

**State/Territory Plan  
2022 - 2024**

**4.4 Implement Generally Accepted Payment Practices and Ensure Timeliness of Payments**

**4.4.3 Describe how Lead Agencies' payment practices described in subsection 4.4 support equal access to a full range of providers.**

<b>State/Territory</b>	<b>4.4.3: Describe:</b>
Alabama	The caseworker gives an explanation of the certificate process at initial application and whenever the parent requests to change providers. Also information is found on the Parent Agreement and the Parental Choice form that is provided at each eligibility determination. The parental choice form is issued when the parent notifies the case manager of a change in providers. A Parent Pre-Certificate of Child Care – Shopping Care is issued to parents who have not chosen a provider at the time care is awarded. The pre-certificate allows the parent to choose from among all legally operating providers. The parent is allowed up to 10 days to make a choice of provider. Additional time is granted on a case-by-case basis when requested by the parent.
Alaska	In Alaska 99% of children participating in the Child Care Assistance Program were in licensed care and 81% of licensed providers are participating in the Child Care Assistance Program, thereby demonstrating participating families have equal access to a range of providers. Request for payment practices are fair for all provider types and include payment of registration fees to allow greater access to more providers. In addition, child care providers receive payment within 21 days based on unit of care authorized and actual attendance, and authorizing care on a full-month/part-month provides stability for providers. The CCPO issues payment for sick days as well as notice days. In the January 2021 Child Care Services Monthly Report, Table 5: Number of children with an authorization by provider type and CCAP rate region shows of the children authorized care, (71%) children were in Licensed Center care; (10%) children were in Licensed Group Home care; (10%) children were in Licensed Home care; (1%) children were in Approved Relative care; and 8 (less than 1%) children were in In-home care.
American Samoa	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>1. Subsidy rates are based on a cost of care analysis that included all the providers operating in the Territory. Families in American Samoa have access to any provider with available care.</i></p>
Arizona	The Lead Agency enters into agreements with licensed centers, ADHS certified group homes, and ADES Certified Family Child Care Providers, including ADES Certified In-Home Providers. In addition, the Lead Agency enters into agreements with Non-Certified Relative Providers. The Agreements outlines written payment agreements including information on payment policies, rates, schedules, and the dispute-resolution process.

Arkansas	Arkansas currently has 1945 Licensed Child Care Providers. Of the 1945 Licensed Child Care Providers, 1008 of them are CCDF Providers. All CCDF providers may bill immediately after the Certificate of Authorization has been received and services are rendered. Payment is generally direct deposited into the provider's account within 7-10 business days.
California	Vouchers/certificates are issued based on the families certified need for care. Agencies pay the providers published rates for non-subsidized families up to the Regional Market Rate ceiling, whichever is less. Families have access to 75 percent of the market. In areas where licensed providers maybe limited, families also have access to license-exempt providers. Payment practices include paying the providers within no 21 days after the agency has received the provider's invoice or attendance record, and reimbursements in voucher programs are based on the hours of service that are broadly consistent with the certified hours of need rather than attendance. In direct service programs, reimbursements are based on enrollment rather than attendance except unexcused absences in excess of five percent if a child's total attendance. Payment practices also include general programs paying on the basis of part-time or full-time ranging from full-time plus (10.5 hours and over) to half-time (under 4 hours). For alternative payment programs, reimbursement is based on the most applicable reimbursement ceiling established based on the market rate survey including, hourly, daily, part-time weekly, part-time monthly, and full-time monthly.
Colorado	The Department has made significant efforts to reduce the barriers associated with accepting CCCAP and to support generally accepted payment practices. These efforts include, weekly payments through CHATS; increasing the minimum number of monthly absences; state set reimbursement rates; system functionality that supports automatic payment of registration, activity and transportation fees; system functionality that supports contract for slots; improving and streamlining the fiscal agreement process. These efforts align policies more closely with private pay practices more than they ever have and we continue to assess the barriers that providers face when accepting child care subsidies to continue to make positive changes. We continue to see an increase in the number of child care providers accepting CCCAP which means an increase in access to child care for subsidy families.
Connecticut	The OEC's payments are timely and offered with reasonable requirements for attendance. Providers are not required to submit daily attendance for payment or hourly pay, which allows the providers to operate a financially stable business, regardless of if a child is sick and unable to come to care. Payments are also offer for a variety of childcare schedules and rates are based on geographic regions that respond to different economic factors. The Care 4 Kids rates are paid in relation to market rate at a regional level, by age group, setting type and hours of care. The access to care is provided through provision for access to Licensed and License Exempt Center based, Licensed Group home, Licensed Family Home, and Unlicensed Relative care, available in all five regions, and serving children from all communities in Connecticut. In calendar year 2020, Care 4 Kids served a monthly average of 8,700 children in 825 centers & group homes (59% of 1,400, the total number of active Licensed Center and Group Homes, as of 05/28/2021. Plus an average of 3,600 children in 820 Licensed Family Child Care settings (43% of 1,900, the total number of active Licensed Family Child Care Homes, as of 05/28/2021. Plus and average of 3,800 children in 2,000 + Unlicensed Relative settings. The choices for families include these multiple setting types in each of the five region, across the state, with incremental rate increases in recent years to allow families more purchasing power and to allow providers additional supports to maintain and improve the health, safety and quality of care.

