



June 22, 2022

1 pm - 2:30 pm

FAMILY SUPPORT AND ACCESS COMMITTEE

<https://mdhs.zoom.us/j/86381005084?pwd=NTI5TFFtU1NUNmY0FjbFFhSmJldz09&from=addon>

Members Present-Vicki Lowry, Angela Rutherford
Member (Wendy Bailey) Designee-Lynda Stewart
Members Absent-Tina Routh, Tamara Smith
Invited Attendee-Emily Powers (Start Early), Laura Mallery (MDHS)
Other Attendees-Granville Tate, Kutenia Good, Anna Burns (MDHS Staff/Intern)
Public Attendees-N/A

- I. Welcome**
- II. Introductions**
- III. Review SECAC Family Support and Access Committee Information, as well as notes from Feb. meeting**
- IV. Emily Powers, Start Early**
 - a. Federal Child Care Payment Program Eligibility Criteria**
 - b. Asset Map Program Profile for CCPP**
- V. Laura Mallery & Angela Crockett, MS CCPP Application Process**
- VI. Public Comments**
- VII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

Notes

1. No formal actions were taken in the meeting.
2. Determined that the link was not provided to the public on the SECAC website but have a process in place for handling the situation given that the committee had two guest speakers. A recording was made of the meeting to share with committee members, as well as to use for sharing with the public.
3. Emily Powers' slide deck is attached (Asset Map, CCPP Program Profile, and CCPP Federal information). Chad Allgood and Vicki Lowery had questions, and they will provide updated information to Emily about some of the data on the Child Care Payment program Asset Map Program Profile document.
4. Laura Mallery's slide deck is attached (MS CCPP Application Process). Questions related to the timeline for redetermination.
5. The committee is meeting on July 7 after the SECAC Meeting. Agenda was discussed.



CCPP Program Profile

MS Asset Map

Where we are in the process

Completed:

- Program profiles (see SECAC website)
- Focus groups and interviews
- Parent and provider surveys

Up Next:

- Analysis report: strengths and challenges across key categories
- Strategic vision: SECAC subcommittees will help identify recommendations

CCDF At-a-Glance

- The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (CCDBG) is a federal law that authorizes the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program.
- CCDF provides subsidies to low-income working families to support access to early childhood education and care to attend work, job training or other educational programs.
- CCDF is the primary source of federal funding for child care subsidies for low-income working families, and can additionally be used to support the early learning workforce, support quality within child care, and provide education to families to support their access of high-quality child care that meets their needs.



CCPP Program Profile

CCDF Federal Eligibility Criteria:

- **Employment:** parents must be working or attending an education or training program
- **Income:** capped at 85% of State Median Income (SMI)
- **Age:** available for children through the age of twelve (or through age 18 if the child is mentally or physically incapable of self-care or is under court supervision)
- **Citizenship:** The child receiving assistance must be a U.S. citizen or qualified legal alien, even if the parents are not.
- **Residency:** child must reside with parents, guardians, foster parents

CCDF Eligibility, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, retrieved from <https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/ccdf-fundamentals/child-age-citizenship-and-residence>



Priority Populations

- CCDF regulations require Lead Agencies to give priority to children with special needs, living in families with very low incomes, and experiencing homelessness. The Lead Agency may define these groups and others as higher priority than other families and children.
- The state can choose to guarantee subsidy eligibility or serve them first when funding is limited and the state implements a waiting list or program closure.
- Lead Agencies may specify other policies for priority groups, such as differential rates or quality funds for providers.



Priority Populations

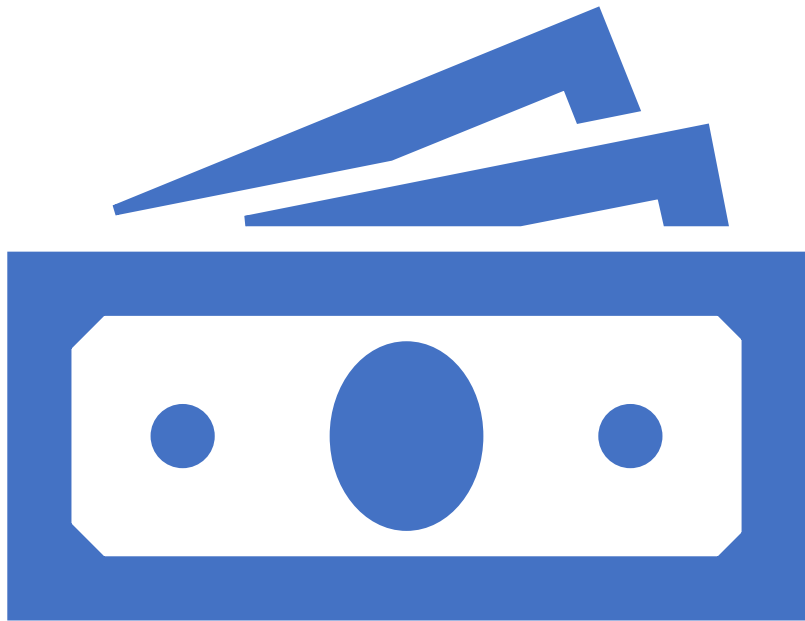
- TANF*
- Transitional Child Care (TCC) recipients*
- Homeless children, as defined by McKinney-Vento Act*
- Children meeting the definition of Protective Service (up to 85% of SMI)*
- Children served by Healthy Families Mississippi home visiting program (up to 85% of SMI)*
- Teen parents meeting work/educational requirements
- Children and parents with documented special needs
- Very-low income families (below 50% SMI)

