

Developing America’s Potential: An Agenda for High-Quality Child Care

| Ensuring Access to Healthy and Safe Care | MINNESOTA ACTIVITY this legislative session |
|--|--|
| <p>Until the Quality Rating and Improvement System described in Section B is in effect, establish maximum base reimbursement rates for providers caring for children receiving federally funded child care assistance at no less than the 75th percentile of the current market rate, based on a market rate survey that is conducted at least annually and that is statistically valid and reliable and reflects cost variations by geography, age of children, and provider type.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHS recently completed “Alternative Methods for Minnesota’s Market Rate study of Child care Providers” study that provides recommendations to better reflect practice. • Due to previous legislative cuts/freeze, current maximum rates only cover 40.4% of centers and 55.3% of Licensed Family Child Care Providers statewide. • Governor’s original budget for 09-10 recommended 3% decrease in provider rates- hope to use stimulus funds to offset this proposal if it appears in supplemental budget |
| <p>Set a one-year eligibility determination period for child care assistance</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of the design of the current “School Readiness Connections” pilot (proposal to extend through 2011) |
| <p>Provide federally funded child care assistance sufficient to double the number of children currently served nationwide</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiting list for Basic Sliding Fee program (as of December, 2008) is 7,496 families. Hope that stimulus funds may help to move some families onto the program. |
| <p>Support a computer system to streamline administration of the state’s child care assistance program.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEC 2 computer system is nearing completion—only one major Metro county yet to come online by spring. • Issues with MEC 2 are under discussion as part of CCAP Barriers Reduction Task Force |
| <p>Ensure that state payment practices for child care providers reflect generally accepted payment policies that providers use for their private paying parents.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under discussion as part of CCAP Barriers Reduction Task Force |
| Improving Quality to Promote Early Learning | MINNESOTA ACTIVITY this legislative session |
| <p>Financial support for providers and programs to meet expenses necessary to achieve and maintain the standards and training requirements established by Section A, and to become licensed and regulated, with a priority for low-income providers and programs in low-income communities.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of ongoing CCR&R work as well as QRIS discussions. Need continued QRIS improvement supports as well as adequate ongoing Professional Development funding (grants, accessible training opportunities, etc.) |
| <p>Establishment and operation of a statewide Quality Rating Improvement System within five years for all child care centers and family child care homes providing care for at least one child not related to the provider for a fee on a regular basis and other early childhood education program settings as the state determines.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently in year two of a three-year pilot of “Parent Aware” QRS system, but with legislation pending to extend the pilot/start to build a statewide QRIS framework |

Developing America’s Potential: An Agenda for High-Quality Child Care

| | MINNESOTA ACTIVITY this legislative session |
|---|--|
| <p>The QRIS must rate providers according to the quality of care they provide, based on the extent to which they meet criteria appropriate for each age group such as: an early learning environment that promotes children’s development and school readiness and that is linguistically and culturally appropriate, appropriate staff-child ratios and group size, staff qualifications and education credentials and staff compensation, opportunities for parent involvement, regular program evaluation, inclusion of children with disabilities and other special needs and safe physical environment.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many of these criteria are included in the Parent Aware pilot, with the exception of a specific measure related to inclusion of children with disabilities and other special needs (although this is part of core competencies) • Authority for development of future criteria under a statewide QRIS is unclear at this point—may be proposed Office of Early Learning • Proposed statute changes in school-readiness program description to meet higher standards; would also consider these programs as 4 star rated through the end of the pilot |
| <p>The maximum reimbursement rate for providers caring for children receiving federally funded child care assistance in each quality tier included in the QRIS must be based on no less than the 75th percentile of the current market rate for that tier of care, based on a market survey that is conducted at least annually and that is statistically valid and reliable and reflects cost variations by geography, age of children, and provider type.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current provider rates are well below the 75th percentile due to cuts/rate freeze (only 40% of centers and 55% of Licensed Family Child Care providers statewide are able to fully cover their rates with current reimbursement levels) • Pending legislation would make programs rated 3-4 stars in the Parent Aware Pilot eligible for the 15% accreditation differential (they could receive 15% above the maximum CCAP rate for their county). |
| <p>The QRIS must include support for a credentialing and compensation program that includes grants to assist individual providers/teachers in child care centers and family child care homes providing care for at least one child not related to the provider for a fee on a regular basis in obtaining the training, credentials, and degrees required by each level of the QRIS standards and the state’s pre-kindergarten program, and increases their compensation based on their level of education, with preference given to providers/teachers in centers in which a significant share of children served are receiving federally funded child care assistance and homes that participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New PD system focuses on increased accessibility to training opportunities as part of the logic model. • T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Minnesota funds through State Office of Higher Education (although Governor recommended elimination of these funds in his budget) • CDA training and mentoring available through CCR&R and other partners (funded by CCDF quality dollars) • R.E.E.T.A.I.N. grants are awarded to providers based on levels of education, as well as ongoing training hours they have received (also funded by CCDF quality dollars) |