Delaware	<p>The Lead Agency's payment practices support equal access in the following ways: ensuring the timeliness of payments by paying within twenty-one (21) calendar days of the services, delinking provider payments from a child's occasional absences as providers are permitted to bill for 5 absent days per month, allowing providers to participate in the POC Plus program, and allowing providers to participate in the Delaware STARS program. Additionally, the Lead Agency uses Market Rate Studies to determine the cost of childcare and pays providers based on this research. Each of these practices incentivizes providers to participate in the childcare subsidy program and in term provides more access to quality childcare programs for low income families.</p>
District of Columbia	<p>The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) pays the full monthly rate, based on enrollment, for children who attend child care in a month and are absent 10 or fewer days (or 15 days if the absence is excused). For children who are absent more than 10 days in a given month (or 15 days if the absences is excused) OSSE pays for up to 10 days of absences (or 15 days if the absence is excused) as well as any days that the child was in attendance. This policy is created to cover providers' fixed costs to deliver care and support equal access to a full range of providers, while also creating an incentive for providers to take steps to prevent or respond to chronic absenteeism, which prevents children from accessing care. OSSE has reduced barriers to provider participation by ensuring on-time and consistent payments to child care providers and pays a \$75 initial registration fee for each subsidy eligible child to reflect the practices of private pay providers. OSSE is exploring alternative payment practices, such as grants or contracts for subsidized slots, as additional options to support equal access to a full range of providers, particularly for children with special needs.</p>

## Florida

Sufficient payment rates and equal access are evident throughout the state based upon the large participation rate of various provider types in the SR Program. Currently, 60 percent of the total licensed child care providers in the state are also contracted to provide SR services to eligible children. Each ELC signs a grant agreement with the OEL to ensure that payments to providers will be made within 21 calendar days. The State supports fixed costs of providing child care services by requiring the ELC to reimburse the provider based on the child's authorized hours of care needed, either part-time or full-time. For a child who is authorized only full-time care, a ELC shall not recoup or adjust a provider's reimbursement for days a child attends part-time. The ELC shall not reduce authorized hours of care prior to redetermination unless the parent requests a reduction in the authorized hours of care based on hours of care needed (Rule 6M-4.500, F.A.C.). The State delinks provider payments from a child's occasional absences and providing full payment if a child is absent for up to a certain number of days in a month. In accordance with Rule 6M-4.500(4), F.A.C., reimbursement shall be authorized for no more than three absences per calendar month per child except in the event of extraordinary circumstances. In these cases, the ELC or its designee shall provide written approval for payment based on written documentation provided by the parent justifying the excessive absence for up to an additional seven days. Reimbursement for child care is full-time or part-time with additional units of care for extended hours (greater than full-time care), and one unit of care for less than part-time care. A registration fee of up to \$75 per child will be paid to SR families, this payment will be limited to two times within a 5-year period during a child's continuous time in the SR Program. All CCDF providers complete *Form OEL-SR-20 - Statewide School Readiness Provider Contract*. This stipulates payment policies, including rates, schedules, and any fees charged to providers, and the dispute-resolution process. The State provides prompt notice to providers regarding any changes to the family's eligibility status that may impact payment through the ELCs. ELCs provide prompt notification to providers and parents of any eligibility status changes. Rule 6M- 4.200, F.A.C., requires ELCs notify providers within 10 calendar days if as a result of redetermination, a parent is determined ineligible. The rule requires that the ELC notify the provider within two weeks prior to a child's termination. The State also has a timely appeal and resolution process for payment inaccuracies and disputes, as provided in the *Statewide School Readiness Provider Contract* (contract). If a provider disputes any action taken by the ELC pursuant to the terms of the contract, the provider may request a review hearing. The ELC and provider will decide upon a date and time for the review hearing within 45 days of the request for the review hearing. At that point, a Review Hearing Committee will assess the claims of the provider. The ELC will be provided a reasonable opportunity to submit rebuttal evidence. Following the completion of the presentations, the Review Hearing Committee will vote on each of the provider's claims.

