



# Partners for Rural Impact

439 Walnut Meadow Road, Berea KY 40403

DATE: February 21, 2024

TO: Office of Child Care, Administration of Children and Families  
RE: FR Doc. 2024–01058, Submission for OMB Review; Child Care and Development Fund Plan  
Preprint for States/Territories for FFY 2025–2027 (ACF–118)

Director Dr. Ruth Friedman and Certifying Officer Mary B. Jones,

Partners for Rural Impact appreciates the thoughtful revised draft of the CCDF Pre-Print for 2025-2027. The efforts in the draft to add clarity, reduce duplication, emphasize areas of impact, and establish an equitable childcare system for all children served between the ages of 0 and 13 will make an important impact on planning and implementation.

Partners for Rural Impact is a longtime supporter of State Afterschool Networks. We recognize the critical role that they play in increasing access to and quality of out of school programs in a state. Afterschool Networks bring together leaders across the field, leveraging their ability and expertise to align resources, engage organizations, mobilize funding, and provide training on best practices to move the field forward. To that end, as it relates to item 6.2, we recommend the inclusion of “Statewide Afterschool Network” in the statement *“The professional development framework must be developed in consultation with the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care and may include the Statewide Afterschool Network, or similar coordinating bodies”*. We know that school age children make up nearly half of the population served with CCDF funds. To that end we feel it is critical that Afterschool Networks, uniquely positioned to think about the needs of school age children and the organizations that serve them, be a key part of any state’s strategy. We believe that the intentional inclusion of afterschool networks into the conversation will result in:

- Better identification and targeting of training needs and opportunities for school age providers
- Alignment around measures and standards of quality for out of school time programs across agencies
- Better braiding of 21st century dollars and other funding streams to result in more children accessing services and an increase in the quality of those programs
- The thoughtful inclusion of innovative public and private partnerships and other creative solutions which we believe to be critical in addressing the childcare gaps in rural communities

Thank you for your intentionality and collaboration on behalf of young people, families, providers and communities. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions.

Thank you,

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*All Rural Students Succeed*