed disabilities and their families. The PA Department of Education, ECYEH program and all of the school district McKinney Vento Liaisons will be provided a series of trainings with Dr. Grace Whitney in the fall of 2022 to encourage increased connections of children experiencing homelessness with quality early learning programs. For ELRC staff, OCDEL has developed and distributed policy and associated training on presumptive eligibility, immunization grace period, and waiver for certain verification and forms requirements. Resources and training are available on demand for ELRC administrators to access for new staff hires.
Pennsylvania	6.3.2 Measurable indicators	High-quality ECE can be achieved when all children have equal access to a well-qualified and well-compensated, culturally sensitive, professional ECE workforce. All ECE professionals – across age ranges and settings – need core knowledge of developmental science and content knowledge; mastery of practices that help children learn and develop on individual pathways; knowledge of how to work with diverse populations of children; the capability to partner with children's families and with professional colleagues; and the ability to access and engage in ongoing professional learning to keep current in their knowledge and continuously improve their professional practice. OCDEL will focus on the following to achieve the goal of strengthening the ECE workforce. Objective 3.1 Develop an ongoing process to include provider and workforce voice in the decisions regarding technical assistance, needs-based professional development, and development of future quality initiatives. Objective 3.2. Build more coherent infrastructure of professional learning supports to improve the quality, availability, and accessibility of professional learning activities, including increased access to higher education, career pathways, and on-the-job training, overall and for non-traditional students, minority populations, and men. Objective 3.3. Advance the use of the PSCECE and the created statewide rubric for Birth to age 8 professional competencies that align to NAEYC, drawing on existing available frameworks (e.g., Adaptive Leadership, Family engagement framework, infant/toddler mental health, PBIS, and WIDA) in Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) in order to enhance consistency in ECE coursework. Objective 3.4 Improve the mixed-delivery system's capacity to support equitable engagement with special populations, including enhancing Dual Language Learner Support and Migrant Education Programs (MEP) and children experiencing homelessness, with a culturally and linguistically responsive lens for training and professional development. Objective 3.5 Analyze workforce compensation data and develop resources to use investments to support improved ECE workforce compensation. Targets: Increase percentage of ECE workforce with credential in their field from 39 to 60 percent with credential in field by 2025 and increase the number of qualified staff recruited and retained in ECE settings. Specific goals and targets for the PDOs include: Increasing the completion rates of CDAs, AAs, and BAs, increase overall participation in CDAs, AAs, and BAs, increase numbers of those who continue to the next degree once a lower level degree is completed, and address equity-based gaps in the credentialing system. Through PDO policy, PDOs are tasked with prioritizing providers who work in STAR 1 and STAR 2 centers to impact STARS move-up, and those serving higher levels of children receiving subsidy. Through collaboration with ELRC partners, OCDEL Reach and Risk Reports, PELICAN data on STAR 1-2 program locations, including CCW enrollment rates, and the PHLpreK priority areas from the Mayor's Office of Children and Families, the following zip codes were determined as the highest priority for PHMC PDO funding: Philadelphia: (ELRC 18) 19145, 19143, 19104, 19121, 19122, 19125, 19132, 19133, 19134, 19129, 19140 and 19144/ Southeast Region: ELRC 15 (Delaware County) 19013, 19023 and 19082; ELRC 16 (Bucks County) 19030 and 19057; ELRC 17 (Montgomery County) 19403 and 19446; ELRC 19 (Chester County) 19320 and 19465. Quarterly data is collected and reviewed to determine the extent to which PDOs are meeting their prioritization plans.
Puerto Rico		

Puerto Rico	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The Lead Agency has established effective coordination with the Department of the Family, which is the governmental agency in charge to provide services to homeless families through referrals. This working relationship has been centered in identifying and supporting families with children that became homeless as a result of the 2017-2021 hurricane, earthquake and COVID-19 pandemic disasters. The Department of the Family has an office to assist homeless families as one of their priorities. A collaborative agreement was made to offer child care services to homeless children through referrals, thereby providing appropriate access to needed services for children and their families that lost their homes. The Lead Agency assembled a workgroup, in collaboration with DF homeless service providers, to develop and implement a plan, outlining procedures and training that address the specific needs for effectively serving homeless children.
Puerto Rico	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	Children experiencing homelessness: Prioritized for enrollment in child care subsidy services Served without placing on a waiting list Waive Co-pay
Puerto Rico	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	Children experiencing homelessness have priority for services. When a person certifies that they are experiencing homelessness, the Lead Agency provides 30 days to obtain the necessary documents to determine eligibility. They are not placed in the waiting list and their copayments are waived. During a declaration of emergency and/or disaster, and at the discretion of ACUDEN, a period of up to 180 days may be allowed for the family to obtain documents to determine eligibility. In such case, the family will be asked to provide certification documenting that the homelessness is related to or as a consequence of the emergency. 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
Puerto Rico	3.3.6 Grace period	Children whose families are classified as experiencing homelessness have a 30-day period to obtain documents to determine eligibility, which includes taking any necessary actions to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements. Interagency agreements establish that the appropriate agencies will give priority to these families to expedite the processing of these documents. If any agency is unable to issue the document, such as vaccines, the family will provide evidence of the process and the deadline can be extended for another 30 days.
Puerto Rico	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	Providers receive training and technical assistance from auxiliary coordinators and the Central Office for the proper management of homeless applicants. They are trained on the exceptions applicable in the eligibility process to provide child care.
Puerto Rico	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	The Lead Agency has an administrative agreement with the Office of the Multi-Sectoral Council in Support of the Homeless Population, which identifies homeless families in the community and coordinates a variety of service, including child care. Upon receipt of their referral of homeless families, ACUDEN assesses their eligibility and offers them the necessary services. The Office also provides training to Lead Agency staff on the case management of homeless families and engages in discussions about family needs during meetings with the regional auxiliary coordinators and staff, as needed.
Rhode Island		
Rhode Island	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The state strives to ensure the support of our state's children experiencing homeless from birth-age 5 through Head Start. 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. 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 children and families in securing self-sufficiency and out of homeless status. The Office of Child Care at DHS does not have a waitlist for families seeking child care assistance. As such, the Department can prioritize the enrollment of homeless children into care immediately. 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.
Rhode Island	1.4.1b Coordination with partners	The Department of Health manages MCHV programs. A combination of state and federal investments has supported the growth of the Family Home Visiting network to serve over 1,000 children and families. First Connections, a program in Rhode Island which identifies and coordinates the services for the state's at-risk children at birth, then refers these children to the appropriate resources such as child care, Early Head Start, Pre-K or Early Intervention. A cross departmental leadership/coordinating team provides oversight and input to DOH, identifying service gaps and potential opportunities. Enhanced rapid response approaches are in development to respond to the urgent needs of homeless and foster children for child care services.
Rhode Island	2.4.2 Information	The http://kids.ri.gov website provides links to information on all Head Start programs in the State. Physicians, mental health agencies, programs serving the homeless and other state and community agencies make referrals to Head Start and Early Head Start. DHS provides a list of age eligible TANF children to the local Head Start/Early Head Start agencies to assist with their recruiting. When RIDE advertises for their Pre-K program they also provided information on the local Head Start programs. Child Outreach and Early Intervention make appropriate referrals to the local Head Start /Early Head Start agencies. The 211 Helpline would provide statewide information on these programs.
Rhode Island	3.2.4 Co-pay waiver	Homeless families applying for CCAP shall have a co-payment of zero. DHS shall pay for child care service provided while an application is pending for homeless families up to the first 90 days, even if the application for CCAP is ultimately denied for lack of verification or eligibility. The lead agency is waiving copays for all CCAP families through December 2021 using CRRSA funds.
Rhode Island	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	The lead agency does not hold a waitlist for CCAP. DHS has implemented a policy in the field that waives the required eligibility documentation for 90 days for applicant homeless families in order to more rapidly serve this population. Teen parents participating in the Youth Success program that are employed, attending school or participating in education related activities for a minimum of twenty (20) hour per week on average, may be authorized for CCAP child care services. Families receiving TANF are automatically CCAP eligible. The lead agency supports prioritization for children involved with child welfare by partnering with the Department of Children, Youth and Families to identify quality, available child care placements for children. This is managed by the Lead Agency and in coordination with RIAEYC, the state's CCR&R. Children with child welfare involvement are also prioritized for state-funded PreK seats, as well as Head Start placements. The Head Start Collaboration Office supports this work as part of the broader framework for supporting vulnerable youth in accessing high-quality early learning opportunities.
Rhode Island	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	If an applicant child is experiencing homelessness, eligibility may be determined without all usual eligibility documentation through supervisor override. The family has up to 90 days to submit verification documentation. Additionally, if a child is experiencing homelessness, a grace period of 90 days can be granted to obtain the annual health examination documentation. Outreach: Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons, and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to provide referrals to child care
Rhode Island	3.3.6 Grace period	A provider may enroll the child of a homeless family prior to receipt of the immunization record and/or completion of other health and safety requirements. A provider shall dis-enroll the child of a homeless family if the requirement to provide the immunization record and/or the completion of other health and safety requirements have not been met by day 90 of the enrollment. Applications from homeless families shall be processed even when all documentation required to make an eligibility determination has not yet been provided. Homeless applicants have up to 90 days to provide the documentation required to make an eligibility determination If a child is experiencing homelessness, DHS worked in consultation with the state to establish that a grace period of 90 days can be granted to obtain the immunization documentation. Similarly, if a child is experiencing homelessness, a grace period of 90 days can be granted to obtain the annual health examination documentation.

