



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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In Michigan, reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program brings about a number of positive changes for Michigan children, families, and providers. As changes have been implemented we've received support for the implementation of twelve-month eligibility, changes to our policy for homeless families, as well as encouragement for pending changes that were described as part of our public hearing process.

Due to the rule making process in Michigan some of the required changes will need additional time to implement. As we work toward implementation, careful and thorough analysis was done with the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), which is where child care licensing is housed, as well as other partners and stakeholders. This analysis was to ensure that we have identified all needed changes to improve delivery of services for Michigan's children.

In addition, over the last six months Michigan has been engaged in conducting research on child care in Michigan. As part of this work input was gathered from providers, parents and community partners who are engaged with the system. As we work toward implementation of the following requirements, we want to continue this careful and thorough analysis to ensure we are meeting the needs as identified by the users.

At this time, Michigan is formally requesting waiver renewals for the implementation of the following requirements:

Section 1.8.1 Emergency Preparedness

The primary reason for this waiver request is related to the rule making process in Michigan that we will follow to amend PA 116 and then subsequently amend our child care licensing rule sets. Currently LARA is engaged in the legislative process for this change. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will partner with LARA throughout the process by participating in the Ad Hoc committee required as part of the process. A significant portion of the changes outlined in reauthorization are changes to not only our child care licensing act (P.A. 116 of 1973), but to our actual licensing rules for centers and homes in Michigan. Specifically, we will be amending the provisions around temporary operation, training and practice drills.

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In addition, we will be creating an expanded definition of emergency subsidy assistance. This strategy allows us to keep current rules and requirements in place during the revision to meet the new rules and requirements so the health, safety, and well-being of the children served will not be compromised. The process for revising rules is legislatively mandated and will utilize current research and best practices, along with engaging a variety of stakeholders, ensuring improved and uniform delivery of child care services for the children of Michigan that meet the new requirements. In addition, LARA will be required to hold public hearings on the changes prior to the revisions being submitted to the required legislative committee for review and approval. The expectation is that we will have completed the revision of both PA 116 and the rule sets by no later than September 30, 2018.

Section 2.2.8 Developmental Screenings

The primary reason for this waiver request is to allow for the Department to engage a cross departmental team to create a comprehensive and coordinated strategy that reaches beyond the lead agency and better serves children and families by ensuring we are providing information on developmental screening tools and processes to both providers and families.

While Michigan currently has developmentally screening opportunities available we currently lack the coordination of information and clearly articulating processes that would better serve children and families. We believe that the cross-agency work in order to ensure collaboration does not jeopardize the health, safety, and well-being of children served through our program.

While doing this cross agency work all current developmental screening opportunities will remain in place in or to maintain the health, safety, and well-being of the children served.

The expectation is that we will have completed this cross-agency work and implementation of strategies will occur no later than September 30, 2018.

Section 2.3.1 Consumer Education

The primary reason for this waiver request is related to gathering feedback from parents, providers and the public on their preference for a single consumer education website. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will release an RFP to help develop overall messaging, as well as to help identify the elements of a comprehensive website. In the meantime, MDE will begin work with stakeholders and its internal technology staff to develop a landing page that connects all of this information into one location in order to fulfil this requirement.

The status of individual requirements for the consumer education website are as follows:

- a) Share provider specific information about health and safety, licensing or regulatory requirements met by the provider (including the last date of inspection, and any history of violations): This information is currently available through the Great Start to Quality website, but doesn't fully meet the requirements for posting.
- b) Include a description of health and safety requirements and licensing or regulatory requirements for child care providers: This is currently available on the LARA website, but will need to be enhanced as the child care licensing rules change for providers.
- c) Include a description of the processes for licensing, background checks, monitoring, and offenses that prevent individuals from being providers: This information is currently available on the LARA website, but will need to be enhanced as the child care licensing rules change for providers.
- d) Provide information about the number of deaths, number of serious injuries as defined by the State and the number of incidences of substantiated child abuse in child care settings. Michigan does not post this information, but will be in compliance for posting the results of monitoring inspections by the November 19, 2017 deadline.
- e) Describe how the website is consumer-friendly: This requirement will be completed when the location for the single website is determined and will be part of the process of building the new website.

This waiver request will not endanger the health/safety/well-being of children due to most all information being already currently available or available by the due dates specified in the Plan. Michigan expects to fully complete this requirement by the end of September 30, 2018.

Section 3.2.2 Homeless

The primary reason for this waiver request is related to providing a grace period for homeless children to comply with immunization requirements. Over the past several months the Department has participated in a cross-agency work group looking at immunization requirements across programs, within our Public Health Code and within our child care licensing rules. The cross-agency workgroup has recently made recommendations to the various Departments related to streamlining policy, system changes and communication strategies that will allow us to address this in a comprehensive and systemic manner. The group working on the streamlining continues to meet to determine areas of alignment.

The Michigan Department of Education has already implemented policy changes related to eligibility for homeless populations and will continue to partner with the other agencies, including LARA to make law and rule changes. This strategy allows us to keep current rules and requirements in place during the revision to meet the new rules and requirements so the health, safety, and well-being of the children served will not be compromised.

