

Kathi Johnny started transcription

Kathi Johnny 2:35

So we'll just go through what our grant looks like and then I will highlight any changes that are in the grant. But the first part is regarding program administration. And the very first section is the definition of Indian child, and with this section, there is a change. So our response is that an Indian child is defined as a child who is under the age of 13 years old, unless eligible based on qualifying exemptions, and who is enrolled or a child of an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe. Any child who has a pending enrollment application on file and as verified with documentation from an enrollment office, qualifies as an Indian child.

In our last grant cycle, we had extended to descendants like. In any length from a federally recognized tribe. As well as any child in care of at least one parent who is a tribal member, including but not limited to adopted children. Foster children, stepchildren, but with those. Additions. It just makes it really hard to like, get the documentation and verify that and it just makes it more complex. And so for us to try to ensure that we're getting our services to those that we're aiming to get our services out, we kind of strengthen that.

Definition. The age eligible based on qualifying exemptions. The exemption that we have is if between ages 13 and 19, if you. They are not self-dependent. Need help with your care. Then you are eligible for. Families are eligible to receive services for the care of their children.

So the second is our service area. Our service area is on or near the Tulalip Indian Reservation within the boundaries of Snohomish County. Within this policy, this will include Stanwood up to the county line, Arlington, Lakewood, Marysville, Everett, Lynnwood, Monroe, Lake Stevens, and Granite Falls, or any other area within the county that is not being served by another CCDF program. Stillaguamish is no longer a CCDA grantee, and so we are able to cover them because they only have their tribal center. And then we kind of specified the West side city in Greenwich County, because on the east side the service area is overlapping with areas that are claimed by Stillaguamish. So I did reach out to their grant office and asked that kind of have a discussion to make sure that when we're doing our child count on how many eligible children are within our area that we are not duplicating those numbers. But then

anybody that's in those east side cities or east side towns of Snohomish County, that wouldn't be qualified under Snoqualmie, would be eligible under ours because we cover the entire county. So identifying.01 on the wrong section on here. Plan. So there were no changes for a service area.

Yeah, large that just a little bit. So neighboring or overlapping service areas would be with Snoqualmie for the eastern part of Snohomish County. Contacting them did try to avoid duplicating the numbers.

The next portion goes into our child count. There is an additional form that we go. Our last child count was 3011. I'm getting. I'm going to get updated numbers from enrollment based on the last board meeting and then adjust those numbers as necessary. There's information about consortium or 47710 combinations, which is not applicable to our program. So within our leadership, we submit that as a tribal lead agency. We will have an effective program that complies with all of the provisions within our plan. Our first contact person for our tribe is Perry Govan, our chairwoman. So we have her information in and then when it goes, gets down to the tribal lead agency, which is TELA.

The CCDF Administrator is myself, Manager, and the Co-administrator is Veronica Yuk. She's our grants and self-governance manager for the Tulalip Tribe. So she assists and has the authority from the Board of Directors to process applications for our grants. Our fiscal contact is Andy Stamp. He's the chief finance officer. Additional contacts is Cheryl Freiburg, the executive director of Tello. So we selected yes, as a traveling agency, we will directly administer and operate all of our CCVF program. And we also stated yes, that we consulted with the appropriate representatives of the local government and Tribal nation to develop our plan.

So in addition to having our public hearing, we will present this to our Policy Council next week, and then it will go to Tribal Council for their June meeting. So that it can get on the, get approval from the board before the July 1st deadline. So yes, we will have our public hearing which we are having now. Our requirements of public hearing is to provide at least 20 days notice, which is why our announcement went out at the end of April. And that the plan will be available to the public, so it will not always be in Excel. It gets put into a system that is online. That system is just in testing phases right now, and it's not unlocked. So as soon as it's unlocked, we will be able to enter it into. There it'll formulate into a better formatted PDF, and then we'll be able to post that on our website.

So for categories of care that we provide, we provide center-based child care. So

TELA is a true operated center within our CCDF grant as well as outside providers. Center-based care and then we provide and cover family child care as well. So that would be homes that provide child care. We do not do in-home care, so in-home care is individuals who provide child care in the child's home. And the reason that we don't do that is because there are a lot more regulations and monitoring necessary with health and safety requirements that we don't have the staffing to do.

