

Inventory of Early Childhood Services

Early Care and Education Programs

**Administered by the Minnesota Departments of
Education and Human Services**



January 2010

This report provides information that the Department of Education already collects as part of its normal business functions. The cost information reported below does not include the cost of gathering and analyzing the data but rather is limited to the estimated cost of actually preparing this report document.

Special funding was not appropriate to cover the costs of preparing this report.

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**Inventory of Early Childhood Services
(Early Care and Education Programs Administered by the Departments of Education
and Human Services)**

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Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)

Program Authority(ies)	Minn. Stat. 124D.13-124D.135
Purpose	To provide parenting education to support children's learning and development.
Major Program Components	Provides parent education, early childhood education and opportunities for parent-child interaction. Most classes meet weekly for two hours during the school year. Parents, children and teachers are together in the classroom for the first hour followed by parent discussion and child-only time.
Program Delivery including Setting	Licensed early childhood teachers and licensed parent educators offer parent discussion groups, parent-child activities, play and learning activities that promote children's development, home visits, special family events and information on community resources. Programs operate primarily in schools but also in community settings and homes.
Existing Program Evaluation	In 2003, selected districts conducted a kindergarten and Grade 3 follow-up study of former ECFE participants as compared to all other parents. Statistically significant differences were found for former school ECFE parents in the areas of interactions with their child focused on school learning, information seeking, parent-initiated communication and parent involvement with the school at kindergarten and third grade.
Appropriated Cost per Participant (if known)	\$471 per participant including state aid and levy. Funding is not allocated on a per-participant basis. The \$471 is arrived at by dividing total state aid by the number of participating children (SFY2008). Based on the funding formula, districts receive varying amounts per year: Kittson (\$18,000), Melrose (\$78,000), New Ulm (\$127,200), North Branch (\$189,600), Owatonna (\$263,040), Osseo (\$575,898), St. Paul (\$1,061,031) and Minneapolis (\$1,632,008).
Annual Funding by Source	State General Fund: \$21.1 million (SFY2008) Local Levy: \$22.1 million (SFY2008) Private grants, donations: \$3.1 million (SFY2008) Parent Fees: \$6.2 million (SFY2008)
Number of Programs and Geographic Areas Served	All school districts and four tribal schools.
Eligibility Criteria	Children birth to kindergarten entrance and their parents, expectant parents and relatives. Program is not targeted to specific populations. The statute does state, "To the extent that funds are insufficient to provide programs for all children, early childhood family education programs should emphasize programming for a child from birth to age three and encourage parents to involve four- and five-year-old children in school readiness programs and other public and nonpublic early learning programs."
Number of Eligible Children	422,271 (based on FY2006 0-4 census)

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE), (continued)

Number of Children Participating	126,367 (FY2008, duplicated counts)	
Number of Parents (if applicable)	145,246 parents (FY2008, duplicated counts)	
Participant Demographics	Ethnicity	Statewide – 17 percent of children are children of color; Minneapolis/St. Paul – 47 percent of children are children of color (SFY2008)
	Family Income	Statewide - 21 percent had household incomes of less than \$30,000; Minneapolis/St. Paul – 41 percent had household incomes of less than \$30,000 (SFY2008)
History	ECFE pilot programs were established in 1974. In 1984, the legislature made it possible for any school district with a community education program to establish the program. ECFE was offered in all 339 independent and special school districts in FY2008.	

Early Childhood Screening

Program Authority(ies)	Minn. Stat. 121A.16-121A.17; 121A.19
Purpose	To assist parents and communities in improving the educational readiness and health of young children through the early detection of factors that may impede children's learning, growth and development.
Major Program Components	Required components of a screening program: hearing, vision and developmental screening, immunization review, height and weight, identification of risk factors that may influence learning, parent interview, referral and follow up when potential needs are identified. A district may offer additional components such as nutritional, physical, dental, screening, review of family circumstances that may affect development, blood pressure, laboratory tests and health history. School districts must use developmental screening instruments approved by the Minnesota Department of Education, and follow health and developmental screening standards developed by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).
Program Delivery including Setting	<p>Provided in a variety of community and school settings.</p> <p>All school districts are required to notify each resident family with an eligible child of the availability of screening and the state's requirement to have the child screened before entering public school kindergarten.</p> <p>Staff credentials vary by the required and optional health and developmental screening component. Screening summary interview with the parent(s) must be provided by a licensed health or education professional. Individuals conducting the vision and hearing screening must have participated in training provided by or equivalent to the training provided by the MDE. Immunization review must be conducted by a health professional. Developmental screening provided by health or education professional.</p> <p>School districts must use developmental screening instruments approved by MDE, and follow health and developmental screening standards developed by the MDH.</p> <p>Districts receive state aid based on the age of the child at screening. In SFY2008, state aid equaled \$50 per three-year-old child screened, \$40 per four-year-old and \$30 per five and six-year-old.</p>
Existing Program Evaluation	School districts may use the <i>Minnesota Quality Indicators for Child Health and Developmental Screening</i> developed collaboratively for screening programs by MDE, DHS and MDH. This document includes self-assessment tools of the outreach, screening and referral for the local process using an outcomes-based approach.
Appropriated Cost per Participant (if known)	\$71.93 per child (SFY2008)
Annual Funding by Source	State General Fund: \$3.6 million (SFY2009)

Early Childhood Screening (continued)

Number of Programs and Geographic Areas Served	All school districts and two charter schools (charter schools are required to follow statute, rules and standards if they provide Early Childhood Screening)					
Eligibility Criteria	Children between the ages of three and kindergarten entrance; target age between three and four years. Parents may exempt children from this requirement due to conscientiously held beliefs. A child need not participate in the district's screening if the child's health records indicate to the district that the child has received a comparable screening from a public or private health care provider, such as Head Start or Child and Teen Check-ups/ Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis And Treatment (EPSDT).					
Number of Eligible Children	All 3 year olds through kindergarten entry not yet screened.					
Number of Children Participating	59,375 (SFY2008) 39 percent - 3 year olds 44 percent - 4 year olds 17 percent - 5 year olds					
Number of Parents (if applicable)	Not available					
Participant Demographics	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Ethnicity</td> <td>10.9% speak a primary language other than English and 43% of school districts provide translators (SFY2008)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Family Income</td> <td>Not available</td> </tr> </table>		Ethnicity	10.9% speak a primary language other than English and 43% of school districts provide translators (SFY2008)	Family Income	Not available
Ethnicity	10.9% speak a primary language other than English and 43% of school districts provide translators (SFY2008)					
Family Income	Not available					
History	Established in 1977. Up until SFY2006, statutes set the targeted age for early childhood screening at between the ages of three and a half and four years. The 2005 legislature lowered the targeted ages to between three and four years and changed the aid formula to provide an incentive to districts to screen children within the targeted age range. The legislature also added the requirement that districts assign a student identification number to each child at the time of screening, or at the time the health records are presented documenting a comparable screening by another provider.					