*Not required to complete a CCPP application

CCDBG Act of 2014

- Requires state-led child care agencies to submit a plan every three years that outlines their state child care policies and plans for using their Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) resources
- To read more, see the CCPP policy memo: <https://www.mdhs.ms.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Final-Clean-110121.pdf>

Funding



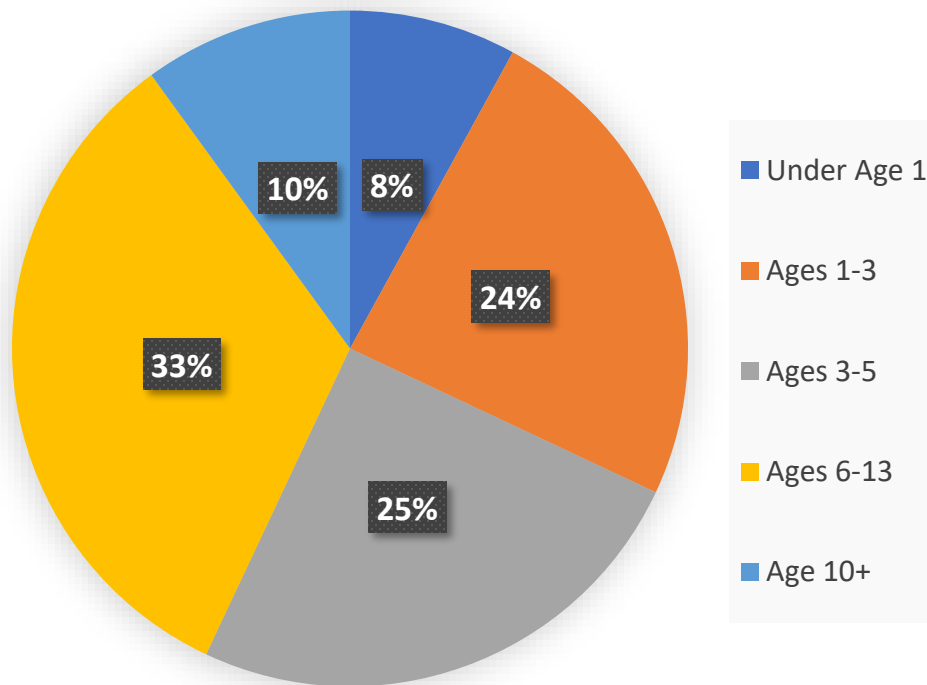
Total funding in 2021 is \$758,908,472.

- Federal: \$754,186,738 including:
 - \$96,897,978 from CCDF block grant
 - \$657,288,760 in American Recovery Plan (ARP) Act and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act funding
- State: \$4,721,734