So then it goes into coordination of our services. So there's. Describe the ways your coordination occurs and results of those coordination efforts. CCDF Ecaps, which is state-funded preschool. CACFP services early, Head Start, Montessori. TELA has weekly leadership meetings, and the CCDF Administrator attends monthly manager meetings with the tribal department leaders and host committee meetings, which include Tulalip Health, dental clinic, community health. In relation to our program services, we also coordinate with local schools for students to transition in early intervention, as well as ensure access to providers through higher education. For employment or for our employees, TELA coordinates with travel departments such as Tarotana family advocacy and housing services to ensure services are reached to our mutual clients. We also collaborate with the emergency preparedness managers to lease Fire Department and others to ensure that Emergency Management plans are in place and that they're drafted with efficiency.

Tela has three on-site mental health therapists that service our children. We have our billing coordinator that refers families to the CCRNR for assistance as well as provides a list of providers within the service area to families for making informed choices. As a result of all of our coordination efforts, Community departments are aware of services to assist clients in applying for. We have developed partnerships to ensure wrap-around assistance for families to ensure access to necessary services. Our coordination efforts also ensure that we have adequate health and safety policies, plans, and procedures in place. So those are just kind of some of the partnerships that we have developed as a program and that assist us in meeting the regulations for our grants.

So when it comes to program integrity and accountability, TELA abides by the Chad's fiscal policies and ensures effective internal controls. Our financial system works in tiers, so there's entry level, multiple levels of approvers within the department that proceeds through approval from finance, compliance, and accounting. Payable and receivable to ensure integrity and accountability within our agency and fiscal management.

So then it's a checkbox. So yes, we train staff on the CCF policies and regulations. Yes,

we conduct supervisory staff reviews for quality assurance. Yes, we share with other programs, Tiana's Head Start, CACFP, ESP run system reports to flag errors. Yes, we review enrollment documents and attendance for billing records. Yes, we review provider records. Yes, we perform ongoing monitoring and assessment of policy implementations. Yes, we train staff on travel procurement procedures. Yes, we inform families on allowable uses of travel CCTVF funds, and yes, we create a timeline for review of family's presumptive eligibility determination.

When it comes to investigating and collecting improper payments, we coordinate with our tribe. We have set a dollar amount of \$5000 for recovery. So if there is an improper payment or there was something that needed investigation like there was a violation, we set the dollar amount of 5000 that we would go recover the payment for. That's kind of a base amount that was recommended through Office of Child Care. To ensure that you're, you know, we're not spending too much time and resources going off of, you know, \$200.00, where is it beneficial and does the cost that you're putting into recovering the payment outweigh how much it will cost to recover? We do not do recovery through repayments, repayment plans, but we do reduce payments for subsequent months if there was an improper payment to a provider. And then we also would have the ability to recover through payroll deductions for CCDF clients or staff employed by our tribe.

And then another thing that we have added in is that yes, we would terminate partnerships with providers who conduct fraudulently. So we've had some situations with a provider of where we're claiming. And they're no longer attending the provider. So if that was to happen and, you know, we cannot resolve and recover our money and then, you know, the behavior continues or we're seeing patterns of that, then we. We would terminate our partnership with that provider, but we don't just do it immediately because we want to ensure access to the child care for the families, and so it would be something where the provider receives notice, the families receive notice, and then you have a period of time where you can transition to a new child care provider.

With disaster preparedness and response plans, yes, we collaborate with other agencies to develop our plan. And so that's with the Tulalip Police, with Fire Department, with Emergency Management, as well as training and technical assistance from some of our other grants. And then when child care disaster, do we have guidelines for continuing child care subsidies? So that's ensuring payments to our providers. Yes, we do. We've already kind of spoken with our finance team to ensure that, you know, they have access to the muni system at home if there's Internet, so that they we could still get payments processed in checks to the

providers. So there is backup systems in place for that.

We would continue child care services. We have guidelines for that. There would be other decision makers involved if we had a big disaster, so we would have to follow guidance of the tribe and emergency department. And then we have coordination procedures for coordinating post-disaster child care services. So ensuring that, you know, we're meeting all of our health and safety requirements prior to opening our doors to provide services. And so yes, we do have our disaster plan procedures. We train our staff on it, and it covers all of the required areas.

So our next section is health and safety, and it is actually our most lengthy section, but it also has no changes. So there's that's a benefit. The first sections are relative providers, which again there's added, or special health and safety requirements that align with relative providers. So we don't offer that service. That would be where we're paying. Grandparent, great grandparents, siblings if they are living in their own residence, aunts, uncles, or whatever like certain definition of family that would be paying them to provide child care for the families. But we don't offer that service, so we can skip through some of that.

