

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
Anishnaabek Community and Family Services
Child Care and Development Fund

Parent/Provider Newsletter

October 2019

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program provides resources to States, Territories and Tribal Lead Agencies that enable low-income parents to work or pursue education and training so that they can better support their families and promote the learning and development of their children. The CCDF Final Rule strengthens the requirements to protect the health and safety of children in child care; help parents make informed consumer choices and access information to support child development; provide equal access to stable child care for low-income children; and enhance the quality of child care and the early childhood workforce.

OCTOBER 1, 2019 NEW RULES AND REGULATIONS

Beginning October 1, 2019, all Tribal Licensed Child Care Centers and Relative Care Providers have new rules and regulations to ensure the health and safety of the children they care that receive CCDF assistance.

CCDF HEALTH AND SAFETY TOPICS

The Child Care and Development Fund Rules and Regulations mandate that State and Tribal licensed child care center caregiver, assistant caregiver, director, licensed family/group child care home provider, volunteer, and in-home care provider are required to have training in the following Health and Safety topics: Prevention (including immunizations) and Control of Infectious Diseases; Prevention of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and the use of Safe Sleep Practices; Administration of Medication, Consistent with Standards for Parental Control; Prevention of and Response to Emergencies Due to Food and Allergic Reactions; Safety of Building and Physical Premises; Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome, Abusive Head Trauma, and Child Maltreatment; Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning; Handling and Storage of Hazardous Materials and the Appropriate Disposal of Bio-contaminants; Precautions in Transporting Children; Pediatric First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR); Recognition and Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect; Nutrition; Access to Physical Activity; and Caring for Children with Special Needs.

Relative Care Providers are given information regarding these topics and may request training at any time.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

The Child Care and Development Fund Rules and Regulations mandate that State and Tribal licensed child care center caregiver, assistant caregiver, director, licensed family/group child care home provider, volunteer, and in-home care provider are required to have FBI Fingerprint Background Checks, State Fingerprint Background Checks, Out-of-State Background Checks (if applicable), NCIC Nation Sex Offender Registry (NSOR) check, In-State Sex Offender Registry Check, Out-of-State Sex Offender Registry Check(if applicable), In-State Child Abuse and Neglect Registry Check and Out-of-State Child Abuse and Neglect Registry Check (if applicable).

Tribal Licensed Center staff and Relative Care Providers also must have Tribal Child Abuse and Neglect Registry Check and ICHAT (Internet Criminal History Access Tool) Check.

MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT POLICIES

All Tribal Licensed Child Care Centers must be inspected annually by the Licensing Consultant to ensure that child care providers caring for children receiving CCDF services comply with all applicable Tribal and/or State/local health, safety and fire standards.

Relative Care Providers are required to participate in an initial home visit regarding health and safety but are not required to participate in annual inspections. However, in the event of an Investigation, an inspection and home visit is required.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

In order to be eligible for CCDF Child Care Assistance, the child must be between the ages of 0 and 12, must be a member or eligible to be a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, parents who are working, participating in an educational program or qualified job training/job search activity.

The family must meet income guidelines, live in the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians 7 County Service Area, and choose a Licensed Child Care Center, Licensed Family/Group Child Care Home, or Relative Care Provider.

The family must not have assets that exceed \$1,000,000.

APPLICATIONS

Applications can be accessed on line at <https://www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/acfs/direct-services/child-care-development-fund>

Applications can be requested via email, calling, or at any ACFS Office location. Email apeer@saulttribe.net, call 1-800-726-0093.

You will want to use the newest application available October 1, 2019.

Required documentation includes Tribal ID's for all household members, social security cards for all household members, current check stubs or other income statements, Employer Verification Forms, provider paperwork and a completed application.

APPLICATION PROCESSING

CCDF Secretary will date stamp the application when it is received. Completed applications will be processed within 10 days of receipt. Incomplete applications will be sent a letter listing the missing items. If the application is not complete within 45 days of the receipt, the applicant must reapply.

ACFS CCDF does not pay past child care bills.

Once processed and found eligible both the parent and provider will receive a Child Care Certificate.

RE DETERMINATION

An approved application is valid for 12 months. Prior to the end of the 12th month, a Re-Determination packet will be sent to the parent requesting updated information and a time line of when it is due.

QUALIFIED PROVIDERS

The approved family may choose from Licensed Child Care Centers, Licensed Family/Group Child Care Home Providers or eligible Relative Care Providers.

Licensed providers must have a current and valid Child Care License from the State of Michigan or ACFS if on Tribal Land.

Relative Care Providers can be Grandparent, Great Grandparent, Aunt, Uncle or Sibling (not living in the household) of the child, must be 18 years old or older, must have successful background checks, and initial home visit to be qualified.

FAMILY CONTRIBUTION TO PAYMENTS

The Tribal CCDF program has a Sliding Fee Scale for eligible families depending on the income and family size. The contribution amounts range from 0 to \$40 every two weeks per child.

LIHEAP

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program begins November 1, 2019. Eligible applicants receive a credit on their heat source bill. Interested parties can pick up an application at any ACFS office beginning **Friday, November 1, 2019.**

Applicants must include previous 12 months of income for each adult in the home; all updated Tribal ID's for each member of the household, Social Security Cards for each member of the household. All sources of income and unearned income, and a recent copy of heating source bill or account.

LIHEAP processing can take up to one month. The credit may not show up for another month, so it is recommended to continue to make your payments in the meantime to avoid shut-offs.