

**State/Territory Plan  
2022 - 2024**

**4.1 Maximize Parental Choice and Implement Supply Building Mechanisms**

**4.1.8 Lead Agencies are required to develop and implement strategies to increase the supply of and improve the quality of child care services (98.16 (x)). These strategies should address children in underserved areas; infants and toddlers; children with disabilities, as defined by the Lead Agency; and children who receive care during non-traditional hours. Identify what method(s) is (are) used to increase supply and/or to improve quality for the following populations and indicate in the description if a strategy is focused more on building supply or on improving quality.**

State/Territory	4.1.8e xi: Other. Describe:
Alabama	
Alaska	Not applicable.
American Samoa	
Arizona	N/A
Arkansas	NA
California	
Colorado	The Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Early Childhood is planning to use the ARP Act Child Care Stabilization Grant funds to stabilize the child care sector through recurring grants to eligible child care providers for operational expenses, with bonus amounts added for providers meeting certain family needs, such as those providing infant-toddler care, operating non-traditional hours, or serving children with special needs. In addition, the Department is planning to use the Child Care Stabilization Grant funds to rebuild a more resilient child care sector through targeted subgrants designed to address systemic challenges. The Department is planning to post a simple application to its website for eligible providers to apply for recurring operational grants, which will be awarded through a formula based on licensed capacity and cost of quality. For the recurring operational grants and each of the targeted subgrants, the Department is identifying data collection needs to measure the impact or results of the strategies on providers, staff, families, and the child care sector, in addition to how providers used the Child Care Stabilization Grant funds.
Connecticut	
Delaware	

District of Columbia	
Florida	
Georgia	
Guam	The Lead Agency is exploring options that support parental choice and meet the needs of parents and families such as supporting the option of highly trained relative child care providers; training includes but not limited to required health and safety training, and behavior intervention.
Hawaii	
Idaho	
Illinois	
Indiana	
Iowa	
Kansas	N/A
Kentucky	
Louisiana	

Maine	<p>The Lead Agency compiled strategies tied to at least one of the three goal areas of access, quality, and workforce. Through stakeholder input and review of the state's PDG grant proposal, Maine will utilize the funds through the following additional strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waive Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP) parent fees until 9/30/24 to support low income families (Access)</li> <li>• Continue waiving child care licensing fees for 2 years to support new and existing child care providers (Access)</li> <li>• Develop and deliver a Parent Engagement training to child care providers (Workforce)</li> <li>• Increase child care quality payments to 3%, 10%, 15% for 2-years to support an increase in high-quality programs (Quality)</li> <li>• Reimburse CCSP based on enrollment until 9/30/23 (Access)</li> <li>• Invest in Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) online screening tool for child care providers to screen and refer children to early intervention when delays in development are detected (Quality)</li> <li>• Support the creation of the Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) to assess programmatic outcomes of early childhood programs across the lifespan (Quality)</li> <li>• Provide Second Step curriculum for child care to support social emotional learning (Quality)</li> <li>• Expand Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) to measure outcomes in child care and incentive program participation (Workforce and Quality)</li> <li>• Train early care and education providers on Maine Early Learning Development Standards (Workforce and Quality)</li> <li>• Provide startup funding for Help Me Grow for 2 years to coordinate early childhood resources statewide (Access)</li> <li>• Expand the Parent Ambassador program to empower more parent advocates and to include parents from family child care (Access)</li> <li>• Support physical activity and nutrition programming in early care and education work to align with Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) revision standards with TA, tools, and resources (Quality)</li> <li>• Translate CCSP materials into identified languages for both families and providers (Access)</li> </ul>
Maryland	Child care scholarship pays up to 15% higher scholarship rate to providers caring for special needs children who can prove costs exceeding reasonable accommodations. Costs exceeding 15% must be approved by the Child Care Scholarship branch.
Massachusetts	
Michigan	

