



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Office of Child Care

2025 State and Territory CCDF Administrators Meeting (STAM)

July 22–24, 2025

Hyatt Regency Reston
Reston, Virginia



Supporting Parental Choice

Presenters:

Denise Corvino, Child Care State Capacity Building Center

Kim Engelman, Child Care State Capacity Building Center

Wendy Hoogeveen, Iowa Department of Health and Human Services



Session Objectives

- Understand how Lead Agencies can support parental choice.
- Gain insight into consumer education website best practices.
- Learn about key resources and how to access them.





Use Two or Three Words to Describe What Parental Choice Means to You

Scan the QR code

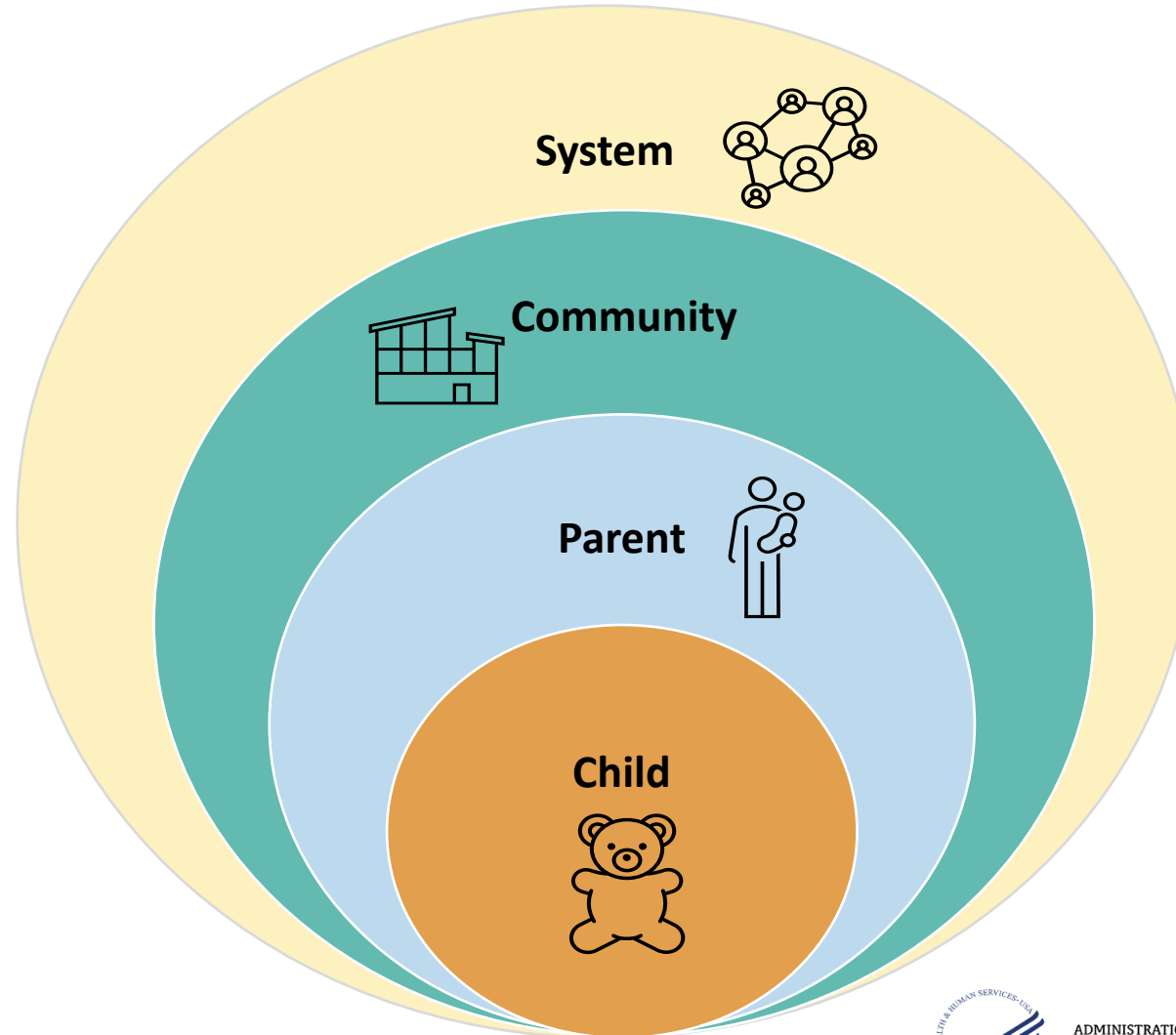
Or Join at Slido.com

#1808551





Parental Choice in Context





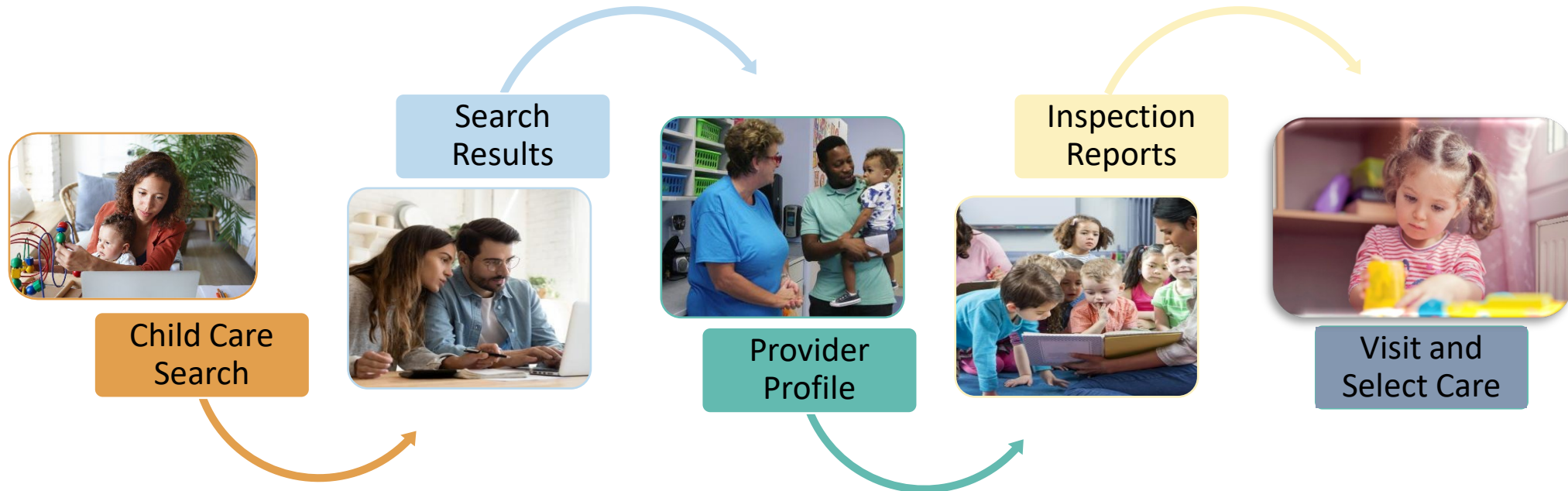
Empowering Families in Child Care Choices

- Provide easy access to comprehensive child care information.
- Promote transparency.
- Highlight high-quality early educators and practices.
- Tailor consumer education tools and materials to the community.
- Support informed decision-making with materials for every stage of a parent's child care journey.



Family Journey

What do families need along the way to inform their choices?





State Highlight: Iowa





Discussion Time!





Resources



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What Are My Child Care Options?

You will find some common definitions of types of child care settings and some helpful tips to make your child care choice easier.



How Is Child Care Regulated to Ensure Children's Health and Safety?

When you are choosing a child care provider, it is important to look for evidence that your child's health and safety will be a priority.



How Do I Find and Choose Quality Child Care?

Find child care that is convenient and within your budget but is also a safe and healthy environment for your child.



How Do I Get Help Paying for Child Care?

When you need child care, it's important to know what resources are available to help with child care costs where you live.