Georgia	<p>The Lead Agency contracts with a third-party vendor to process provider invoices and payments through a web-based billing portal and to process hard-copy, paper provider claims for providers unable to access/use the web-based portal. The web-based billing portal is used by more than 98 percent of child care subsidy providers. Once eligible providers sign up to be a program provider for child care subsidy, they are automatically enrolled to use the web-based portal unless they specify otherwise. All providers are paid via an ACH transfer to the account provided within two days of an invoice being submitted. The web-based portal allows providers to view eligible children assigned to their program, track attendance, and quickly submit an invoice for care on a weekly basis. More than 80 percent of claims for care are invoiced and paid within one week after the week of care. In an effort not to exclude providers, the Lead Agency also allows providers to submit a hard-copy, paper invoice for services. Upon receipt, these claims are processed within two days and paid via ACH transfer within eight business days. Allowing multiple types of invoicing and rapid payment supports equal access to a range of child care subsidy providers. In addition, as noted in 4.5.1, the Lead Agency has taken steps to support equal access to a range of providers by: delinking provider payments from a child's occasional absence and paying providers for a full week of care if the child is present at least one day that week; paying providers up to two weeks a year even if the child is absent the entire week; paying for full-time or part-time care (rather than hours or other smaller increments); and paying for registration fees.</p>
Guam	<p>Guam's rates are set at the 75th percentile, and timely payments within 21 days provide parents with access to all eligible providers in the territory.</p>

## Hawaii

Once determined eligible and initial payments have been issued, the Department pays the child care subsidy payments prospectively to the family at the start of the month for that month's child care needs.

The Department issues child care subsidy payments prospectively at the start of the month based on the child's enrollment rather than attendance.

The Department issues child care subsidy payments prospectively at the start of the month based on part-time or full-time basis rather than paying for hours of service.

The Department pays for a registration fee cost up to \$125 once per state fiscal year, as most licensed and registered child care providers do charge registration fees to all families needing child care services.

The Department utilizes Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards or direct deposit to the family for the family to make payments to a legally exempt child care provider. If the family uses a licensed or registered child care provider, with the consent of the family, the Department may forward the family's child care subsidy payment from the family's EBT account to the bank account which the provider has registered with the Department for the forwarding of payments; however, all communication about the eligible child care subsidy payment amount is still directed to the family. It is the family's responsibility to communicate with the child care provider about their eligibility and child care subsidy payment amount.

The Department's payment practices allow families to access a range of legally exempt and licensed and registered child care providers. Most child care providers, whether regulated or not, charge families at the beginning of the month for child care services that will be rendered based on the child's enrollment in the child care program. Because the Department issues child care subsidy payments at the beginning of the month, subsidy families do not need to incur the child care cost up-front and wait for after-the-fact reimbursement from the Department. The Department's reimbursement is timely to coincide with when the child care cost is incurred by the subsidy family. Licensed and registered child care providers that have opted to set up their bank account information with the Department do not require subsidy families to pay the full child care cost up front and the provider works with the subsidy family to have the child care subsidy payment forwarded on to the provider's financial account. This practice reduces the financial hardship for subsidy family to pay for their monthly child care cost.