Educate Parents Partnership ([www.mnparentsknow](http://www.mnparentsknow.com))

Program Authority(ies)	Minn. Stat. 124D.129	
Purpose	To provide trusted parent education information, child development resources and activities to parents of young children.	
Major Program Components	Multiple media are used to convey information to parents including videos, e-newsletter, podcasts, print materials and interactive Web tools. Selected media available in Hmong, Somali and Spanish.	
Program Delivery including Setting	Via Internet. See “Providing Information to Parents” section of document for additional information on services for parents.	
Existing Program Evaluation	Evaluation of custom Google search, “Across the Net,” by Tufts University. Periodic review of Web statistics.	
Appropriated Cost per Participant (if known)	Not available	
Annual Funding by Source	State General Fund: \$50,000	
Number of Programs and Geographic Areas Served	Internet accessible	
Eligibility Criteria	All parents, practitioners and providers with access to the Internet	
Number of Eligible Children	Not available	
Number of Children Participating	Not available	
Number of Parents (if applicable)	120,000 views between January – December 2009	
Participant Demographics	Ethnicity	Not available
	Family Income	Not available
History	State General Fund 2007 - \$80,000 was provided to develop the program State General Fund 2008 forward - \$50,000 provided to update and maintain	

Head Start

Program Authority(ies)	Public Law 110-134 Federal Minn. Stat. 119A.50-119A.545
Purpose	To promote school readiness of low-income children by enhancing their cognitive, social and emotional development.
Major Program Components	<p>Comprehensive programming for preschool children and their families. Head Start services include education, health, nutrition, mental health and social services. Head Start primarily serves three and four year olds from low-income families. Some agencies also provide a program for infants, toddlers and pregnant mothers. All local Head Start programs must reserve space (at least 10 percent) for children with disabilities.</p> <p>Programs use a curriculum which is developmentally appropriate and based on research. They must use an assessment tool to measure child outcomes at three different times over the program year.</p>
Program Delivery including Setting	<p>Programs are offered in Head Start centers, community centers, schools, family child care homes, child care centers and home visits.</p> <p>Center-based classrooms offer a minimum of 3 ½ hours per day, four days a week, for 128 days per year with at least two home visits. Home visit programs offer a minimum of 32 home visits of 1 ½ hours each with at least 16 group socialization activities per year. Combination programs must offer a specified combination of home visits and classroom days to meet requirements.</p> <p>By September 30, 2013, at least 50 percent of Head Start teachers nationwide are required to hold at least a baccalaureate or advanced degree in early childhood education. Teaching assistants must hold a child development associate credential (CDA) or be enrolled in a program leading to an AA or a CDA to be completed in two years. Performance Standards require in-service content.</p>
Existing Program Evaluation	<p><i>The Head Start Impact Study and Follow-up, 2000-2009</i>, is a national study to determine:</p> <p>a.) the impact on school readiness of participants compared to similar children not enrolled, and b.) under which conditions Head Start works best and for which children.</p> <p><i>Early Head Start Research and Evaluation Project (EHSRE), 1996-current</i>, is a random-assignment national evaluation.</p> <p><i>The Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey (FACES), 1997-2010</i>, and the <i>Early Head Start Family and Child Experiences Study (Baby FACES), 2007-2012</i>, are designed to describe the characteristics, experiences and outcomes of participants and characteristics of local programs.</p>
Appropriated Cost per Participant (if known)	<p>Average (all ages): \$7,150 (SFY2008)</p> <p>Average (three- and four –year-olds): \$6,988 (SFY2008)</p> <p>Average (under three years old): \$10,697 (SFY2008)</p>

Head Start (continued)

Annual Funding by Source	Federal: \$84.8 million per year (SFY2008) State General Fund: \$20.1 million (SFY2008) Non-federal match: cash and/or in-kind that is at least 25 cents for every dollar received in federal funding.
Number of Programs and Geographic Areas Served	36 federal programs provide services across 35 sites including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 Community Action Agencies • 7 Tribal Governments • 4 Non-profit Agencies • 1 School District <p>Twenty-one Early Head Start programs serve pregnant women and families with infants and toddlers. One program serves migrant families with children ages birth to five years.</p>
Eligibility Criteria	Children ages birth to five years and expectant mothers from families at or below the federal poverty line or participating in Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), who are homeless or in foster care. Up to 10 percent of the children enrolled may be from families which exceed the income guidelines. Programs may serve up to an additional 35 percent of its enrollment with children from families with incomes between 100 percent and 130 percent of the federal poverty guidelines if the programs demonstrate they have met the needs of the low-income population. <p>Additional requirements exist for tribal and migrant programs.</p>
Number of Eligible Children	Number eligible based on 2007 Census: Birth through two years: 33,298 Three through four years: 22,198 Total: 55,496
Number of Children Participating	Under 1 year: 914 1 year olds: 849 2 year olds: 1,084 3 year olds: 5,803 4 year olds: 8,321 5 year olds: 808 Sub-total birth through two years: 2,847 Sub-total three through four years: 14,124 Total funded: 17,779 (SFY2008)
Number of Parents (if applicable)	22,660 (SFY2008)

Head Start (continued)

Participant Demographics	Ethnicity	8 percent American Indian/Alaskan Native 3 percent Asian 20 percent Black/African American .1 percent Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander 49 percent White 7 percent Bi-Racial or Multi-Racial .3 percent Other 12 percent Unspecified (SFY2008)
	Family Income	Head Start is a program targeted towards low-income families with incomes verified at enrollment.
History	Head Start began as a federal program in 1965 and was most recently federally reauthorized and amended in December 2007. In 1988, the Minnesota legislature first appropriated supplemental state funds. State-funded Head Start programs are statutorily required to comply with federal Head Start requirements.	

Intervention for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities (Part C)

Program Authority(ies)	Public Law 105-17 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C Minn. Stat. 125A.226-125A.48
Purpose	To develop and implement statewide, comprehensive, coordinated multi-disciplinary, interagency systems that provide early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.
Major Program Components	The Part C – Infants and Toddlers program provides comprehensive interagency family-centered services to eligible children with eligible disabilities, ages birth to three years, and their families, based upon identified need. Services are provided by licensed Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) teachers, speech/language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, nurses, social workers and others who each meet certification requirements within their fields for initial and ongoing credentials.
Program Delivery including Setting	<p>Services are to be provided in conformity with an individual family services plan (IFSP) and are provided in settings that are natural for infants and toddlers without disabilities when feasible, including the child’s home, child care or other community-based program or, with appropriate justification, in settings designed for children with disabilities.</p> <p>Services are provided through Minnesota’s school districts in cooperation and collaboration with county public health and family service agencies.</p> <p>Intervention must be provided using scientifically research-based strategies, to the extent practicable.</p> <p>An initial child evaluation must be conducted as part of eligibility determination which includes an assessment of the child’s functioning in the areas of cognition, communication, physical development, social-emotional development and adaptive development. In addition, a family-directed assessment of the concerns, priorities and resources of each family is a required component of the evaluation process, though families may opt out.</p>
Existing Program Evaluation	Each state’s performance on federal indicators of performance and compliance is conducted annually. Determinations are made annually as to whether a state program meets requirements of Part C, needs assistance to meet requirements, needs intervention to meet requirements or needs substantial intervention.
Appropriated Cost per Participant (if known)	Determined by local factors and services identified on a child’s Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP).