Rhode Island	3.3.6 Grace period	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 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.
Rhode Island	5.3.1a Health and Safety	Rhode Island has standards for both immunizations in child care and communicable diseases. Child care programs adopt policies and procedures consistent with the Rhode Island Department of Health's Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Immunization and Communicable Diseases in Preschool, School, Colleges or Universities, 216-RICR-30-05-3. Programs are not required to maintain immunizations or documentation of an annual health examination for children who attend public, private or parochial schools approved by the Rhode Island Department of Education (because they are on file with the school). Both must be on file otherwise. If a child is a foster child or is experiencing homelessness, a grace period of 90 days can be granted to obtain the immunization documentation and annual health examination documentation. In the event a child or staff member suffers from a communicable disease of public health significance or in the event of an outbreak, the facility must report the disease to the Department of Health and provide written notice to inform all parents to which disease the children may have been exposed. During the COVID-19 pandemic, both the RIDOH and DHS worked with providers to support them through informing families. The regulations have a specific section that is dedicated to the prevention and control of infectious diseases in both the Family Child Care Regulations and the Child Care Center regulations. These regulations include what to do in the event a child or staff member suffers from an infectious disease.
Rhode Island	6.2.5a Trainig & TA efforts for providers	The lead agency funds several initiatives to support professional development and technical assistance to providers who work with homeless families and children including: 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.
Rhode Island	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	The lead agency funds several initiatives to support professional development and technical assistance to providers who work with homeless families and children including: 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. Additionally, field staff at the lead agency are trained on identifying and supporting children and families experiencing homelessness through the eligibility intake process. These staff members connect children and families experiencing homelessness with appropriate community resources and referrals, and are trained on the myriad of programs the lead agency administers which enables them to effectively identify and support children and families during initial eligibility or at recertification.
Rhode Island	6.3.1a Training Content	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 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. Educators also have access to several online resources on the topic of serving children and families experiencing homelessness through the CELP website.
South Carolina		
South Carolina	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The DECE continues to partner with the SDE's 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 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. 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 can identify families with very young children, their primary focus is on the 4k through grade 12 population. DECE is augmenting this by coordinating additional referral processes with the four regional Coalitions for the Homeless. The majority of the family shelters they operate are 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. CCDF funds are being used to support the Homeless Support Liaison located in the current SC CCR&R contract. Work activities are coordinated with the DECE's SC Voucher staff.
South Carolina	1.5.1 Combine Funds	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, programs administered by the LA (TANF, Child Protective Services and Foster Care), state and private pre-k programs funded by the SDE Education 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 Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity Prevention's "Healthy Kids Healthy Future - Technical Assistance Program" funded by a Nemours National Office of Policy and Prevention/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grant in support of Grow Outdoors SC activities of the DECE; institutions of higher education funded by multiple state, federal, and private sources; multiple early childhood professional associations (SCAAYC, SCECA, SCAECE); and Family Connections of SC (for families of children with special abilities and needs). LA initiatives in the PDG grant related to ABC Quality will be combined with CCDF funds to build infrastructure for grant and incentive programs that will then be used to support and sustain CCDF initiatives.
South Carolina	3.1.2c Eligibility, Reason for Care	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 other 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 includes 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 of have a parent(s) who are permanently or temporarily disabled. 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 55% of state median income 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 85% state median income 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. Child care assistance for children experiencing homelessness, Dual Language Learners, in Head Start or the siblings of eligible 4K children 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. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, SC has chosen to remove co-pay for all eligible children. Categories may include specific populations of vulnerable children as identified by the Lead Agency. Children do not need to be formally involved with child protective services or the child welfare system in order to be considered eligible for CCDF assistance under this category. The intent of this language was to provide services to at-risk children, not to limit this definition to serve children already in formal protective service cases.

South Carolina	3.1.5 Additional eligibility criteria	Priority is given to children with special needs and families experiencing homelessness.
South Carolina	3.2.4 Co-pay waiver	Copays are waived for TANF recipients, foster children, and families experiencing homelessness.
South Carolina	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	Children experiencing homelessness: Prioritized for child care subsidy services Served without placing on waiting list Waive co-pays
South Carolina	3.3.3. Priority groups	Children experiencing homeless and Dual Language Learner families.
South Carolina	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	SC Voucher child care eligibility staff receives a referral on the homeless coalition letterhead that the family has met the McKinney-Vento definition for homelessness. If the child is school-age, a letter will be sent from the Department of Education providing the verification of their homeless status defined by the McKinney-Vento act. The ABC Quality assessment, CCL, and SC Voucher protocols are updated to provide for a 90-day 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. 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
South Carolina	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	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. 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 Homeless. These four coalitions operate 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 schildcare.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: • 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.
South Carolina	3.3.6 Grace period	Child Care Licensing works in coordination with SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) as necessary to help obtain needed immunization records for children experiencing homelessness. Child care providers contact their regional licensing office when assistance is needed with obtaining immunizations and/or other health and safety paperwork. .During a visit of a ABC Quality Assessors or CCL Specialists, child records are reviewed. If it is determined that the child is not immunized and does not fall within the 90-day grace period, the provider will be cited, and appropriate follow-up and referrals will be made.
South Carolina	4.2.2 Market Rates	The LA convened a virtual meeting of 38 child care stakeholders prior to the MRS design, which included representatives from all types of child care providers to be surveyed (centers, group and family child care homes, providers serving children experiencing homelessness, faith-based, and afterschool providers), to obtain their recommendations and perspectives for the MRS and process. A proposed approach and survey questions for the MRS were discussed, along with the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has been having on child care providers, the families they serve, and the rates they charge for child care services.
South Carolina	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	The SC CCR&R Homeless Support Initiative provides targeted technical assistance to programs and organizations on supporting families that may be experiencing homelessness. The Homeless Support Liaison provides individualized consultation with programs regarding working with families and children experiencing homelessness which may include providing training on the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES), strategies to empower communities to prevent ACEs, providing information and assistance on the SC Voucher process for homeless families, and community resources to support the needs of these "at-risk" families.
South Carolina	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	The SC CCR&R through its Homeless Support Initiative collaborates with the SCDSS- DECE, SC Voucher Program that oversees the distribution of the homelessness vouchers to discuss eligibility enrollment, assist with completion and collection of appropriate paperwork, and collaborate with voucher staff to enroll families. The SC CCR&R Homeless Support Initiative provides support to families trying to locate a program by providing referrals to child care programs that may meet the families need for care and enrolled in ABC Quality to accept the homeless voucher. The SC CCR&R provides targeted outreach and information to child care programs across the state about the availability of voucher support to families that may be experiencing homelessness. The SC CCR&R also coordinates its outreach efforts with the DECE staff to support other initiatives in the state, including the lead coordinator of McKinney-Vento Act at the SDE and the four SC homeless coalitions.
South Dakota		
South Dakota	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	Child Care coordinates on an ongoing basis 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. As a result of this coordination The Homeless Education Director provides information and links to shelter coordinators and Homeless Education Liaison Offices about Child Care. 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. CCS 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 Child Care 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. An additional goal for this plan period is to continue to share resources and identify ongoing training opportunities for lead agency staff, the Early Childhood Enrichment (ECE) System and child care providers.