Developing America’s Potential: An Agenda for High-Quality Child Care

| | MINNESOTA ACTIVITY this legislative session |
|--|---|
| <p>The QRIS must include grants to assist child care centers and family child care homes serving children receiving federally funded child care assistance in achieving and maintaining the progressively higher quality program standards of the QRIS (other than those standards that address provider/teacher credentialing and compensation), with preference given to centers in which a significant share of children served are receiving federally funded child care assistance and homes that participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Parent Aware Pilot includes average of \$3,500 per provider towards purchases related to quality improvement. • Pending legislation would begin to prioritize quality rated programs for receipt of existing grants, scholarships, etc. |
| <p>The QRIS must include support for programs to train and mentor individual providers/teachers in child care centers and family child care homes providing care for at least one child not related to the provider for a fee on a regular basis in achieving and maintaining the progressively higher quality standards of the QRIS, with preference given to providers/teachers in centers in which a significant share of children served are receiving federally funded child care assistance and providers in homes that participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Parent Aware Pilot includes both “Provider Resource Specialists” that provide one-on-one support for providers in the initial stages of the process, as well as access to consultants based on the needs of each provider. • Increasing focus on “getting ready” supports for Parent Aware and statewide. Includes training on curriculum and assessment, and mentoring/consulting on use of the appropriate “Environmental Rating Scale”. |
| <p>Support for a statewide network of child care resource and referral programs</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued part of Federal CCDF funds in MN, with a small amount of state funding for infrastructure and grants in base |
| <p>Additional supports to improve the quality of care.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCR&R Service Development Grants in base • First Children’s Finance Loan Program in base |
| <p>Improving and Expanding Infant and Toddler Care</p> | |
| <p>Grants to an organization to support a statewide network of infant and toddler specialists to provide individual and/or group training and intensive consultation to child care centers, family child care homes, and relative caregivers on strategies to improve the quality of care for infants and toddlers, especially infants and toddlers in families who are eligible for federally funded child care assistance).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginnings of this function may be part of CCR&R duties in future contracts—under discussion (and pending funds). |

Developing America’s Potential: An Agenda for High-Quality Child Care

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Promoting Effective Coordination</p> <p>The state child care plan for the CCDBG must be submitted to the State Advisory Council on Early Care and Education for comment before the plan is submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services for funding. The plan must describe coordination among child care, Head Start, and state pre-kindergarten programs, and Part C and Section 619 programs authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, including the ways in which federal and state resources are to be used to help child care providers meet the state pre-kindergarten requirements and to help children enrolled in part-day pre-kindergarten and Head Start programs receive full-day services.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently established Early Childhood Advisory Council is recruiting members for committees on Accountability, Professional Development, Access and Finance, and Early Learning Standards. We hope to have several key advocates involved on these committees. • One charge of the ECAC is to study the need for an Office of Early Learning in Minnesota, which could assist with coordination of activity and services. • Pending legislation to create Office of Early Learning |
| <p>Ensuring an Adequate Supply of Facilities</p> <p>In order to support an adequate supply of child care facilities, federal funding will be authorized to establish an ongoing pool of capital for the renovation and construction of facilities in low-income communities, including those serving families with limited English proficiency. This pool will be accessed through experienced non-profit facilities intermediaries who may use the funds to make grants and loans to child care providers for this facility renovation and construction, and to provide technical assistance on facility design and development.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Care Facilities bill introduced again this session—in past bonding bills also. Funds need to be tied to a public entity. |