Down to 2.2. So 2.2 is regarding our health and safety standards. So with our center base that would include here as a travel operated center as well as other centers. So like Kids and Us is like a center child care opposed to Gremlins is in-home or family child care. So for centers, we follow our tribal health and safety standards within Tulalip Tribes, and then we also follow the state. So Ecap is licensed through the state here, and so we follow that as well as any of our outside providers have to be licensed through the state. So within our monitoring system, we're monitored by Tulalip and by Washington State, for both the center and for outside providers as well. All family child care will be monitored by the state only, and it's Washington State.

In addition to Tulalip, we partner with Indian Health Services, and so they also do reviews and do monitoring of our program, and they come in do inspections. With background checks, we follow Washington State. And so this is just ensuring that we have a process within our background checks, and then it's going to go into our health and safety, so our pre-service and orientation of our trainings. So in these sections, there's just brief outlines of like, yes, we have a policy, yes, we have, you know, certain regulations that we're following within our program.

DCYF licensed providers have to report all of their standards that they implement to Washington State. They do inspections. It's part of licensing, so all of our outside providers have to provide training to their staff, and that's part of our agreement. Is

that they're licensed with the state, and they're following those health and safety regulations. So for everything in here, it's the same thing, so it will just brief, you know, health and safety policy outlines the prevention and control of infectious disease. The next section will reference that policy.

For all of these policies, we address them during pre-service training of our staff or within 90 days, and then afterwards we do annual training. So I'm just going to mention the required topics. So the first one is prevention and control of infectious disease, including immunizations. The second one is prevention of SIDS and use of safe sleep practices. The third one is administration of medication consistent with standards for parental consent. The fourth one is prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions. The fifth one is safety and building premise. The 6th one is prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma, and child maltreatment. The 7th one is emergency preparedness and response planning. The 8th one is handling storage of hazardous materials and appropriate disposal of bio-contaminants. The ninth one is precautions for transporting children, which we do not transport children, so it's not applicable to our grant. The 10th is pediatric first aid and CPR. The 11th is recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect.

So besides like CPR, which we have a vendor that we come, they provide hands-on training. So we ensure that as every time we need to renew every two years, our staff are getting the hands-on training. So they're getting the practice opposed to just doing a test online and getting a cert. And then. The other one would be building premises. Safety. So our health and safety Coordinator provides that training, and it's specific to our location. You know what? What are the requirements if you go down to the beach with the traffic and the different areas that the building? So it's really specific to our program.

And then majority of the rest of them are online. So they go through a module, there's checkpoints where you have to check your knowledge to make sure that you have understanding of the requirements. In order to get this cert, and then it also goes over the Washington administration codes for early learning. So it kind of connects all the dots, and so our staff go through those trainings as well as outside providers do those trainings because they're offered through the Department of Child, Youth and Families. And so the next section is that we do ongoing training. So yes, we do ongoing training. We do it annually. That's part of our closures in August.

For staff to child ratios and group sizes, this is pretty standard in the state, so infants are six weeks to 11 months, toddlers 12 months to 29 months. Preschool is 30 months

to five years if not attending kindergarten. School ages five years and attending kindergarten to 12 years. The center-based and family child care ratios are the same. For an infant, it's one to four group size of eight. Toddler one to seven group size of 14. Preschool age one to 10. Group size of 20. School age one to 15. Group size of 30. And then mixed age group it is. The requirement is that you go based on the youngest age. So for this purpose, we just put one to four with a group size of eight, because if you had an infant in there, you would have to be maintaining that one to four ratio. So if you had a mixed age group of infants to school age, you would go based on the ratio of the youngest child.

So then it goes into provider qualifications. Let's just say don't do in-home. So our teachers have to be 18, have a high school diploma, one year working experience with children, have their first initials, ECE, Stackable certificate, or the Child Development Associate CDA. For Ecap, it is an ECE associate or a minimum of 30 ECE credits. Teachers must also have their ECE or obtain their ECE Short certificate within two years. So the shore is on top of the initial its classes that get you an X level certificate.

