

Membership news from Child Care Aware® of America for March 2014



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Policy News

Through the Child Care Aware® of America Action Center, you helped generate **more than 1,100 messages** to the Senate to support the Child Care and Development Block Grant Reauthorization Act of 2014. And you won.

The Senate voted last week to pass, by a vote of 96-2, S.1086, the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (CCDBG) of 2014, the primary federal grant program that provides child care assistance for families and funds child care quality initiatives.

Your letters and advocacy, **more than 100 media stories** (citing Child Care Aware® of America!), and the policy team who met with Senate staffers to answer questions about the bill, provide historical context and data about child care in America, as well as specific information for the states - all helped make this happen.

While passage out of the Senate was an important step forward towards improving the quality of child care, the process is not finished. The House of Representatives is holding a hearing specifically on CCDBG on March 25th.

Now, it's more important than ever that **we keep the momentum going** until the bill becomes law.

Day on the Hill at our national Symposium will be a critical place to help push this bill to the next step. There's still time to register. [Register now.](#)

To learn more about CCDBG reauthorization, visit the [CCDBG campaign page.](#)

Health and Human Services Proposed Rule

With a total of 545 comments submitted through the Federal Register regarding the proposed changes to Child Care Development Fund regulations, the Administration for Children and Families

has had their hands full reviewing and categorizing the comments. We do not have a date for release of a Final Rule, but we have been reassured by ACF and the OCC that this remains a top priority for the Administration.

Learn more about the Proposed Changes to CCDF, check out our YouTube channel that includes our series on the HHS Proposed Rule: <https://www.youtube.com/user/CCAofAmerica>

Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships

One of the most exciting policy developments since the beginning of the new year is the funding opportunity through Early Head Start – Child Care partnerships. Authorized by the recent federal spending agreement, early learning programs will have the opportunity to work closely in partnership within their communities to raise the bar for all early childhood programs.

We continue to work with and offer our perspective to the Administration for Children and Families to help ensure the administration of the \$500 million in competitive grants, is not only inclusive, but also best meets the needs of the child care community.

We've created a landing page about EHS-CC specifically for professionals in the child care field. Visit www.usa.childcareaware.org/ehs-cc for webinars, background and more on this important opportunity and stay tuned as we rollout members-only content for this new program.

Research and Reports

2013 was a big year for reports on child care quality and cost. News media published more than 700 citations on Child Care Aware® of America's *We Can Do Better* report and *Parents and the High Cost of Care: 2013 Report*. This year look for *2014 State Fact Sheets* as well as the 2014 report on the cost of child care. Get the latest on *Parents and the High Cost of Care: 2013 Report* at www.usa.childcareaware.org/costofcare

NDS – Data Services

We often hear our members would like more opportunities to engage in professional development, specially targeted to *their* role in *their* agency. Earlier this month we successfully piloted a new way to provide this kind of service.

NDS Online Conference

Over 100 participants from 15 states joined us to learn about the intersection between the Online Referral Module (ORM) and the Quality Indicators Module (QI).

*“I really enjoyed this type of format and would like to participate in future NDS Online Conferences. Thank you, I gained valuable information on each subject presented.” –
Conference participant*

A copy of each presentation and the links to the recordings were sent to the participants for their reference. You can find additional tools referenced during the presentation on the NDS portal: <http://nds.naccrra.org/questions/88/ops-tool-tip-worksheet/>

NDS Applications Recent Bug Fixes

At least once a month, we apply a minimum of seven high-impact bug fixes to one or more applications in the suite. Since February, we have made tremendous strides in fixing issues related to the Group function in NACCRRAware, applying a critical update in the ORM password field, and many enhancements to how QI profiles are viewed and printed. You can review the latest releases on any application by clicking on the Release Notes link located at the bottom right of the screen.

Are you an NDS user? If so, you may see the full details of all releases and bug fixes from within the NDS application. In the right side of the footer is the hyperlink to the release notes.

Are you aware? Hot Topics – Data Sharing and Data Integration

The NDS team is frequently called upon to provide insight and input in conversations between various stakeholders in matters related to data management in general. We have noticed a steady increase in network agencies and state level agencies engaging in meaningful dialogue about sharing data collected (using the NDS suite and other platforms) in various contexts for the overall goal of providing the highest quality and most relevant child care related services to their constituents. Our team will be at the ready providing program and technical expertise. We invite you to call Cathy Wague at 703-341-4113 to start or continue the efforts around data sharing.

Upcoming NDS Applications Trainings (for TT, TA and ORM modules)

Because of your feedback we have greatly improved our training delivery platform! Our trainings are now infused with use cases derived from our work in the field, help desk support cases and effective practices resulting from research findings. We review the training schedule quarterly. Please take a look at our offerings for the upcoming weeks and register as seats fill quickly at this time of the year <http://nds.naccrra.org/faqs/38/what-training-options-are-available-for-the-nds-suite/>

Data and Standard Committee Meeting

The Data and Standard Advisory Working Group was created at the beginning of the program year 2013-2014, to provide recommendations for an update of the National Data set created in 2009. Since October the group has met monthly and to date has completed the provider and client data sets reviews. The Advisory Group meetings in the next few months will include a discussion on community data, invited guest from CEDS. The staff contact for this group is Nancy Cunningham from our Help Desk at (866) 789-7590 or via e-mail at: NDSHelpDesk@usa.childcareaware.org.

Child Care Aware Training Academy™

CCR&R members in 25 states are Child Care Training Academy™ partners. They are promoting affordable and accessible training to more than 300 online courses for providers to enhance their professional development programs and meet state requirements.