South Dakota	3.1.5 Eligibility Determination	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. Good cause reasons are acknowledged. South Dakota does not currently have a waiting 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, allowing for expedited processing in many cases. TANF applications are printed on colored paper to make them more prominent, and one caseworker 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. If the application from a family experiencing homelessness is missing any of the required verifiable documents, the caseworker will attempt to contact the appropriate entities to obtain the information. If the verifications are made, a 12-month certificate is 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, and the family is sent notification of closure. There is no overpayment considered in these cases of families experiencing homelessness.
South Dakota	3.3.1 Special Needs	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 waiting 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. If South Dakota implements a waiting list, applicants of children with special needs also receive priority for service per ARSD 67:47:01:29. "If the department does not have sufficient funding to add an applicant eligible for child care assistance to the program, 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 developed, the department shall assign a level of priority. The first level of priority status consists of: 1) TANF recipients; 2) Applicants with children who have special needs; 3) Applicants who meet the definition of homeless; and 4) Applicants with children who will be receiving or need to receive protective services." Within the first level of priority, eligibility is prioritized by the date the completed application is received. A change in an applicant's circumstances may warrant a change in an applicant's level of priority on the waiting list. If an applicant on the waiting list no longer meets eligibility requirements, the applicant shall be removed from the waiting list.
South Dakota	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	Children experiencing homelessness: Are served without placing on a waiting list
South Dakota	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	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 (SDIIS) to obtain immunization records; other DSS agencies, etc. 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
South Dakota	3.3.6 Grace period	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 timeframe 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 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 SDIIS, 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.
South Dakota	3.3.6 Grace period	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 SDIIS, an online immunization database. Licensing specialists also share other resources available to support families in meeting enrollment requirements.
South Dakota	5.3.1a Prevent and control of infectious disease	Prevention and control of infectious disease standards help reduce the risk of transmitting diseases and infectious germs from body fluids or environmental surfaces. Standards included are: medication administration including documentation and storage requirements; space between sleeping children to reduce spreading respiratory disease; diaper change practices such as sanitation and handwashing; cleaning and sanitizing of toys and equipment; staff personal cleanliness including handwashing, etc.; staff and child hand washing after using restroom, before and after food handling; and immunization requirements as a condition of enrollment with the exception of homeless and foster children who are allowed more time when needed.
South Dakota	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts with providers	Information on identifying and serving homeless children and families is embedded into a variety of state and regional training opportunities through the 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, the State Coordinated Entry System (CES) which connects the homeless or those at risk of becoming homeless with available resources, 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 SD CDA Training Program have all formally integrated this information. To facilitate the ongoing integration of this information, CCS developed and annually reviews a list of key resources and talking points for the ECE agencies to use in embedding information into existing training. 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. Additional resource information on serving children and families experiencing homelessness is listed in Section 4 of the Child Care Licensing Policy Handbook and Section 3 of the Family Child Care Policy Handbook. This information provides resources and connections to help support the family.
South Dakota	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	CCL specialists, subsidy caseworkers, and administrative staff along with the regional ECE trainers receive ongoing training in the area of identifying and serving children and their families experiencing homelessness. All new employees of CCS and CCL participate in a poverty simulation as part of the DSS new employee orientation. CCS staff have received training on eligibility for and services provided through McKinney-Vento Act by the South Dakota Department of Education Homeless Coordinator. A CCS representative participates in the statewide Housing for the Homeless Consortium and the Continuum of Care Youth Subcommittee.
Tennessee		
Tennessee	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	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 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.
Tennessee	3.1.5 Eligibility Determination	The Lead Agency has a policy on prioritization of need in the event of a waiting list for child care 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

Tennessee	3.3.2 Prioritization or Targeting	Direct Supports for Families and Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring expanding age criteria for Smart Steps: Aligning Smart Steps eligibility criteria with the full early childhood age range will enable sustainability of quality care as children grow through the critical period for early literacy. For qualifying children, TDHS is proposing to expand Smart Steps eligibility criteria for a child's age from kindergarten to 8 years old. Further exploring targeting support to families experiencing homelessness: Families experiencing homelessness or families at risk of homelessness need access to quality child care in order to regain economic stability. TDHS is proposing to launch a referral process and prioritized category for homeless service providers to connect families to child care payment assistance. This proposed initiative will be supported through partnership with DHS 2Gen agencies, CSBG partner agencies, and TDOE McKinney-Vento programming. Exploring opportunities to target supports to families of children with special needs: Parents of young children with disabilities are significantly more likely to experience job disruptions due to lack of access to quality child care that accommodates their children's needs. For children who have been identified with disabilities and special needs, TDHS is proposing a 15% differential above standard reimbursement rates.
Tennessee	3.3.3 Priority groups	The following groups are given prioritized consideration by the Lead Agency: Children in Foster Care, 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.
Tennessee	3.3.4 Prioritized Groups	These groups are coded within the system in order of priority as follows: Top Priority: Homeless Children , Second Priority: Children with a Diagnosed Disability, Third Priority: Military Status of Adult Parent
Tennessee	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	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. 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. 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. 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
Tennessee	3.3.6 Grace period	Families may receive care for up to 60 days without documentation of immunization requirements .
Tennessee	4.1.8e Strategies to increase supply	Lead Agency is exploring the possibility of utilizing ARP funds for these purposes: Access to high-quality and affordable child care is critical to economic recovery and growth. Below is a list of priorities for how American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and recurring Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) dollars can be deployed to maximize supports for families and providers. Through the expansion of existing programs and establishment of new programs, TDHS will support families and aid child care providers in pandemic recovery, while investing in long-term strategic goals to grow child care capacity and quality across the state. Initiatives are organized into 3 categories, consistent with ARPA priorities: Supporting families through access to child care payment assistance, with a focus on equity Establishing a new reemployment category of child care assistance- Referral-based category of child care payment assistance for parents currently unemployed but engaged in job search activities, established in partnership with Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Continuing pandemic/essential employee child care assistance through August 2021. Supporting families of children with special needs (establishing a 15% differential above standard reimbursement rates for children identified with disabilities and special needs). Creating support for families experiencing homelessness (establishing a referral process and prioritization category for homeless families to receive childcare assistance in partnership with TDHS 2- Gen agencies, CSBG agencies, and the Department of Education McKinney-Vento programming). Expanding age criteria for the Smart Steps program from kindergarten to 8 years of age. Strengthen child care providers through financial stabilization Issuing stabilization funds through subgrants to qualified child care providers to stabilize their operations according to the ARPA designated allowable uses. The activities may include up to 10% to administer funds, provide technical assistance and support for applying/accessing subgrants, and support activities to increase supply of child care. Details of the child care stabilization grant program are still being finalized, including the final application design to be posted on the website. Information regarding impacts and results will be available after the funds are distributed. Forming an application process supported by technical assistance that will include outreach activities to explain the process, support payment distribution and backend accountability, including making application materials available in multiple languages.
Tennessee	4.1.8e Strategies to increase supply	Grow capacity of child care providers statewide through strategic partnerships and technical assistance Temporary subsidy rate increase (10/1/21-10/1/23) to stabilize the industry and address equity in assessing quality child care. Addressing the digital divide by deploying the "Tech Goes Home" model, including provision of technology hardware, coaching and TA on the use of equipment and how it strengthens business operations. Expanding WAGES eligibility for the education-based salary program by increasing the eligibility cap from \$15/hour to \$20/hour and increasing supplement amount by 50 percent. Offering an establishment grant program to provide financial support for furniture, equipment, supply, and curriculum costs associated with opening a new child care agency (aligned with the new TDHS Pre-Licensure Support Unit). TDHS is also in discussion with the Tennessee Department of Economic Development to explore how Community Development Block Grant funds might be used to support construction or renovation of child care spaces. Utilizing funds to modernize the Lead Agency data systems (new eLicensing platform) to better meet the demand for child care. Supporting the Tennessee Child Care Task Force (established during the 2021 legislative session) in recommending a strategic action plan to increase the availability of high-quality, affordable, and accessible child care as families, child care providers, employers, and communities across the state work to recover from the impacts of COVID-19.
Tennessee	5.3.1a Prevent and control of infectious disease	Standards for licensed child care programs include: Handwashing shall occur at least at the following times but not limited to: After toileting and diapering. After handling bodily fluids. Prior to and after eating. Prior to and after food preparation. Routine cleaning and sanitizing of tables, chairs, high chairs and toys that children place in their mouth, dishes and utensils, and the floor. Children must be appropriately immunized with limited exceptions for medical reasons or religious tenets and practices and a grace period for children of homeless families. Children that are ill should be isolated until parents are notified and can pick them up. All child care providers serving children receiving CCDF assistance are required to complete the Before You Begin: New Educator module prior to having contact with children. This module includes standards/expectations for each of the health and safety topics. The expectations for prevention and control of infectious disease include but are not limited to provisions for: Immunizations as a requirement for enrollment Handwashing before food prep, before eating, after assisting children with toileting, etc. Cleaning and sanitizing eating surfaces using a two-step process and cleaning toys. Procedures for diapering set-up, near a sink and away from food prep or serving areas and where supervision of other children can be maintained. Routine cleaning of bedding, and separation of cribs, cots, and/or mats Handling sick children, recognizing symptoms and how to respond, how to give medications and information on isolating sick children until parents can pick them up in an area that can easily be supervised and sanitized. Time outside to experience fresh air/sunshine