Intervention for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities (Part C) (continued)

Annual Funding by Source	<p>Federal: based on the annual number of all children in the cohorts from birth to age three.</p> <p>Infant and toddler intervention services are funded through a variety of streams including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State special education aid • General education revenue • Third-party billing • Federal IDEA Part C allocation • Local education levy 	
Number of Programs and Geographic Areas Served	<p>Services are provided through Minnesota’s school districts in cooperation and collaboration with county public health and family service agencies. Some small districts work as members of special education cooperatives or education districts to provide early intervention services to infants and toddlers.</p>	
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Infants and toddlers with diagnosed physical or mental conditions that have a high probability of resulting in developmental delay; children that meet criteria or one or the disability categories; or children who have a measureable delay of at least -1.5 standard deviations below the mean in one or more of five developmental domains.</p>	
Number of Eligible Children	4,579 (SFY2008)	
Number of Children Participating	4,579 (SFY2008)	
Number of Parents (if applicable)	Not available	
Participant Demographics	Ethnicity	<p>3 percent American Indian 3 percent Asian 11 percent Black 10 percent Hispanic 74 percent White</p>
	Family Income	NA
History	<p>Minnesota has participated in Part C, IDEA, since 1987.</p> <p>The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), designated by the state as the lead agency, together with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Department of Human Services (DHS) works with local Interagency Early Intervention Committees (IEICs) to provide coordinated interagency services and funding for each eligible child and family. The Governor’s Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Intervention (ICC) serves in an advisory role.</p>	

Preschool Special Education

Program Authority(ies)	Public Law 105-17 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B 619 Minn. Stat. 125A.61- 125A.25
Purpose	To provide a free and appropriate public education to young children with identified educational disabilities in order to maximize their potential.
Major Program Components	Identification and development of an individualized plan to confer educational benefit; provision of special instruction and related services in the least restrictive or educational environment; required due process procedures allowing parents to appropriately participate in their child's education.
Program Delivery including Setting	<p>Services are provided through Minnesota's school districts and are to be provided in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). LRE means that young children with disabilities should receive services in typical community-based early childhood settings and programs whenever possible, and receive services in more restrictive or specialized settings only when their individual needs require it.</p> <p>Services are provided by licensed Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) teachers, speech/language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, nurses, social workers and others who each meet the certification requirements within their fields for initial and ongoing credentials.</p> <p>Intervention must be provided using scientifically research-based strategies, to the extent practicable.</p> <p>An initial child evaluation must be conducted as part of eligibility determination which includes an assessment of the child's functioning in the areas of suspected disability which may include cognition, communication, physical development, social-emotional development and adaptive development.</p>
Existing Program Evaluation	Each state's performance on federal indicators of performance and compliance is conducted annually. Determinations are made annually as to whether a state meets requirements of Part B, needs assistance to meet requirements, needs intervention to meet requirements, or needs substantial intervention.
Appropriated Cost per Participant (if known)	Determined by local factors and services on the Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
Annual Funding by source	<p>Preschool Special Education services are funded through a variety of streams including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State special education aid • General education revenue • Third-party billing • Federal IDEA Part B allocation • Local education levy

Preschool Special Education (continued)

Number of Programs and Geographic Areas Served	Services are provided through Minnesota's school districts. Some small districts work as members of special education cooperatives or education districts.	
Eligibility Criteria	Children ages 3 to 7 with a diagnosed condition that has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay and an identified educational need, or a measureable delay of at least -1.5 standard deviations below the mean in two or more of five developmental domains, or have been determined eligible under any of the Part B categories of eligibility (e.g., speech/language impairment, autism spectrum disorder, vision impairment).	
Number of Eligible Children	8,287 (SFY2008)	
Number of Children Participating	8,287 (SFY2008)	
Number of Parents (if applicable)	Not available	
Participant Demographics	Ethnicity	3 percent American Indian 4 percent Asian 10 percent Black 9 percent Hispanic 74 percent White
	Family Income	Not available
History	Preschool Special Education was established in 1985 and expanded to include "at birth" in 1987.	

School Readiness

Program Authority(ies)	Minn. Stat. 124D.15-124D.16
Purpose	To prepare children to enter kindergarten
Major Program Components	Comprehensive program based on early childhood research and professional practice that is focused on children's cognitive skills and development and prepares children for the transition to kindergarten, including early literacy skills. Programs must assess each child's cognitive skills when the child enters and again before the child leaves the program to inform program planning and promote kindergarten readiness.
Program Delivery including Setting	Most school districts offer half-day preschool programs from one day to five days per week. Program supervisors are licensed early childhood teachers, or licensed parent educators. School districts may operate their own programs or contract with community early childhood programs or charter schools.
Existing Program Evaluation	Not available.
Appropriated Cost per Participant (if known)	<p>\$308 per participant per year. Funding is not allocated on a per-participant basis. The \$308 is arrived at by dividing the total state aid by the number of participating children. (SFY2008)</p> <p>Based on the funding formula, districts receive varying amounts per year: \$1,117 (Milroy), \$5,401 (Cook), \$61,393 (Owatonna), \$158,548 (Duluth), \$857,322 (Minneapolis), \$50,867 (Minnetonka), \$172,680 (St. Cloud), \$942,727 (St. Paul), \$25,228 (Thief River Falls). (SFY2008)</p>
Annual Funding by Source	<p>State General Fund: \$10.095 million per year (SFY2008)</p> <p>Parent Fees: \$6.08 million per year (SFY2008)</p>
Number of Programs and Geographic Areas Served	All school districts
Eligibility Criteria	Children three years to kindergarten entrance
Number of Eligible Children	Number eligible: 145,925 (SFY2008)
Number of Children Participating	<p>Participants: 32,693 children</p> <p>11 percent of eligible 3-year-olds</p> <p>28 percent of eligible 4-year-olds</p> <p>(SFY2008)</p>
Number of Parents (if applicable)	26,357 parents (SFY2008)

School Readiness (continued)

Participant Demographics	Ethnicity	Statewide – 25 percent are children of color; Minneapolis/St. Paul 93 percent are children of color (SFY2008)
	Family Income	Statewide – 28 percent had household incomes of less than \$30,000; Minneapolis/St. Paul – 78 percent had household incomes of less than \$30,000 (SFY2008)
History	The School Readiness program was established in 1991 and statutory changes in both 2005 and 2009 were made to improve preparation for kindergarten.	