Minnesota	<p>Through a grant with First Children's Finance, the department supports Greater Minnesota community involvement in a Rural Child Care Innovation Program. This is an innovative community engagement process designed to address the challenges of child care in rural America. The program engages communities in a process designed to develop the right-sized solutions that meet unique aspects of the community.</p> <p>During the process, communities can expect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Events that educate community members about the link between quality child care, rural economic development and viable communities</li> <li>- The community's Core Team will increase their capacity to drive change by identifying resources and focusing their efforts on innovations that make a difference in the supply of child care</li> <li>- A thorough analysis of the current child care supply and demand and evaluation of community factors impacting the local child care supply</li> <li>- A Community Solution Action Plan that includes innovative solutions generated by the community through a facilitated Town Hall process</li> <li>- Access to First Children's Finance's expertise, resources and tools, including research and financial modeling</li> <li>- Support and business improvement services to existing family child care providers and child care centers.</li> </ul> <p>This strategy is more focused on building supply.</p>
Mississippi	
Missouri	
Montana	N/A
Nebraska	<p>The Community for Kids initiative works with local community teams to address shortages of high-quality early care and education programs; shortages that both impact children's optimal development and pose a challenge for communities hoping to attract and retain the viable workforce they need to grow and thrive. Communities for Kids partners with communities' public and private entities to support and coordinate planning for access to high-quality early care and education for all children birth through age eight. These partnerships are customized to address each community's unique assets and needs, so each community can grow and prosper well into the future. Community for Kids is an initiative out of the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFE). NCFE provides expertise, coordination, and funding to support local teams using a collective impact approach to 1.) Engage stakeholders in identifying the strengths and gaps of the current early care and education resources in the community by completing a robust child care landscape study, needs assessment survey, and community conversations; 2.) Utilize informed decision-making to determine strategies and outcomes most relevant to meeting the priority needs identified in the assessment and detailing a tailored business plan for implementation and; 3.) Connection to resources, peer learning networks, research, best practice, implementation strategies, quality measurements, financing models, use of government and public resources, funding, and physical environment designs.</p>

Nevada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Child Care Staff Stipends Incentive Program would provide an annual (three year) cash incentive (ie: hazard/bonus pay) to child care providers who are currently listed in the NV Registry (a mandate for all direct service staff in licensed child care) in Levels 1 through 7. The NV Registry would make direct payments to these staff upon verification of continued employment in the child care sector.</li> <li>• Expansion of 50 additional TEACH scholarship opportunities for non-QRIS providers to further their growth on the Nevada Career Ladder and promote workforce retention. Includes admin for 75 stipend-based scholarships for NYF (stipends included in NYF budget).</li> <li>• CCDP will issue an RFP to hire a consultant to conduct an in-depth cost modeling analysis to determine the fiscal impact of restructuring Nevada's subsidy reimbursement system to reflect the cost of care versus utilization of the market rate survey, which has been shown to perpetuate inequities in low-income communities where markets cannot support the true cost of high quality care.</li> <li>• CCDP will conduct an RFP to identify a marketing/PR firm to conduct an extensive, statewide communications and outreach campaign directed at parents of young children to connect them to resources including, but not limited to the nvchildcare.org website which includes information on financial assistance programs and includes an interactive tool to identify child care providers (with real time capacity detail). The campaign will be utilized to connect parents with resources, as well as to assist providers in connecting with parents, as well as sharing information on best practices and related resources necessary for the care and development of young children. The RFP will also include updates to the current nvchildcare.org website.</li> <li>• Community Health Workers who receive an Early Childhood Education Endorsement (through the NV Community Health Worker Association) would provide health education, technical assistance, assessments, mental health resources and referrals for child care providers (organization/curriculum related), teachers, children and families (assessments, mental health resources, provider referrals, system navigation, etc.). CHW-ECE's would be trained in early childhood mental health, developmental assessments, nutrition education and resource/referral navigation to support both providers and their families with supporting healthy development of young children.</li> <li>• Proposals to be submitted by each ECAC up to the amount available to support local efforts to improve provider quality, improve provider capacity and/or increase access for families.</li> </ul>
New Hampshire	
New Jersey	<p>DHS/DFD plans to use ARP to continue supporting providers through grants to help stabilize the child care industry, so they may remain open and families have access to child care services. Additionally, DHS/DFD will review all recommendations provided, review data and assessment surveys, as well as obtain direct feedback from providers and stakeholders to determine what supports and resources are critically to help improve and expand quality slots for underserved areas and support family needs. Activities necessary to meet these goals include – operational expense grants, environmental landscape surveys, family and provider relief and quality supply building initiatives.</p>
New Mexico	N/A