Idaho	<p>Providers and advocacy groups continue to support the practice of allowing child care providers to charge above the Local Market Rate, as demonstrated in feedback provided for this plan. This policy encourages and maintains a majority of Idaho's child care providers' voluntary participation with the Idaho Child Care Program (ICCP). Idaho's payments are timely, and providers receive accurate payment information each month. Providers have quick and easy access to DHW staff via email, phone call, or in-office visit to assist with any payment questions or issues. Families participating in ICCP continue to access every type of child care provider, including high quality providers participating in Idaho's QRIS program and NAEYC accreditation. More than 10% of all children participating in child care subsidy in Idaho are being served in programs considered to be high quality as defined in Idaho's Quality Ratings and Improvement System. Ongoing Market Rate updates continue to ensure that providers participating in ICCP will maintain their participation with ICCP, and families will continue to be able to access Idaho's best child care choices.</p>
Illinois	<p>The Lead Agency's payment practices mimic private-pay practices for child care, encouraging providers to serve children receiving child care subsidy. The 80% attendance rule provides security of payment to providers for all eligible days even if a child does not attend 100% of those eligible days. The Lead Agency's average payment process takes between 5-8 business days (although in some instances may take longer), resulting in timely payment.</p>
Indiana	<p>94% of licensed child care centers and child care homes participate in the CCDF program. Neither families nor providers have indicated through surveys or the review of the state plan that this policy prevents them from supporting children.</p> <p>Authorized CCDF providers by type:  Licensed Centers: 651;  Licensed Homes: 2,161;  Registered Ministries: 392;  Exempt Centers: 436;  Exempt Homes: 96</p> <p>Percent of providers participating in CCDF:  Licensed Centers: 87.3 %;  Licensed Homes: 95.9 %;  Registered Ministries: 57.2 %</p> <p>Based on the percentages above, barriers are at a minimum, as there is a large percentage of licensed homes and licensed centers that participate in the CCDF program. For registered ministries, the lower percentage of participation exemplifies a lower rate of participation due to additional requirements that must be met by the program.</p>
Iowa	<p>The Lead agency's timeliness policy is to pay completed provider invoices within seven business days. This information is tracked by the Lead Agency and over 99% of the time payments are made within that timeframe. The timeliness of the Lead Agency's payments supports child care providers willingness to accept CCA payments. This shows up in the number of child care providers willing to accept CCA payments. When the data was checked in April of 2021 92.1% of our 2,249 licensed family child care homes and 71.6% of 1,498 licensed centers were accepting Child Care Assistance payments.</p>