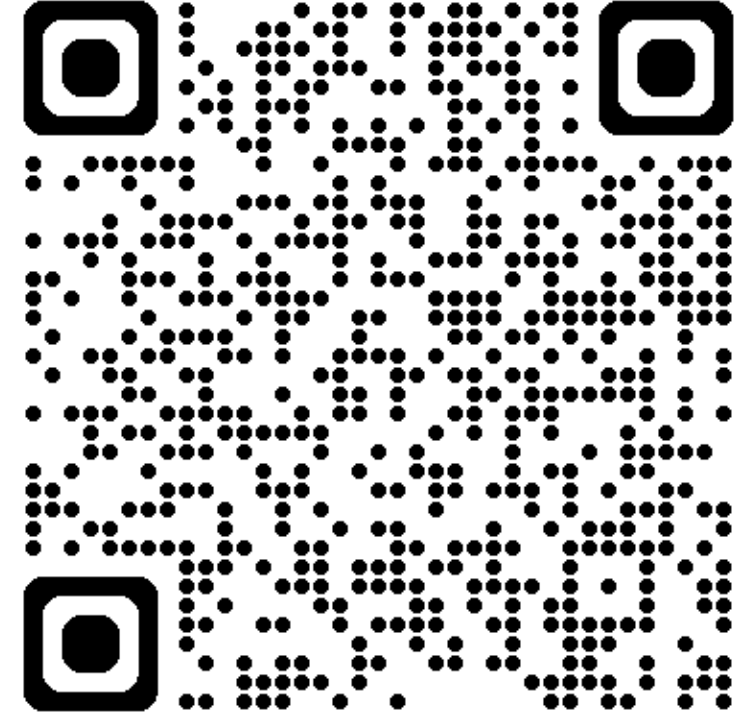
How Can I Support My Child's Health and Development?

Here you will find easy access to a full range of information, programs, and services that can support you in your parenting.



Other Support and Resources for Your Family

This section helps ensure that low income families have access to good nutrition, affordable health care, and more.



[Learn More about Child Care at ChildCare.gov](https://www.ChildCare.gov)



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CONSUMER EDUCATION WEBSITE REQUIREMENTS

This tip sheet outlines the components required by the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) for consumer education websites. It also provides additional best practices to help states and territories design, implement, and maintain useful websites.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS



Content is available in multiple languages




Format supports individuals with disabilities



Content is written in plain language*

*All consumer education website content must be written in plain language so that users can fully understand the information and resources available. When writing in plain language, sentences should be short and direct and use present tense action verbs. The writer should also avoid jargon and use simple, familiar words. See [Federal Plain Language Guidelines](#) for recommendations on organizing content and using plain language writing principles



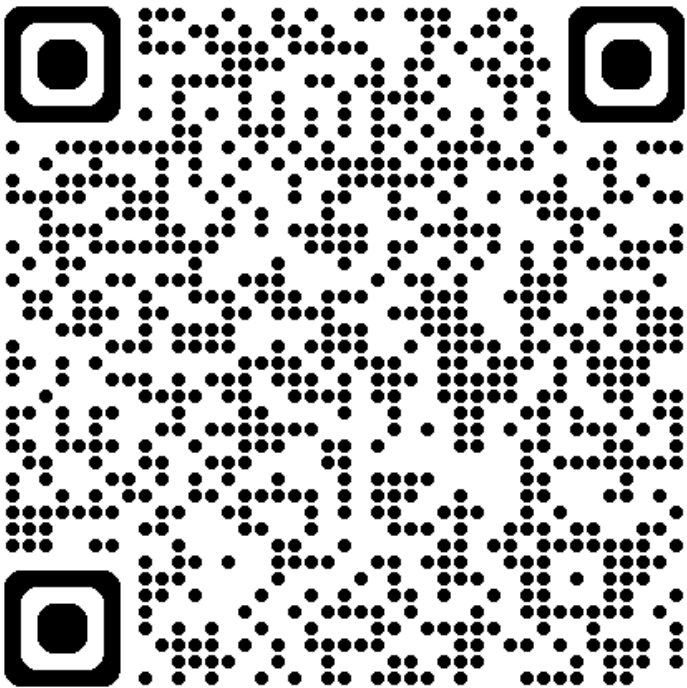
REQUIRED
State-Level
CONSUMER INFORMATION

