



January 6, 2025

Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

To Whom It May Concern,

First Five Years Fund (FFYF) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Administration for Children and Families (ACF)'s Proposed Information Collection on [ACF-800: Child Care and Development Fund \(CCDF\) Annual Aggregate Report](#). FFYF is committed to ensuring all children from birth through age five have equitable access to comprehensive and high-quality child care and early learning to support their healthy development and help them achieve their full potential. Quality data is essential to achieve these goals, as it allows practitioners and policymakers to make informed decisions about serving the nation's youngest learners. This includes comprehensive and timely information on how federal programs work to serve children and families.

The ACF-800 provides annual aggregate data on the children and families receiving direct services under CCDF. Aligning with the 2024 CCDF rule, we support the Office of Child Care's (OCC) proposal to add data on presumptive eligibility and the use of grants and contracts. These are substantial policy changes for many states, and data to understand how implementation is faring and how it is impacting providers and families is important. We urge ACF to ensure that the data is uniform and publicly available in order to be useful to policymakers, advocates, and providers.

Having a better understanding of programs' actions will make for stronger and more efficient policies and practices. Evidence-driven insights can support improvements to early learning systems across this nation. Thank you for doing this important work. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Guarino".

Amanda Guarino
Managing Director, Policy and National Partnerships
First Five Years Fund