

Child Care & Development Transition Frequently Asked Questions

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The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and the California Department of Education (CDE) are committed to a robust stakeholder feedback process and want to hear about your concerns and questions related to the transfer of child care and development programs to CDSS. Please submit additional questions and comments to cctransition@dss.ca.gov. The following questions were raised by stakeholders during the walkthrough of the Draft Child Care & Development Transition Plan on March 4, 2021, and also during the public comment period. This document will be updated periodically to reflect new questions and answers, and updates when applicable.

Changes to Local Operations

- 1. How will the transition impact programs that are currently operated under Local Planning Councils (LPCs)?**
 - A. Currently, CDSS and CDE are focusing on “lifting and shifting” all identified transferring programs under CDE’s administration to CDSS, and this includes LPCs. There will not be immediate changes to the LPC programs that are currently administered by CDE. Any changes to the LPC programs would be proposed through engagement with stakeholders, and as applicable, through the legislative process.

- 2. What are some key milestones and timelines related to the transition of programs before July 1, 2021?**
 - A. The [Child Care and Development Transition Key Milestones and Timeline](#) contains this information and was released to the Budget and Policy Committees of the Legislature, the Department of Finance, California Health and Human Services Agency and the Early Childhood Policy Council on April 1, 2021, as a supplemental document to the Child Care and Development Transition Plan.

- 3. What is the anticipated timeline for action on the long-term goals mentioned in the draft plan?**
 - A. Many of the long-term goals outlined in the transition plan require statutory changes, and the Department does not currently have a specific timeline for action on these long-term goals. However, we will absolutely continue to partner with stakeholders, CDE and the Legislature to ensure that we are making progress together toward addressing these longer term goals while also achieving success on the more immediate work to ensure a smooth transition as of July 1, 2021.

4. Will CDSS continue the hold harmless approach with contractors as we move into Fiscal Year 2021-22?

A. As of April 2021, the existing hold harmless approach with contractors (i.e., reimbursement based on enrollment rather than attendance) is currently in effect until June 30, 2021. An extension of this timeframe would require statutory change.

5. How will contracting and payment processes change as a consequence of the transition?

A. Currently, CDSS and CDE are focusing on “lifting and shifting” all identified transferring programs under CDE’s administration to CDSS. As a part of this transition work, CDE and CDSS will collaborate to ensure there are no disruptions to contracting and payment processes. Currently, there are no immediate changes to contracting and payment processes that will be implemented as of July 1, 2021, and the two departments are drafting an Interagency Agreement (IAA) to continue operations and supports by CDE while CDSS automation systems are being developed. Once these systems are developed and ready to be launched, CDSS will communicate with stakeholders via webinars and emails, and will provide technical assistance on the new systems.

6. Which department will be issuing contracts for Fiscal Year 2021-22, and what is the timeline for July 1st funding for the California State Preschool Program (CSPP), General Child Care and Development Programs (CCTR), and Quality Counts California (CSPP and Preschool Development Grant Budgets)?

A. For the child care and development programs that will be transferring to CDSS, CDE and CDSS are finalizing an agreement to allow CDE to complete execution of pending Fiscal Year 2021-22 agreements under CDE’s existing process and timeline, on behalf of CDSS. Funding for July 1, 2021, agreements will be issued by CDSS per associated contractual agreement at a cadence consistent with existing CDE practice, once funding becomes available for disbursement after finalization and enactment of the 2021-22 Budget Act.

7. Could you explain in more detail the plan for making payments? You mentioned CDE will continue to have a role to support CDSS in making payments. How long does CDSS anticipate it will need support from CDE to make payments? With additional actors involved in making state payments, should child care providers anticipate delays in payments from the state after June 30, 2021?

A. CDSS and CDE are negotiating the terms and conditions via IAAs for workload that will continue to be supported by CDE systems on and after July 1, 2021.

Through these negotiated and approved IAAs between CDE and CDSS, payment to contractors will continue without disruption or delay while CDSS designs its own systems to fully take over the transitioning payment components. Prior to making any changes to processes that will impact operations for the child care and development workforce, CDSS will provide trainings for the workforce on our new systems and any other process changes before going live. CDSS will communicate with stakeholders via webinars, emails and ongoing technical assistance with these new systems once applicable.

