

CCDF Defend the Spend (DTS) Activation

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ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Office of Child Care



News

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) provides funding to states, territories, and Tribes which is critical to supporting working families throughout the country. In light of recent allegations of child care fraud, the Department of Health and Human Services has activated Defend the Spend for all CCDF grantees. It is the goal of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) for there to be no disruption to child care payments for legitimate services provided.

You may recall from last spring that Defend the Spend requires grantees to complete a mandatory field in the Payment Management System (PMS) when requesting a drawdown of funds. We ask that grantees provide the following information in this justification field:

- Grantee's attestation that they have reviewed, made any necessary updates, and are implementing strategies and controls to identify fraud and ensure program integrity, including verification of child enrollment and attendance submissions.
- A strong justification for the use of funds that aligns with CCDF program purposes, that at a minimum includes a description or summary of expenses or activities, by CCDF expenditure category (i.e., direct services, quality activities, infant/toddler quality activities, administrative costs).

ACF has surged capacity with additional internal and contract support to ensure expeditious review of DTS submissions. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your OCC Regional Office or to OCCInfo@acf.hhs.gov should you have questions or need additional support.