Results from a National Survey of State CCDF Administrators: Subsidy policies and practices related to governance and collaboration

Breakout Session: Using Findings from Child Care Research Partnerships to Inform New CCDBG Goals and Practices

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Child Care Collaboration and Quality Study Goals

- To understand and describe collaborations between:
  - State-level child care agencies (CCDF Administrators, State Head Start Collaboration Office Directors, ECE Specialists in State Departments of Education/State preK)
  - Community-level child care providers
  - Linkages between state and community levels

- To examine relationships between collaboration and:
  - Enhanced child care quality, access, satisfaction, comprehensive services
  - Family and child outcomes

- Emphasis on care for infants and toddlers
Study Phases

- **Phase 1:** Examination of trends/patterns in collaboration across the country
  - **Online National Survey** to all State CCDF, Head Start Collaboration Directors and State Pre-K Administrators
  - Qualitative analysis of existing documents and records

- **Phase 2:** Examination of state, regional, and local collaborations in Vermont and Maryland
  - State Administrators
  - Local Providers (family- and center-based)
# National Survey Response Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent</th>
<th>Number of Respondents Contacted</th>
<th>Total Number of Completed Surveys</th>
<th>Response Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCDF Administrator</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start Collaboration Director</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Early Childhood Specialist</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: For the 11 states without state-funded pre-K programs, no Early Childhood Specialist version of the survey was sent.
Key Survey Items, CCDF Administrators

- Policies regarding child care subsidy eligibility for families eligible for Head Start/Early Head Start or CCDF funding
- Align paid absence policy for child care providers with that of Head Start
- Spend more than the required minimum 4% of your CCDF allocation on quality improvement activities
- Involved in a Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS)
Child Care Subsidy Eligibility Policies Reported by CCDF Administrators, N=44

Percentage of “Yes” Responses by CCDF State Administrators indicating Subsidy Eligibility Policies (N=44)

- Establishes subsidized payment rates and parent fees: 71.1%
- Reduces frequency of eligibility redeterminations: 20.5%
- Child care providers receive full-day subsidy: 13.6%
- Extends time between eligibility redeterminations: 9.1%
- Uses the CCDF waiting list: 6.8%
Total Number of Child Care Subsidy Eligibility Policies Reported by States, N=44

- One Policy: 56.8%
- Two Policies: 22.7%
- Three Policies: 13.6%
- No Policies: 4.5%
- Four Policies: 2.3%
Other State Practices Related to Child Care Access and Quality, N=44

Percentage of “Yes” Responses by CCDF State Administrators indicating Other State Practices and Policies (N=44)

- Lead Agency is involved in a QRIS: 87.5%
- Spends >4% on quality improvement activities: 81.3%
- Aligns paid absence policy w/ Head Start: 21.3%
Co-Occurrence of Policies on Establishing Payment Rates and Parent Fees with Other Practices

- **Other Practices:**
  - QRIS Participation
  - Spending on QI, and
  - Paid Absence Policy

- Establishing subsidized payment rates and parent fees co-occurred with:
  - State agency being involved in a QRIS (93.8%)
  - States spending more than 4% on Quality Improvement (QI) activities (81.3%)

- Aligning Paid Absence Policy: Establishing subsidized payment rates and parent fees co-occurred in only 25.8% of states that also aligned paid absence policy states.
Relationships with Governance

- Governance/Oversight: Whether the CCDF Lead Agency, Head Start State Collaboration Office, and pre-K office were housed within the same state-level agency

| Agency oversight grouped by full, partial or no oversight, National Survey (N=52) | Full Oversight, 32.7% | Partial Oversight, 40.4% | No Oversight, 26.9% |

No relationships with specific state subsidy policies but ...
States with NO child care subsidy policies were more likely to have NO oversight of state child care offices

- 25% of states reported no subsidy policies (11/44)
- 100% of these states had no oversight
- Chi-Square significant at p<.05
Summary of Results

- Generally, few states had more than one child care subsidy eligibility policy
- Most states have a policy that establishes subsidized payment rates and parent fees
  - Allows families equal access to all types of care
- Subsidy policies tend to co-occur with other practices related to early education and care: States that have established subsidized payment rates also have a QRIS and spend more than 4% on quality improvement
- States with no policies tended to have no shared oversight of child care agencies in their states
- Next Step: Look at relationships between state policies and degree of collaboration between state administrators