

Below is a sample letter of feedback to a public agency on the 2025-2027 Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan. Feel free to use the general layout (section ideas in parenthesis) and anything additional relevant to your situation and needs.

Dear Kentucky Division of Child Care,

(Intro/Background on you, your family, organization, or your program)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the CCDF 2025-2027 plan for the state of Kentucky. I am a (licensed/license-exempt) school-age child care provider in the (location district). (Name of program/center) first opened in (year), and I am one of many (licensed/license-exempt) providers serving school-age youth in our state.

(School-Age Facts Background)

Across our state, [41% of students served with CCDF Funds are school-aged](#), and [45% of young people are waiting for access to high-quality afterschool programs](#). Afterschool and summer programs are a lifeline for youth and families across our state. School-age youth spend 80% of their time across a year outside the traditional school setting. Quality school-age programs sustain and advance the academic and social gains of strong early learning environments while allowing parents to work without worry.

(Specific requests - Feel free to look at the plan, edit and/or add anything else you think should be a priority)

In developing and finalizing the state 2025-2027 CCDF plan, we strongly hope you will consider including the following within the noted areas of the state plan to support programs' ability to expand quality access to developmentally appropriate settings during the critical school-age years.

Quality:

Recommendation: Ensure the plan mentions that the state will invest some quality funds toward supporting school-age youth. This can include free and low-cost trainings for professionals serving school-age youth as well as ensuring school-age programs have meaningful quality systems aligned to best practices for this age group. School-age youth served with CCDF subsidy will benefit from well-prepared staff and highly rated quality settings to sustain the gains from early learning.

Plan sections 7.2.1 (b)(i) and 7.2.1 (b) (iii)¹

¹ Plan section 7.2.1 (b)(i) Supporting the Training and Professional Development of the child care workforce including birth to five and school-age providers and 7.2.1 (b) (iii) Developing, implementing or enhancing a quality improvement system

Barriers to Participation:

Recommendation: Plan for the state to have ongoing mechanisms to review licensing and license-exempt regulations for school-age providers as a means to identify barriers to participation. Ensure that regulations that may be necessary for the health and safety of infants and toddlers are not unnecessarily applied to older youth (such as space requirements, transportation requirements, and types of materials that can be used). Do consider additional safety elements and training, such as how to identify bullying or mental health first aid, that may be most critical to keeping older youth safe and well. This will help ensure more school-age providers opt into participation in the subsidy system and provide parents with more choices for high-quality environments.

Plan section 4.2.1

Workforce:

Recommendation: Mention the state's commitment to ensuring school-age professionals have appropriate school-age or youth development credentials and career pathways designed to meet the specific needs of the ages of youth they serve. Ensure the state's investments and supports for the child care workforce are sensitive to the needs of afterschool and summer workers who may hold part-time and seasonal roles. Allow non-full-time staff to have opportunities for wage bonuses and benefit packages.

Plan section 6.1.1²

Supply Building - Grants and Contracts:

Recommendation: According to America After 3PM, [for every child in Kentucky in an afterschool program, 4 more are waiting to get in](#). Following the encouragement of the Office of Child Care in the comments on the Final 2024 Child Care Rule, we request the Lead Agency mention the state's intention to increase supply in school-age child care deserts and other areas of need by investing in school-age child care grants and contracts. Include grant guidelines for grantees to invest in and have resources toward supports for high-quality school-age programming.

Plan section 4.5.1³

(Conclusion)

These considerations above, if included in the plan and implemented over the next three years, will help ensure parents continue to have quality opportunities for the care and development of their children as their children transition from early care to kindergarten and beyond. I am also happy to be available as a resource, please feel free to reach out. My Name, myname@myorg.org. Thank you for your work to support young people and families in our state.

² Plan Section 6.1.1 Strategies to improve recruitment, retention, compensation and well-being

³ Plan section 4.5.1 Supply Building – Child Care Services through Grants or Contracts