Most of the assistance from CDE will be necessary on the front-end processing in preparation for contractor payments, consistent with the current process. A payment file will be provided to CDSS to upload into Fi\$Cal and for CDSS to coordinate with SCO to make the payments. This front-end processing support may be necessary until such point that transition to the new CDSS system is complete, approximately 2023. CDSS does not anticipate any delays in payments.

8. Does CDSS anticipate eventually transitioning all early childhood education programs under their purview to Regional Market Rate (RMR) type payments vs. the two system process we have now (RMRs for providers who meet Title 22 standards and Standard Reimbursement Rate for providers who meet Title 5 and Title 22 standards)?

A. CDSS does not have a proposal regarding any changes to rates. Any proposals to reform rates and payment systems would require statutory changes.

9. How will the transition impact Family Child Care Home Education Networks (FCCHENs)? There is not a lot of detail mentioned in the plan about the FCCHEN program.

A. Currently, there are four contracts that support FCCHENs [California Family Child Care (CFCC), California Migrant Child Care and Development Programs (CMIG), General Child Care and Development Programs (CCTR) and California State Preschool Programs (CSPP)]. Of these, three contracts will be moving to CDSS as part of the transition (CFCC, CMIG and CCTR), and only the FCCHENs within the California State Preschool Program will stay at CDE after the transition. Right now, CDSS and CDE are focusing on “lifting and shifting” all transferring programs under CDE’s administration to CDSS while also ensuring CDE has the capacity to support the remaining programs. There are no immediate policy proposals to change the FCCHENs, and any potential changes would need to be approved through the legislative or regulatory process. As applicable, this would be pursued as a collaborative and joint effort by both departments with the intent to provide support and guiding policy to FCCHENs. As specified in the transition plan, our goal to align with the Master Plan for Early Learning and Care is to prioritize workforce strategies and improve quality, which includes expanding support for and participation in FCCHENs.

10. Will the process for the Program Self-Evaluations (PSE) be the same or different?

- A. There will not be any changes to the PSE process for 2021. The PSE requirements are described in the *California Code of Regulations*, Title 5 (5 CCR), sections 18270.5, 18272, 18279, 18280, and 18281. The PSE is due to CDE by June 1st each year (5 CCR § 18279(c)) and this due date and the process will remain the same for 2021. CDSS will engage with contractors and release written instructions in the first quarter of 2022 to provide notice of any required changes to the submission process and requirements on the PSE due to CDSS by June 1, 2022.

11. Will the process for the Continued Funding Application (CFA) be the same or different?

- A. The CFA for fiscal year 2021-22 was due to CDE on November 10, 2020. Approved contracts were sent to the CDE contracting office March 1, with an effective date of July 1, 2021 as the “first day” of continued services. The CDSS CFA process and schedule for fiscal year 2022-23 is under discussion. CDSS will engage with contractors and release written instructions for fiscal year 2022-23 by the second quarter of 2022 to share any changes to the submission process, requirements and schedule.

12. We would like to know more about our contact with the State both fiscally and programmatically. Will we retain our consultants or get new ones? Will the interactions be the same or different? Will our contracts be handled the same way?

- A. By June 2021 CDSS will release details to the field on contacts related to providing fiscal, contracts and programmatic support. Currently, CDSS is in the process of creating a website for the new Child Care and Development Division and once the website is complete, CDSS will provide an overview for the field on how to navigate the site, which will include resources and contact information. Because many of the staff at CDE that the field has worked with over the years are transferring to CDSS, there may be the opportunity to maintain some of the existing contractor/consultant relationships. However, because the organizational structure at CDSS is different from that of CDE, there may be changes in points of contacts for different aspects of business. Also, some changes to fiscal and programmatic staff contacts may occur because some staff will remain at CDE to administrate CSPP and other contracts. The goal of the lift and shift is to align as closely, whenever possible, to the CDE structure to minimize disruption. We will also have staff monitoring our cctransition@dss.ca.gov mailbox for any questions and will provide responses within 72 hours of receipt during our core business hours.

13. It is EXTREMELY important for continuity of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) operations to utilize the Child Nutrition Information and Payment System (CNIPS) or an equivalent data management system as we rely on this database on a daily basis as it pays operators, houses operators budgets, management plans, and all the other US Department of Agriculture (USDA) federal requirements for the state agency as well as CACFP operators.