New York	
North Carolina	<p>North Carolina is working to design a state model for high-quality early learning programs for birth through age three children and families. One of NC DHHS's recommendations was to conduct a feasibility and cost study for the development of a pilot program modeled after NC Pre-K. CCDF funds will be utilized to conduct this portion of the work. DCDEE will use the recommendation generated through this work to develop a program model that will address racial equity and systemic barriers by developing equitable eligibility requirements, site qualifications and requirements, classroom environment (with adaptation considerations) and program requirements, teacher qualifications and program evaluation and monitoring.</p> <p>In PDG funded activity 5.3, NC DCDEE will partner with the <a href="#">NC Division of Public Health's Early Intervention Services Branch</a> to expanding access to teletherapy and increase family engagement. Teletherapy expansion will provide over 200 children with developmental disabilities in western NC services through teletherapy, such as occupational therapy, treatment for infant feeding disorders, and speech therapy. Translation services will be provided for Spanish-speaking children and families. Family engagement efforts will provide 18,000 families of children with disabilities access to materials, webinars and trainings to support their children's transition into preschool, and will ensure 100% of <a href="#">Local Interagency Coordinating Councils</a> include family representatives.</p> <p>PDG Activity 5.6: Alternative Market Rate Model – To build the supply of quality child care, NC DCDEE will identify a partner to conduct an alternative rate methodology study to develop up to three alternative models to the state's current market rate model for child care subsidies. Building on the <a href="#">initial cost modeling work</a> completed by the <a href="#">Center for American Progress</a> – the new models and cost estimates for helping families afford child care will be developed with recommended actions and next steps—recognizing that low-income families spend as much as 35% of their household income on child care. This will at the same time acknowledge that early childhood teachers can earn less than \$10 per hour, often without health insurance and other benefits.</p>
North Dakota	NA
Northern Mariana Islands	CCDF supports the physical and mental health and wellness of providers. Free training and resources will be offered to all providers in this area. Incentives to improve physical and mental well-being of all types of providers will be implemented. Some examples of incentives may include-vouchers or gift certificates for healthy snacks, sugar free drinks, free participation in community-based health and wellness/exercise events, and gift certificate for maintaining a healthy weight/living, and free blood pressure and sugar check.
Ohio	
Oklahoma	Quality Coaches are available statewide to provide support for quality care for children. Stipends awarded through the CECPD for individuals to advance professional development goals. Free training is available to all providers throughout the state. Scholars for Excellence in Child Care Scholars provide educational supports for individuals to achieve overall quality in the programs they work in. The state QRIS strives for programs to create an overall quality care for children through advancement in star rating.

