Provider Practices that Support Families: Findings and Insights from Research on Providers and the Voucher System

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- **Research team**
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- **Local Collaborators**
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Key Elements of Study

- Focus on understanding child care providers and vouchers
- Research conducted 2003-2004
- Study sites: Jefferson County/Birmingham AL; Hudson County/Jersey City, NJ; King County/Seattle, WA; Monterey & San Diego Counties, CA

- Mixed methods research design:
  - Survey of representative sample of all centers (407) and licensed family child care providers (534)
  - Site visits with interviews (55) with subsidy administrators and local experts and 45 focus groups with providers (300 participants)

- Three reports released, more later this year (links listed at back)
Findings about Provider Supports for Families

- Not the focus of larger study or reports
- Findings mostly emerged from focus groups, some from survey
- Provide insights, not definitive
- Mostly reflect perspectives of providers serving families with vouchers, but not always
Findings: Provider Actions that Help Families Pay for Care

- Accepting families with vouchers
- Helping families with vouchers navigate the subsidy system
- Waiving copayments
- Continuing to serve families when lose vouchers or can’t pay for care
Findings: Provider Actions that Support Families in Other Ways

- Responding to parent’s needs for flexible schedules
- Providing tangible or logistical support
- Helping parents when lose jobs
- Educating/mentoring parents
- Helping parents access other services
- Working with children with extra needs
Provider Characteristics

- Who provides these supports?
  - Patterns across Homes and Centers
  - Providers with mission or personal connection to families/children
  - Providers with flexibility or resources
  - Providers who need to do so to keep slots filled

- Decision involves weighing tradeoffs
Source Documents
available at www.urban.org

Available now:

- Child Care Voucher Programs: Provider Experiences in Five Counties, by Adams, Rohacek, and Snyder
- Child Care Vouchers and Unregulated Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care, by Snyder, Bernstein, and Adams
- Child Care Centers, Child Care Vouchers, and Faith-Based Organizations, by Rohacek, Adams, and Snyder

Forthcoming:

- Prekindergarten Programs and Community-Based Child Care: Exploring Relevant Characteristics of Centers in Five Counties, by Rohacek and Adams
- Exploring Child Care Provider Involvement with Voucher Programs and Potential Implications for Financial Well-Being and Quality, by Adams and Rohacek
- Centers and Family Child Care Homes Caring for Children Receiving Publicly Funded Vouchers: A Descriptive Study in Five Counties, by Rohacek and Kisker