Our assistants have to be 18 years of age, have their high school diploma, 6 months experience working with children. All staff must have background clearance due to Tribe's employment process, as well as through the DCYF merit system. A negative Tuberculosis test upon hire, bloodborne pathogens training, first aid/CPR training, food handlers, physical exam or agility exam. DCYF licensed lead teachers must be 18 years of age. Have a high school diploma or equivalent, have documented child development, education experience, or the 30 hours state required basic training. Assistant teachers must be 16 years of age and be directly supervised by a lead teacher. All staff must have background clearance and negative TB test. Bloodborne pathogens training CPR, first aid, and responsible for a group of, if they're responsible for a group of children.

And so the family child care is the same for the DCYF license. So that last part, 18 years of age, high school diploma, 30 hours, basic training, CPR, first aid, bloodborne pathogens, negative TB. The exception with family child care is that assistance can be 14 years of age under constant supervision of the provider if they're under 18. Have the background check, negative TB, high school diploma equivalent enrolled in school. Have a bloodborne pathogens training, and if the assistant is to be left alone with children, they must have the same qualifications as the licensee.

So monitoring and enforcing health and safety requirements. Indian Health Services does annual inspections of TELA through unannounced visits. Inspectors are registered sanitarians and/or registered environmental health specialists and provide a

copy of that to TELA. Inspectors have received training to follow the national Caring for Our Children health and safety standards, as well as training on inspecting early learning centers and Head Start programs. TELA provides inspectors with a copy of our pre-service training videos prior to inspection. And main health services will determine a caseload for their inspectors.

Pie Barker Fire Safety Company comes and inspects the fire extinguishers to layout. Fire department comes to TELA and participates in fire drills. TELA has emergency sprinkler system installed that meets the fire safety requirements, and outside providers receive their outside inspections through DCYF to receive their licensing. The section that was removed out of here is that outside providers would receive unannounced monitoring inspections by TELA. For their health and safety requirements, that was something that was urged in the last grant cycle to try to implement. But again, we just don't have the staffing for that. It would have to be its own position, and we also didn't feel that it was necessary to go and do these inspections. When we have copies of the detailed inspections, and they're already receiving all of that from the state, and so it just was duplicate efforts. And so we just take the state's inspection records and utilize that.

So we don't have an alternative approach for inspections, we ensure that. Our inspectors are qualified when they're doing their monitoring and inspecting. Inspectors are trained, and they know the health and safety requirements, and there is ratios implemented for the inspectors, and those come from the departments that are doing the inspecting.

So the next section is regarding background checks. I'll read the sections that are required for the background checks, and then all of the answers are duplicate. So the first section is criminal registry or repository using fingerprints in the current state of residence. The second section is the sex offender registry or repository check in the current state of residence. Child abuse and neglect registry in database. Check in the current state of residence. The Federal Bureau of Investigations Fingerprint check. National Crime Information Center, national sex offender registry. Name-based search, criminal registry or repository in the previous state of residence. Sex offender registry or repository check in the previous state of residence in the past five years. Child abuse and neglect registry and database check in the previous date in the past five years is the last one.

So for all of these, yes, we utilize the state agency. They conduct those checks. That's part of the DCYF fingerprinting and background check process. That all of our staff do as well as all outside providers are required to do, but we also do have an alternative

approach. So we have a tribal database. So Tulalip Tribes Background Investigations Agency is licensed to conducting fingerprinting and background checks for tribal employees. So all of our employees go through TTBIA. That's associated with the casino to do our background checks and fingerprinting. We are the top tier and safety sensitive within the tribe's hiring codes, and so every employee goes through both of those processes during hiring to complete their fingerprinting and background checks. So it's the tribal process. And then this day as well.

For the second section, is for family child care. So for all of those sections within the background check that's required, we just mark yes that the state conducts those checks because all of our outside providers, family, child care providers, would go through those checks within Washington State.

So then for background checks for household members, for family child care marking, yes, all eight required components are required using the methods listed above. So for family childcare, anybody that is over the age of 18 that is living in the house has to go through the same background check process. And that's a state regulation.

And then the next section is regarding disqualifying crimes. And so our traveling agency deems members ineligible for employment or to deliver services based on convictions for crimes. That is part of this estate regulation. So we follow DCYF list of disqualifying crimes. It's something that the Tulalip Tribes has adopted, and so as. Those crimes would be flagged either in the DCYF background check or the tribal, or both. And so they would be not cleared within the background check and not eligible to work.

