Supporting Family Choices in Home-based Child Care: Approaches for Improving Child Care Quality

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CCDF-Quality Initiatives

35-state survey (2006)

• Individual child care providers were primary target population in 48% of initiatives

• Types of providers:
  – Regulated center teachers or family child care providers (85%)
  – Family, friend and neighbor caregivers (37%)

• 339 initiatives total
CCDF-Quality Initiatives

48-state survey (2005 update)

- Primary target population:
  - family, friend and neighbor child care

- 23 states

- 25 initiatives
Distinguishing Features of Care

Regulated Family Child Care

- Subject to regulatory requirements
- Subsidy requirements
- Operate a business; work w/ children; stay at home w/ own children

Family, Friend and Neighbor Care

- Exempt from regulatory requirements
- Subsidy requirements
- Help out family; keep children w/in family; help children learn
Issues for Caregivers

Regulated Family Child Care
- Isolation
- Relationships w/ parents
- Low earnings

Family, Friend and Neighbor Care
- Isolation
- Relationships w/ parents
- Services to meet their needs
Objectives of Quality Initiatives

Regulated Family Child Care
- Promoting healthy and safe environments
- Increasing knowledge and skills
- Encouraging formal education
- Strengthening professional development

Family, Friend and Neighbor Care
- Promoting healthy and safe environments
- Increasing knowledge and skills
- Encouraging participation in the regulatory system
Common Strategies

- Regulated Family Child Care
  - Training and TA
  - Home visiting
  - Resources
  - Early Head Start
  - Tiered strategies
  - CACFP

- Family, Friend and Neighbor Care
  - Training and TA
  - Home visiting
  - Resources
  - Early Head Start
  - Tiered strategies
  - CACFP
Different Strategies

Regulated Family Child Care
- Family child care networks
- Career development systems
- Accreditation
- Quality Rating Improvement Systems

Family, Friend and Neighbor Care
- Support groups
- Family interaction programs (Play and Learn)
- Parent education/family support
Emerging Models

• Linking home-based caregivers to Pre-K

• Integrating family, friend and neighbor care in career development systems

• Unionization for home-based providers
Policy Issues

- Honoring parent choice
- Improving quality across all settings
- Evaluation of results
References


All available on Research Connections, www.researchconnections.org
Questions

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