Kansas	The Lead Agency supports the following payment practices that are similar to private pay: benefits are allowed for days a child is absent, benefits are issued on a prospective basis to families, benefits are made available electronically to parents at the first of the month and payment is established between the parent and the provider, and an allowance is provided for enrollment fees. Since payment is between the parent and the provider, the provider has the same resolutions available to them for payment disputes as they do any of their private pay parents.
Kentucky	The Lead Agency considers provider fees based on results of Market Rate survey and take into consideration regional differences; type of care provided; and rates of programs that do and do not accept CCDF funding. There is a range of child care provider types supporting parental choice such as-Licensed Type I, Licensed Type II, Certified and Family Friend and Neighbor. There are various payment options such as on-line billing and paper billing. Providers can submit CCAP billing the first day of the month. 90 % of providers who submit payment through the online billing portal are issued payment within the 1st two weeks of the month. Payments are issued monthly and daily. Providers also have access to receive their CCDF payments via direct deposit, whereas payments are issued within the first 4 days of the month.
Louisiana	<b>The Lead Agency increased rates in 2021 to a minimum of the 75th percentile and changed payment practices where the provider receives the maximum allowable rate regardless of the amount charged by the provider. Child Care Assistance Program Bonus Payments are provided to highly-rated Type III providers, further incenting their commitment to quality. Under the Pandemic Protective Services Procedure and a waiver from BESE, the Lead Agency is paying based on enrollment at the state’s maximum rate to a variety of providers that were available to families which include Type III Early Learning Centers, School Child Care Centers, Family Child Care Providers, In-Home Providers and Military Child Care Centers. In addition, the Lead Agency has disbursed the Louisiana Child Care Assistance Provider (LaCAP) Relief Grant to early childhood providers to support families and the early childhood profession as it recovers from the impact of COVID-19 via CARES and CRSSA funds. The LaCAP Relief Grant was extended to Type I and Type II centers (non CCDF subsidy providers).</b>
Maine	Payment rates are based on the MRS's results that are directly collected from Providers that are in different geographic locations, types of Providers, and multiple ages. In addition, Providers on a Step 2 or higher receive the 3, 10, 15% quality bump in reimbursement pay.
Maryland	Maryland families have access to a full range of child care provider types, if they can pay the out-of-pocket expense not covered by the approved scholarship amount and the required parental co-pay. For many Maryland families, the approved scholarship amount and the difference owed to the provider above scholarship reimbursement limits the range of accessible care. Maryland's reimbursement rates per payment region is no less than the 60th percentile of the April 2019. The increase to the 60th percentile of reimbursement on November 23, 2020, further supports parents access to a full range of care. Maryland hopes to reduce parental co-pays to better increase payment practices and equal access to higher quality child care for all parents. Maryland continues to analyze data to determine the timeframe and possibility of increasing scholarship reimbursement up to or beyond the 75th percentile in order to address the true cost of child care and to enable parents eligible for the Child Care Scholarship Program to have a wider selection of child care providers.



Massachusetts	<p>EEC's payment practices support equal access to a range of providers by providing stability of funding and encouraging more child care providers to serve children receiving CCDF subsidies. For instance, EEC's payment practices described in section 4.5 ensure payment is promptly made, covers longer period of times, and has prompt resolution of conflicts. Additionally, EEC also pays for 12 holidays and 5 professional development days. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, EEC began paying subsidized providers based on their enrollment, instead of based on attendance. This payment practice started in March 2019 and will continue indefinitely at this time.</p>
Michigan	<p>Michigan uses a variety of strategies to ensure families have access to a provider who accept subsidy children by ensuring we provide reimbursement for an adequate number of absences, reimbursement for some registration fees, payments to providers within 21 days, allowing 90 days for back-billing and a part-time/full-time reimbursement structure. In addition, all licensed providers in Michigan are eligible to receive child care subsidy payments without an additional registration process, therefore CCDF children can be assigned to them without delay, allowing them to begin billing for the care of CCDF eligible children as soon as the parent identifies them. License exempt providers are enrolled through the lead agency and must be approved prior to being eligible to receive payments.</p>
Minnesota	<p>The payment practices identified in 4.4 are typical payment practices in the child care market. Providers are encouraged to provide care to subsidy families because: By paying within 21 days, timely payments are made to providers; By paying based on a child's scheduled and authorized hours rather than actual attendance, within the limits of the absent day policy, consistent payments are made to providers; By paying fully for days that a child attends for any percent of the day, more consistent payments are made to providers; By paying a provider's charge for up to 10 federal or state holidays (or other cultural or religious holidays identified by the provider) per year, more consistent payments are made to providers; By paying for up to two registration fees, per child, annually, families are better able to access a range of providers; By issuing timely notices and allowing for provider appeals and payment resolution processes, providers are kept informed of and involved; By limiting local payment practices, providers have more consistent payment experiences across the state.</p> <p>Children receiving subsidy are able to access a range of providers. The full range of providers are participating in the CCDF system. In SFY 2019, 72 percent of children attended licensed centers, 15 percent attended licensed family child care, 11 percent attended certified license-exempt centers and 2 percent attended legal nonlicensed providers.</p>
Mississippi	<p>The Lead Agency pays all child care providers through widely accepted payment practices across industries and employment settings. The Lead Agency pays providers through either a paper check or direct deposit and allows for two payment cycles per month to ensure that all providers have an opportunity to submit a claim for payment.</p>
Missouri	<p>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.</p>

