



Department of Planning and Community & Economic Development

Community Development Division

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Suite 300

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 2627

Madison, Wisconsin 53701-2627

Phone: (608) 266-6520

Fax: (608) 261-9626

www.cityofmadison.com/cdd

Child Care

Community Resources

Community Development Block Grant

Madison Senior Center

To: Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway and the Common Council

From: Coral Manning, Early Care and Education Manager

Re: Child Care Accreditation Standards Revision

Date: November 1, 2019

Dear Mayor and Common Council Members:

The Community Development Division Child Care Unit staff and I are pleased to provide you an update on the direction of Child Care Accreditation in the City of Madison.

The Madison Child Care Unit accredits child care centers and a family child care system, ensuring that programs meet high quality standards of early childhood and school-age care and education. The Unit also oversees a child care assistance program which assists low-income families in accessing high quality programming.

In the spring of 2017, Child Care Unit Staff and members of the Early Childhood Care and Education Committee (ECCEC) formed a sub-committee to explore ways the City could better serve low-income children in the aim of getting closer to closing the achievement gap. The group decided upon a multi-pronged approach to be implemented over the next five years called Pathways to Quality, which included:

- Reallocation of resources in 2018 to allow for:
 - More funding to help centers who are accredited and already serve low-income children remain stable; and
 - Grants to offset the costs of accreditation for programs that already serve children in poverty.
- Training for all accredited centers on poverty and its impact on young brains as well as how to mitigate some effects of poverty by creating nurturing and adaptive child care environments.
- Modification of the group center child care accreditation to require programs to serve children in poverty or provide an equivalent service or resource back to the early childhood and school-age community in Madison.

We presented the draft plan to the Child Care Forum in June 2017. In October 2017, we notified all accredited programs that this change was occurring and provided drafts for input. We also attended a meeting of the accredited center directors in which all programs were invited to attend, ask questions and make suggestions for modifications.

In 2018, we began using updated materials that required programs to describe to us how they were meeting the requirement to serve children from low income families or the alternative community service pathway.

While these changes to process occurred nearly two years ago, the changes to the accreditation standards do not take effect until the beginning of 2020. Programs starting accreditation or reaccreditation on or after January 1, 2020 will be held to modified standards that outline these Pathways to Quality requirements. Attached, you will find the standards that have been modified to accomplish these changes with modifications highlighted. The updated language will be translated into Spanish and included in the full version of the Spanish accreditation standards.

Programs that are already Madison accredited, remain accredited. With consultation and assistance from City staff, programs will receive the support and time they need to successfully transition to the new requirements.

We will begin working with Satellite family child care system to determine what modifications can be made to family child care standards to further then goals of service to low income families in Madison.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you,
Coral Manning
Early Care and Education Manager