WORKFORCE SERVICES
CHILD CARE

OFFICE OF Child Care

Welcome.

Child Care and Development Fund Budget Reduction Proposal instead

I. Welcome .... Joyce Hasting
   a. Approval of 3/11/26, Meeting Minutes

II. OCC Director's Update .... Heather Thomas
   a. Budget Update

III. Other Business & Public Comment

IV. Adjourn

Next Scheduled Meeting

Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Budget Reduction Proposal

-Heather Thomas

Utah’s CCDF Funding Allocation

- Mandatory
- Matching
- Discretionary
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Transfer
- State Maintenance of Effort (MOE)

Discretionary Funding Formula

- Per capita income
- Children under five
- Participation in federal free and reduced lunch program

Utah's CCDF Funding Allocation

	Total	Difference from FFY 2024
FFY 2024	$165.3 M	
FFY 2025	$143.3 M	-$22 M
FFY 2026 (Estimate)	$144.3 M	-$21 M

Includes TANF Transfer and State Maintenance of Effort;
States have three years to spend out each annual grant

Utah’s CCDF Funding Allocation

Child Care Assistance	>= 70%
Quality Initiatives	>= 9%
Quality Initiatives for Infants/Toddlers	>= 3%
Administrative Costs	< 5%

Core Purposes of CCDF

1. "To **allow each state maximum flexibility** in developing child care programs and policies that best suit the needs of the children and parents within that state"

2. "To **promote parental choice** to empower working parents to make their own decisions regarding the child care services that best suit their family's needs"

3. "To encourage states to **provide consumer education information to help parents make informed choices** about child care services and to promote involvement by parents and family members in the development of their children in child care settings"

4. "To assist states in **delivering high-quality, coordinated early childhood care and education services** to maximize parents' options and support parents trying to achieve independence from public assistance"

5. "To assist states in **improving the overall quality of child care services and programs by implementing the health, safety, licensing, training and oversight standards** established in this subchapter and in state law (including state regulations)"

6. "To **improve child care and development of participating children"**

7. "To **increase the number and percentage of low-income children in high-quality child care settings"**

Citation: 45 CFR Part 98 Subpart A

Budget Reduction Considerations

- Main purposes of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)
- Reducing budgets in areas that were underspent with limited impact to services
- Returning to pre-Covid funding policy or funding levels
- Prioritizing core quality supports provided to child care programs
- Data and outcomes from programs and initiatives

Communication Plan for Changes

- Proposed budget adjustments have already been communicated to contracted partners and organizations that are affected
- Contract amendments will need to be made to reflect new fiscal year budgets prior to July 1, 2026
- Changes affecting child care providers and customers will be:
  - Communicated at least 30 days in advance of the effective date
  - Most will be a phased in approach at recertification or review

Office of Child Care Administrative Costs

Proposed Changes: Combining two positions into 1 FTE due to loss of some contracts and attrition; Limit out-of-state travel to meetings with federal partners; No major impacts to services

Anticipated Budget Adjustments:

- **Staffing: -$85,527**
- **Out-of-State Travel: -$7,000**

6 Child Care Resource Agencies

- Technical assistance for the Child Care Quality System
- Improving regional child care access through technical assistance for potential new providers
- Professional development conferences, courses, advising, and support
- Building and maintaining connections with local partner and community agencies serving families
- Providing families with information on quality child care, including referrals to services

6 Child Care Resource Agencies

Proposed Changes:

End the following programs:

- Kids in Care Program (job search child care),
- Fingerprinting services/grants
- Nature Explore courses

Reduce staffing due to program cuts and natural attrition, travel, conferences, office equipment and supplies, communications, provider materials, and outreach activities; Actual budget was less than last year's draft budget

Minor impacts to other programs and services

*Observation & coaching specialists, expanding access grants, CDA cohorts are on separate lines

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$559,358

Child Care Quality System

CCQS Observation and Coaching Specialists (CCRAs and TCCU)

- Provide observation and coaching services as part of the Child Care Quality System to complete certified quality rating certifications and help child care programs achieve a high quality rating through coaching grants

Proposed Changes: Reduce some staffing due to combining roles and attrition, conferences and training support, communications, materials, technology and office supplies; Minor impact to services

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$20,787

Child Care Quality System

Quality Observation Awards (URPD administers)

- Award for child care programs for achieving high quality observation scores for each certification period
- Centers - Infant/Toddler: $2,500; Preschool: $1,500; School Age: $500 (per eligible observation)
- Family Child Care - $1000 (per eligible observation; max 2)

Proposed Changes: High Quality programs with average of 5+ children receiving child care assistance over previous 12 months will not be eligible

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$296,500

Child Care Quality System

Professional Development Cost Sharing (URPD administers)

- Share professional development costs with eligible programs that meet goals around annual training
- Centers: Ranges from $500-$2,700 depending on number of caregivers employed at the program
- Family Child Care: $275

Proposed Changes: High Quality programs with average of 5+ children receiving child care assistance over previous 12 months will no longer be eligible