- ✓ Contact Information for Lead Agency
- ✓ Information about local child care resource and referral services
- ✓ Plain language description of
 - licensing requirements
 - process for monitoring and inspecting child care providers
 - policies related to criminal background checks for child care providers and offenses that prevent individuals from working in child care
- ✓ Annual report of the following information:
 - Total number of deaths and serious injuries in child care settings by provider category and licensing status
 - Total number of children in care by provider category and licensing status
 - Total number of substantiated cases of child abuse in child care settings
- ✓ Sliding fee scale for parent co-payments, including the co-payment amount a family may expect to pay and policies for waiving co-payments.
- ✓ Interstate criminal background check process**



REQUIRED
Provider-Level
CONSUMER INFORMATION

- ✓ Zip-code based child care search
- ✓ Quality rating
- ✓ Timely posting of provider-specific monitoring and inspection reports for licensed child care providers, including:
 - Date of each inspection
 - Full reports written in plain language with areas of both compliance and non-compliance included.
 - If full reports are not in plain language, a plain language summary must be posted with the full report
 - Inspection reports relating to substantiated complaints.
 - Inspection reports should include the prominent display of serious health and safety violations, including serious injuries or fatalities resulting from non-compliance
 - Corrective action taken by the State and child care provider for any identified non-compliance
 - Three years of reports for each provider



CCDF Consumer Education Website Requirements Infographic



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February 2023

Posting Child Care Inspection and Monitoring Reports: Best Practice Brief

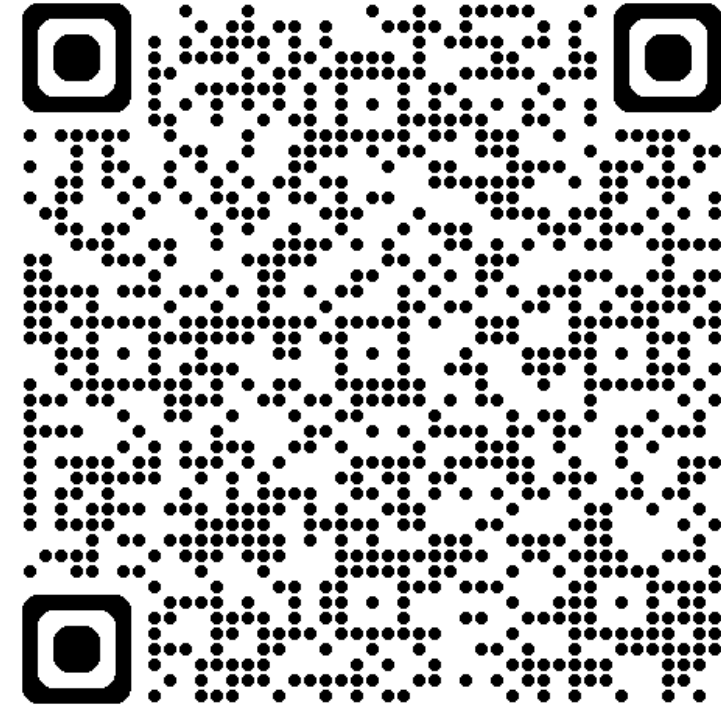
Child care consumer education is integral to supporting parental choice and transparency. It helps families better understand their child care options and encourages providers to improve the quality of their services. Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Lead Agencies are required to post provider-specific child care monitoring and inspection reports on their consumer education websites. In addition to CCDF requirements to make these reports accessible to families, best practices exist that can help your Lead Agency ensure families easily find reports, understand them, and use them to inform their child care choices.

How Can This Best Practice Brief Help You?

Making child care monitoring and inspection reports available online is an essential component of CCDF-required child care consumer education and provides families with important provider-specific information they can use to make the best child care choice for their family. This brief describes key best practices you can use to ensure your Lead Agency posts child care inspection and monitoring reports in a way that does the following:

- Helps families find and use the reports as they search for child care
- Facilitates understanding so families can use the reports to inform their child care choices
- Strengthens transparency

Note: In terms of layout and design, you can incorporate these best practices in many ways. This brief describes some options for your consideration.



