

**2022-2024 Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) North Dakota State Plan  
Public Comments and Response**

No verbal comments received during the public hearing.

**WRITTEN COMMENTS**

**Comment:** This might not apply but the Bright and Early why doesn't the provider's education get taken into account? Example, a provider holds a bachelor's degree in ECE, but that isn't taken into consideration.

**Response:** Each of the Bright & Early ND Steps to Quality includes Quality Indicators related to professional development. Programs meet these indicators in a variety of ways, for example, placement on the Growing Futures Career Pathway, completion of specific training or coursework, completion of specific credentials and higher education achievements. For more information, visit the Bright & Early ND website at <https://www.brightnd.org>.

**Comment:** 176 pages is a lot to try and digest. Is there going to be some type of summary of what this plan all entails?

**Response:** The CCDF state plan does not include a summary. North Dakota's draft state plan is available online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/childcarepub.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/childcarepub.html), and a copy can be obtained by calling 701-328-2332, toll-free 800-755-2716 or 711 (TTY).

**Comment:** My only other question would be in regards to child care assistance payments. Center programs get a higher reimbursement than group in a facility programs which is frustration for providers like myself who still have the same overhead as a center.

**Response:** Payments rates are set by CCAP from results of the Market Rate Survey. The results of this survey can be found at <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/childcarepub.html>, however the survey results from the 2021 Market Rate Survey have not been published yet.

**Comment:** So in section 4.4 they are saying they will pay payments in a timely manner. I am already having an issue being paid in a timely manner due to glitches in the system. How is this going to be resolved?

**Response:** Per federal regulation, the lead agency needs to ensure the timeliness of payments by either paying prospectively or paying for services within no more than 21 calendar days of the receipt of a complete invoice. The Lead Agency has implemented policy and procedures to help ensure that CCAP payments are processed with 21 days. With the implementation of our new eligibility system, providers

are able to submit billings online. This helps with faster payment processing as the Human Service Zone workers receive a task of the submitted request. These payments must be processed in order for the task to close.

**Comment:** I agree , I also have issues with timely child care assistance payments. I often have to call the local office to ask for payment to be paid.

**Response:** Per federal regulation, the lead agency needs to ensure the timeliness of payments by either paying prospectively or paying for services within no more than 21 calendar days of the receipt of a complete invoice. The Lead Agency has implemented policy and procedures to help ensure that CCAP payments are processed with 21 days. With the implementation of our new eligibility system, providers are able to submit billings online. This helps with faster payment processing as the Human Service Zone workers receive a task of the submitted request. These payments must be processed in order for the task to close.

**Comment:** Also, the recent grant that just came out requires a provider to have a 3 Star rating which was impossible due to Covid restrictions.

**Response:** In order to be eligible for the Best in Class grant, per North Dakota law, providers must be able to demonstrate their step 3 or equivalency to step 3 in a ND quality Rating and Improvement System. The grant is available through June 30, 2025. For detailed information please visit [Best in Class \(nd.gov\)](https://www.nd.gov) on the ND DHS website.