

Background: On July 13th, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a proposed rule designed to improve affordability and access to care options for families and promote financial stability of child care providers participating in the federal child care subsidy program under the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG). This rule is in response to the [President's Executive Order](#) on Increasing Access to High-Quality Care and Supporting Caregivers issued earlier this year. HHS is seeking comments on the rule which they will consider and potentially incorporate before issuing a final rule. The proposed rule includes many positive improvements, but at a time when states are faced with many challenges. It is important that HHS hears from you about how they will benefit and/or impact you and your state.

HHS has asked for responses and feedback on a few specific provisions. More information and the specifics can be found [here](#).

How to Use this Template: This template is intended to support your comment submission. You can cut and paste text from this document into your own or use this document as a template for your comments by making a copy and modifying it to fit your perspective and experience. This template includes space for advocates and commenters to insert their own state data and perspectives (in text highlighted in **yellow**).

This template does not include every proposed change in the rules; we've selected the ones we and our partners think are the most critical. You should feel free to add on to this template should you be inclined to comment on additional changes and you can also choose to delete any of the text from this template as you like.

You can find links to relevant data sources below to help with your submission.

Submission Instructions:

From HHS: All submissions received must include the agency name and docket number or RIN number for this rulemaking. To ensure we can effectively respond to your comment(s), clearly identify the issue(s) on which you are commenting. Provide the page number, identify the column, and cite the relevant paragraph/section from the **Federal Register** document (*e.g.*, On page 10999, second column, § 98.20(a)(1)(i)). All comments received are a part of the public record and will be posted for public viewing on www.regulations.gov, without change. That means all personal identifying information (such as name or address) will be publicly accessible. Please do not submit confidential information, or otherwise sensitive or protected information. We accept anonymous comments. If you wish to remain anonymous, enter "N/A" in the required fields.

Comments are due by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on August 28th, 2023.

HHS' full instructions on filing a comment and the link to the filing website are [here](#). Tips on commenting from HHS are copied [here](#).

Data Resources:

The template comments provide many spaces for you to enter state-specific content and data. The below resources are intended to aid in finding relevant information to insert into your comments should you choose to do so.

- ACF
 - [FY 2020 CCDF Data Tables \(Preliminary\)](#)

- [FY 2020 Preliminary Data Table 1 - Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Families and Children Served](#)
- ASPE
 - [Factsheet: Estimates of Child Care Eligibility & Receipt for Fiscal Year 2019](#)
 - [Prior HHS Poverty Guidelines and Federal Register References](#)
- Child Care Aware of America
 - [2022 Child Care Affordability Analysis](#)
- CLASP
 - [Presumptive Eligibility for Child Care Subsidies](#)
- GAO
 - [Child Care: Subsidy Eligibility and Use in Fiscal Year 2019 and State Program Changes During the Pandemic](#)
- NWLC
 - [State Child Care Assistance Policies 2022](#)
- OPRE
 - [Supporting Families' Access to Child Care and Early Education: A Descriptive Profile of States' Consumer Education Websites](#)
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
 - [Occupational Employment and Wages, May 2022: 39-9011 Childcare Workers](#)

Should you have any questions about this comment template, please feel free to reach out to Tiffany Ferrette at CLASP at tferrette@clasp.org.