- A. CNIPS will continue to be used to support the CACFP system until CDSS creates our own system that meets and provides all of the USDA federal requirements and workforce supports. CDSS will ensure that the field is aware of forthcoming change in advance of implementation and will provide required training and technical assistance prior to launching a new system.

CDSS also wants to hear about your perspective on using CNIPS and learn what you like, what modifications you would like for improvement, and any additional changes that would make it more user friendly. Please share your input with us at cctransition@dss.ca.gov.

14. Will the same assessment tools and development files continue to be used after the transition of programs to CDSS effective July 1, 2021?

- A. Yes. The Preschool and Education Programs Administered by CDE that use the assessment tools and development files will not be transferring to CDSS. No changes to these tools are currently planned. The CCTR contract which will transfer to CDSS will also continue to utilize the same assessment tools and developmental files. Contractors will be notified by CDE in advance of any forthcoming changes to the current assessment tools and development files through the release of a Management Bulletin. Before changes to tools occur, the CDE would engage with contractors.

15. How will the CalWORKs tiered system work for stages 1, 2 and 3? What will be the process for building on policies that already exist as these stages get consolidated vs. developing new policies/processes?

- A. Although the Master Plan for Early Learning and Care highlights the consolidation of CalWORKs stages 1, 2, and 3, CDSS does not have any immediate proposals for changes in fiscal year 2021-22.

Enrollment

16. Should we proceed and plan to enroll families in center-based programs as we always have, utilizing the CDE forms we've always used?

- A. Yes, please continue to enroll families in center-based programs using the existing CDE forms. CDE and CDSS are coordinating on the transfer of relevant CDE forms to CDSS' website. In some respects, the forms will remain the same

except the CDSS name/logo will replace CDE's. When CDSS determines that new forms are needed, CDSS will engage with the field to share proposed changes, gather feedback, provide technical assistance on use, and deliver notifications in advance of implementing changes to the enrollment process or releasing new forms or process changes.

Reporting

17. Will the Child Development Provider Accounting and Reporting Information System (CPARIS) reporting be used for both CCTR (General Child Care & Development Program) and CSPP (California State Preschool Program)?

A. Yes, CDE and CDSS are forming an Interagency Agreement (IAA) so that CPARIS can continue to be used for CCTR and CSPP.

Budget

18. What is the budgeted cost associated with the transition of child care and development programs from CDE to CDSS?

A. As specified in the transition plan (page 12), the Governor's January budget for 2021-22 reflects the transfer of \$31.7 million (\$30.8 million federal funds and \$0.9 million General Fund) from CDE to CDSS. Information about additional proposals for \$9,212,000 to support staffing at CDSS are available via the [Department of Finance website](#).

Monitoring

19. Will CDSS use the same type of staff monitoring programs? We all have consultants with CDE, and they assist us and do our audits.

A. Currently, there are no immediate changes planned to the staff monitoring programs/process that will be implemented as of July 1, 2021. Prior to making changes to processes that will impact operations for the child care and development workforce, CDSS will engage with contractors beforehand and will offer technical assistance. Also, since the organizational structure at CDSS is different than that of CDE there may be different points of contacts for different aspects of business. In June 2021, CDSS will release details for the field on accessing contacts related to fiscal, contracts and programmatic support. Currently, CDSS is in the process of creating a website for the new Child Care and Development Division with program information. Once the website is complete, CDSS will provide an overview for the field on how to

navigate the site, which will include resource and contact information. CDSS will make sure to publicize those points of contacts by June 2021.

Child Care Quality Programs & Standards

20. As General Child Care and Development Program (CCTR) programs move to CDSS, does that mean Title 5 will no longer apply to them with regards to licensing?

A. Currently, CDSS and CDE are focusing on “lifting and shifting” all identified transferring programs under CDE’s administration to CDSS. There will be no changes to the licensing standards of the programs including the CCTR program. Title 5 will still apply to CCTR programs.

21. Is Quality Counts California (QCC) staying with CDE for overall coordination or only the CSPP? The report is not 100% clear because it speaks to collaborations with First 5 California and quality Child Care and Development Funds by CDSS. Can you please clarify?