School Readiness Study

Program Authority(ies)	Minn. Stat. 124D.162
Purpose	To capture a picture of the readiness of Minnesota students as they enter kindergarten and track readiness trends over time.
Major Program Components	Kindergarten teachers assess student performance over the first six weeks of kindergarten across five developmental domains.
Program Delivery including Setting	Teachers record their observations and submit documentation to the Department of Education. Results are compiled and given to participating school sites. Aggregated results are used to inform stakeholders about progress towards the goal of ensuring that children are ready for kindergarten.
Existing Program Evaluation	Study developed in coordination with local, state and national assessment experts in assessment. Design refinements implemented based on a review of literature and consultation with experts. Principal and teacher evaluations on the study process conducted annually at the conclusion of each study period.
Appropriated Cost per Participant (if known)	Not available
Annual Funding by source	State General Fund: \$287,000
Number of Programs and Geographic Areas Served	10 percent of entering kindergartners
Eligibility Criteria	Entering kindergartners in a randomly selected elementary school
Number of Eligible Children	Not available
Number of Children Participating	6,300 (Fall 2008)
Number of Parents (if applicable)	Not available
Participant Demographics	See the online report at: http://www.education.state.mn.us/mdeprod/groups/EarlyLearning/documents/Report/013940.pdf
History	The 2006 legislature statutorily established the program and appropriated state aid to implement the assessment study.

Building Child Care Quality

Program Authority(ies)	Child Care Development Fund (CCDF): Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (42 USC 9858), as amended, and section 418 of the Social Security Act (42 USC 618) Minnesota Laws 2009, Chapter 79, Article 13, Section 3, subd. 4(e) (Parent Aware)
Purpose	To increase the quality of early care and education and school-age care settings with a focus on those settings linked most closely to improving the success of at-risk children in school and life
Major Program Components	<p>Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) regional grants Provide grants for child care and other early childhood and school-age programs through a competitive process to improve facilities, start up or expand services, access training and purchase learning environment and health and safety items.</p> <p>Parent Aware Quality Rating System (pilot) A quality rating system program for child care and early education programs.</p> <p>Accreditation facilitation program and accreditation reimbursement funding Programs to support child care programs in successfully navigating accreditation processes and reimburse a portion of child care accreditation fees.</p> <p>Facility loans Provide loans to improve child care facilities, start up or expand services.</p>
Program Delivery including Setting	<p>These infrastructure supports are delivered through the CCR&R system – a network of 19 regional and six district-level agencies and a statewide office. Additional service delivery organizations include the Minnesota Association for the Education of Young Children/Minnesota School Age Care Association and First Children’s Finance.</p> <p>The Parent Aware pilot is underway through 2011 in St. Paul, Minneapolis, Wayzata school district and Blue Earth and Nicollet counties. Partners with a role in program delivery include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHS: Overall administration and issuance of ratings • MDE: Approval of ratings for Head Start and school-based School Readiness programs • Minnesota CCR&R Network: Outreach to parents and development/maintenance of Web site information • Center for Early Education and Development, University of Minnesota: Collection of observational measures of quality
Existing Program Evaluation	DHS regularly collects data on the program components that includes data on the number of regional grants and programs receiving support through the facility loan and accreditation support programs as well as the number of programs participating in the Parent Aware pilot.

	A program evaluation funded by the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation (MELF) is underway for the Parent Aware program; final report is due December 2010.
Appropriated Cost per Participant (if known)	Not available
Annual Funding by Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCR&R regional grants: Federal CCDF – \$1,575,168; State General Fund – \$615,990 (Note: See also additional CCR&R funding listed under Family, Friend and Neighbor Care Supports, Minnesota Early Childhood and School Age Care Professional Development and, Providing Information to Parents) • Parent Aware Quality Rating System (pilot) – \$1.87 million in FY2009 (combined MELF and DHS) • Accreditation facilitation program – Federal CCDF – \$108,000 • Accreditation reimbursement funding: State General Fund – \$18,079 • Facility loans: State General Fund – \$163,012 (SFY2009)
Number of Programs and Geographic Areas Served	<p>All programs are statewide except the Parent Aware pilot which is taking place in St. Paul, Minneapolis and Wayzata school districts and Blue Earth and Nicollet counties.</p> <p>CCR&R regional grants 3,069 grants were awarded (SFY2009)</p> <p>Parent Aware Quality Rating System pilot 236 programs (child care center, family child care, preschool, Head Start and School-based) have ratings (October 2009)</p> <p>Accreditation reimbursement funding 32 programs received accreditation reimbursements (SFY2009): 5 family child care (FCC) providers and 27 centers</p> <p>Facility loans Four loans were awarded to FCC providers and 13 loans were awarded to child care centers (SFY2009)</p>
Eligibility Criteria	CCR&R regional grants are available to all providers through a competitive grant process operated by local CCR&Rs who indicate they will comply with requirements for training, willingness to serve children receiving child care assistance and other criteria. Participation in the Parent Aware pilot is limited to licensed child care providers, Head Start programs and public school pre-k programs located in the pilot areas. Accreditation reimbursement funding and facility loans are available statewide to all licensed child care providers.
Number of Eligible Children	Not available
Number of Children Participating	Not available

Building Child Care Quality (continued)

Number of Parents (if applicable)	Not available	
Participant Demographics	Ethnicity	Not available
	Family Income	Not available
History	<p>Efforts to support a Quality Rating System (QRS) pilot began in 2004 through a task force led by Ready4K. In 2006, DHS and MDE worked together on a QRS pilot, and then joined forces with Minnesota Early Learning Foundation (MELF) to launch the Parent Aware pilot. In 2009 the Minnesota Legislature directed DHS and MDE to work together on a Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) framework to develop common standards and child outcomes, and directed DHS to use federal stimulus funds to continue the pilot for a fourth year and provide services aimed at helping child care programs get ready for a statewide rollout of a QRIS.</p> <p>The Accreditation Facilitation Project was started in 2008 to help programs interested in pursuing a quality improvement process through a national accrediting body obtain assistance. This project was funded by DHS for the first time in SFY2009.</p> <p>The CCR&R regional grants were statutorily established in 1988 and amended in 2009 to increasingly award grant funds to support quality. These are pass-through funds that are administered by the CCR&R system.</p>	