Montana	<p>The payment practices support equal access to a range of providers that are regulated and/or monitored by the Child Care Licensing program in the Quality Assurance Division of MT DPHHS. A parent or referring agency determines a child's need for authorized child care, up to 50 hours/week. Authorized child care can meet the child's need and does not have to directly follow the parent's schedule. With accurate authorized care, a child can meet the 85% attendance requirement to be paid the monthly authorized amount. The Authorization Plan details to the child care provider on how the child can meet 85% attendance. Child care providers may invoice for absence days if a child attends at least 85% of the authorized time. This allows the continuity of care to be maintained for both the provider and parent as well as financially supports a provider during an interruption in care. Providers are reimbursed on a half-time day (part-time) or full-time day (full-time) basis and registration fees are paid to providers who collect this fee. This fee must be charged to all families regardless of how they pay for childcare. The hours for a half-time day were decreased from six to five hours a day with feedback from child care providers. Any changes to the family's eligibility for services must be provided to the CCR&amp;R agency and if the action is adverse to the family it must be shared with both family and provider immediately. The process for appeal and resolution is included and shared with a family or provider when any adverse action is taken regarding child care subsidy.</p>
Nebraska	<p>Current billing practices and regulations allow providers to receive electronic payment in just a few days after submission. Child care providers submit child care claims and billings through an electronic portal. Once payments are submitted and processed, they are then directly deposited or placed on an electronic card within only a few days. Other payment practices of the Lead Agency for providers to be in line with private pay families are the CCDF/Subsidy payment for enrollment fees and activity fees to providers.</p>
Nevada	<p>Paying based on enrollment in addition to increased reimbursement based on star rating helps bridge the gap between what the family can afford (copay based on state max rate), and what they actually charge. Also, creating delegate agencies to ensure slots are reserved for low income families.</p>
New Hampshire	
New Jersey	<p>DHS/DFD electronic payment system operates through a point of service machine and interactive voice phone system. All providers are required to use DHS/DFD's electronic time and attendance system. Both methods capture daily attendances and absences and issue payment in the same way. Biweekly direct deposits are issued to all providers and allows for an equitable payment schedule.</p>
New Mexico	<p>The Lead Agency pays child care providers on a monthly basis, according to standard practice for the child care industry. Payment is based upon the child's enrollment with the provider as reflected in the child care placement agreement, rather than daily attendance. Child care providers must notify the Lead Agency if a child is disenrolled or child care has not been used for 14 consecutive calendar days without notice from the client. Assistance is provided effective the first day of the month of application if all of the following apply: (1) the client is utilizing child care services; (2) the client is employed, attending school or a training program. In the case of a public health emergency, the department secretary may waive the requirement for employment, attending school or a training program; and (3) the provider is eligible to be paid.</p>

New York	<p>LDSSs have considerable flexibility in payment practices. However, the vast majority of LDSSs pay for some child absences. This is a significant mechanism by which LDSSs normalize their payment practices with the private paying child care market, which often functions through child enrollments as opposed to strict adherence to attendance. Additionally, more than half of LDSSs also pay for up to 5 program closures per year.</p> <p>While there is no regulatory timeframe in which a district must make payments, LDSSs typically make payments on a bi-monthly or monthly cycle, and one LDSS pays on a weekly cycle. OCFS recommends that districts issue payments within 30 days from the date a child care claim is submitted. The Child Care Time and Attendance system (CCTA) has been implemented in all districts outside of NYC, which has resulted in faster and more accurate payments to providers because a child's attendance can be submitted electronically to the districts and CCTA calculates the payments and uploads these payments to our statewide payment system.</p> <p>Pursuant to the FY 2022 Enacted Budget of the State of New York, changes related to the payment of absences will be implemented. OCFS is in the process of making the necessary regulatory change to support this policy shift.</p>
North Carolina	<p>The payment rate for licensed centers and homes is usually determined by comparing the private paying rates to the market rate for the provider's star-rated license level. Providers receive monthly payment via direct deposit between the 15th - 20th of the month following service provision. Payment is based on enrollment and a child can be absent for up to 10 days during a service month with full payment still being made to the provider. If a child is absent for more than 10 days, payment is based on the number of days that services were provided. When there are changes to a family's eligibility status that impact a provider's payment, providers are notified in writing of the change. Providers have the right to appeal an incorrect payment and have 60 days from when the incorrect payment was made to file an appeal. All providers enrolled in the program must sign a provider agreement annually which outlines the payment practices listed above and outlines the expectations of both the Lead Agency and the provider. These consistent payment practices ensure limited barriers to providers participating in the program</p>
North Dakota	<p>The Lead Agency has implemented policies and procedures to ensure that payments are issued within 21 days from the date the payment request form was received. The Lead Agency has implemented a simplified payment request form to reduce time and administrative burden on providers and families. Additionally, each child is allowed up to 40 hours, or 5 days, of absence hours per month.</p>
Northern Mariana Islands	<p>CCDF Program follows the generally accepted payment practices of child care providers who serve children who do not receive CCDF subsidies; paying prospectively prior to the delivery of services, paying the full time rate or based on enrollment rather than attendance, and paying for the registration fees. CCDF families do not get any form of discounts regardless of the</p>
Ohio	<p>Ohio's payment practices allow for the provider participating in the publicly funded child care (PFCC) program to receive payment weekly, if they choose.</p>