To date, 121 CCR&Rs have partnered with Training Academy™ to offer our courses to providers. Please **welcome** our **newest member** United Way of Connecticut.

Training Academy™ also has courses for CCR&R staff to continue their professional development through instructor-led blended learning or self-paced online. Here are a few topics:

- **Basic Training for CCR&R Staff:** These training series are designed to orient new and experienced staff on the Essentials of CCR&R including Child Care in America, CCR&R in America and CCR&R Best Practices. [Read More](#)

- **Consumer Education and Referral, Comprehensive:** This course follows Child Care Aware® of America's Best Practices for CCR&Rs and illustrates how trainees can incorporate these standards in every referral contact. Uses actual calls recorded between parents and referral specialists as a training aide. [Read More](#)

The Spring semester just started! **Improving the Quality of Child Care Programs through Coaching**, e-learning adaptation of Strengths-Based Coaching®, runs from March 6 – May 15, 2014 and consists of seven self-paced online lessons and nine 60-minute live webinar sessions. Brought to you by the Child Care Aware Training Academy™ and the Francis Institute for Child and Youth Development, this 15-hour training builds on the strengths, knowledge and skills of technical assistant professionals who work with early childhood, school-age and youth programs. For details please visit <http://cca-ta.org>

On Feb. 26 the Training Academy conducted a free webinar for our CCR&R partners. The topic? “Crowdfunding – Innovative ways to fund your projects.” If you’re a Training Academy partner, email training@usa.childcareaware.org to view the recorded webinar.

Symposium – still time to register

It's not too late to register for Child Care Aware® of America's 2014 Symposium! Haven't decided to attend? Here are more details about Symposium:

Early Program Released

This year, you'll find more than 25 professional sessions ranging from topics on Early Head Start-Child Care partnerships to research on child care and early education outcomes to the next generation of QRIS. Get the full session list, descriptions and schedule on our new event web page: <http://symposium.usa.childcareaware.org/program-and-events>

2014 Day on the Hill

The ability to speak directly to your congressional representatives is a right and a privilege. But how many people actually get to walk into their congressional representative's office in Washington DC and have a real conversation? Symposium attendees do. Don't miss your chance to speak to congress and share your state's story during this critical policy juncture for child care and early education. [Register now.](#)

5 Complimentary Meals

Fuel up to take on the most important child care and early education issues in the nation- on us! Two hearty breakfasts, two plated lunches, and a reception dinner are packed into this year's three-day event. Get the most out of your time in Washington. [Register now.](#)

Partnerships – announcing Sesame Workshop

Child Care Aware® of America is pleased to announce a two-year partnership agreement with **Sesame Workshop**. This partnership includes a pilot program designed to provide Sesame Workshop researched-based toolkits on resiliency to children and families.

The purpose of the pilot program is to pair Sesame Workshops' resiliency materials with the established network of the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&Rs) field. This program will allow CCR&Rs to submit requests for proposal to participate in the pilot and distribute materials to children and families in their community. Updates around the rollout of materials and how to submit request for proposal will be announced on the blog, [Early Directions](#).

Sesame Workshop will also provide gift bags to all Symposium attendees and first attendees to check in at Symposium will get a photo with a surprise Sesame walkaround character!

Membership

Thank you for being a member of Child Care Aware® of America. Your support helps turn policy into change and lends a voice for families seeking quality affordable childcare. Plus, your membership includes benefits such as:

Discount on Symposium: Current members of Child Care Aware® of America get discounted rates to attend Symposium. Join now and reserve your spot.

Priority sign up for *The Raising of America*: Only members get the chance to watch a screening of the forthcoming six-part documentary that will air on PBS stations nationwide late in 2014. Be the first to watch and engage in a discussion with guest panelists following the show. Email membership@usa.childcareaware.org to reserve your seat.

Exclusive access to EHS-CC information webinars – More than \$500 million will go towards Early Head Start-Child Care partnerships in 2014. How will your agency be involved? Members of Child Care Aware® of America will have access to all the information they need to participate in this historical investment in child care.

Child Care Exchange discounts - Child Care Aware® of America has teamed up with Exchange magazine to provide you with these exciting special benefits:



Exchange Magazine: One Free Year!

Each issue of this bi-monthly publication includes fascinating, useful articles that demonstrate a profound understanding of who children are and how they develop. **Subscribe for one year and get your second year free** (new subscribers only).



Out of the Box Training Kits: 20% Discount!

More than 70 ready-to-go staff training sessions in PDF format for immediate download.



Exchange Essentials: 20% Discount!

More than 30 article collections available in PDF format for immediate download.



Beginnings Professional Development Workshops: 50% Discount!

More than 110 resources for staff training on various curriculum topics in PDF format for immediate download.

Exchange Every Day: Free

Stay up to date on trends and developments in the field. [Click here](#) and enter your email address to activate your free subscription.

How to Get Your Benefits

Visit www.ChildCareExchange.com, click on the blue "Shop" tab at the top of the page, and make your selections. When you are ready to check out, enter code **CCA** when prompted to apply your discounts to your order. To help you find what you're looking for, all Exchange Press resources have been organized by typical core competencies in a downloadable PDF. [Click here](#) to get your copy of the catalog.

Questions?

If you have questions or need assistance, contact Exchange Press at (800) 221-2864 or send an email to info@ChildCareExchange.com. Be sure to identify yourself as a member of Child Care Aware® of America.

Thank you for your membership!

We look forward to seeing you at the [2014 Symposium](#).

Sincerely,

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Click [here](#) to unsubscribe

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