Tennessee	6.2.4 Training & Professional Development	Training is available through the Tennessee Child Care Online Training System and Child Care Resource and Referral includes provisions for addressing these areas. Provisions for providing training and resources for specialized services that target focal impact areas such as homelessness, health and safety and limited English proficiency or other specializations. Training content is developed based upon best practice and recognized standards. Beginning in the Fall of 2021 external/non-agency-based training sources must be approved through TrainTN. Potential trainers submit an application/resume/qualifications/abstract of training content to TrainTN as part of the training approval process. Approved trainings are then grouped by core content areas. Link to TrainTN: https://traintn.sworpswebapp.sworps.utk.edu/apply/#our-standards
Tennessee	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	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.
Tennessee	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	The Lead Agency provides ongoing 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		
Texas	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	TWC works with the Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs (TDHCA) to coordinate services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Additionally, TEA's State McKinney-Vento Coordinator and a representative of TWC's CC&EL division serve together on the ECI State Advisory Council. Boards coordinate with local homeless shelters and organizations serving homeless families. Boards also work with ISDs to identify and provide outreach to homeless children served by public schools. This coordination is in conjunction with workforce services to homeless families through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).
Texas	3.1.2c Eligibility, Reason for Care	TWC rule §809.2(19) defines "protective services" as services provided when a child: 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 DFPS Child Protective Services (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 of "protective services" for CCDF. (TWC rule §809.41(a)(3)(A)(iii) and §809.19(a)(2)(C)) On March 24, 2020, TWC expanded its definition of "protective services" to include a new category for children of specified COVID-19 frontline essential workers: TWC COVID-19 Essential Workers. The TWC COVID-19 Essential Workers eligibility category includes the following types of essential work. Due to limited funding, Boards must prioritize child care services for TWC COVID-19 essential workers in the order listed: 1. Workers in child care services that support workers in other essential functions 2. Pharmacy and health care workers 3. First responders 4. Critical infrastructure workers in grocery, utilities, and trucking 5. Other identified infrastructure workers, which include: critical state and local government staff; mail/delivery services; nursing homes, home health care, and other direct care providers; banks; gas stations; military; and restaurants and other food delivery 6. Other critical occupations identified by the Board. On June 29, 2021, TWC's three-member Commission authorized Service Industry Recovery (SIR) Child Care to serve children with parents who work in the service industry with a family income at or below 75% of the state's median income. This program serves children under the expanded definition of "protective services" adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic to serve essential workers and will be funded under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Families qualifying for this program will receive 12 months of care with these one-time funds. Pending approval of a federal waiver, these families will not be automatically redetermined for a new 12-month eligibility period, but may apply for at-risk child care to take effect upon the termination of SIR child care. In order to address the impacts of COVID and to support Texas' continued economic recovery, the Services Industry Recovery (SIR) child care program is aimed at assisting low-wage workers in TWC-specified service industries, who generally operate in close quarters with their customers, and whose jobs were not able to be accomplished remotely: Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation: NAICS 71 Accommodation and Food Services: NAICS 72 Retail Trade: NAICS 44-45
Texas	3.1.5 Eligibility determination	TWC requires Boards to serve children in the following three priority groups (TWC rule §809.43 and Section B-400, Child Care Services Guide): First Priority Group—Mandatory Consistent with CCDF regulations, the first priority group is assured child care services and includes children of parents eligible for the following: Choices child care Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Applicant child care Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) child care At-Risk child care for former Choices child care recipients whose TANF benefits were denied or voluntarily ended within the last 12 months due to employment, timing out of benefits, or an earnings increase Second Priority Group—Subject to Availability of Funds The second priority group is served subject to the availability of funds and includes, in the following order of priority: 1. Children who need to receive protective services child care as referenced in §809.49 2. Children of a qualified veteran or qualified spouse as defined in §801.23 3. Children of a foster youth as defined in §801.23 4. Children experiencing homelessness as defined in §809.2 and described in §809.52 5. Children of parents on military deployment as defined in §809.2 whose parents are unable to enroll in military-funded child care assistance programs 6. Children of teen parents as defined in §809.2 7. Children with disabilities as defined in §809.2 Third Priority Group—Board Determined The third priority group includes any other priority adopted by the Board. 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.
Texas	3.2.4 Co-pay waiver	As described in TWC Child Care Services rule §809.19(a)(2), TWC waives the parent share of cost for parents eligible for the following: Choices child care SNAP E&T child care Child care for a child experiencing homelessness Protective services child care (unless DFPS assesses a fee to the parent), including parents who receive child care through the Service Industry Recovery Child Care program (described in 3.1.2 (c)). Additionally, as described in §809.19(i), a Board or its contractor may not assess a family co-payment to parents with zero countable income.

Texas	3.3.1 Special Needs	The following groups are considered children with special needs and vulnerable populations (Child Care Services Guide, Section B-402.e) 1. Children of parents on military deployment whose parents are unable to enroll in military-assistance programs 2. Children of teen parents 3. Children with disabilities Children with special needs are in the second priority group, which also includes children experiencing homelessness (Child Care Services Guide, Section B-400).
Texas	3.3.2 Prioritization or Targeting	Children experiencing homelessness: Prioritized for enrollment in child care subsidy services Waive Co-pay
Texas	3.3.4 Prioritized Groups	TWC requires Boards to serve children in the following three priority groups (TWC rule §809.43 and Section B-400, Child Care Services Guide): First Priority Group—Mandatory The first priority group is assured child care services and includes children of parents eligible for the following: Choices child care Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Applicant child care Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) child care At-Risk child care for former Choices child care recipients whose TANF benefits were denied or voluntarily ended within the last 12 months due to employment, timing out of benefits, or an earnings increase Second Priority Group—Subject to Availability of Funds The second priority group is served subject to the availability of funds and includes, in the following order of priority: 1. Children who need to receive protective services child care as referenced in §809.49 2. Children of a qualified veteran or qualified spouse as defined in §801.23 3. Children of a foster youth as defined in §801.23 4. Children experiencing homelessness as defined in §809.2 and described in §809.52 5. Children of parents on military deployment as defined in §809.2 whose parents are unable to enroll in military-funded child care assistance programs 6. Children of teen parents as defined in §809.2 7. Children with disabilities as defined in §809.2 Third Priority Group—Board Determined The third priority group includes any other priority adopted by the Board. 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.
Texas	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	For children experiencing homelessness, TWC Chapter 809 Child Care Services rules: exempt the family from the parent share of cost (§809.19(a)(2)(C)); and require that the child is initially enrolled for a period of three months to allow the parent to provide documentation verifying the child's eligibility (§809.52). 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
Texas	3.3.6 Grace period	The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Child Care Regulations(CCR) minimum standards provide a 30-day grace period to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements.
Texas	6.2.5a Targeting & TA efforts for providers	TWC developed guidance in 2018 that helps Boards identify and serve families and individuals experiencing homelessness. Boards use the information to inform assistance and training offered to providers.
Texas	6.2.5b Targeting & TA for Lead Agency	TWC developed guidance in 2018 that helps Boards identify and serve families and individuals experiencing homelessness. TWC continues to offer guidance as needed.
Utah		
Utah	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The Lead Agency coordinates with the Utah Department of Health through participation on the State Advisory Council, Early Childhood Utah. The purpose of the ECU Advisory Council is to organize early care and education stakeholders in the state to improve coordination. Coordinated efforts will increase the use of developmental screeners in organizations that interact with children, including primary care providers and child care providers. There will be an increase in developmental screenings, identify developmental delays among children attending child care programs and, when necessary, provide resources to families to ensure that any delays are addressed through Dept. of Health programs and partnerships. The number of screens completed in 2019 were 13,600. The number of screens completed in 2020, declined to 10,504, which could be a result of programs not having enough resources to sustain screening through COVID-10. It is anticipated that the coordinated efforts will increase the number of screenings in the coming years. In addition, coordination takes place through Child Care Licensing, also within the Department of Health. This coordination ensures that the health needs of children in child care are met through the establishment of licensing policy that ensures child care settings are healthy and safe. This coordination also allows the development of policies relating to immunizations that meet the needs of vulnerable children, including children experiencing homelessness, living in foster care and immigrant children. Again, the coordination goals ensure the child care settings are healthy and safe.
Utah	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The Lead Agency coordinates with the McKinney-Vento state coordinators through the Utah State Board of Education's involvement on the OCC Advisory Committee. In addition, the Lead Agency includes the state's Office of Homeless Services. This office 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. The Lead Agency is implementing policy changes to increase the number of families that may receive Homeless Child Care Assistance. 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 or qualify for TANF. A referral must be provided by the recognized homeless agency to approve the Homeless Child Care program. Families may receive up to twelve months of child care to support activities including, but not limited to, employment, job search, training, shelter search, or working through a crisis situation. 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 childcare 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. Specific outcome measures will be developed to support the coordination efforts.
Utah	3.3.1 Eligibility determination	The Lead Agency defines "families with very low incomes," as families who are TANF eligible or homeless.