Oklahoma	DHS payment rates for care and payment practices are uniform across the state so that families have access to a wide range of providers. DHS does not have a waiting list and all eligible families requesting subsidy are assisted in locating licensed child care. Fifty-nine percent of licensed providers in Oklahoma accept children who receive subsidies.
Oregon	Providers of all types, licensed and license-exempt, are able to receive payment through the Oregon Department of Human Services on behalf of eligible families. Payments are made based on Market Price Study findings which base maximum payment amounts and follow standard billing practices (for example, license-exempt providers typically bill hourly, whereas licensed providers typically bill a part-time or monthly 'slot' amount). Currently, certified centers are able to bill prospectively for anticipated attendance as long as the child was in care one day, and agencies are looking into potential expansion of this policy to additional provider types.
Pennsylvania	When child care facilities are initially licensed, their information is immediately shared with the ELRC through the PELICAN system. The ELRC contacts newly licensed providers, which include child care centers, group child care facilities and family child care homes, to offer participation in the subsidized child care program – CCW. The ELRC explains the full range of benefits of participating in the subsidized child care program, including participation in Keystone STARS, technical assistance, and the ability to receive more robust payment. Providers willing to accept subsidized children into enrollment sign a contract with the ELRC. Providers may also be identified by the subsidy family; if so, the same process is followed to engage the provider in a contract to serve subsidy children. In both cases, ELRCs make information available about the full range of care options to families. Currently, 89 percent of licensed providers are accepting CCW children and families. This information is also publicly available at <a href="mailto:www.findchildcare@pa.gov">www.findchildcare@pa.gov</a> .
Puerto Rico	ACUDEN's payment practices have improved significantly, since the recently established CIMA case management system has proven to be much more effective as the database for payment generation. All payments are electronically made, which has speeded up the processes and made ACUDEN a more competitive agency in the marketplace for providers. Additionally, such Program organization and newly implemented practices have strengthened provider confidence in offering services to CCDF participants with the assurance that they will receive their payment and that they have the proper and legal procedures to act regarding their claims
Rhode Island	<p>The Lead Agency uses the Market Rate Survey as a benchmark to determine fair, and adequate, reimbursement rates for subsidized care. Of the licensed providers who accept subsidized children, family child care homes and centers are about equally represented, even though the distribution pattern in the percentage of children they enroll differs.</p> <p>The lead agency has adopted payment practices due to the COVID-19 pandemic that provide CCDF families and child care providers additional flexibilities and support equal access during the current state of emergency.</p> <p>Additional policies and practices such issuing timely payment to providers serving CCAP children within 13 business days and honoring quarter-time, part-time, three-quarter-time and full-time subsidies are also intended to support equal access to a full range of providers.</p>