There is for some crimes that are either like certain types of crimes and certain like length since the crimes. Some that qualify for a suitability assessment within Washington State, where you can kind of go through a questionnaire and they kind of get to know you, and then they would make their judgment based on those fact assessment opposed to it. Ineligibility. So then the next one is that we know there's not a review process for a felony drug offenses. The fee section is not applicable. So Washington State background checks are free for early learning employees. As well as. So our site providers don't have to pay any fees, and then our tribe travel employees also don't pay fees for their background checks.

Yes, there is timeliness in returning the employment determination results. Employment is pretty good with their process, with TTBIA and DCYF to get results in as soon as they get them. Also turning around and notifying employees. We are required to renew background checks at least every five years, and that is a timeline

that we follow. TTBI actually rescreens annually. For all of our employees, and then with Washington State DF merit background checks, we. We are required to renew those every five years.

There is an option for provisional hire, so hiring employees prior to them having their full clearance. We do not allow that just because that could open the door for any like safety violations if something was to happen, and, you know, that person wasn't cleared through their background check and should have been left supervising children. So we don't allow for provisional hires. We do abide by the privacy of our background check results. So as employers with TTBI, they will give us a sheet that just has the employee's name, the date, the background check went through, and it will just mark eligible or ineligible. No details of anybody's background check, and so they keep that very confidential and locked in their records.

There is an appeal process for staff for the background check. Within the tribe and within the state, and so you can, if there is an issue or you think that it is not accurate, you can appeal the results, and then they can look into it further and then give guidance to go from there. And then we don't have any alternative approaches. So that section does not apply to us.

Quality. So the third section of our grant is our quality improvement. So 3.1 is quality activities needs assessment methodology. So for us, yes, we do have parent meetings, family community, travel meetings. When the toiletries was doing their meetings, we engaged in one of those. We have an annual self-assessment. We do surveys to families. Companies and providers. We have our site visits and monitoring inspections, and we have our Community assessment as well. This year we'll be utilizing the clinic Tribes Community assessment for additional data as well. And so for all of the different quality improvement activities, we were able to like, Mark if it is a quality activity that we do as well as a brief description.

And so with training and professional development, we selected that. So we fund trainings that cover all of the required health and safety topics, child development, family engagement, mental health, language and literacy, and curriculum. And we fund professional development to support career pathways of TELA employees and the child care workforce, so ensuring access to child care by ensuring that we have providers.

So when we have some of our TAs that start working here. If they're interested in becoming teachers, we can help them financially to obtain that certificate. We have a partnership with Everett Community College, and we offer classes on site to help them

get that stackable. Early learning and developmental guidelines. Yes, we engage in that activity. We fund trainings on child development, early learning guidelines, and assessment tools.

Quality ratings and improvement system. Yes. So we actually engage in a Washington State approved alternative for quality rating system. It's called Lovett Way. It was based out of Canada, so Ecap program has underwent their assessment for the Lovett Way, and then within 2026, we will be doing it for the rest of the Academy.

Supply and quality of services for infants and toddlers. Yes, TELA provides training and professional development to enhance abilities to provide appropriate services for infants and toddlers. Provides coaching and mentoring for infant and toddler teachers. We house early head start and coordinate with early intervention specialists to support infants and toddlers with appropriate services. We utilize various methods of screening and assessments like ASQS and teaching strategies gold checkpoints to provide families with information about their child development in the designated domains.

So we with the child care resource and referral services, yes, we do. We utilize the state CCRNR for families. And so they have website and they have resources listed on there, licensing, inspections, monitoring, training, health and safety. We fund health and safety materials and equipment for the Academy and outside providers, fund classroom materials and resources for TELA conduct monitoring of child care providers through Washington State Child Care Check and Child Care Aware. Close early achievers Raiders ratings complaints, inspections and licensing history for all providers.

Evaluating the quality of child care programs. Yes, TELA will purchase a quality assessment tool for outside providers to conduct self-assessments. Implement surveys to collect stakeholder input on the quality of their care in their child care program, so that one is a new section. So we've been looking at different self-assessment. Do you call them tools? And so we're going to look at purchasing one that all of our outside providers can utilize to kind of conduct their own self-assessment and see areas in which they can improve their quality. And then that would allow us to identify areas in which we may be able to help support them in that. Which could potentially, you know, increase their early achievers rating when their quality improves, which also increases their daily rate allowability.

The next section was supporting providers in the voluntary pursuit of accreditation, yes. We will fund any aspect of national accreditation, for example. From the National

Association of the Education of Young Children or the National Association for Family Child Care or Accreditation, developed by a travel association.