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

Program Authority(ies)	Federal law (42 U.S.C. §§ 9858-9858q; 45 C.F.R. §§ 98.1-98.93); Minn. Stat. Chapter 119B; Minnesota Rules, chapter 3400. Federal law provides basic parameters that must be met; state has flexibility to shape program within these parameters. Some county optional policies are allowed.
Purpose	To subsidize child care costs for low-income families so that: 1) child care is affordable, 2) parents can work and/or attend school, and 3) children are well cared for and ready to learn. CCAP serves families currently or recently receiving MFIP (Minnesota's cash assistance program) through Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) and Transition Year (TY) child care. Basic Sliding Fee (BSF) child care serves other low-income families.
Major Program Components	<p>Family income must be below 47 percent of State Median Income (SMI) to be income eligible to enter CCAP and remain eligible until their income reaches 67 percent. Families with incomes from 75 percent Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) to just below the FPG pay \$5/month to the provider. Families with incomes at or above the FPG (or 27.72 percent SMI) pay a co-payment based on income and family size. Co-payments increase as family size increases and range from 2.61 percent of income to 14 percent of income. For a family size of three, this translates to \$19/biweekly period to \$253/biweekly period. In addition, parents are responsible for the difference between maximum rates and provider charge.</p> <p>MFIP/TY child care is fully funded; all eligible families are served. BSF is a capped appropriation. If projected costs exceed a county's allocation, the county places eligible families on waiting lists. Waiting lists are grouped by priority status as identified in statute (Minn. Stat. 119B.03 Subd. 2 and 4).</p>
Program Delivery including Setting	Counties verify eligibility of families. Families choose child care providers in the private market. These may be licensed child care centers, licensed family child care homes, registered centers (i.e., school-age programs run by schools), or legally non-licensed providers. CCAP pays providers on behalf of parents.
Existing Program Evaluation	None
Appropriated Cost per Participant (if known)	The annualized monthly average direct service cost per family in MFIP/TY is \$12,412 (\$6,834 per child). For BSF the annualized monthly average direct service cost per family is \$9,755 (\$5,538 per child). Includes 5 percent county administrative allowance. (SFY2008)
Annual Funding by Source	<p>Federal: \$101,298,886 State General Fund:\$88,828,391 Local: \$2,941,235 Fees: undetermined (SFY2008)</p>
Number of Programs and Geographic Areas Served	Counties are responsible for administering programs. A few counties combine programs for a total of 84 county units.

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) (continued)

Eligibility Criteria	<p>Eligibility is based on parents' income and activities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Income below 47 percent of SMI at program entrance/67 percent at program exit (\$32,944 - \$46,963 for a family size of three) 2. Children must be 12 or younger, or 13 or 14 years if they have special needs 3. Parent(s) must be in work, job search, or training/school 4. Parents must cooperate with child support for all children in the family if a parent is absent 	
Number of Eligible Children	Not available	
Number of Children Participating	Monthly average of 16,766 families and 29,959 children; annual total of 25,760 families and 47,285 children served. (SFY2008)	
Number of Parents (if applicable)	Not available	
Participant Demographics	Ethnicity	Not available
	Family Income	Not available
History	In 1980, the Child Care Assistance Program began as a pilot in 15 counties. The funding level was \$1.5 million.	

Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Care Supports

Program Authority(ies)	<p>The Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) system (Minn. Stat. 119B.19) provides supports and services to Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) providers through its baseline (regional) sites. FFN supports delivered through CCR&Rs are funded through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), a federal program that supports child care services and quality. CCDF Law: The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (42 USC 9858), as amended, and section 418 of the Social Security Act (42 USC 618).</p> <p>A Family, Friend and Neighbor Grant Program was established through legislation during the 2007 session, Minn. Stat. 119B.232. Funding continues through SFY2011.</p>
Purpose	<p>The goal of FFN supports delivered through CCR&Rs is to increase the quality of early care and education and school-age care settings with a focus on those settings linked most closely to improving the success of at-risk children in school and life.</p> <p>The FFN Grant Program provides early literacy, healthy development and school readiness services to children in family, friend and neighbor child care settings supported by community-based partnerships.</p>

Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Care Supports (continued)

<p>Major Program Components</p>	<p>The CCR&R System supports FFN providers by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing and maintaining community partnerships to identify/and or link with FFN caregivers. • Establishing and developing a working relationship with tribal communities focusing on FFN caregivers. • Enhancing overall care for children in FFN care, focusing on low-income children. • Providing awareness to the caregivers of the importance of all children being ready for kindergarten and provide the support and assistance the caregivers need to prepare the children. • Developing relationships within cultural communities through a variety of outreach strategies to meet the diverse needs of FFN caregivers. • Ensuring that FFN caregivers have an awareness of CCR&R services. • Providing and connecting FFN caregivers to training and educational opportunities, networking opportunities and community resources. <p>The FFN Grants Program funds six grantees that use a range of approaches to support FFN caregivers. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing culturally responsive caregiver training and education with local partners. • Connecting caregivers and the children they care for with school district ECFE programs. • Connecting caregivers to child care centers, school-based pre-k programs, and health clinics. • Using a Community Ambassador outreach model and group meeting opportunities to build informal networks of caregivers. • Hosting play and learn groups and special events to attract and connect with caregivers in library settings. • Providing regular home visits that offer training and early literacy resources to caregivers.
<p>Program Delivery including Setting</p>	<p>CCR&R FFN supports are delivered by 19 baseline CCR&R organizations with the types of support varying from region to region. CCR&R staff training and technical assistance is provided by the Minnesota CCR&R Network.</p> <p>Delivery methods vary with each grantee under the FFN Grants Program. Home visiting, library services, training programs for providers, participation of parents and providers in discussion groups and field trips are some of the methods.</p>

Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Care Supports (continued)

Existing Program Evaluation	<p>DHS regularly collects data on CCR&R FFN supports that includes the number and types of activities/events held for FFN providers.</p> <p>Evaluation of the FFN Grant Program is being conducted by Center for Early Education and Development at the University of Minnesota. A report to the legislature is due February 15, 2010.</p>				
Appropriated Cost per Participant (if known)	Not available				
Annual Funding by Source	<p>CCR&R FFN Supports: Federal CCDF – \$200,000 (SFY2009). (Note: See also additional CCR&R funding listed under Building Child Care Quality, Minnesota Early Childhood and School Age Care Professional Development and Providing Information to Parents.)</p> <p>FFN Grant Program: State General Fund – \$368,252 (SFY2009)</p>				
Number of Programs and Geographic Areas Served	<p>Overall, there are an estimated 150,000 households in Minnesota that provide family, friends or neighbor child care. Seventy percent of households that use child care use some form of FFN care on a regular basis. Forty-six percent of families use FFN care as their primary arrangement (<i>Child Care Use in Minnesota 2004</i>, Wilder Research)</p> <p>CCR&R FFN Supports: 196 events/activities held for FFN providers with 3,051 FFN providers attending (SFY2009)</p> <p>FFN Grants Program: Information will be available in a February 2010 evaluation.</p>				
Eligibility Criteria	None				
Number of Eligible Children	Not available				
Number of Children Participating	Not available				
Number of Parents (if applicable)	Not available				
Participant Demographics	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="492 1556 699 1602">Ethnicity</td> <td data-bbox="708 1556 1463 1602">Not available</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="492 1608 699 1654">Family Income</td> <td data-bbox="708 1608 1463 1654">Not available</td> </tr> </table>	Ethnicity	Not available	Family Income	Not available
Ethnicity	Not available				
Family Income	Not available				

Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Care Supports (continued)

