

Author Full Name : Rose Frech**Received Date :** 02/21/2024 02:11 PM**Comments Received :**

Please accept the following as general comment on the Draft Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan. The Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development (COAD) serves as the administrative and advocacy hub for a network of 17 Community Action Agencies, and as the Child Care Resource and Referral Agency for three Service Delivery areas in Appalachian Ohio.

These comments reflect on content in sections 4, 6, and 8 of the draft plan.

While COAD enjoys positive relationships with our state lead agency and local administrators, new prospective providers may benefit from more clearly defined timelines for processing applications. New prospective providers often face challenges in implementing their start-up plans when timelines are unclear, or the application process is delayed. This can result in financial challenges for the provider that may ultimately interfere with their ability to provide services. The application process involves some complexity, and local agencies may benefit from additional training on how to evaluate and approve applications more expediently. The plan may reflect this through requesting that states establish timelines and clear expectations regarding the application process, and ensuring that it is efficient and streamlined.

Overall, the Plan may benefit from including more specific guidance to states regarding training expectations and protocols for state and local administrators, to ensure that these individuals have access to the most current and updated information on licensing rules and other mandates. This could reduce confusion and improve communication across stakeholders.