

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 9, 2012

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Child Care Providers Honored for Service to Children and Families

Governor Jack Dalrymple has proclaimed May 11 as Provider Appreciation Day

BISMARCK, N.D. – Child care is vital to children, their working parents and our state’s economy. The N.D. Department of Human Services would like to recognize all child care providers for their continued commitment to providing quality care and education that shapes the lives and futures of children in North Dakota.

“Child care providers and pre-school teachers offer vital support to working parents,” said Carol K. Olson, executive director of the N.D. Department of Human Services. “They do a tremendous job of providing care and early learning experiences for thousands of children and deserve our gratitude and recognition.”

According to the department, there are about 1,500 licensed child care providers in the state.

Olson said there is a tremendous opportunity right now for anyone interested in entering the child care field and starting a business because the demand for licensed child care is growing throughout the state.

Support is available to individuals interested in starting a licensed child care facility through the Growing Child Care Initiative, which is a partnership between the department and Child Care Resource and Referral. Potential licensed providers who enroll in the program receive free training and on-site technical assistance from a trained consultant, as well as recruitment incentives to help purchase needed supplies and equipment for a licensed child care program.

Funding for the Growing Child Care Initiative was appropriated by the 2011 N.D. Legislature to increase capacity and enhance the quality of licensed child care programs, and to support the professional development of the early childhood workforce.

Individuals interested in becoming a licensed child care provider should contact Child Care Resources and Referral at 1-888-223-1510 (western North Dakota), 1-800-452-3646 (eastern North Dakota), online at www.ndchildcare.org/welcome.html or contact their local county social services office child care licensing unit at www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/countysocialserv/.

The Department of Human Services regulates some child care providers including licensed, unlicensed self-declared and unlicensed “approved relative” providers. The agency also establishes standards and provides training and education to child care providers. For more information on early childhood services, visit www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childcare/.

The Governor’s Child Care Provider Appreciation Day proclamation can be viewed on the Web at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/docs/family/childcare-provider-proclamation.pdf.

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