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$60,000

Child Care Quality System

Intensive Coaching Grants

- Programs who participate in the Child Care Quality System and achieve a certified Foundation (Emerging) or Building (Growing) Quality rating may apply for an Intensive Coaching Grant to assist them with reaching a high quality rating
- Programs develop a Quality Improvement Plan and a budget that aligns with the program's goals

Proposed Changes: Reduce budget amount to match current level of coaching that can be provided with workforce available; No major impact to services

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$450,000

Professional Development

Utah Registry for Professional Development (URPD) at USU

- Manages Utah's Early Care and Youth Workforce Registry system that collects employment history and professional development data
- Administers scholarships and incentives for professional development, CCQS awards and incentives and family start-up grants

Proposed Changes: Reduce some communications and membership costs; indirect costs decrease due to reductions in programs URPD administers; no major impact to services

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$42,177

Professional Development

Credential Scholarships and Cohorts (URPD and CCRAs)

- Cohorts and scholarships to cover costs to receive training and credential that demonstrates mastery of early childhood or child care administration skills

Proposed Changes: Reducing National Administrator Credential Scholarship and CDA cohort budget due to current utilization and models; No major impact to services

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$24,460

Professional Development

Professional Development Incentive (PDI) (URPD administers)

- Incentive for professionals to gain additional knowledge and skills by achieving levels on the Career Ladder
- Ranges from $100-$2,000 per level earned depending on level

Proposed Changes: Reducing budget due to current incentive expenses; No impact to services

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$10,000

Professional Development

Online Annual Training Subscriptions (URPD administers)

- Online annual training memberships to Quorum Learning by Teaching Strategies at no cost to early care and education professionals

Proposed Changes: Adjusting policy to prevent renewal of subscriptions for individuals who sign up but don’t use; current memberships pre-purchased are predicted to last through June 2028; no major impact to services at this time

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$150,000

Professional Development

Business Training and Coaching (SLCC)

- Train, educate, and individually coach child care providers in becoming more efficient and effective business owners

Proposed Changes: Reduce some of the business summit costs, travel, materials and supplies, communications and tuition based on current utilization of the program; Actual budget was less than last year’s draft budget; no major impact to services

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$56,913

Professional Development

Utah Early Childhood Conference (currently UAEYC)

- Provides funding to cover some of the costs of hosting a statewide conference for early childhood educators and leaders

Proposed Changes: Reduce amount of support/sponsorship of the conference

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$9,000

Professional Development

TEACH Scholarship Program - UAEYC

- Offers comprehensive scholarships toward early childhood degrees for professionals with a purpose of increasing early care and education quality, teacher compensation, and retention

Proposed Changes: Eliminate contract renewal bonus; Reduce some of rent and phones; Reduce some of tuition, travel, materials, release time and bonuses equivalent to 4 fewer scholarship recipients

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$39,828

Professional Development

Curriculum Translation and Updated Media

- Translations of curriculum to Spanish and resources for curriculum design developed by OCC for partners to teach courses to youth and early learning professionals

Proposed Changes: Reduced due to current expenses

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$350

Expanding Access Grants

Family Child Care Start-Up Grants, Rural Outreach Grants, Refugee Start-Up Grants

- Helps fund start-up costs for child care programs

Proposed Changes: End Refugee Start-Up Grants; Reduce other grants based on current utilization

Anticipated Budget Adjustments:

Family Child Care Start-Up Grants: -$10,000

Rural Outreach Grants: -$3,500

Refugee Start-Up Grants: -$8,000

Out-of-School Time

Utah Afterschool Network

- Provide support for programs supporting school-age children, including those participating in the Child Care Quality System and out-of-school time grants, as well as families seeking school-age services

Proposed Changes: Eliminate insurance costs, materials and supplies; Reduce costs of equipment, professional fees/contract services, salaries, fringe benefits and background checks; Alternative funding sources will be utilized for most of these reductions; No major impact to services

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$95,112

Out-of-School Time

Capacity Building - Utah Education Policy Center:

- Revision and analysis of data collection and reports from out-of-school time grantees to demonstrate outcomes
- Creating and analyzing pre- and post-surveys utilized by grantees
- Offering community of practice sessions to grantees

Proposed Changes: Eliminate this contract; Utah Afterschool Network and the Office of Child Care will support out-of-school time grantees

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$72,000

Out-of-School Time

School-Age Quality Grants (used for State Match funds)

- Support out-of-school time programs in achieving and maintaining quality providing safe, supportive, interactive, and engaging environments for school-age youth

Proposed Changes: Reduce by one contract due to the grantee's program not operating; no impact to current grants

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$64,639

Out-of-School Time

Intergenerational Poverty Supplemental Grant

- Grant to supplement a program work with intergenerational poverty population

Proposed Changes: Eliminate this grant as it was meant to supplement a grant that is no longer offered by the Utah State Board of Education; Last grantee is completing 3-year contract this year

Anticipated Cost Savings: -$92,636

School Readiness

Becoming High Quality Grant

- Grant aims to increase high-quality early education capacity in the state by providing support to preschool classrooms to increase their quality