Utah	3.3.2 Prioritization or Targeting	Families with children who have special needs and require increased supervision may receive a higher subsidy payment rate for the child with special needs. 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 or qualify for TANF. A referral must be provided by the recognized homeless agency to approve the Homeless Child Care program. Families may receive up to twelve months of child care to support activities including, but not limited to, employment, job search, training, shelter search, or working through a crisis situation. Additionally, the Lead Agency prioritizes TANF families for child care customers through Transitional Child Care. This applies to those who no longer qualify for TANF assistance due to increased earnings. Families may receive Transitional Child Care, funded through TANF, for an additional six months without a copayment. These families continue to receive case management services during this time. When the transitional period ends, the case is reviewed for Employment Support Child Care, funded through CCDF. Children in families experiencing homelessness: Prioritized for enrollment in child care subsidy services Served without placing on waiting list Waive co-pay
Utah	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	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 an employment counselor may receive an expedited child care payment, even in the absence of required documentation. 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 Other: The Lead Agency has approved the "Supporting Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness" training series offered free of charge through the Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center within our professional development system. The eight modules are listed on the Lead Agency's approved course list for providers to access as a professional development resource for staff.
Utah	3.3.6 Grace period	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 of immunizations needed for child care.
Utah	3.3.6 Grace period	The Lead Agency meets regularly with Child Care Licensing and tribal agencies to share information and coordinate any updates to make sure a consistent message is shared with providers and families. 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. Additionally, information about homelessness and children experiencing homelessness are included in the required pre-service and annual training. Information about the three-month grace period for foster care families applying for CCDF is also included in the required pre-services and annual training.
Utah	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	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. The Lead Agency has approved a 4-hour, online training offered through the Head Start Early Learning and Knowledge Center entitled Supporting Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness that covers learning how to identify families experiencing homelessness, conducting community outreach and other relevant topic areas. 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.
Utah	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	Within the Lead Agency, the Eligibility Services Division and Workforce Development Division include training on identifying and serving homeless children and their families in their new employee training for staff who will be working with these families. This training includes details regarding how to connect families with child care services. If the policy or process for working with these families changes, all incumbent staff working with these families are provided with training on the changes through the established monthly training process. Where the population and need is high enough in more urban locations throughout the state, the Lead Agency has employment counselors stationed onsite at various homeless shelters to increase the access to programs and better connect families to resources. Staff at these onsite locations receive the above mentioned new employee training as well as Family Focus training, which includes information on motivational interviewing and trauma informed care. In addition to regular core training, the homeless support team in Salt Lake County that has ten staff at eight shelter and housing sites receives quarterly training specific to homeless topics. These topics include health and safety, de-escalation, program and resource training of other homeless service providers and how to refer families to these services.
Vermont		
Vermont	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The Vermont Agency of Education is the designated McKinney-Vento state coordinating agency for homeless education. Within DCF/CDD, the Vermont Head Start Collaboration Office supports access to services for children and families experiencing homelessness through coordination with state and local education agencies implementing McKinney-Vento requirements. These entities include the state McKinney-Vento Coordinator, local education agency McKinney-Vento Liaisons, the VT Office of Economic Opportunity (including Family Supportive Housing programming), statewide domestic and sexual violence shelters, Specialized Child Care programs and services, and VT Head Start/Early Head Start grantees. Specifically, the VHSCO has partnered with HS/EHS grantees and their local Continua of Care to review and update Coordinated Entry Housing Crisis Referral and Coordinated Entry Partnership Agreement forms to improve the effectiveness of referral processes for families served by HS/EHS programs and community organizations providing housing services. The VHSCO also participates in the national HSSCO Learning Community on Homelessness which informs its work to identify potential collaboration models for providing access to housing for vulnerable families and the development and implementation of strategies with an ultimate goal of increasing the percentage of HS/EHS families experiencing homelessness that acquire housing.
Vermont	3.3.2 Prioritization or Targeting	Children experiencing homelessness: Served without being placed on a waiting list Pay higher subsidy rates for access to care

Vermont	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	The Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) 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. The Specialized Child Care Coordinator meets with the family to provide assistance in completing the eligibility paperwork. Eligibility for Family Support child care is determined by a Family Support Team. This team may authorize enrollment in the Child Care Financial Assistance Program prior to obtaining all eligibility documentation. Once eligibility is approved, a certificate containing the start date of care is created to the family's child care provider. The CIS Child Care Coordinator will continue to work with the family to collect any necessary eligibility documentation until the case file is complete. 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
Vermont	3.3.6 Grace period	Center Based Child Care Rule 3.4.4.2 and Registered/Licensed Family Child Care Rule 3.3.4.2 is a revised requirement to accommodate Homeless and Foster children. The new rule states that the child's file shall be complete within the first week that the child begins to attend care and the required annual physical shall be obtained within 45 days of enrollment. This means that the child may begin care with documentation provided within the first week. The licensing guidance manuals state that if a parent discloses that they are homeless, or the provider has information that indicates a family might be homeless, documentation to this effect is placed in the child's enrollment file while the required documentation is being obtained. Licensing staff will use this documentation to give the child care program additional time to complete enrollment requirements. This means that the child may continue in child care while the additional time to comply with documentation is provided. If a family experiencing homelessness does not have immunization records in the registry, the provider will work with the family to obtain the records and/or with refer families to 2-1-1 if they need assistance with finding a pediatrician and obtaining immunizations and/or a well child check for their child(ren). This means that the child may attend child care while this is occurring. When immunization records are received and reviewed and a child is not current, then the child can continue in child care on a provisional basis. Provisional admittance must be for a reasonable length of time that is consistent with the immunization schedule and is not to exceed 6 months after the child is admitted. In addition, if a parent needs additional time to come into compliance with a health and safety requirement, the child care provider may request a variance, per the rules in CBCPP Section 2.7.
Vermont	3.3.6 Grace period	These regulations/guidance manuals may be accessed on DCF's Child Development Division's website (http://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/laws-regs/childcare). Information regarding child care rule 3.4.4.2 is found in the Center Based Child Care Regulations on page 32 and 3.3.4.2 may be found in the Registered/Licensed Family Child Care Regulation on page 29. Center Based Child Care and Preschool Programs licensing rules section 5 and Family Child Care Home licensing rules section 5 describe the requirements for the well child exam. Vermont Center Based Child Care & Preschool Programs Guidance Manual, pages 41-43 and Vermont Family Child Care Homes Guidance Manual, pages 31-33 provide additional guidance on provisional enrollment, immunizations, well child exams and homelessness. DCF's Child Development Division's website (https://dcf.vermont.gov/childcare/providers/health-safety) provides additional information and resources to child care programs regarding immunization compliance including a link to the Vermont Department of Health's website. Vermont Department of Health is the lead agency for regulating immunization compliance.
Vermont	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	Professional development related to homelessness has been identified and access is publicized on the Child Care Training Requirements page of the NL@CCV website. Supporting Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness and Addressing Homelessness: The Role of the Early Childhood Educator Strengthening Families trainings that address family stress including homelessness continue to be offered as a required topic for Northern Lights @ CCV to include in their annual trainings to regulated child care providers Training on trauma-informed practice (including for families experiencing homelessness) has been identified as a required topic for Northern Lights @ CCV to include in their annual trainings to regulated child care 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.
Vermont	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	The CDD offers grants to 22 regulated child care programs who embed the Strengthening Families Protective Factors in their work. These programs access the Strengthening Families trainings offered through our grant to NL@CCV. In addition, the CDD manages grants with 15 Parent Child Centers, many of whom have a regulated child care program onsite, who also address family homelessness in every region of Vermont through their work and also participate in professional development offered through NL@CCV. The Building Bright Futures State Advisory Council has statewide, and regional work related to supporting all families in the state, including families who are experiencing homelessness. The CDD also continues to partner with the Head Start State Collaboration Office on addressing homelessness. The CDD also continues to partner with the VT Head Start Collaboration Office (VHSCO) on addressing homelessness, which is an identified priority within the VHSCO Strategic Plan. The VHSCO routinely interacts with the Office of Head Start (OHS) Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) system and promotes the sharing of relevant resources, developed by the four national centers, throughout Vermont's early childhood system, including those specifically focused on supporting families impacted by homelessness. The VHSCO also participates in the National HSSCO Learning Community on Homelessness, which works closely with Schoolhouse Connections, a national non-profit organization working to overcome homelessness through education. Through participation in this Learning Community, the VHSCO is able to strengthen CDD's focus on supporting children and families impacted by homelessness and share successful strategies to help inform Vermont's efforts to support this vulnerable population.
Virgin Islands		
Virgin Islands	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The VI Department of Human Services, through the Office of the Commissioner, oversees the issuance of local government grants to non-profit agencies that provides services for the Homeless population. Such agencies include: Community First Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands, St. Croix Mission Outreach, the Women's Coalition of St. Croix, Family Resource Center and various others. The Lead Agency traditionally provides funding for these agencies. The VI Department of Human Services hired a Director of Homelessness Services. The Director ensures homeless families that requires services such as child care subsidies are given priority access. Information about the Lead Agency's designation of Homeless children as a priority group is shared across the Homelessness Provider network. This coordination will be greatly expanded during the triennial period of this VI CCDF Plan. This coordination goal is to increase access to quality childcare to homeless children. Greater emphasis with increased public Virgin Islands advertisement of this service will be highlighted on the Lead Agency's Consumer Education Website. The Lead Agency also participates in the annual homeless count. The Lead Agency's goal is to provide this vulnerable population of families with young and school age children improved access to information on the availability of quality childcare in the Virgin Islands.
Virgin Islands	3.3.2 Prioritization or Targeting	Children experiencing homelessness: Prioritized for child care subsidy services Served without placing on waiting list Waive co-pays
Virgin Islands	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	Parents or guardians who are homeless are given a grace period of three months to provide required documents to determine eligibility. This includes birth certificates, immunization records, other health records, and parent government issued picture I.D.s. OCCRS participates with VI Project Homeless Connect Volunteer Agencies and the United Way of the Virgin Islands in an annual outreach to the Homeless population to include families on St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix. The Lead Agency Staff members have a designated table or booth in this annual event where they provide information on the Child Care Development Fund Subsidy program and special provisions for Homeless families. The Homeless attendees receive written information about the Child Care program services and appointments are scheduled for them, if desired.
Virgin Islands	3.3.6 Grace period	A grace period of three months is given to submit immunization and other health and safety requirements for the homeless families.

