

CCDF Quality Set-Aside & Accreditation

Opportunities for States

We all share the goal of improving the quality of child care services, while increasing parents' options for, and access to, high-quality child care and early learning. The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 advances this goal by requiring all state and territories to use quality set-asides to fund at least one of ten activities—including "supporting child care providers in the voluntary pursuit of accreditation."

Whether or not you are in one of the 29 states that indicated "supporting accreditation" would be part of the FY2016-2018 CCDF State Plans, there are actions your state can take to invest in children, early childhood education professionals, families and communications by investing in accreditation. Now is a great time to consider your options, as the new streamlined model for accreditation moves forward, out of the pilot phase and into wider acceptance and implementation.

What's the Streamlined Model?

The streamlined model is a new set of tools, resources, and methods for conducting accreditation site visits, which include transparent assessment items aligned with existing standards, criteria, and indicators. The tools, which are reflective of the expressed needs of our communities, are designed to emphasize the NAEYC best practices that are most indicative of high-quality programs and to deemphasize basic practices that are often assessed by state child care licensing agencies.

What Can My State Do?

Your state can fund Accreditation Facilitation Projects (AFPs), which provide technical assistance and other support to programs working on NAEYC Accreditation through individually tailored services. This will help programs opting into the new streamlined model, and help support overall quality improvement efforts.

Sounds Great. What Else Could My State Do?

Other opportunities for using quality set-aside dollars to support accreditation could include:

- ✓ funding NAEYC's on-site trainings for early childhood education providers in your state
- ✓ hosting large group training sessions, where there are programs with multiple sites
- ✓ supporting a cohort of centers interested in accreditation with customized TA for the cohort
- ✓ pay for travel to professional development conferences

Still Not Convinced?

From guidelines for teacher preparation through safety standards, NAEYC Accreditation ensures that programs are safe, well prepared, and intentional about ensuring children's success. Learn more about the benefits of accreditation at www.naeyc.org/academy.

Questions?

To learn more about these opportunities, and discuss cost and funding models, please reach out to Meghann Hickey at mhickey@naeyc.org or (800) 424-2460 ext.8871.