



## **DHHS Announces 10-day Extension of Public Comment Period for Draft of FFY 2019-2021 Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Federal Plan**

A Public Hearing on the FFY 2019-2021 Child Care and Development Fund Plan was held on Monday, June 11, 2018 at the Brown Building Auditorium, Governor Hugh Gallen State Office Park, Concord, NH. At that time, a request was made to extend the public comment period for additional 10 days (from Tuesday June 12<sup>th</sup> until 11:59 PM on Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018. This request was made in consideration of the new Grant submission deadline of August 31, 2018, rather than the initial deadline of July 2, 2018.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division for Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), Bureau of Child Development and Head Start Collaboration (Bureau) is preparing to submit the required Federal Plan regarding the use of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). These Federal funds support working families with low incomes to access child care through the NH Child Care Scholarship Program, and to improve the quality of child care in NH.

On November 19, 2014, Congress reauthorized these funds in the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG). This reauthorization made sweeping changes, including a paradigm shift from primarily a work-support program to a program that supports family self-sufficiency *and* child development by improving the safety and quality of child care, establishing policies that provide more stabilized funding to child care providers, and ensuring continuity of care for children in high quality programs.

A **draft** of DHHS' response to the FFY 2019-2021 CCDF Federal Plan, "Draft Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan for FFY2019-2021 (5-21-18)," can be found at: <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcyl/cdb/publications.htm>, along with a PowerPoint highlighting portions of the Plan.

### **How to Share Your Comments about the CCDF Plan with the Bureau**

Comments regarding DHHS' Draft Plan can be provided:

- ◆ Via email to: [DHHS.ChildDevelopment@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:DHHS.ChildDevelopment@dhhs.nh.gov);
- ◆ Via fax to (603) 271-8712, attention Debra Nelson; or
- ◆ By leaving a voice mail message at (603) 271-4242.

**Public comment period began on Tuesday, May 22 and will now end on Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup> , 2018 at midnight.**

DHHS will review all comments and, to the extent possible, make changes to the Draft Plan accordingly. Not all comments will result in changes to the Plan.

We look forward to hearing your feedback.