

Center for Supporting Research on CCDBG Implementation

In September 2016, the ACF Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) awarded a contract to the Urban Institute to establish a Center for Supporting Research on CCDBG Implementation. The purpose of this Center is to support Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) lead agencies in building research capacity to help inform and evaluate policies and initiatives implemented in response to the goals of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014.

Also in September 2016, the ACF Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) awarded eight cooperative agreements for CCDBG Implementation Research and Evaluation Planning Grants (Cohort 1); another three grants were awarded in May 2017 (Cohort 2). OPRE awarded cooperative agreements for CCDBG Implementation Research and Evaluation Grants to four of the Cohort 1 planning grantees in March 2018 and to two of the Cohort 2 planning grantees in December 2018. In addition to supporting the research and evaluation grantees, the Center also aims to enhance research capacity among all lead agencies, including those that are not grant recipients.

As a primary focus, **the Center will provide capacity-building activities**, tailoring specific activities to meet the interests and needs of lead agencies; **and support cross-grantee collaboration and learning**. The Center will not be providing individualized technical assistance to CCDF lead agencies, but instead will:

- Support a **community of practice of grantees**, including
 - **Monthly web conferences** involving participants from each grantee, Center staff, OPRE staff, and, as appropriate, expert guest speakers.
 - **Annual in-person meeting**, held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Child Care and Early Education Policy Research Consortium (CCEEPRC).
 - **Hot topic peer discussion groups** for those with interest in a specific area of research, data source, or research method.
 - **Virtual shared workspace and Basecamp discussion board** to facilitate sharing of resources and cross-grantee communication.
- Develop an **annotated bibliography** of existing resources to support all CCDF lead agencies in building research and evaluation capacity.
- Develop reader-friendly **written products**, such as self-assessments, informational resources on building research capacity, and guides summarizing lessons from past evaluations.
- Conduct an **independent process evaluation** of the two-phase (planning/implementation) structure used by OPRE for the CCDBG Implementation Research and Evaluation Grants.
- Arrange **sessions at national conferences** to support all lead agencies in building research and evaluation capacity.

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