History	<p>Work with FFN caregivers by the CCR&Rs began in 1993 with a series of foundation grants establishing pilot programs. The Department of Human Services began to assess the need for and provision of supports and services to legal, unlicensed child care providers in the fall of 2003. A series of studies were commissioned from Wilder Research to provide a base of knowledge about families who use informal FFN care and the caregivers providing care. CCR&R initiatives have developed in all parts of the state with CCDF and foundation funding.</p> <p>In 2007, the Legislature funded the FFN Grant Program. Through a competitive Request for Proposals, six programs were selected throughout the state. Funding has been continued through 2011 using federal CCDF funds awarded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.</p>
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Licensed Child Care Centers

Program Authority(ies)	Rule 3: Minnesota Rules, parts 9503.0005 to 9503.0170 – Licensure of Child Care Centers. Minn. Stat., Chapter 245A (Human Services Licensing Act) Minn. Stat., Chapter 245C (Human Services Background Studies Act) Minn. Stat., section 626.556 (Maltreatment of Minors Act)
Purpose	To set standards for licensing child care centers including programs that provide child care, preschool/nursery programs, Head Start programs, night care, drop-in and sick care for fewer than 24 hours a day in a setting that is not a residence.
Major Program Components	Child care centers are licensed under statute and Minn. Rule 9503. Requirements include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff qualifications for teachers, assistant teachers, aides and volunteers. • Staff ratios by age group and group size. • Child care program plan that addresses items such as goals and objectives, activities, days and hours of operation, supervision, age categories and number of children served. • Required policies include health policies, emergency and accident policies, among others. • Records requirements. • Facility requirements . • Background studies are required for all individuals having direct contact with children. • Training requirements.
Program Delivery including Setting	The Department of Human Services directly oversees licensing of child care centers by conducting regular licensing visits and issuing licensing variances, conditional licenses, denials and revocations and processing appeals. For individual child care centers, characteristics of program delivery depends on the specific provider delivering the child care services.
Existing Program Evaluation	None
Appropriated Cost per Participant (if known)	Not available
Annual Funding by Source	Federal funds: \$638,000 (SFY2009) State General Fund: \$843,000 (SFY2009)
Number of Programs and Geographic Areas Served	1,578 child care centers (October 2009) Statewide
Eligibility Criteria	Not available
Number of Eligible Children	Centers are private-sector businesses so the number of children is based on supply and demand, the number of centers, their licensed capacity and the number of families with children needing care to fill that capacity.

Licensed Child Care Centers (continued)

<p>Number of Children Participating</p>	<p>Of the estimated 203,251 children in Minnesota age birth through two (2004), 26 percent use no child care, 36 percent use Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) as their primary arrangement and 43 percent use center-based or licensed family child care as a primary or secondary arrangement.</p> <p>Of the estimated 191,258 children in Minnesota age three to five (2004), 21 percent use no child care, 21 percent use FFN as their primary arrangement and 69 percent use center-based or licensed family child care as their primary or secondary arrangement.</p> <p><i>(Child Care Use in Minnesota 2004, Wilder Research)</i></p>				
<p>Number of Parents (if applicable)</p>	<p>Not available</p>				
<p>Participant Demographics</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="487 751 701 802"> <p>Ethnicity</p> </td> <td data-bbox="701 751 1468 802"> <p>Not available</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="487 802 701 852"> <p>Family Income</p> </td> <td data-bbox="701 802 1468 852"> <p>Not available</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Ethnicity</p>	<p>Not available</p>	<p>Family Income</p>	<p>Not available</p>
<p>Ethnicity</p>	<p>Not available</p>				
<p>Family Income</p>	<p>Not available</p>				
<p>History</p>	<p>Minnesota initially drafted a rule to govern the licensure of child care programs in the 1950s. The rules have been amended several times over the years and the current standards became effective in 1988 with some minor amendments in 1990 and 2006.</p>				

Licensed Family Child Care (FCC)

Program Authority(ies)	Rule 2: Minnesota Rules, parts 9502.0300 to 9502.0445 – Licensure of Family Child Care Facilities - Family and Group Family Child Care Minn. Stat., Chapter 245A (Human Services Licensing Act) Minn. Stat., Chapter 245C (Human Services Background Studies Act) Minn. Stat., 626.556 (Maltreatment of Minors Act)
Purpose	To set standards for licensing family child care homes. Family and group family child care governs licensure of providers of child care in residential settings, usually the provider’s residence, for 14 or fewer children, for fewer than 24 hours per day.
Major Program Components	Family and group family child care child care homes licensed under statute and Minnesota Rule 9502 (Licensing of Family Child Care Facilities). Requirements include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensing process. • Negative licensing actions. • Agency records. • Caregiver qualifications. • Licensed capacity. • Child/adult ratios, age distribution requirements, age distribution restrictions. • Reporting to agency. • Training requirements. • Behavior guidance. • Admissions. • Provider records. • Reporting. • Activities and equipment. • Physical environment. • Sanitation and health. • Water, food and nutrition. • Background studies are required for all individuals age 13 and over residing in the household as well as all individual having direct contact with children.
Program Delivery including Setting	Many of the direct monitoring activities related to family child care are assigned in law to counties. County family child care licensors conduct regular licensing visits. DHS is responsible for issuing licensing variances, conditional licenses, denials and revocations, and processing appeals for family child care homes. For individual family child care homes, characteristics of delivery depend on the specific provider delivering the child care services.
Existing Program Evaluation	None
Appropriated Cost per Participant (if known)	Not available
Annual Funding by Source	Federal funds: \$284,000 (SFY2009) State General Fund: \$507,000 (SFY2009)

Licensed Family Child Care (FCC) (continued)

Number of Programs and Geographic Areas Served	11,889 licensed family child care homes (October 2009) Statewide	
Eligibility Criteria	Not available	
Number of Eligible Children	FCC are private-sector businesses so the number of children is based on supply and demand, the number of programs, their licensed capacity and the number of families with children needing care to fill that capacity.	
Number of Children Participating	<p>Of the estimated 203,251 children in Minnesota age birth through two (2004), 26 percent use no child care, 36 percent use Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) as their primary arrangement and 43 percent use center-based or licensed family child care as a primary or secondary arrangement.</p> <p>Of the estimated 191,258 children in Minnesota age three to five (2004), 21 percent use no child care, 21 percent use FFN as their primary arrangement and 69 percent use center-based or licensed family child care as their primary or secondary arrangement.</p> <p>(<i>Child Care Use in Minnesota 2004</i>, Wilder Research)</p>	
Number of Parents (if applicable)	Not available	
Participant Demographics	Ethnicity	Not available
	Family Income	Not available
History	Minnesota initially drafted a rule to govern the licensure of family child care in 1956. The rules have been amended several times over the years and the current standards became effective in April 1985 with some minor amendments.	

