Payment Integrity Scorecard

Program or Activity	Reporting Period	FY 2025 Overpayment Amount ($M)*
Administration for Children and Families (ACF) - Child Care and Development Fund	Q3 2026	$845

*Estimate based a sampling time frame starting 10/2023 and ending 9/2024

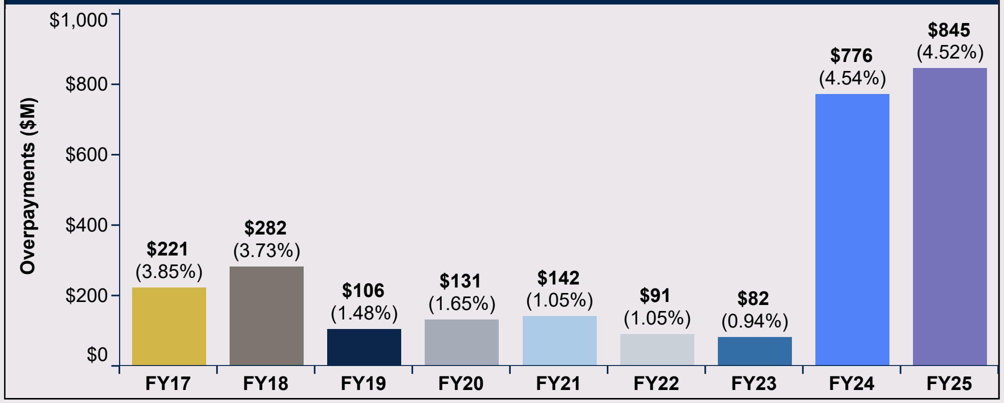
HHS

Administration for Children and Families (ACF) - Child Care and Development Fund

Brief Program Description & summary of overpayment causes and barriers to prevention:

The Child Care and Development Fund program is a federally funded, state-administered block grant program with each state having maximum flexibility in developing the Child Care and Development Fund programs and policies that best suit the needs of children and families within that state. States tailor their review of errors to reflect the policies and procedures unique to their state and therefore, states have varying requirements for establishing and verifying a client’s eligibility.

Historical Payment Rate and Amount ($M)
(Overpayment as Percentage of Total Outlays)



Discussion of Actions Taken in the Preceding Quarter and Actions Planned in the Following Quarter to Prevent Overpayments

Provided targeted technical assistance to states and territories on program integrity and accountability, which included supporting states with an improper payment rate above the established 10% threshold to implement corrective action plans, providing individualized technical assistance to states on program integrity, and hosting two Cohort trainings and follow up office hours sessions on required error rate reporting. Modernized state error rate reporting processes by successfully transitioning the State Improper Payments report into the Child Care Automated Reporting System, making data entry, reporting, and analysis more streamlined, efficient, and user-friendly. Planned actions include training and technical assistance with states, including providing a CCDF program integrity series at a national conference for CCDF State and Territory Administrators, and continuing to develop additional accountability measures for states with an improper payment rate above the established 10% threshold.

	Accomplishments in Reducing Overpayment	Date
1	Conducted Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) error rate training for states to help states implement the CCDF error rate methodology and report accurate improper payment and error results.	Jun-26
2	Worked with states with improper payment rates above the established 10% threshold to implement corrective action plans (CAP) to address root causes of errors, including conducting a virtual site visit with a Lead Agency to support CAP implementation.	Jun-26
3	Delivered technical assistance to states to help them implement the error rate review methodology and address root causes of errors, including conducting state/federal joint case reviews.	Jun-26

Payment Integrity Scorecard

Program or Activity
Administration for Children and Families (ACF) - Child Care and Development Fund

Reporting Period
Q3 2026

	Goals towards Reducing Overpayments	Status	ECD
1	Provide targeted technical assistance and training to states, informed by the specific root causes of errors and corrective actions identified by each state, to address issues and reduce improper payments.	On-Track	Sep-26
2	Reduce the estimated future Improper Payment and Unknown Payment rate based on the reduction target.	On-Track	Sep-26

	Recovery Method	Brief Description of Plans to Recover Overpayments	Brief Description of Actions Taken to Recover Overpayments
1	**Recovery Activity**	States are required to recover improper payments resulting from fraud. For overpayments identified through the error rate process not resulting from fraud, states will work to recover overpayments to the extent recoverable based on state rules.	States are working to recover overpayments resulting from fraud and to the extent recoverable, those that were not the result of fraud. HHS will follow up with states on the status of recovery efforts reported through the error rate process.
2	**Recovery Activity**	Review Single Audit and Office of Inspector General Audit reports to identify expenditures not made in accordance with Child Care and Development Fund regulations.	For overpayments identified in audit reports for which disallowances for expenditures not made in accordance with Child Care and Development Fund regulation were sustained, the disallowances will be recovered via offset or repayment.

Amt($)	Root Cause of Overpayment	Root Cause Description	Mitigation Strategy	Brief Description of Mitigation Strategy and Anticipated Impact
$845M	Overpayments that occurred because of a Failure to Access Data/Information Needed.	Specific eligibility criteria varies by state. States have maximum flexibility within federal guidelines over key policy levers in developing programs and policies that best suit the needs of their children and families. Therefore, root causes vary by state.	Training – teaching a particular skill or type of behavior; refreshing on the proper processing methods.	Improve prevention of improper payments by providing training and technical assistance that targets the root causes of improper payments reported by states and developing new accountability measures for states with an improper payment rate above the established threshold.

The Child Care and Development Fund program is a federally funded, state-administered block grant program with each state having maximum flexibility in developing the Child Care and Development Fund programs and policies that best suit the needs of children and families within that state. States tailor their review of errors to reflect the policies and procedures unique to their state and therefore, states have varying requirements for establishing and verifying a client's eligibility. For this reason, there is not a common lexicon for root cause data/eligibility themes across states and current Child Care and Development Fund program regulations do not require states to collect and report the root cause of errors in pre-determined categories. The data used to calculate and report improper and unknown payments data is collected by the states and aggregated at the federal level, and states are not required to report dollar amounts associated with individual root causes. Therefore, while the specific root causes of errors and associated corrective actions are identified by each reporting state under the policies unique to the state, the errors are consolidated into one control cause category for this aggregate reporting at the federal level.