Oregon	The local child care resource and referral programs work in partnership with the Early Learning Hubs to support providers who serve children who exhibit behavioral issues. They offer technical assistance and referrals to appropriate screening entities. The child care resource and referral programs also work in partnership with local governments to improve start-up business challenges for child care facilities.
Pennsylvania	
Puerto Rico	N/A
Rhode Island	
South Carolina	<p>Using CARES and CRRSA funding, the LA has deployed four rounds of COVID Support Grants for regulated child care providers since the beginning of the pandemic via an easy to use online portal. The application information was made available via emails to providers, added to the <a href="http://www.scchildcare.org">www.scchildcare.org</a> website and publicized on the ABC Quality Facebook page. These grants are designed to help providers who have had to close or who are open and have lost revenue due to low enrollments and are available to assist providers in paying for their child care facility operating expenses, including rent/mortgage payments, utility bills, cleaning or sanitation costs, and personnel costs and retention of staff. Head Start facilities, as well as 4K/preschool programs operated by public schools, are not eligible for these grants.</p> <p>The terms and conditions of the grant are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providers will use the grant funds to offset child care business expenses, including rent/mortgage payments, utility bills, cleaning or sanitation costs, and personnel costs.</li> <li>• Providers will maintain documentation supporting the expenditure of grant funds which may include records of application approval, receipts, invoices, and/or any other supporting documentation indicating how funds were used. Documentation must remain on file at the facility for a period of three (3) years from the date the grant is completed as needed to satisfy a possible audit. Documentation may be requested at any time by DSS and, if requested, will need to be provided within fifteen (15) calendar days of the request.</li> </ul> <p>The LA will take as many actions as we can to remove any immediate or short-term obstacles or barriers that our child care providers and parents are facing while we continue to flush out those items that take more time. The majority of items included in sections B and C are strategies that DSS is exploring, with stakeholders, for potential use of COVID relief funding that will require additional time and effort to design and implement.</p> <p><b><i>A. Short Term/Immediate Actions to Remove Barriers for Providers and Parents</i></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Additional Operating Grants. Released a fourth round of operating grants June 7, 2021.</li> <li>2. Waiving licensing fees, and reimbursing providers for the total cost of background checks, including central registry checks.</li> <li>3. Continuing vouchers for parents who are working or participating in education or training programs and whose income is at or below 300% FPL.</li> <li>4. Eliminating co-pays for parents who receive assistance through the SC Voucher program.</li> </ol>

***B. Increasing Child Care Capacity***

1. Start Up Grants to help increase the number of child care facilities available in certain areas. This item has several possible options within and the operational details to be worked through before it can be successfully implemented.
2. Increasing the number of children served in existing facilities. While areas of the state may have enough child care facilities to meet the need, the availability of child care varies greatly based on age of the child, and hours of operation. For example, finding safe, affordable, quality child care options for swing and graveyard shifts is significantly more difficult than normal operating hours. In addition, most child care facilities do not serve the full number of children allowable under their license, due to staffing shortages and other costs.
3. Matching salaries for additional staff in select areas and/or for specific care types, such as infants.
4. Increasing the number of child care providers enrolled in the ABC Quality program. ABC Quality serves as the mechanism by which providers are eligible to receive SC Voucher payments. Considering this, provider enrollments need to expand alongside the overall capacity increase to ensure that low-income families have access to child care.

***C. Stabilizing Current Child Care Operations***

1. Raising voucher rates for providers based on the most recent 2020 Market Rate Survey and Narrow Cost of Care analysis to help close the gap between the voucher rates and private pay clients.
2. Instituting contracted slots, similar to how 4K funding is distributed, to help providers with operating costs.
3. Providing bonus payments for child care employees in regulated facilities.
4. Creating a pool of temporary caregivers that providers can pull from on an emergency basis. Caregivers would be screened for age and educational level requirements, completion of necessary training hours, and up-to-date background checks prior to being placed in the pool.
5. Employer/state subsidized child care (splitting the cost between the state and employers).
6. Exploring options to assist child care workers with health care benefit costs.
7. Stabilization grants will be used to target specific needs of providers to include support of worker compensation and benefits, health and safety needs, social emotional and the physical needs of children, etc.

The LA is using information gathered from Early Care and Education stakeholders to include survey and webinars with child care providers and well as input from other ECE entities in planning for the implementation of the American Rescue Plan stabilization grants. The LA is working to develop the application and ensuring that the data elements are collected to report to the Office of Child Care.

South Dakota

NA

Tennessee



Texas	
Utah	
Vermont	N/A
Virgin Islands	
Virginia	
Washington	
West Virginia	
Wisconsin	N/A
Wyoming	