Migrant Child Care

Program Authority(ies)	Title XX Federal Block Grant	
Purpose	To provide and coordinate child care services for migrant children and families through licensed family child care homes and licensed child care centers. Program is delivered in collaboration with Migrant Head Start program in many settings.	
Major Program Components	<p>A DHS grant with Tri-Valley Opportunity Council supports the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision and coordination of Migrant Head Start Centers. • Provision of bilingual/bi-cultural child care services (Spanish/English) to children served in Migrant Head Start/Child Care centers/classrooms by determining individual center and family needs. • Provision and coordination of family support services including transportation, referrals to other services, health screening. 	
Program Delivery including Setting	The program is delivered through licensed family child care homes and licensed child care centers in collaboration with Migrant Head Start Program sites. All sites are held to high quality standards and each site is assessed and approved by Tri-Valley before children are placed in care.	
Existing Program Evaluation	None	
Appropriated Cost per Participant (if known)	\$468 per child. This cost per child is based on the SFY2009 grant contract. There can be a wide variation in the cost per child that is determined for each of the child care service locations.	
Annual Funding by source	<p>Federal Title XX Funding: \$292,153 State General Fund: \$196,000 (SFY2009)</p>	
Number of Programs and Geographic Areas Served	The Migrant Child Care Program is available statewide at locations where migrant families are employed in eligible agricultural work activities.	
Eligibility Criteria	Children whose parents, guardians or current caretakers have changed residence within the past 24 months, either between states or from county to county, within the state, in order to obtain employment in a temporary or seasonal agricultural activity.	
Number of Eligible Children	Not available	
Number of Children Participating	1,043 children (SFY2009)	
Number of Parents (if applicable)	Not available	
Participant Demographics	Ethnicity	Not available
	Family Income	Not available

Migrant Child Care (continued)

History	<p>Migrant child care supported by state and federal resources began in the mid 1960s. In 1973, DHS began a migrant child care grant with Tri-Valley Opportunity Council that has continued to date. The need for migrant child care grew, as did funding, increasing from \$103,200 in 1973 to about \$2,000,000 in 1981. In 1981, after the federal Budget Reconciliation Act significantly reduced the federal share for Title XX, Tri-Valley shifted most of its financial support from DHS to the federal Head Start program for these services. Today, the majority of funding for migrant child care continues to be federal Head Start funding.</p>
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Minnesota Early Childhood and School-age Professional Development (PD) System/Child Care Development Grants

Program Authority(ies)	Federal Child Care Development Fund (CCDF): Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (42 USC 9858), as amended, and section 418 of the Social Security Act (42 USC 618) Minnesota Session Law 2007, chapter 147, article 2, section 56
Purpose	To equip child care and early childhood and school-age care providers with the knowledge, competencies, tools and confidence needed to effectively support children’s success in life and school, in partnership with their families and their communities.
Major Program Components	<p>a. Core Knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minnesota Practitioner Core Competencies • Minnesota Early Childhood Indicators of Progress • Minnesota Child Care Credential (under development) aligned with Parent Aware quality indicators <p>b. Qualifications, Credentials and Pathways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career Lattice • Career advising support <p>c. Articulation: credit for prior learning, work underway with higher education</p> <p>d. Outreach and Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach and promotion of professional development services, Minnesota Center for Professional Development Website: http://www.mncpd.org/ <p>e. Quality Assurance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Development Registry (track and verify training) http://mncpd.mncpd.org/registryapp/ • Training and Trainer Approval Systems <p>f. Funding Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T.E.A.C.H. scholarships (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps), REETAIN (Retaining Early Educators Through Attaining Incentives Now) incentive grants, scholarships to support acquisition of national Child Development Associate (CDA) <p>g. Advisory structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minnesota Early Childhood and School-age Professional Development Advisory Council
Program Delivery including Setting	<p>The primary delivery mechanism for non-credit training is the Minnesota Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) system.</p> <p>The Minnesota Center for Professional Development (MNCPD) oversees the Professional Development Registry that includes listing of current training events and the Training and Trainer Approval Systems. The MNCPD also develops training and delivers train-the-trainer sessions on state-developed curricula.</p>

Minnesota Early Childhood and School-age Professional Development (PD) System/Child Care Development Grants (continued)

Existing Program Evaluation	A program evaluation of the professional development system is underway and is scheduled to conclude at the end of SFY2010.
Appropriated Cost per Participant (if known)	Not available
Annual Funding by source	<p>Federal CCDF – \$1,491,557 State General Fund – \$245,910 (Note: See also additional CCR&R funding listed under Building Child Care Quality; Family, Friend and Neighbor Care Support; Minnesota Early Childhood and School Age Care Professional Development and Providing Information to Parents) Providers also pay fees to attend training and conferences (total amount unknown)</p> <p>(SFY2009)</p>
Number of Programs and Geographic Areas Served	<p>Geographic area: statewide</p> <p>Numbers served as of July 31, 2009: Individuals enrolled in the Professional Development Registry: 354 Trainers using the training approval system: 355 Training sponsor organizations listed on the Professional Development Registry: 33</p> <p>Number of visits to the www.mncpd.org Website: September 2009: 3,176</p> <p>166 T.E.A.C.H. scholarships were awarded (SFY2009) REETAIN grants: 131 REETAIN grants were awarded (SFY2009) CDA Advisor scholarships were paid on behalf of 36 providers</p>

Minnesota Early Childhood and School-age Professional Development (PD) System/Child Care Development Grants (continued)

Eligibility Criteria	<p>For most professional development supports, there are no eligibility criteria. This training and tools are available to all early childhood and school age care providers statewide.</p> <p>For TEACH and CDA scholarships, providers must be a U.S. citizen or legal resident, work in Minnesota, have a high school diploma or GED, work directly with children at least 15 hours per week for a minimum of 780 hours per year, be employed in a current program or working under a current family childcare license for at least 6 months at the time of application, accepted into an approved Minnesota Accredited College or University Early Childhood/Child Development program or pursuing a National Child Development Associate Credential (CDA).</p> <p>For REETAIN incentive grants, providers must be licensed or work for a licensed program; work at least 30 hours per week directly with same one or two groups of children; have been working in their current position for at least one year; have earned a CDA, Associates Degree, Bachelors degree or higher and are willing to commit to staying in their position for one year.</p>	
Number of Eligible Children	Not available	
Number of Children Participating	Not available	
Number of Parents (if applicable)	Not available	
Participant Demographics	Ethnicity	Not available
	Family Income	Not available
History	<p>The 2007 Minnesota Legislature directed DHS, in cooperation with MDH and MDE, to develop and phase in implementation of an early childhood and school-age professional development system.</p> <p>Since 1997, the federal CCDF Plan has required a description of the state's efforts to develop a professional development plan for early childhood providers that includes child care, Head Start and public education.</p>	

