

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505

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For more information, contact: LuWanna Lawrence at 701-328-1892 or Heather Steffl at 701-328-4933

Child Care Providers Honored for Service to Children and Families

BISMARCK, N.D. – Gov. Dalrymple has proclaimed May 9 as Child Care Provider Appreciation Day. 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.

“This special day celebrates and recognizes child care providers, teachers, and other early childhood professionals who educate and care for young children everywhere,” said Maggie Anderson, executive director of the N.D. Department of Human Services. “They do a wonderful job of nurturing and educating our children and they also make it possible for parents to go to work and contribute to our state’s economy.”

According to the department, there are about 1,445 licensed child care providers in the state.

Anderson said there are tremendous opportunities for anyone interested in entering the child care field and starting a business, expanding their current child care business to care for children with special needs, or achieving quality standards for their child care business.

The department recently launched two early childhood services programs to help increase capacity and enhance the quality of licensed child care. *Bright & Early North Dakota* provides incentives and support to licensed providers who achieve standards of quality goals. The *Inclusion Support Program* assists both home and center-based providers in creating and maintaining an inclusive environment that allows children with disabilities or developmental delays to learn, grow, play, and develop alongside their peers in a natural setting.

There are also programs available to individuals interested in starting a child care business. Potential licensed providers who enroll in the programs through Child Care Aware of North Dakota 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.

For information on these early childhood services programs, visit www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childcare/.

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

The N.D. 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.

The Governor’s Child Care Provider Appreciation Day proclamation can be viewed on the web at www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childcare/.

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