Virgin Islands	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	The Lead Agency provides training to childcare providers on the definition of homelessness in the territory in accordance with the guidelines of the McKinney-Vento Act of 1987. Childcare providers are taught to identify children who may be homeless so that they can be referred to the Lead Agency's Subsidy Resource and Referral Program. The Best Beginnings Early Childhood Conference is also a venue where workshops promoting sensitivity training to assist in identifying and serving homeless children and their families are offered. The Lead Agency Website also has a new addition of a Homelessness Services Policy Memorandum which is posted at www.dhs.gov.vi/OCCRS/index.html . The Lead Agency also heightens territorial awareness of available services to include Child Care Subsidies for homeless children. Homeless persons and families and the public are invited to participate on an annual basis in Project Homeless Connect. Project Homeless Connect is a community fair designed to offer community resources and to inform the community on homelessness issues in the territory. It is held in both districts of the Virgin Islands. Providers are encouraged to participate in this fair to learn more on Homelessness issues. Additionally, through on-going professional development, the Lead Agency's staff will deliver targeted technical assistance to child care providers in understanding the definition of homelessness, programs 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. Community Partners and Resources include United Way of the Virgin Islands; Lutheran Social Services of the Virgin Islands (LSSVI); Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands (operates the two Bethlehem House Shelters; The Women's Coalition (operates a domestic violence shelter); Virgin Islands Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Council (DVSAC); Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (C.F.V.I.); and other Profit and Non-profit Organizations.
Virgin Islands	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	The Lead Agency has provided training to staff by adopting the definition of homelessness in the territory in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act of 1987. The Lead Agency requires staff to participate in Project Homeless Connect, which is a community fair designed to inform the community on homelessness issues in the territory and to provide resources to individuals who may be at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Additionally, targeted technical assistance and in-service trainings will be provided to Lead Agency's staff on how to develop an outreach plan to establish partnerships that will help identify and refer families experiencing homelessness to the CCDF programs, and mechanisms to ensure homeless children and families are identified and prioritized.
Virgin Islands	7.10.1 Other Quality	Lead Agency participates in various community events to provide outreach and consumer education. These events include the territory's annual Agricultural and Food Fair, Homelessness Connect Outreach Project, Parent Fairs, and Transition to Kindergarten Workshops. The Lead Agency also provides a variety of training opportunities by facilitating workshops, early childhood conferences, Week of the Young Child celebrations, a variety of consultations, and the dissemination of public service announcements and print media relative to quality child care services. The territory is currently in the process of revising the QRIS Standards: Virgin Islands Steps to Quality for Early Learning Programs. A metric system has not been developed to measure to date, however a system will be created to measure the activities.
Virginia		
Virginia	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	The McKinney-Vento State Coordinator serves on various Lead Agency child care workgroups, consults on issues and guidance regarding services to children who are homeless, assists with development and modification of the statewide child care disaster plan, and consults on training for local departments of social services staff on outreach to homeless families, as well as resource materials and training for providers. In addition, Virginia has been awarded a small grant from Education Leads Home (ELH). This project seeks to engage state leaders working at the intersection of education and homelessness by building and scaling best practices, including through a virtual Community of Practice to develop customized activities, policies, guidelines, and/or standards-based on each state's unique context. The Lead Agency is one of Virginia's state agencies engaged in this work, with a focus in the early childhood space of ensuring that children experiencing homelessness participate in child care and early education at the same rate as their housed peers by 2026.
Virginia	3.3.2 Prioritization or Targeting	None of the following are checked as policy/priority for VA related to children experiencing homelessness: Prioritized for child care subsidy services Served without placing on waiting list Waive copays Waive work activities Respite care
Virginia	3.3.2 Prioritization or Targeting	Families which include a child who has special needs for whom services are requested and families with a child experiencing homelessness who cannot be served immediately due to a lack of funds, are priority groups for the waiting list for services.
Virginia	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	Families of a child experiencing homelessness that cannot provide the required documentation needed to determine eligibility at the time of application may be conditionally approved for services for a period not to exceed 90 days. 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. 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
Virginia	3.3.6 Grace period	Families of a child experiencing homelessness that cannot provide the required documentation needed to determine eligibility at the time of application may be conditionally approved for services for a period not to exceed 90 days. 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.
Virginia	3.3.6 Grace period	Licensing staff are made aware of the grace period and do not cite violations for families experiencing homelessness. 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.
Virginia	3.4.1a 12 month eligibility	An eligibility redetermination is required at the end of the 12-month eligibility period. Recipients shall not have their eligibility for child care services redetermined prior to the end of their eligibility period. The 12-month cycle begins with the effective date of the child care approval and is calculated in VaCMS. Eligibility redetermination means that all eligibility criteria must be evaluated and a contact must be made with the recipient. This contact may be in person or by phone and should not unduly disrupt a parent's work schedule. Recipients will be eligible for child care subsidy and services for a minimum of 12 months before eligibility is redetermined unless: Their countable income exceeds 85% of state median income. (Temporary increases in income will not affect eligibility of family copayments, including monthly income fluctuations, which when taken in isolation may incorrectly indicate that a recipient's income exceeds 85% of state median income), there is a finding that the recipient committed an intentional program violation/fraud, the recipient is no longer a resident of Virginia, the recipient requests that their case be closed or, 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. 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. Child Care Subsidy Program Guidance Manual – Section 3.13, Eligibility Period

Virginia	5.3.1a Prevention and control of infectious disease	Documentation that each child has received the immunizations required by the State Board of Health before the child can attend the center is required. A child may be conditionally enrolled for a period of 90 days contingent upon the child having received at least one dose of each of the required vaccines and the child possessing a plan, from a physician or local health department, for completing his/her immunizations requirements within the ensuing 90 calendar days. There is an exception to extend the conditional period to 180 days only if the child requires more than two doses of the hepatitis B vaccine. A child experiencing homelessness who does not have documentation of the required immunizations is allowed a grace period of no more than 90 days to allow the parent or guardian time to obtain documentation of the required immunizations. Documentation of additional immunizations once every six months for children under the age of two years is required.
Virginia	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	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.
Virginia	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	VDSS maintains an online file of homelessness resources that local department staff members are encouraged to consult in the pursuit of their planning and day-to-day work with families, 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."
Washington		
Washington	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	DCYF coordinates with OSP's McKinney-Vento State Coordinator for Homeless Education by periodically attending and participating in McKinney-Vento Liaison training, and through collaboration on specific projects impacting families experiencing homelessness. DCYF 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.
Washington	3.1.2c Eligibility, Reason for Care	"Child protective services" means those services provided by the department designed to protect children from child abuse and neglect and safeguard such children from future abuse and neglect, and conduct investigations of child abuse and neglect reports. Investigations may be conducted regardless of the location of the alleged abuse or neglect. Child protective services includes referral to services to ameliorate conditions that endanger the welfare of children, the coordination of necessary programs and services relevant to the prevention, intervention, and treatment of child abuse and neglect, and services to children to ensure that each child has a permanent home. In determining whether protective services should be provided, the department shall not decline to provide such services solely because of the child's unwillingness or developmental inability to describe the nature and severity of the abuse or neglect. "Child welfare services" means social services including voluntary and in-home services, out-of-home care, case management, and adoption services which strengthen, supplement, or substitute for, parental care and supervision for the purpose of: (a) Preventing or remedying, or assisting in the solution of problems which may result in families in conflict, or the neglect, abuse, exploitation, or criminal behavior of children; (b) Protecting and caring for dependent, abused, or neglected children; (c) Assisting children who are in conflict with their parents, and assisting parents who are in conflict with their children, with services designed to resolve such conflicts; (d) Protecting and promoting the welfare of children, including the strengthening of their own homes where possible, or, where needed; (e) Providing adequate care of children away from their homes in foster family homes or day care or other child care agencies or facilities. "Child welfare services" does not include child protection services. "Family assessment" means a comprehensive assessment of child safety, risk of subsequent child abuse or neglect, and family strengths and needs that is applied to a child abuse or neglect report. Family assessment does not include a determination as to whether child abuse or neglect occurred, but does determine the need for services to address the safety of the child and the risk of subsequent maltreatment. Families experiencing homeless may qualify for a homeless grace period, under which the family copayment is waived for 12 months. A child not living with a biological or adoptive parent is given unique eligibility based on the child's income only and the guardian's approved activity.
Washington	3.2.4 Co-pay waiver	Children that have received child protective services, child welfare services or had a family assessment, as identified in section 3.1.2(c)(i) are considered for a waived co-pay for 12 months as outlined in WAC 110-15-0024. Eligible families experiencing homelessness are eligible for 12 months of child care with a waived copay as outlined in WAC 110-15-0023.
Washington	3.3.2 Prioritization or Targeting	Children experiencing homelessness: Co-pays waived
Washington	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	CCSP does not require families to produce immunization records to qualify for child care subsidies. Children whose families are dealing with homelessness do have the ability to enroll in care while their parent/guardian works to obtain copies of their immunization records. Those same children would be excluded from care if an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease occurred in the child care prior to their records being obtained according to WAC 110-300-0210. DCYF contracts with CCA to provide outreach to these families and assist with obtaining immunization records. DCYF does not have a time frame requirement for this rule. 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
Washington	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	DCYF contracts with Child Care Aware (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 provides families experiencing homelessness with case management which includes assistance in identifying resources for child care, early learning, housing assistance, financial assistance, nutrition assistance, medical and other needs identified.
Washington	3.3.6 Grace period	DCYF is the lead agency for both child care subsidy and the licensing agency for child care providers and coordinates through Coordination Immunization, health and safety requirements are discussed 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, and 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. In addition, DCYF contracts with CCA, who assists families experiencing homelessness to navigate the DCYF 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 DCYF when it identifies eligibility barriers for these families in policy or service delivery. As a result, families experiencing homelessness are given tools to provide DCYF the information needed to determine eligibility based on their true circumstances. 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 an indefinite amount of time to either obtain the child's immunization, re-start immunizations, or provide documentation according to WAC 110-300-0210 . Child care subsidies may be used while families work through the process of obtaining immunizations or records. DCYF consulted with Department of Health in developing all health and safety standards, including provisions related to immunization.
Washington	4.1.5 In-home Care	FFN providers are not allowed for Seasonal Child Care under WAC 110-15-3560, families experiencing homelessness approved under WAC 110-15-0023, or families approved under protective services WAC 110-15-0024.