Providing Information to Parents/Child Care Development Grants

Program Authority(ies)	Minn. Stat. 119B.19 Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Funding: Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (42 USC 9858), as amended, and section 418 of the Social Security Act (42 USC 618)
Purpose	To provide families and communities with consistent, transparent, understandable and measurable/actionable information on early childhood and school-age care and education settings that promotes self-reliance and parent support for their child's success in school and in life.
Major Program Components	Child Care Resource & Referral services provide information online and via phone to parents and other key audiences. Services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child care referral service (online and phone) and CCR&R Web site: www.mnchildcare.org • Parent Aware Website: www.parentawareratings.org,
Program Delivery including Setting	These infrastructure supports are delivered through the CCR&R system, a network of 19 regional and six district-level agencies and a statewide office. The Parent Aware pilot is underway through 2011 in the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Wayzata school districts and Blue Earth and Nicollet counties. Partners with a role in program delivery include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHS: Overall administration and issuance of ratings. • MDE: Approval of ratings for Head Start and public school-based programs. • Minnesota CCR&R Network: Outreach to parents and development/maintenance of Website information. • Center for Early Education and Development, University of Minnesota: Collection of observational measures of quality.
Existing Program Evaluation	DHS regularly collects data on the program components that include the number of referrals and number of Website hits. A program evaluation funded by Minnesota Early Learning Foundation (MELF) is underway for the Parent Aware program; final report is due December 2010.
Appropriated Cost per Participant (if known)	Not available. See "Educate Parents Partnership (www.mnparentsknow.com)" section of document for additional information on services for parents
Annual Funding by source	CCR&R: Federal CCDF – \$5,121,955, State General Fund – \$593,538 (SFY2009). (Note: See also additional CCR&R funding listed under Building Child Care Quality; Family, Friend and Neighbor Care Supports; and Minnesota Early Childhood and School Age Care Professional Development) Parent Aware Quality Rating System (pilot) – See annual funding under Building Child Care Quality.

Providing Information to Parents/Child Care Development Grants (continued)

<p>Number of Programs and Geographic Areas Served</p>	<p>27,903 parents received child care referrals and information on quality care through CCR&R personalized phone service or through Website search option www.mnchildcare.org. (SFY2009)</p> <p>Hits to Parent Aware Website: 7,140 visits and 108,887 page views. (SFY2009)</p>	
<p>Eligibility Criteria</p>	<p>All families seeking child care in Minnesota are eligible to contact the CCR&R agency for child care referrals.</p> <p>The Parent Aware Website is a public Website.</p>	
<p>Number of Eligible Children</p>	<p>Not available</p>	
<p>Number of Children Participating</p>	<p>Not available</p>	
<p>Number of Parents (if applicable)</p>	<p>27,903 parents received child care referrals (SFY2009)</p> <p>Parent Aware – Not available</p>	
<p>Participant Demographics</p>	<p>Ethnicity</p>	<p>Not available</p>
	<p>Family Income</p>	<p>Not available</p>
<p>History</p>	<p>Established in 1988-89 in statute to provide phone consultations and educational materials to parents related to quality child care programs; early childhood and school-age programs through child care resource and referral programs located in each of the Governor’s Economic Regions.</p> <p>Since 1991, the federal CCDF Plan has required a description of the state’s efforts to provide CCR&R services, including referral services to families seeking child care.</p>	

School Readiness Connections (SRC)

Program Authority(ies)	Minn. Stat. 119B.231
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote the skills and abilities that children served by the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) need to succeed in school • To improve the quality of the child care children served by CCAP. • To improve the continuity of child care children served by CCAP. • To continue to support parents' employment and/or schooling leading to employment.
Major Program Components	<p>Programs are reimbursed up to 25 percent higher than the usual county maximum. Programs can request a higher rate than charged to families if services provided to SRC children and families are different from services provided to all families.</p> <p>Absent days are not counted as long as child attends an average of 25 hours per week.</p> <p>SRC children are authorized for weekly care. If a parent was initially in an authorized activity at least 35 hours per week and the schedule changes (e.g., hours at work decrease), care continues to be authorized for full-time weekly care.</p>
Program Delivery including Setting	Parents choose SRC child care providers as one of their child care options available to CCAP families; CCR&R agencies and/or counties may inform parents about SRC programs. SRC providers notify DHS when a potentially SRC-eligible child is attending their program. DHS verifies eligibility of families and notifies counties if the child is eligible for SRC rates. Counties administer payments through the CCAP system.
Existing Program Evaluation	Interim Report – released November 2008 Final Report – due December 2009
Appropriated Cost per Participant (if known)	Costs will be addressed in the final report. SRC costs represent the 25 percent higher maximum rate and some amount of increased hours authorized for payment.
Annual Funding by source	Federal: \$400,000 State General Fund: \$257,000 (Funding ends June 2011)

School Readiness Connections (SRC) (continued)

<p>Number of Programs and Geographic Areas Served</p>	<p>Fourteen child care programs throughout nine counties in Minnesota have established School Readiness Service Agreements (SRSA). Nine are child care centers and five are family child care providers.</p> <p>To be eligible to apply for a SRSA, a child care program must fulfill the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be eligible for child care assistance payments under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 119B. • Have at least 25 percent of the children enrolled subsidized through the child care assistance program. • Provide full-time, full-year child care services. • Have obtained a three- or four-star Parent Aware rating, or if they were previously eligible for SRC in FY2008-09, programs must begin the process to obtain a Parent Aware rating. <p>Child care providers applied for a SRSA by submitting an application that was evaluated on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The qualifications of the provider and the provider’s staff. • The provider’s staff-child ratios. • The provider’s curriculum. • The provider’s current or planned parent education activities. • The provider’s current or planned social service and employment linkages. • The provider’s child development assessment plan. • The geographic distribution needed for SRC providers (statewide, metro and non-metro). • The inclusion of a variety of child care delivery models (e.g., child care centers and family child care programs). • Other related factors determined by the commissioner.
<p>Eligibility Criteria</p>	<p>In order to be eligible to participate in SRC, a family must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) be eligible to receive child care assistance under any provision in chapter 119B except section 119B.035; 2) be in an authorized activity for an average of at least 35 hours per week when initial eligibility is determined; and 3) have a child who has not yet entered kindergarten. <p>A family remains eligible for SRC as long as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the child attends child care with the SRSA provider a minimum of 25 hours per week, on average; 2) the family has a child who has not yet entered kindergarten; and 3) the family maintains eligibility under chapter 119B. <p>After initial eligibility has been determined, a decrease in the family's authorized activities to an average of less than 35 hours per week does not result in ineligibility for the SRSA rate.</p>
<p>Number of Eligible Children</p>	<p>SRC funds are capped and allows for approximately 235 children per month (SFY2010-11).</p>

School Readiness Connections (SRC) (continued)

Number of Children Participating	A monthly average of 227 children.	
Number of Parents (if applicable)	This information is expected in the final report, due December 2009.	
Participant Demographics	Ethnicity	
	Family Income	
	Note: This information is expected in the final report, due December, 2009.	
History	The legislation that established the School Readiness Connections (SRC) project was introduced soon after the Minnesota Governor's Summit on School Readiness held in June and July 2006. The goal of the summit was to improve and coordinate Minnesota's early childhood programs in order to increase the school readiness of children at risk for not being fully prepared for kindergarten.	