

## Comment from the CNMI Child Care Provider Association on the FFY 2022-2024 CNMI CCDF State Plan as submitted via email

“With the amount of strict regulations and volume of requirements that are prerequisite to licensing, service quality evaluation, etc., we the providers believe that all our sincere efforts to comply and the service we provide are not fairly compensated relative to rising cost of operation. Due to compliance to prevailing wage rates labor cost increasing substantially, utilities, rents, sanitary supplies, gas as well as prices of operating and maintenance supplies are becoming more and more expensive. Revenue is adversely affected by the COVID-19's reduction of physical facility capacity. We were not given the chance to submit a market survey which we hoped would justify at least a 25% increase to our service fee that is from \$500 of infant and toddler to \$625 and also for after-school care”

### CCDF Response:

“As presented during the public hearing on June 2, 2021, CCDF has requested for a waiver on the Market Rate Survey for this state plan submission because we would like to gather more data and information on the cost of child care. We recognized that due to our current situation with Covid, additional expenses were incurred by child care providers. A Market Rate Survey will be conducted soon. We will also work with all providers on completing and submitting a Cost Model which our office has been requesting from CCDF providers since 2018. To date, we have only received from 2 providers”.