Proposed Changes: Funding will not go into additional school readiness grants at this time; Last grantee is completing 3-year contract this year

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$150,000

School Readiness

School Readiness Mentor Coaching - The Children's Center Utah:

- Provide training and coaching services to internal coaches and grantees participating in the School Readiness Initiative Grants

Proposed Changes: Eliminate out-of-state travel to conferences; Reduce some coaching materials, office supplies and technology; Minor impact to services

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$9,393

Developmental Screening

Child Health Advanced Data Records Management (CHARM) - Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS):

- Integrate statewide, child-level, Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) screening data into CHARM with several other health data sources so early care and education stakeholders (healthcare and child care providers) can easily access this data

Proposed Changes: No longer support the ongoing maintenance of this system; Anticipate that the system will cease operations as no sustainable funding sources have been secured

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$217,745

Developmental Screening

Help Me Grow - United Way of Utah:

- Support families and providers to give them screening information, provide support to complete screening, follow up with families regarding results and referrals to potential services
- Focused efforts to ensure families of children receiving subsidy have additional support to increase the number of low income children receiving a developmental screening early

Proposed Changes: Reduce some staffing around community outreach and parent support, office space, equipment, materials and supplies, training, and travel; Returning to smaller pre-Covid budget

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$240,707

Other Budget Items

Care About Childcare Web Application - Division of Technology Services (DTS):

- Develop and integrate updates and revisions to the Care About Childcare website, which houses the public search for child care, the registry and course registration for professional development, and the Child Care Quality System

Proposed Changes: Reduce costs due to efficiencies and percentage of time for some staff on project; no major impact on services

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$575,048

Other Budget Items

Office of Licensing - Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS):

- Provides licensing and certification to child care providers to ensure providers are meeting minimum health and safety requirements as defined by CCDF regulations and Utah code

Proposed Changes: Eliminate some technology costs that are not needed ongoing; no impact to services

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$165,895

Other Budget Items

Office of Early Childhood

- Facilitate collaboration and identify priorities across state agencies and partners; support the Early Childhood Utah Advisory Council

Proposed Changes: Reduced due to current expenses; no impact to services

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$5,861

Other Budget Items

Mental Health Consultation & Training (The Children's Center Utah):

- Provide onsite child and program-focused observations, feedback and reflections to build early childhood educators' capacity and skills needed to facilitate healthy social and emotional development of children in their care
- Connect educators and families to community resources and referrals on an individual basis

Proposed Changes: Eliminate .5 FTE due to attrition; Reduce some of communications, materials and supplies, travel, and staff development and training; Minor impact to services

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$32,800

Other Budget Items

ARISE Attendance System - Creative Information Technology, Inc.:

- Design, implement and support a technology system that accurately records children's attendance in care for providers serving children covered by CCDF child care subsidy

Proposed Changes: Eliminate this contract; continue to require electronic attendance tracking meeting criteria for all licensed providers; focus on proactive monitoring of accurate electronic attendance tracking through alternative approaches

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$182,000

Other Budget Items

Consumer Education

- Includes community outreach campaigns, translation of consumer education information, and email communication system

Proposed Changes: Reduce budget for outreach campaigns due to current expenses

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$8,692

Child Care Assistance

Registration Fees

- Registration fees add to families' responsibilities for the price of care. Registration fees can cover new enrollment and may be made to a specific provider for a specific child once in a 12-month period (Licensed Centers up to $75; Licensed Family Child Care up to $50).

Proposed Changes: Only one registration fee will be paid per 12-month period per child; Families will be responsible for additional initial registration fees incurred if switching child care programs more often; Exception may be made for child endangerment or expulsion situation

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$92,210

Child Care Assistance

Job Search Child Care

- Child care cases remain open for the 12-month eligibility period. If customers lose their job and still need child care during that time period, they can utilize the child care assistance payments while searching for a job.

Proposed Changes: When a job loss is reported, customers receiving child care assistance will be given a minimum of 90 days from the end of employment to find new employment. If they remain unemployed, their case will close at the end of the month that the 90th days falls in.

CCDF only requires three months of job search. States can discontinue assistance after that time period if work activity requirements are not met.

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$721,140

Child Care Assistance

Enhanced Subsidy Grants (ESG)

- Monthly grant awarded to High Quality programs for the average number of children served receiving child care subsidy over the previous 12 months to offset some of of the additional costs of providing high quality care
- HQ/HQ+ Centers: $175/$200 per child
- HQ/HQ+ Family Child Care: $100/$125 per child

Proposed Changes: No longer support High Quality Plus monthly rates due to change in framework; Capping average number of children receiving child care subsidy at the licensed capacity of the program

Anticipated Budget Adjustments: -$166,950

Child Care Assistance

- Additional child care subsidy changes are forthcoming and planned for fall 2026
- Changes will be brought to this Advisory Committee for review and feedback
- Families will be notified ahead of any eligibility or policy changes that may affect their case
- Proposed changes will likely have phase-in at review month to maintain 12-month eligibility; Smaller reductions in the first year due to this approach

Other Business

Adjourn

Next Meeting

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

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