



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

June 7, 2016

Ms. Rachel Schumacher, Director
Office of Child Care
330 C ST SW, Room 4502
Washington, DC 20201

Subject: Michigan CCDF Waiver Request

Ms. Schumacher:

In Michigan, reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program brings about a number of positive changes for Michigan children, families, and providers. As changes have been implemented we've received support for the implementation of twelve month eligibility, changes to our policy for homeless families, as well as encouragement for pending changes that were described as part of our public hearing process.

Due to the rule making process in Michigan some of the required changes will need additional time to implement. As we work toward implementation, careful and thorough analysis was done with the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), which is where child care licensing is housed. This analysis was to ensure that we have identified all needed changes for one major revision rather than multiple revisions over time.

In addition, over the last six months Michigan has been engaged in conducting research on child care in Michigan. As part of this work input was gathered from providers, parents and community partners who are engaged with the system. As we work toward implementation of a comprehensive consumer education website we want to continue this careful and thorough analysis to ensure we are meeting the needs as identified by the users.

At this time, Michigan is formally requesting waivers for the implementation of the following requirements:

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Section 1.8.1 Disaster Plan

The primary reason for this waiver request is related to the rule making process in Michigan that we will follow to amend PA 116 and then subsequently amend our child care licensing rule sets. The Michigan Department of Education will partner with LARA throughout the process by participating in the Ad Hoc committee required as part of the process. A significant portion of the changes outlined in reauthorization are changes to not only our child care licensing act (P.A. 116 of 1973), but to our actual licensing rules for centers and homes in Michigan. This strategy allows us to keep current rules and requirements in place during the revision to meet the new rules and requirements so the health, safety, and well-being of the children served will not be compromised. The process for revising rules is legislatively mandated and will utilize current research and best practices, along with engaging a variety of stakeholders, ensuring improved and uniform delivery of child care services for the children of Michigan that meet the new requirements. In addition, LARA will be required to hold public hearings on the changes prior to the revisions being submitted to the required legislative committee for review and approval. The expectation is that we will have completed the revision of both PA 116 and the rule sets by no later than September 30, 2017.

Section 2.3.1 Consumer Education Website

The primary reason for this waiver request is related to gathering feedback from parents, providers and the public on their preference for a single consumer education website. The Michigan Department of Education will release an RFP to help develop overall messaging, as well as to help identify the elements of a comprehensive website.

The status of individual requirements for the consumer education website are as follows:

- a) Share provider specific information about health and safety, licensing or regulatory requirements met by the provider (including the last date of inspection, and any history of violations): This information is currently available through the Great Start to Quality website, but doesn't fully meet the requirements for posting.
- b) Include a description of health and safety requirements and licensing or regulatory requirements for child care providers: This is currently available on the LARA website, but will need to be enhanced as the child care licensing rules change for providers.
- c) Include a description of the processes for licensing, background checks, monitoring, and offenses that prevent individuals from being providers: This information is currently available on the LARA website, but will need to be enhanced as the child care licensing rules change for providers.
- d) Provide information about the number of deaths, number of serious injuries as defined by the State and the number of incidences of substantiated child

abuse in child care settings. Michigan does not post this information, but will be in compliance for posting the results of monitoring inspections by the November 19, 2017 deadline.

- e) Describe how the website is consumer-friendly: This requirement will be completed when the location for the single website is determined and will be part of the process of building the new website.

This waiver request will not endanger the health/safety/well-being of children due to most all information being already currently available or available by the due dates specified in the Plan. Michigan expects to fully complete this requirement by the end of September 30, 2017.

Section 5.1.6a Health and Safety Requirements

The primary reason for this waiver request is related to the rule making process in Michigan that we will follow to amend PA 116 and then subsequently amend our child care licensing rule sets. The Michigan Department of Education will partner with LARA throughout the process by participating in the Ad Hoc committee required as part of the process. A significant portion of the changes outlined in reauthorization are changes to not only our child care licensing act (P.A. 116 of 1973), but to our actual licensing rules for centers and homes in Michigan. This strategy allows us to keep current rules and requirements in place during the revision to meet the new rules and requirements so the health, safety, and well-being of the children served will not be compromised. The process for revising rules is legislatively mandated and will utilize current research and best practices, along with engaging a variety of stakeholders, ensuring improved and uniform delivery of child care services for the children of Michigan that meet the new requirements. In addition, LARA will be required to hold public hearings on the changes prior to the revisions being submitted to the required legislative committee for review and approval. The expectation is that we will have completed the revision of both PA 116 and the rule sets by no later than September 30, 2017.

Section 5.2.1 and 5.2.2b Monitoring and Inspections

The primary reason for this waiver request is related to the rule making process in Michigan that we will follow to amend PA 116 and then subsequently amend our child care licensing rule sets. The Michigan Department of Education will partner with LARA throughout the process by participating in the Ad Hoc committee required as part of the process. A significant portion of the changes outlined in reauthorization are changes to not only our child care licensing act (P.A. 116 of 1973), but to our actual licensing rules for centers and homes in Michigan. This strategy allows us to keep current rules and requirements in place during the revision to meet the new rules and requirements so the health, safety, and well-being of the children served will not be compromised. The process for revising rules is legislatively mandated and will utilize current research and best practices, along with engaging a variety of stakeholders, ensuring improved and uniform

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delivery of child care services for the children of Michigan that meet the new requirements. In addition, LARA will be required to hold public hearings on the changes prior to the revisions being submitted to the required legislative committee for review and approval. The expectation is that we will have completed the revision of both PA 116 and the rule sets by no later than September 30, 2017.

If you have any questions or concerns about this waiver request and our implementation plans, don't hesitate to contact me for further information.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Brewer Walraven". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa Brewer Walraven, Director
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Cc: Susan Broman
Mark Jansen