Posting Child Care Inspection and Monitoring Reports: Best Practice Brief



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Updated July 2024

Best Practices for Consumer Education Websites

Posting the Total Number of Serious Injuries, Deaths, and Cases of Substantiated Abuse in Child Care: Sample Web Text and Report Template

This document describes the following:

- A summary of requirements for posting annual reports on the total number of serious injuries, deaths, and instances of substantiated abuse in child care settings
- A description of best practices to help families understand the purpose of the report and how to read it
- Sample web text and a report template that Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Lead Agencies can use to post this information on their consumer education websites

Requirements Summary

CCDF requires the following: "Lead Agencies must post the aggregate number of deaths, serious injuries, and instances of child abuse that occurred in child care settings each year, for eligible child care providers [45 CFR 98.33(a)(5); section 658E(c)(2)(D)]. The information on deaths and serious injuries must be separately delineated by category of provider (e.g., centers, family child care homes) and licensing status (i.e., licensed or license-exempt)."¹

The information should include the following:

1. The total number of serious injuries of children in care by provider type and licensing status
2. The total number of deaths in care by provider type and licensing status
3. The total number of substantiated cases of child abuse in child care settings
4. The total number of children in care by provider type and licensing status²

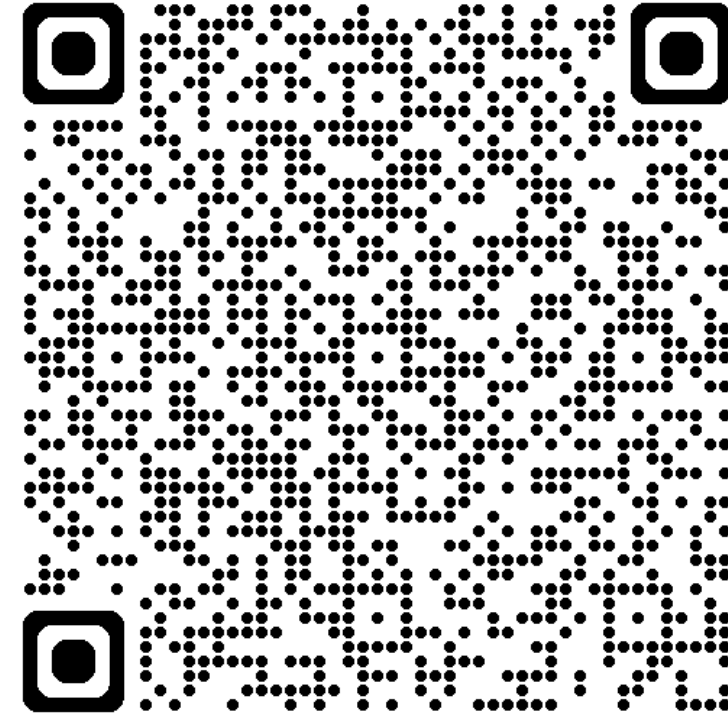
It is important to note the following per the requirements of [45 C.F.R. § 98.33\(a\)\(5\) \(2024\)](#):

- CCDF Lead Agencies must post the total number of serious injuries, deaths, and instances of substantiated abuse that occurred in CCDF-eligible child care provider settings. CCDF-eligible providers³ include all programs regulated by the CCDF Lead Agency as well as those that participate in the state's or territory's subsidy program, including license-exempt programs and family, friend, and neighbor care providers.
- CCDF Lead Agencies must post the total number of instances of substantiated child abuse that occurred in CCDF-eligible child care programs each year.

¹ Office of Child Care. (2016). *Child Care and Development Fund final rule frequently asked questions*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occr/resource/ccdf-final-rule-faq#Consumer%20Education>

² See footnote 1.

³ Child Care and Development Fund, 45 C.F.R. § 98.2 (2024).



