

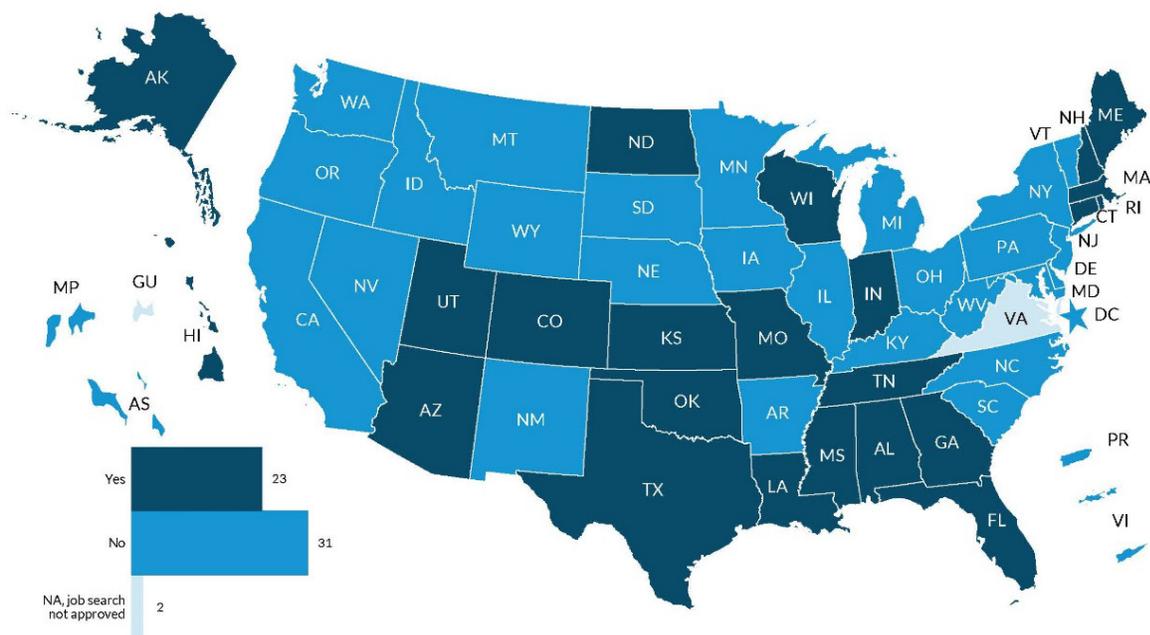
Using the CCDF Policies Database: Expanded Job Search Policies due to COVID-19

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July 2022, OPRE Report 2022-151

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) provides federal money to States and Territories to subsidize the cost of child care for families with low incomes. The detailed policies used to administer the programs vary widely across jurisdictions, with States/Territories establishing different policies for family eligibility, family copayments, and provider payment rates and eligibility requirements. While States/Territories always have flexibility to establish allowable activities, including periods of job search, many chose to extend the amount of time a parent could search for a job during the COVID-19 pandemic. Parents searching for a job may need child care so that they can attend interviews, work on resumes, or submit job applications. Prior to the pandemic, job search periods usually lasted for up to three months.

During the pandemic, when many families faced unemployment, 23 States/Territories expanded eligibility for job search. Of these, many increased the amount of time they allowed for job search, others began allowing job search for initial eligibility rather than only allowing job search for families already receiving subsidies, and one allowed families who lost their jobs due to COVID-19 to receive a temporary child care subsidy benefit for 60 days of job search while still not allowing job search for general eligibility. For more information on specific policies to extend the job search eligibility period, see the CCDF Policies Database.

States and Territories that Expanded Job Search Policies due to COVID-19 During 2020



Source: Child Care and Development Fund Policies Database.

Note: For more information on policies that changed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, see “Appendix to the 2020 CCDF Policies Database Book of Tables: Child Care Subsidies During the COVID-19 Pandemic” available at <https://ccdf.urban.org>.



1. SELECT A POLICY CATEGORY ⓘ

You may select only one category at a time.
[Click here](#) to download the full data files.

Basic Criteria for Eligibility

* This field is required.

Want to Do Something Like This Yourself?

The data presented here were taken from the CCDF Policies Database. The CCDF Policies Database contains hundreds of variables designed to capture CCDF policies over time for the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and five US Territories and outlying areas. Users can access the data through the public search tool on the project website (<https://ccdf.urban.org>).

Here we provide step-by-step instructions for how we accessed the policies shown in this fact sheet.

1. At <https://ccdf.urban.org>, click on the tab “Search Database.”
2. Select the policy category “Basic Criteria for Eligibility”
3. Select policy variables “EligApproveActivityJobSearch,” “EligMaxTimeJobSearch,” “EligMaxTimeJobSearchUnit,” and “EligMaxTimeJobSearchTimeFrame.”
4. Select “check all” 56 States/Territories.
5. Select the date “All records for” and choose “2020”.
6. Select “Primary Policy” to see the main policies (for additional details, select “All Policies/Variations” or “Show More Filters”).
7. Review the coding and notes for each state to determine which states changed job search policies due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We used the resulting data table to create the figure shown in this fact sheet.

What Other Questions Can You Answer with the Database?

You could use the database to answer policy questions (and create your own graphics) for any of the hundreds of variables in the database (e.g., income eligibility limits or minimum work hours for parents). The website provides database documentation and codebooks with more information about what policy categories and variables are available, and how the variables are defined and coded. A tutorial video for using the search tool is also available at <https://ccdf.urban.org/instructions>.

This publication was funded by the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) with funding set aside for research in the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (contract number HHSP233201500064I, submitted to Kathleen Dwyer, Project Officer). The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of OPRE, ACF, HHS, the Urban Institute, its trustees, or its funders.