Washington	4.1.8a Strategies to increase supply	DCYF provides extensive technical assistance support through its Early Achievers and licensing programs. Early Achievers coaches assist providers in preparation for Early Achievers rating, and in instances where the provider operates in an underserved area, can tailor their support to the provider's specific needs. Participants in Early Achievers are also able to access professional development through the annual Early Achievers Institutes that focus on best teaching practices and supports aligned with Early Achievers standards. DCYF licensors provide further technical assistance toward compliance with health, safety, and child development requirements that may be particularly challenging for providers serving underserved populations such as LEP families or families experiencing homelessness or with children with disabilities.
Washington	5.2.3 Center teacher qualifications	Lead teachers must be 18 years of age, have a high school diploma or equivalent, take preservice child care basics training, and have or make progress towards an ECE initial certificate or equivalent. All staff must have background clearance; negative tuberculosis test; blood borne pathogens training; first aid/CPR training; training recognizing and reporting suspected child abuse, neglect, and exploitation; emergency preparedness training; shaken baby syndrome training (if licensed for infants); training on serving children experiencing homelessness ; safe sleep training (if licensed for infants); medication management training; and food handlers training if preparing or serving food.
Washington	5.3.1b Preservice & ongoing training	WAC 110-300-0106 requires Child Care Basics training prior to being granted a license, or prior to working unsupervised with children, or within 3 months if promoted to a new role. This WAC further requires that Family Home licensees, center directors, assistant directors, program supervisors, lead teachers, assistant teachers, and aides complete recognizing and reporting suspected child abuse, neglect and exploitation training; emergency preparedness training; shaken baby syndrome training (if licensed for infants); training on serving children experiencing homelessness ; safe sleep training (if licensed for infants); medication management training prior to giving a child medication; blood borne pathogen training; first aid and CPR training; and food handlers if preparing or servicing food.
Washington	5.3.1b Preservice & ongoing training	WAC 110-300-0105 requires that family home licensees, center directors, assistant directors, and program supervisors complete a DCYF provided orientation. The orientation is required prior to being in charge of the program fifty percent of the time or more. WAC 110-300-0106 requires that family home licensees, center directors, assistant directors, program supervisors, lead teachers, assistant teachers, and aides complete child care basics training, training recognizing and reporting suspected child abuse, training on neglect and exploitation, emergency preparedness training, training on shaken baby syndrome (if licensed for infants), training on serving children experiencing homelessness , safe sleep training (if licensed for infants), medication management training prior to giving a child medication, blood borne pathogen training, first aid and CPR training, and food handlers training if preparing or servicing food. The requirement is prior to being granted a license or prior to working unsupervised with children or within 3 months if already employed and being promoted to a new role.
Washington	5.3.3b Preservice & ongoing training	WAC 110-300-0106 requires child care basics training prior to being granted a license, or prior to working unsupervised with children, or within 3 months if promoted to a new role. This WAC further requires that family home licensees, center directors, assistant directors, program supervisors, lead teachers, assistant teachers, and aides complete recognizing and reporting suspected child abuse, neglect and exploitation training; emergency preparedness training; shaken baby syndrome training (if licensed for infants); training on serving children experiencing homelessness ; safe sleep training (if licensed for infants); medication management training prior to giving a child medication; blood borne pathogen training; first aid and CPR training; and food handlers training if preparing or servicing food. Child care basics includes training on all CCDF required health and safety topics with the exception of pediatric first aid/CPR which is addressed in separate training (see below). All licensed providers receive preservice orientation referencing all licensing requirements, which address all CCDF health and safety requirements.
Washington	5.3.4b Preservice & ongoing training	WAC 110-300-0106 requires child care basics training prior to being granted a license or working unsupervised with children, or within 3 months if promoted to a new role. It further requires that family home licensees, center directors, assistant directors, program supervisors, lead teachers, assistant teachers, and aides complete recognizing and reporting suspected child abuse, neglect and exploitation training; emergency preparedness training; shaken baby syndrome training (if licensed for infants); training on serving children experiencing homelessness ; safe sleep training (if licensed for infants); medication management training prior to giving a child medication; Blood Borne Pathogen training; first aid and CPR training; and food handlers training if preparing or servicing food.
Washington	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	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 stand-alone 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.
Washington	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	The training opportunities for providers are also open to staff. We have an established Learning Management System that hosts trainings for agency staff to learn about the same practices and content that providers learn about for serving children and families experiencing homelessness. DCYF eligibility workers also have access to this training module.
Washington	6.3.1a Training & Professional Development	Content on families experiencing homelessness is included in the initial 30-hour training and a stand-alone module that covers content about this topic. In addition, Enhancing Quality Early Learning (EQEL) includes content on trauma-informed care which has family, community, and generational trauma. Funded by CCDF. Training is provided statewide including areas of significant concentration of poverty and unemployment.
West Virginia		
West Virginia	1.4.1 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.
West Virginia	3.3.2 Prioritization or Targeting	Children experiencing homelessness: Served without placing on a waiting list Waive co-pays
West Virginia	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	All families who apply and are income and qualifying activity eligible are accepted. Case managers can accept verifications from agencies that provide services to families experiencing homelessness to verify need for care. If the family is not currently connected to an agency, the case manager assists the family in obtaining services.
West Virginia	3.3.6 Grace period	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. 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. 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: A. Conditions applied to the approval of the request; B. A time frame for the existence of the waiver or variance.
West Virginia	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	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. In addition, child care resource and referral agencies are charged with providing training and technical assistance to the provider community on identifying and serving homeless children and their families. Behavioral consultants provide information, training and technical support in supporting the social-emotional health of children experiencing homelessness.

West Virginia	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	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 case managers. Case managers have the opportunity to receive technical assistance and training through the collaboration with these programs. The child care resource and referral (CCR&R) agencies have also implemented a variety of methods to be proactive to identify and serve homeless families including participating in community events. Additionally, connections have been established with local shelters, libraries, food/clothing pantry, schools, food banks, and housing authorities to assist families in securing needed resources.
Wisconsin		
Wisconsin	1.4.1a Coordination with partners	Wisconsin's focus on equity and inclusion includes Lead and partnering agency participation in Collaborating Partners, where the DPI Education for Homeless Children and Youth staff 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. In addition, the newly created Equity Advisory Council (EAC) will work to raise awareness of the unique needs and hopes of all vulnerable and underserved populations, including homeless children and families.
Wisconsin	2.1.1 Information	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.
Wisconsin	2.5.1 Developmental Screenings	The Lead Agency automatically generates and sends out a letter to all families receiving Wisconsin Shares- as part of the intake process- notifying them about the importance of having their child screened between the ages of birth and age five. This letter provides parents with resources and information about important developmental milestones that children at a certain age should be able to do. The letter also gives parents information about developmental surveys that can be found online, such as those listed at https://www.cdc.gov/milestones . The letter and the resources available help families know what to look for as their child develops and grows. The developmental screening summary letter is also available at https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/eci/ifsiep-connections . 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. Some highlights from this campaign include: 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 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 . 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. 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. 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 . 6) The Lead Agency previously contracted with SFTA to provide Parent Cafés as a method of disseminating child care information as a family-friendly strategy. Some local agencies have continued to host Parent Cafés in order 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.
Wisconsin	3.3.2 Prioritization or targeting	The Lead Agency can provide eligible parents who have a child with a special need or disability with an increased subsidy benefit to assist their child care provider with any additional costs for services, materials, and/or equipment necessary to support the inclusive care of the child, per Wis. Admin. Code DCF 201.06(7). 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. The Lead Agency waives a copayment increase for families transitioning off the TANF program into regular employment. Until their next eligibility review, their copayment remains at the same rate as before their new earned income. Children experiencing homelessness: Served without being placed on the waiting list
Wisconsin	3.3.5 Procedures to support homeless enrollment	Families experiencing homelessness are not required to provide verification of homeless status or address but must verbally state that they reside in Wisconsin and intend to continue residing in Wisconsin. 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. 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
Wisconsin	3.3.6 Grace period	Wisconsin Statutes and Administrative Rules allow a 30-school day grace period 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 actions to comply with the immunization and other documentation requirements, and also to work closely with families to help them collect the appropriate documentation. In the development of the 30-day grace period the Lead Agency worked with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and all tribal and county income maintenance (IM) agencies to ensure that the identified grace period was consistent with other federally supported IM programs (i.e. Food Share, Medicaid, Wisconsin BadgerCare, etc.).
Wisconsin	3.3.6 Grace period	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. 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 has been created to complement the information found in the tool kit. These materials and/or resource information is available on our website and through CCR&Rs and/or family resource centers: https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/youngstar/pdf/homelessness/identify-homelessness.pdf and https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/connectionscount . The Lead Agency has developed a webpage dedicated to supporting families experiencing homelessness: https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/providers/homelessness. CCR&Rs use this information to support families that contact the agency to be connected to available supports. The CCR&Rs provide referrals to families (via phone, in person, and email) related to available child care, information on Wisconsin Shares subsidy qualifications and the application process, as well as local community supports to avoid homelessness.