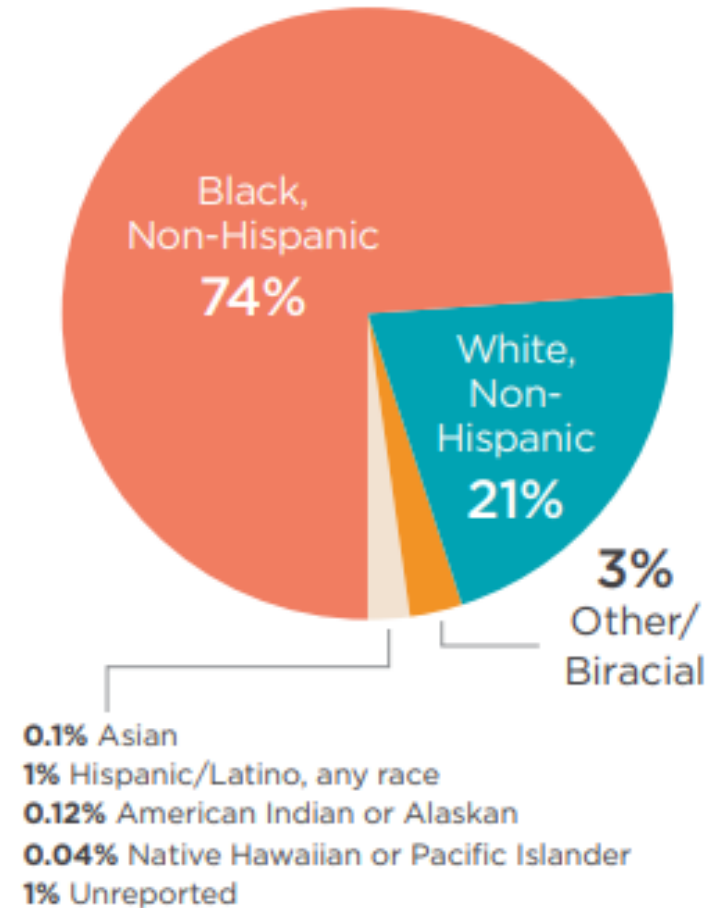
Children Served

In 2021, CCPP served a total of **35,101 children**.

Age




Race/Ethnicity





Eligible Children Served

In 2018, CCPP served a total of 24,304 children, approximately **20.23%** of the potentially eligible children whose family income was less than 85% of the state median income. While there is still much work to be done, Mississippi, in 2018, served greater than the national average of 15% of potentially eligible children through CCPP.



CCPP Providers At-a-Glance

There are currently 1,559 licensed or registered child care providers in Mississippi and 967 (62%) accept CCPP.



Focus Group & Interview Quotes

“I’m aware of CCPP, but I’m not sure what the qualifications are.”

“As far as getting day care for my four-year-old at the time I was working independently (doing hair). I wasn’t able to get assistance for her because they weren’t able to get check stubs or anything.”

“We’ve had that position on staff I don’t even know how many years. That’s how many years it’s been but the agency is dedicated to making sure that the process is simplified for our families. We know that families don’t have internet in the home. We know that families may have a phone today but not tomorrow. We know that for some families, the navigating through different websites is just a challenge. We have grandparents who, you know, that this may be the smartphone, the first smartphone they’ve ever owned. They know how to call on it. They don’t know how to download apps. So that’s kind of where our commitment to assisting our families have been.”

On Child Care Strong funding (ARPA): *“With CCPP, parents don’t pay co-pays right now. And then for our private care families, we are only charging them half tuition (for 4 months) to give private care families a break because, you know, just cause you’re not eligible for the grant don’t mean you’re in the high dollar range. For our families, give them that little bit of break.”*

“A support group would be nice, like I don’t know how to connect with other parents other than, you know, making an announcement on social media to see if there’s anybody out there who’s experiencing some of the same challenges as myself, but it would be nice to have something that is kind of directed at educating parents and helping me to be able to help my son. You know I go online and I try to do as much research as I can but it would be nice to have a support group where I can speak to other parents who have had the same struggles that can say, oh, this is kind of what I had to do, but I don’t know if it’s available.”

Next Step: Analysis Report

- **Health & Nutrition**

- Strengths: most children are covered by health insurance, WIC coverage for infants, expansion of Healthy Families home visiting program
- Opportunities for improvement: lack of communication about Medicaid and SNAP enrollment, greater mental health supports

- **Quality Care & Education**

- Strengths: funding has increased for Early learning collaboratives, MS recognized as one of top 6 states by NIEER for pre-K quality, strong data collection and usage in ELCs and Head Start
- Opportunities for improvement: child care is inaccessible, child care is unaffordable, parents want more support through programs like home visiting, paperwork is cumbersome to families and providers for many programs (including CCPP)

- **Early Intervention and Special Education**

- **Workforce**

- **Funding and System Coordination**

- Strengths: coordination of services between agencies, Help Me Grow Mississippi
- Opportunities for Improvement: lack of connection between data systems, greater access to economic supports (CCPP, SNAP, WIC, TANF), coordinated system for families to access information and programs

OVERVIEW OF THE MISSISSIPPI CHILD CARE PAYMENT PROGRAM



Presented to the SECAC Family Access and Support Committee
June 22, 2022



APPLICATION PROCESS

PARENT

The application for the Mississippi Child Care Payment Program is available online. Parents who are applying on behalf of their family must use this link to submit an application.

The application is optimized for entry on a computer or tablet.

Some clients are referred and do not complete an application directly. These populations include TANF and TCC recipients, children who are in the custody of Child Protective Services, and families participating in the Healthy Families Mississippi home visiting program.