High quality program standards. Yes, TELA utilizes the highest standard available. Referencing Head Start program performance standards, caring for children and minimum health and safety standards as provided the ability to create a high standard program.

Other measurable quality improvement activities. Yes, so TELA will fund community designed activities, provide training and materials required for implementation. Partner with community agencies. And. Teller will provide consumer education through written materials, social media, local media, and other Internet options. TELA will also fund the purchase of buses and vans as necessary for program operations. Gulfport golf cart or utility task vehicle and trailer for transporting items to and from our storage facility, which is located out of our building. Purchase a carport and storage shed for emergency preparedness and security of the vehicles. Fund improvement of playground areas to include new and upgrade replacements. Protective padding, new play areas to support outdoor learning, as well as use funds to ensure security measures are in place for child safety. So those are additional quality improvement activities that we have planned for our program.

So part 4 is only for small allocations. We skip to part 5 which is child and family eligibility, enrollment and continuity of care. So for this grant it there is a change, and so we were previously utilizing categorical eligibility, but we transitioned back to standard eligibility, and so a standard eligibility. Travel aid agencies determine eligibility for services. Eligibility is determined as a child must meet one of the traveling agencies. Definition of Indian child to reside within the tribal Service Area 3. Be under the age of 13 four. Reside with a parent or caregiver who is working attending a job, training or an educational program, or receiving need or receive or need to receive Protective Services.

And so categorical eligibility was kind of like you didn't have to participate in one of those things in order to be eligible for the services. But that's one of the ways. Is that we are changing? There are still some exemptions with it, but with categorical eligibility, it is much more challenging to implement because you have to determine like your tribe's median income and go through a process of having a sliding fee scale. And it's just more complex when it comes to kind of creating that eligibility. And so for this, we are kind of simplifying it.

So we ensure there's timely eligibility documentation verification. Within our eligibility

determination, we verify documents and determine eligibility within five business days of receiving a completed application. Within the enrollment policy. Acceptable documentation for verifying eligibility is noted. The policy outlines the process for determination and redetermination. And there's an additional grace period allowed for families to gather and submit documentation for eligibility if they are experiencing homelessness or their children that are in Protective Services.

So. In Skip section 5.1 point three and four and go to eligible children and families. Yeah, that's a oh. Up a little. Five point 2.1. Here Yep. So children eligible are from ages six weeks to 12 years and 11 months. That aligns with our age eligibility of any child that is under the age of 13 years old. We do allow for an upper age limit, so that would be 18 years old, may not equal or exceed 19 years of age for a child who is unable to care for themselves physically, make decisions for themselves, or require an adult to help them with their basic overall. Daily needs, which can be verified by medical records. So that's an exemption that we're allowed to offer. And so we do offer that.

There is also a section for children between the ages of 13 and 19 that are under court supervision, but that is not a service that we are going to offer in the next section is eligibility criteria for reason of care and so defining different areas. So working is defined as paid employment of at least 24 hours per week, which can be verified through documentation from the employer. Hiring letter, pay stub, or W2. Job training is defined as engaging in a program that teaches specific skills or knowledge to perform a job or role which. Which can be verified through documentation. Education is determined as enrolled in an education program, at least part-time, which can be verified through registration records and program plan. Attending means actively participating in asynchronous online or in person, job training, or educational programs. So for education, in order to be eligible. It's not just like online schooling, but like I'm scheduled for these zooms at a certain time. Or I'm attending in person.

And then so for extending the eligibility for specific populations. Yes, we provide more time for eligibility determinations to gather documents and submit them for children in foster care, children in kinship care, children who are in families, under court supervision. Children who are in families receiving support otherwise engage in child welfare agency, children participating in an early childhood school age partnership. Children experiencing homelessness. And then does the traveling agency use CCDF funds to provide respite care? Our answer is no, we do not fund respite care.

And so this next section is actually a big change for us. With with utilizing standard eligibility. So it is asking do we have income limits with generally with standard eligibility it would be? I think 85% of the state median income. So we're selecting. No,

we're not going to have income limits, because, like general welfare, for example, shouldn't prohibit families from paying services.

The next section is additional eligibility criteria. No, we do not have any additional criteria. It's an optional section.

5.3 reducing barriers. So we reduce barriers. Coordinating eligibility determination for children in the same household. That's the only one of those that we selected in ways we reduce barriers. So we would have a single application for families. It simplifies eligibility determination for children within the same household.