Wisconsin	6.2.5a Training & TA efforts for providers	The Lead Agency collaborated with what was at the time the State Cross Sector Homelessness Task Force to develop a Homelessness Tool Kit to help serve families and children experiencing homelessness. The tool kit contains resources and information for how child care programs can assist families and children experiencing homelessness. A set of modules was created to complement the information found in the tool kit. The tool kit and modules, as well as other homelessness resources, can be found on the Collaborating Partners website (http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/diverse-populations/homelessness/) or on the YoungStar Homelessness webpage (https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/providers/homelessness). Through braided funding, a Regional Early Childhood Outreach Specialist was contracted to support children and families experiencing homelessness. This specialist disseminates materials and provides or facilitates professional learning opportunities around the topic of homelessness. The YoungStar Homelessness webpage also contains links to other state agencies, specific information for Milwaukee County residents, and resources that technical assistance providers can use to support the child care providers who care for children of families experiencing homelessness. The Lead Agency works to disseminate the tool kit and modules to Child Care Resource and Referral agencies, as well as other state agencies, that are in direct contact with families that may be experiencing homelessness. These agencies also inform families about how to access Wisconsin Shares child care funding so their children can attend, or continue to attend, a high-quality child care program.
Wisconsin	6.2.5b Training & TA for Lead Agency	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. The Lead Agency also works and meets with the Regional Early Childhood Outreach Specialists that are part of Collaborating Partners. These specialists help to connect and support the different regions of the state through training opportunities and resources. Continuing the work started with the State Cross Sector Homelessness Task Force, the Lead Agency works to strengthen 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. 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 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.
Wisconsin	6.3.1a Training Content	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.
Wisconsin	7.7.2 Measurable indicators	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 DCF public website at https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/program/impact . The Lead Agency measures the percentage of low-income children from high-needs populations (children from families experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, children of teen parents, and children with disabilities) who attend high-quality 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. The Lead Agency increased its goal around the percentage 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 beginning of CY2021, Wisconsin met this indicator with 56.7% of programs rated 3 Star or higher. In January 2020, the Lead Agency also set a goal that at least 67% of low-income children will attend high-quality programs. At the beginning of CY2021, Wisconsin met this indicator with 67.8% of children authorized to programs rated 3 Star or higher.
Wisconsin	7.9.1 Program Standards	The Lead Agency is part of the Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners (WECCP) group in which a coordinated regional approach is used to disseminate materials and provide or facilitate professional development opportunities in concert with YoungStar regional training, technical assistance, and quality improvement efforts. The Lead Agency's efforts in WECCP focus on WMELS, Wisconsin Pyramid Model, community approaches to 4-year-old kindergarten, inclusion of children with disabilities, support for children from families experiencing homelessness , culturally responsive practices (including tribal populations in particular), and other topics as identified by regional needs. The Lead Agency has an Interagency Agreement with DPI to provide services for the development, dissemination, translation, and support of the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards (WMELS), the Wisconsin Pyramid Model, and other high-quality practices and materials. These services support high quality early learning experiences for all children through a network of Communities of Practice. The Lead Agency, in conjunction with DPI, DHS, and the WECCP Healthy Children Committee, created and continues to use the Comprehensive and Aligned System for Early Childhood Screening and Assessment: Wisconsin's Blueprint, Third Edition 2016, to provide a comprehensive screening and assessment system in Wisconsin across sectors (school districts, Birth to Three, child care programs) to share information, develop data sharing with a focus on the Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ), and promote aligned screening and assessment practices via cross-sector professional development. The Lead Agency supports and recognizes the Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health (WI-AIMH) and its focus on promoting the healthy social and emotional development of all Wisconsin children from birth through age five. The Wisconsin Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Plan is a blueprint for a comprehensive system of care that includes prevention, early intervention, and treatment. The Wisconsin Pyramid Model is a multi-level system of support that offers evidence-based strategies for parents and professionals to support children's optimal development and prevent challenging behaviors. It is consistent with the public health/mental health model of promotion, prevention, and intervention. A 24-hour training model is available for child care providers and other professionals working with young children. Program-wide implementation supports, with additional coaching beyond the training, are available to selected sites. Additional professional development opportunities are available to practicing professionals through the Infant, Early Childhood, and Family Mental Health Capstone Certificate Program and the WI-AIMH Endorsement. The Lead Agency works in collaboration with higher education and The Registry to align infant toddler coursework, especially the Infant Toddler Credential, with Infant Mental Health competencies and to develop supports to assist credential graduates in obtaining the Infant Mental Health Endorsement. The Lead Agency, in conjunction with DPI and DHS, reviews and makes continuous improvements to Healthy Bites: A Wisconsin Guide for Improving Childhood Nutrition to infuse changes made to the CACFP and YoungStar Evaluation Criteria based on best-practice recommendations. Wisconsin continues to include Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care (NAPSACC) materials in the latest revision as well as Out of School Nutrition and Physical Activity Initiative (OSNAP) self-assessment materials from Harvard University for use with out-of-school time programs. Additionally, the 10 Steps to Breastfeeding-Friendly Child Care Centers training is available online and in person in Spanish or English. In 2021 the QRIS made a significant revision in structure, moving from a point system to a block system. This move from points to blocks came as a result of an effectiveness study done by the University of Wisconsin's Institute for Research on Poverty indicating that the required indicators for each Star rating were more influential in determining quality than a total number of points. The revision simplified the rating process, removing points and instead awarding star levels based on required indicators. This change has allowed programs and consultants to focus their attention on fewer indicators at the 3 Star level, ensuring a solid foundation before adding additional high-quality practices.
Wisconsin	7.9.1 Program Standards	The QRIS has moved to use the most current and updated versions of the Environment Rating Scales, ECERS-3, ITERS-3, FCCERS-3 and SACERS-U. Through extensive training with the ERS Institute, the YoungStar workforce was prepared to support providers locally in adapting to and understanding changes in the updated tools. The Lead Agency is currently developing two badges for programs to earn by demonstrating their exemplary program-wide and classroom practices for teaching social emotional competencies to young children and caring for children with special needs. Programs meeting these high standards will be issued a badge, either the Social Emotional or Inclusion badge. Earning each badge will be incentivized and featured on the public child care search site. The Lead Agency takes a central role in the Wisconsin Infant Toddler Policy Project (WITPP). This collaborative effort aims for a policy agenda around three main goals. First, all low-income families with young children, and others who touch the lives of infants and very young children, have equitable access to the information and supports they need to promote optimal early childhood development and well-being. Second, every low-income family with an infant and/or toddler will have equitable access to a range of affordable, high quality, culturally and linguistically responsive child care options that meet their family and employment needs. And third, the early childhood workforce will have the skills, training, and support to deliver high-quality care while receiving commensurate compensation. The WITPP work is done with the support of a large cross-sector group of agencies, businesses, and institutions of higher education from across the state. Examples of partners include Black Child Development Institute of Milwaukee, Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Education, Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board, Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative, Office of the Governor, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, and the Pediatric Association.

Wyoming

Wyoming	1.4.1a	The Department oversees the Wyoming State Homeless Program and works with the Wyoming Department of Education's McKinney-Vento Coordinator and the Homelessness Collaborative. It is the intent that coordination between the Department and homelessness programs will result in identification of children and families who may be eligible for services, including child care and other early childhood programs. Training is available to homelessness providers to identify and properly refer homeless families to child care assistance. As the Department has a representative on the Homelessness Collaborative Board, the Department will ensure that information and support is provided to assist homeless families.
Wyoming	3.3.5	From the date of application, a 30 day grace period is given to families identified as homeless to provide necessary documentation. The Department assists in collecting required documentation as able. If required verification is not received, care is no longer available past the 30 day grace period. The Department does not recover payment from families. Child Care Licensing accepts immunization exemptions for homeless families from their child care provider.
Wyoming	3.3.6	The Department allows 30 days for parents to comply with requirements of the Child Care Assistance program, which includes providing immunization records to the child care provider of choice. For families experiencing homelessness, this 30 day timeline can be extended to allow for families to meet the requirements.
Wyoming	3.3.6	The Department is responsible for Child Care Licensing. Consequently, Child Care Licensing accepts immunization and other health and safety requirement exemptions for homeless families from their child care provider. Child care eligibility workers refer families with children receiving services to local community health departments for access to immunization and other health related information. In addition, the Department's Family Resource page includes information for parents, providers and other caregivers identifying how and where to access important information related to compliance with immunization and other health and safety requirements.
Wyoming	6.2.5	The Department, in collaboration with the Department of Education, McKinney-VentoCoordinator, provides statewide training and technical assistance to Department staff. The training is delivered at statewide conferences, staff meetings. The McKinney-Vento Coordinator provides technical assistance to the Department on an as-needed basis regarding the identification of and services for children and their family experiencing homelessness. The training is delivered at statewide conferences and staff meetings. The McKinney-Vento Coordinator provides technical assistance to the Department on an as- needed basis.