Template for Displaying Serious Injuries, Deaths, and Instances of Substantiated Child Abuse in Child Care



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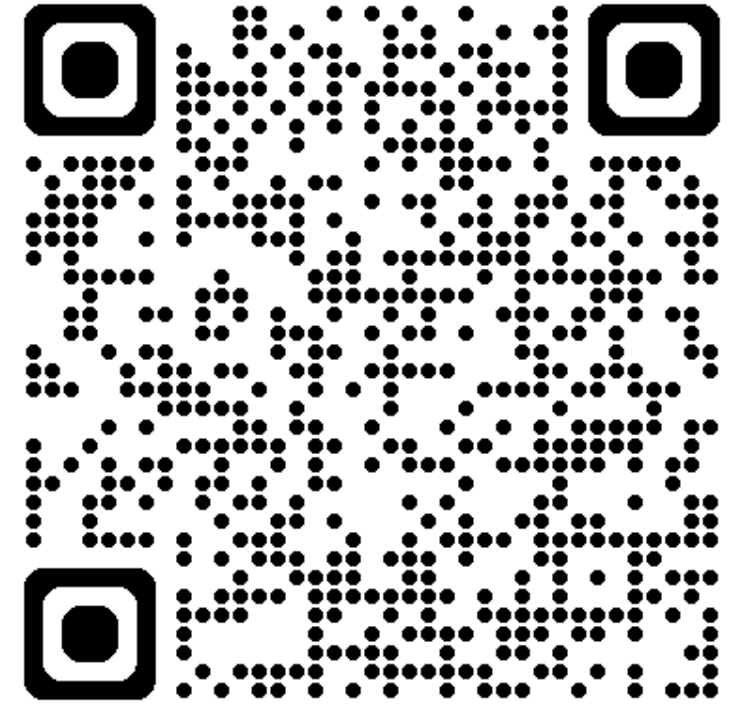
Improve Website Content

Resources to help CCDF Lead Agencies implement website content best practices.



Promote Your Website and Improve Communication

Resources to help CCDF Lead Agencies strategically increase visibility, awareness, and credibility for their consumer education website.



*Featured Consumer
Education Resources*



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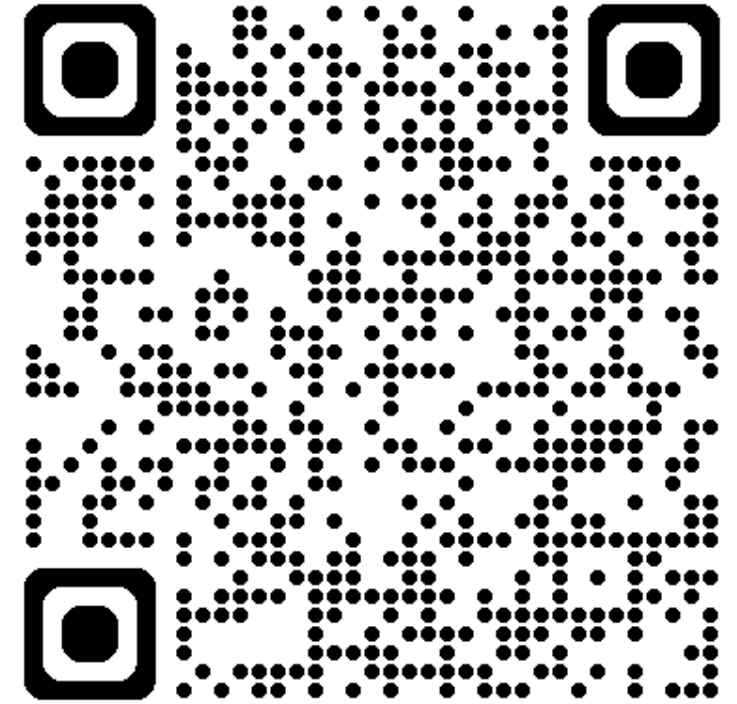
Strengthen Data Use and Web Design

Resources to help CCDF Lead Agencies can learn about key data strategies to guide website improvement efforts and strengthen website design and user experience.



Understand CCDF Consumer Education Website Requirements

Resources to help CCDF Lead Agencies better understand CCDF consumer education website requirements.



[Featured Consumer Education Resources](#)



Technical Assistance Is Available

Please use this QR code or corresponding web link to request individualized technical assistance.





Thank You!





Child Care State Capacity Building Center

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