While doing this cross-agency work related to immunizations children will still be allowed to participate in programs where we will continue to maintain the health, safety, and well-being of the children served.

The expectation is that we will have completed the revisions to policy and child care licensing rules by no later than September 30, 2018.

Section 5.2.1 Monitoring (Health and Safety Standards)

The primary reason for this waiver request is related to the rule making process in Michigan that we will follow to amend PA 116 and then subsequently amend our child care licensing rule sets. Currently LARA is engaged in the legislative process for this change. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will partner with LARA throughout the process by participating in the Ad Hoc committee required as part of the process. A significant portion of the changes outlined in reauthorization are changes to not only our child care licensing act (P.A. 116 of 1973), but to our actual licensing rules for centers and homes in Michigan. This strategy allows us to keep current rules and requirements in place during the revision to meet the new rules and requirements so the health, safety, and well-being of the children served will not be compromised. The process for revising rules is legislatively mandated and will utilize current research and best practices, along with engaging a variety of stakeholders, ensuring improved and uniform delivery of child care services for the children of Michigan that meet the new requirements. In addition, LARA will be required to hold public hearings on the changes prior to the revisions being submitted to the required legislative committee for review and approval. The expectation is that we will have completed the revision of both PA 116 and the rule sets by no later than September 30, 2018.

5.2.2b Inspection for Licensed CCDF Providers

The primary reason for this waiver request is related to the rule making process in Michigan that we will follow to amend PA 116 and then subsequently amend our child care licensing rule sets. Currently LARA is engaged in the legislative process for this change. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will partner with LARA throughout the process by participating in the Ad Hoc committee required as part of the process. A significant portion of the changes outlined in reauthorization are changes to not only our child care licensing act (P.A. 116 of 1973), but to our actual licensing rules for centers and homes in Michigan. This strategy allows us to keep current rules and requirements in place during the revision to meet the new rules and requirements so the health, safety, and well-being of the children served will not be compromised. The process for revising rules is legislatively mandated and will utilize current research and best practices, along with engaging a variety of stakeholders, ensuring improved and uniform delivery of child care services for the children of Michigan that meet the new requirements. In addition, LARA will be required to hold public hearings on the changes prior to the revisions being

submitted to the required legislative committee for review and approval. The expectation is that we will have completed the revision of both PA 116 and the rule sets by no later than September 30, 2018.

Section 5.2.2c Inspections for License-Exempt CCDF Providers (except those serving relatives)

The primary reason for this waiver request is we are currently convening a stakeholder group who is charged with making recommendations to the Department related to health and safety monitoring for license-exempt providers. The recommendations have been received and MDE continues to define the model that will ultimately be used to support the needs of families and children in Michigan. MDE plans to release an RFP in the near future for the provision of monitoring.

While Michigan currently has provisions that support health and safety in place, we will be expanding them to include monitoring. We believe that by continuing our public criminal history checks of providers (and adult household members) and continuing to require our seven-hour health and safety orientation ensures the safety of children while we move towards monitoring and FBI criminal history checks.

While reviewing the stakeholder recommendations and working on implementation plans for monitoring, our current practices will help support providers to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of children and that the changes we will implement will strengthen what we currently do.

The expectation is that we will have completed the implementation of strategies no later than November 19, 2018.

CAP RENEWAL

5.1.6 Health and Safety Requirements

BACKGROUND CHECK EXTENSION - 5.3 Criminal History

The primary reason for this waiver request is related to the rule making process in Michigan that we will allow an amendment to PA 116 and then subsequently amend our child care licensing rule sets. The Michigan Department of Education will partner with LARA throughout the process by participating in the Ad Hoc committee required as part of the process. A significant portion of the changes outlined in reauthorization are changes to not only our child care licensing act (P.A. 116 of 1973), but to our actual licensing rules for centers and homes in Michigan. This strategy allows us to keep current rules and requirements in place during the

revision to meet the new rules and requirements so the health, safety, and well-being of the children served will not be compromised. The process for revising rules is legislatively mandated and will utilize current research and best practices, along with engaging a variety of stakeholders, ensuring improved and uniform delivery of child care services for the children of Michigan that meet the new requirements. In addition, LARA will be required to hold public hearings on the changes prior to the revisions being submitted to the required legislative committee for review and approval. The expectation is that we will have completed the revision of both PA 116 and the rule sets by no later than September 30, 2018.

In preparation for the PA116 changes and child care rule changes LARA has worked on three bills that we expect to be re-introduced in January 2017 to open up PA 116 through the legislative process. Once completed LARA will convene the ad hoc group to work on rule changes and hold public hearings. At the same time MDE is working to have a bill introduced that would allow for the Department to conduct FBI fingerprint checks for license-exempt providers that would also need legislative approval.

In addition to the work on the rule changes LARA is working with an entity to expand a current database to encompass all new fingerprint requirements. Based on development time and then testing of the system we anticipate the system to be ready for use by December 2017, allowing us to begin background checks after the law and rule changes by no later than September 30, 2018.

While we work to make these revisions, we will continue all current background check processes.