South Carolina	The LA's payment practices support equal access to a range of providers by providing funding stability through timely, consistently dependable payments for services by the week. Payments are made to providers chosen by families for their children for the entire week of care, as long as a child attends at least one day to ensure continuity of care to be paid in a 52-week eligibility period. Subsidy payment rates are proposed to be increased effective 10/1/2021 at or above the 75th percentile of the 2020 MRS for providers serving children with CCDF-funded subsidies. Evidence that children have equal access and are served by a range of providers is that in FFY2020, 40% were served in Level B centers, 30.7% in Level C centers, 9.30% in Level B+ centers, 2.75% in Level A+ centers, 1.63% in Level A Centers, 0.91% in Level B Group Child Care Homes, 0.18% in Level B+ Group Child care homes, 0.18% in Level C Group Child Care Homes, 0.40% in Level B Family child Care Homes, 0.95% in Level C Family Child Care Homes, 0.21 in B+ Family Child Care Homes, 3.29% in License-exempt centers, 1.2% in family, friend, and neighbor care, 8.3% by emergency providers during COVID-19.
South Dakota	The factors that make it possible for families using assistance to choose from a full range of providers include: South Dakota payment rates are set at the 75th percentile, the identified federal benchmark; South Dakota allows parents to choose from licensed centers, registered family homes, as well as informal and in-home child care providers who meet certain health and safety standards; South Dakota reimbursement rates are weighted by enrollment to account for the actual number of child care slots rather than the number of child care providers, which helps ensure the rates consider where children are being served; and rates are calculated separately among provider types in order to allow families access to child care and their choice of provider type.
Tennessee	Our payment practices ensure that reimbursement is timely and dependable to reduce any barriers for the providers to participate in the child care certificate program.
Texas	TWC Child Care Services rule §809.91 outlines the requirements to be a child care provider and §809.93 outlines provider reimbursement. Additionally, parents have parental choice and the ability to choose any provider that has entered into an agreement to provide subsidized child care.
Utah	The Lead Agency supports equal access to a full range of providers by paying providers prospectively based on enrollment. Unless a check is requested, providers receive direct deposit at the beginning of each month. Monthly, full-time payment rates are also set at the 80th percentile for children ages 0-23 months and at 75th percentile for all other age groups in licensed family and licensed center care. This allows parents access to the majority of providers who pay at or below the established rates. Parents are not limited to choose providers who accept the state rates. This allows for flexibility and parental choice.
Vermont	CCFAP payment policies closely mirror child care industry practice. We process payments based on active enrollment accommodating reasonable absences and make electronic deposits weekly with most providers submitting attendance to receive payment every two weeks. We allow paper processing for providers who do not have technology or automatic deposit capacity (a small number). We have state staff dedicated to quickly resolving payment issues for providers participating in CCFAP. From a practice perspective we are considered a good and reliable payer on behalf of assisted families. This encourages a full range of providers to accept and enroll subsidized children and families.

Virgin Islands	N/A
Virginia	Families have full parental choice of child care vendors. However, authorized payments will be made to only those vendors who meet the vendor requirements of the subsidy program. Local departments must advise families about the availability of vendors and assist them in gaining needed information on how to identify and monitor quality child care and the characteristics that affect program quality.
Washington	DCYF's CCSP payment practices support equal access to a range of providers by ensuring quick turnaround of payment (within one day of services in some cases), by paying on full- and part-time bases in full-day and half-day units, by allowing licensed providers to bill for any days a child is absent in a month so long as the child attends at least one day, by paying registration and field trip fees and bonuses for care during nonstandard hours, and by providing access to health insurance for licensed family home providers. All these policies and processes incentivize providers to care for children receiving subsidy, thereby ensuring equal access.
West Virginia	In 2021, all provider payment rates were set at the 75th percentile or above for all types of care, child care centers, family child care facilities, and family child care homes.
Wisconsin	The Lead Agency's payment practices do not prevent parents from selecting any provider who is regulated and participating in the YoungStar quality rating system.
Wyoming	The Department's payment practices reflect the generally accepted practices of providers who care for children not receiving subsidy. This supports equal access for CCDF families to a full range of providers. However, the Department continues to look at strategies to increase involvement of licensed providers in the subsidy program.