A. QCC is and will remain a joint effort of CDSS, CDE, and First 5 California. The three entities have worked closely together on QCC for many years and will continue a shared leadership model that seeks to meet the diverse needs of California's child care and development mixed delivery system. The QCC CSPP Block Grant that provides Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Grants for CSPP will remain at CDE.

22. As part of the transition, are the CDSS Child Care Licensing Program (CCL Program) and staff moving to the newly formed CDSS Child Care and Development Division to solely support the functions of the transfer of programs that will be moving from CDE’s administration to CDSS?

A. No, CDSS’ CCL Program will not be moving to the newly formed Child Care and Development Division in CDSS, but rather will remain under the department’s Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD). The CCL Program staff will collaborate and coordinate with and support the new Child Care and Development Division. This is similar to the relationship of CCLD to other CDSS programs, CDE and other state and local agencies, while maintaining separate and specific licensing functions under CCLD. At the present, this transition will not impact any current operations for the CCL Program. In the event there becomes a requirement to establish new policies and processes in the future as a result of the transfer of child care and development programs from CDE to CDSS, the CCL Program staff will engage with stakeholders in advance, prior to

implementing any changes, and will do so in partnership with other impacted CDSS Divisions when feasible.

23. How does CDSS anticipate spending quality set aside funds? Does the administration anticipate any cuts to existing quality projects?

A. Currently, CDSS and CDE are focusing on “lifting and shifting” all identified transferring programs under CDE’s administration to CDSS. CDSS does not anticipate any immediate cuts or changes to quality projects. Any future changes would include a process for stakeholder engagement. The quality projects are also being addressed in the State Plan, which is also developed through stakeholder feedback and will be submitted this year.

24. If Licensing Program Analysts (LPA) are losing caseloads due to California State Preschool Programs (CSPPs) under Local Education Agencies (LEA) leaving Title 22 compliance, it seems like there is ability for LPAs to provide more support for this transition. How many LEA CSPPs are no longer going to operate under Title 22?

A. Effective July 1, 2019, CSPPs administered by LEAs and located on public school grounds may qualify to be exempt from child care licensing requirements, pursuant to [Health and Safety Code \(HSC\), Section 1596.792\(o\)](#). Additionally, CSPPs may only serve four-year old children in exempted classrooms. CSPP classrooms with any children younger than four years of age shall meet Title 22 CCR licensing requirements. Regulations pertaining to exempt state preschool programs may be found in [Title 5, Chapter 18, Subchapter 4, Article 4](#). Currently, only 32 CSPPs administered by LEAs and located on public school grounds have applied for and received certificates of exemption from licensure from the CDSS. Exemptions of CSPP facilities have not resulted in a significant enough reduction of licensed child care facilities to impact the current caseloads for LPA. A full LPA caseload consists of 140 Family Child Care Homes and 93 Centers. At the same time, CDE has not received additional staff capacity to support and monitor any LEA-based CSPP who is now license exempt.

25. What exactly do you mean by dismantling structural racism in a child care setting? How is this going to be implemented?

A. Access to quality child care is key to ensuring children can reach their full potential. A key objective of the Early Childhood and Development Act of 2020 is to foster a high-quality child care and development system that is affordable and provides supports to the workforce and programs for children to have access to stable child care and development opportunities. This can only be achieved by evaluating and ensuring access to child care and outcomes for children by race, poverty status, disability, language, and geographic location. First, we plan to

address issues of access and disparate outcomes by evaluating collected data in partnership with Quality Counts California and other entities. Second, we plan to evaluate the policies leading to disparate outcomes through meaningful collaboration with local agencies, parents, families, caregivers, the workforce, and other critical stakeholders to develop recommendations and implement program improvements.

Head Start

26. Is Head Start moving over to CDSS as a result of the transition?

A. The Early Head Start grant funding will continue to be administered by the CDE after July 1, 2021, in order to ensure that the State does not have to re-compete for that funding. The Head Start State Collaboration Office is moving over to CDSS. This state collaboration office is not responsible for administering the program, but rather is focused on connecting and aligning early child programs and safety net services in California. Flexibilities between Head Start and California State Preschool Programs will continue.