The online application is in English only. It (along with all forms, instructions, and policies) is currently being translated into Spanish and Vietnamese to be posted on the website.

APPLICATION PROCESS

PARENT

The application collects information from parents in the following categories:

- Household Members

- Needed Child Care Schedules (full-time care vs. part-time care)

- Selected Child Care Provider

- Parent Employment and/or School Schedule (25 hours/wk/full-time enrollment/combination of both)

- Parent Income (cannot exceed 85% of the state median income)

Once the parent submits the application, they receive an email confirming their application and provide a list of documentation required to support information entered.

APPLICATION PROCESS

PARENT

The application requests parents to submit documentation of:

Proof of identity (generally driver's license)

Proof of kinship to children (generally birth certificates)

Proof of number of hours worked and income (generally pay stubs) and/or

Proof of school enrollment (generally course schedule)

Proof of Mississippi residency (generally utility bill)

Currently some parents must submit proof of cooperation with Child Support Enforcement.

NOTES: In some cases, one item of documentation may address multiple requirements. Example, a driver's license can meet both the identity requirement and the proof of MS residency requirement, if the information on the license is current and matches the application.

As of July 5th parents can upload required documentation directly into the application.

APPLICATION PROCESS

DECCD

Applications are assigned to staff upon submission by the parent.

DECCD Staff reviews application and verifies eligibility using documentation submitted by the parent.

DECCD Staff determines eligibility for clients within 3-5 days of application submission, when all documentation is present. If DECCD Staff needs to reach out for additional or corrected documentation, eligibility determination could take up to 60 days.

Parents receive notices when documentation received is missing or if corrected information is needed. For example, a parent's check stubs don't demonstrate that they meet the 25 hour/week work requirement, DECCD will request additional check stubs to help ensure they can meet eligibility requirements.

Standard reminders for incomplete documentation are sent to parents at 10 days, 30 days, and 60 days from the application submission date.

APPLICATION PROCESS

DECCD

DECCD provides a toll-free help line and an email address from which applicants may request support with the application process. Parents may login to the application portal to check their status at any time.

A Child Care Certificate is issued immediately upon the determination that an applicant is eligible. The parent and selected child care provider receive a copy of this certificate via email, which includes the payment rate for the certificate and the parent-paid portion of the award referred to as a co-payment.

DECCD is issuing a certificate to every eligible applicant. There is no waiting list for services.

Rates

Parent Co-Payment

The amount of child care that a parent is responsible for paying through co-payment is determined by a sliding scale assessing:

Parent Income (does not exceed 6.5% of income)

Family Size

Notes: TANF, families experiencing homelessness, and families with income at or below the FPL are not assessed a co-payment. TCC, HFM, Teen Parents, CPS referrals, parents with a disability, and children with special needs are assessed a nominal co-payment not to exceed \$10 per month.

Certificate Payment Rates

The amount of payment for a certificate varies by:

Child Age

Rate of Care Requested

Designation as a Child with Special Needs

Notes: Payment rates are set based on the most recent Market Rate Survey to ensure parental access to 75% of the child care market.

REDETERMINATION PROCESS

DECCD

DECCD is required to verify family eligibility no sooner than every twelve months.

DECCD sends a parent a notice of the upcoming redetermination period 60-days prior to their redetermination deadline. Parents may begin the process at any time after the 60-day window opens.

If a parent has not launched the redetermination process, DECCD sends the parent a reminder 30 days before the redetermination deadline.

The current child care provider also receives a copy of the 30-day notification sent to the parent. Child care providers may also view a list of parent with upcoming redetermination deadlines through the provider portal. Parents appear on this list once the 60-day redetermination window opens.

REDETERMINATION PROCESS

PARENT

Upon notice of 60-day redetermination window, parents may login to the application portal to complete redetermination.

Redetermination requires parents to update pre-populated information that was provided at initial application.

Redetermination requires parents to submit updated documentation of income and/or school enrollment.

If a parent does not complete the redetermination process by the redetermination deadline, their certificates will be terminated two weeks from the deadline.

If a parent wished to regain child care subsidy, they must submit a new application and supporting documentation.

REDETERMINATION PROCESS

DECCD

Once a parent has submitted their redetermination information, DECCD staff begins a review of the information.

DECCD Staff redetermines eligibility for clients within 3-5 days of application submission, when all documentation is present. If DECCD Staff needs to reach out for additional or corrected documentation, eligibility determination could take up to 60 days.

If a parent is determined to be eligible for continued subsidy service will continue without interruption.

A parent and the provider receive notification that the redetermination process is complete.

An updated child care certificate is provided to parents and providers if any changes were needed due to changes needed per policies including changes in parent income/school enrollment, requested care schedule, or age of child.

MDHS



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