Do we have priority for child care services? Our answer is yes. We have a priority scale in place when we're developing a wait list. So families that are in need. Speed or crisis? Families that are experiencing homelessness or children in foster care would be prioritized. Within our wait list for when we could enroll new students.

So the next is just certifying. With, when we determine that a family's eligible, and we do an award voucher that we provide a minimum of 12 months as is required. So yes, we provide a minimum of 12 month eligibility. We have policies and procedures that provide 12 month eligibility for each redetermination. Yes, yes, we certify that a temporary change requirement. Is outlined. And so we have identified what temporary changes are. We don't have any additional conditions to what a temporary change is, and so temporary changes like. I'm on maternity leave or I had. Or like a family that is homeless, maybe they're, you know, temporarily staying at this shelter or post to somewhere else. And so those don't impact eligibility. At all.

If we had somebody who maybe was like furloughed from their job and it was temporary. That, you know, there's ways that we can support them. Like if you provide us documentation, I was furloughed for, you know, it's projected for X amount. I'm not receiving this income. We can. Currently, we could have lowered the copay and such. But regardless, with those changes, we wouldn't discontinue. Services, when it comes to non-temporary changes like permanent change of residence, employment, any of those things. We also have stated that we would not discontinue eligibility within the 12 months, so if you were living in Snohomish County and you moved to Skagit County or King County, you're no longer eligible for our grants because you don't reside within our service area. But you would still be allowed that 12 months. So you would be able to finish your 12 months, and we would provide coverage, and that would allow families time to transition and reach out to one of the other CCDF grantees to try to get assistance in the right service area.

So when it comes to discontinuing services, yes, we would, if there's excessive unexplained absences after multiple attempts to contact a family, including parent notification of possible discontinuation. So we would do our best efforts to get in contact with the family. But if the provider is reaching out and saying, hey, you know, we're not hearing from them. They haven't been showing up, and we're not able to get in contact with them either. Then that would be one way that we discontinue services. Another would be if there is substantiated fraud or intentional program violations. That can be verified through documentation.

So when it comes to eligibility change reporting. Changes can be reported through phone call, email, in person between 7:30 and 5:00. Jennifer Ohio will generally be here. Only changes that require updated documentation in the moment are those impacting child care services provided or payments. So like if it's like, hey, I got a new number, I got a new address, you can just email that. We want to ensure that, you know, it's not burdensome to any of our clients, and so that's why there's multiple ways in which you can provide that change to Jennifer, just to make sure that she has the most recent information to contact any family.

There's food back there. There's. Any questions? A lot of information. I have a question. So the service age. I know you guys only see it conducted 5, but for the older kids of like 5. Do they qualify for this grant? I could apply for them too. Yeah.

So if you had like. Somewhere that you were, you have some families that like we will do they have before and aftercare. So YMCA or any of that? For the the school before and after, but there actually are one of the lists that Jennifer gave us. OK. Yeah. So we can do that. And we can provide assistance for that, and then? If there are like, we have families that will say, OK, here's our school calendar. So, you know, this is the week of spring break or these are different closures that our school has. And this is when summer break starts so that we can have it in writing and. Say OK on this. These weeks that school is closed. We will provide full day coverage. So then that increases the rates for the provider so that they can be paid for a full service if they provide that full day child care. So that is an option.

So equal access to quality child care for our program. We have we do certificates so that you get your award voucher that says, you know, you can go, you you pick your provider, bring us the information, and we'll say OK, we're going to cover your child care, and this is the daily rate that your provider's eligible for? And then we will do the monthly payments to them. Minus the co-pays currently.

So we provide, we do not provide. Child care is exclusively through travel-operated

centers. But we do have one. That would be TELA. We provide direct child care services. We're not a consortium, so that doesn't apply.

Building the supply of childcare. So there are a few categories. So for children in need of non-traditional hours, there are limited providers who offer child care during non-traditional hours. But we ensure that families that are in need are aware and have access to child care providers who can meet their needs. And so Child Care Check is a great online resource that you can search through different child care providers.

With infants and toddlers, 3% of our budget goes to infant health and quality improvement. We coordinate with early intervention services and provide training and professional development specifically focused on infants and toddlers to our staff. We also provide community-based, locally designed curriculum practices for infants and toddlers, like our language and culture curriculum.