Report re 4-Year Old Program (Best in Class) and DHS Early Childhood division

Senator Judy Lee, Chairman | Interim Human Services Committee | April 27, 2022
The purpose of the Early Childhood division is to build greater access to quality early childhood experiences so kids age 0-5 from all backgrounds and circumstances have the opportunity to reach their potential.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EARLY CHILDHOOD DIVISION</th>
<th>What we do</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Licensing</td>
<td>• Issue licenses and certifications to early childhood programs in North Dakota • Monitor compliance with early childhood health and safety regulations • Maintain child care provider profiles for both licensing and resource/referral</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Development</td>
<td>• Maintain workforce registry in support of early childhood work force • Provide technical assistance to providers to support health, safety and continuous quality improvement • Provider start-up and expansion support</td>
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<td>Quality</td>
<td>• Operation of Bright &amp; Early – the ND quality rating improvement system • Maintenance of early childhood standards and practices • Assessment and validation of quality rated EC programs across ND</td>
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<td>Best in Class</td>
<td>• Grant program to grow access to high quality EC experiences delivered in the year before kindergarten • Targeted coaching and professional supports • Active monitoring for fidelity to quality standards</td>
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<td>Family Support and Education</td>
<td>• Head Start Collaboration • Early interventions for children with disabilities • Behavioral supports and interventions • Child Care assistance for lower income households • Family education and outreach</td>
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<tr>
<td>EC Operations</td>
<td>• Early Childhood Integrated Data System • Child Care Development Block Grant state plan • EC Technology System coordination and support</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Launched inclusion supports by USpireND
• Launched Child Care Aware TA/coaching/referral services by SEEC
• Pyramid Model and NCEDTL courses available via Growing Futures
• ECIDS project planning

Dec 2021
• Awarded contract for QRIS supports

Nov 2021

Jan 2022
• Finalizing integrations for Child Care Licensing (CCL) system development
• Finalized five-year plan for Head Start Collaboration Office
• Conducted a Head Start Needs Assessment
• Submitted first federal report of APRA grants to child care sector

Feb/Mar 2022
• Updated state Child Care Emergency Plan and participated in emergency operations command center exercise
• Launched Four-Year Old Program approval process
• Awarded Head Start Collaboration Office continuation grant
• Updated Relationship Based Professional Development (RBPD) Endorsements
• Presented to Workforce Development Council on child care affordability

Apr 2022
• Opened application for Best in Class 2022-23 cohort and held Q & A sessions
• User Acceptance Testing for CCL underway
• Awarded Best in Class continuation grants

EARLY CHILDHOOD DIVISION TIMELINE
Update on Progress
CHILD CARE STABILIZATION
Participation and Funds Obligated

820 Stabilization grants
614 Health Safety and Technology
70 Inclusion Grants
66 Child Care Start Up Grants
26 Quality Improvement Grants

$38M obligated
$17.5M distributed
143 family members have registered to use ReadyRosie resources
25 teachers are active in 17 sites
Families have viewed 464 Modeled Moment videos
Elgin/New Leipzig Public School Caregiver commented: "I am most excited to learn new activities to be able to do at home with my son."
BEST IN CLASS
Early observations

- By including both small and large group size options – BIC opened door to participation by smaller programs
  - 62% small size / 38% large size rooms
  - 43% of children in small size room / 57% in large size

- Budding collaborations
  - Best in Class has caught the eye of the North Dakota Optometric Association and they reached out to partner to provide vision screenings statewide.
  - DoH also wrote Best in Class into a HRSA grant proposal for grants to states to support oral health workforce activities.

- Interrater Reliability to accurately document development and learning has challenged teachers to grow in their objectivity.
The funding model will be based on three levers - group size, licensed child care tuition dependence/school district’s free and reduced priced student enrollment and schedule of operation to determine grant award amount.

Baseline:
- Group of 8-10 - $60,000
- Group of 17-20 - $120,000

Tier 1 calculation:
- Tuition Dependent Licensed Child Care OR School District with 50% or more Free and Reduced Priced Student Enrollment (document attached) = 100% of grant dollars
- Not Tuition Dependent and Not Low Income area = 50% of grant dollars

Tier 2 calculation:
- Part-time program (<26 hrs/wk) – 50% of Tier 1 amount
- Full-time program (26+ hrs/wk) – 100% of Tier 1 amount
EARLY CHILDHOOD DIVISION TIMELINE

What’s Next

June 2022
- Complete reporting from 2021/22 Best in Class cohort
- Open grant applications for workforce retention, training and career path incentives
- Launch ND3 cost sharing model

July 2022
- Planning website / user experience updates
- Engage in Administrative Rule Process regarding health and safety compliance
- Training planning for Child Care Licensing (CCL) system continues

August 2022
- Best In Class Year 2 cohort begins
- CCL promotion begins

September 2022
- Launch September ND QRIS Bright & Early cohort
- Early Childhood Education Council meets

May 2022
- Award new grantees for 2022/23 Best in Class cohort
- 2022/23 Best in Class Kickoff Meeting
- Research partner assists Best in Class programs to market and recruit their community
- Launch May QRIS Bright & Early ND cohort
- Six-month check-ins with contract holders
- Produce first edition of Early Childhood Division newsletter
- Early Childhood Education Council meeting
During the **first 5 years** of life, emotionally nourishing relationships lay the **foundation** for lifelong health and well-being.

The caring adults who touch the lives of infants, toddlers and preschoolers can maximize our long-term impact in ensuring all children have an **opportunity to realize** their full potential.
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