

PROJECT DESCRIPTION FORM

Spring 2005

Field Name	Field Definition	Information on Your Project	
Project Number	Number assigned to your grant or contract.	90YE0030	
Project Title	Title of your project. Include the complete title and subtitle, separated with a colon.	A Longitudinal Study of Legal, Unregulated Family Child Care Providers Who Participate in the Child Care Subsidy Program	
URL	URL for your project, if available. Do not include "http://", just start with the www, etc.		
Grantee/Contractor	Complete name of the organization that is the PI's institutional affiliation.	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	
Project Description	Description of the project. Limited to no more than 30 words, the project description includes: What the project is about; what information is collected and summarized; and/or from whom and for what purpose. Do not include findings or conclusions. Include any reference to geography, universe, time, method or any characteristic of the project that may be relevant to understand the nature of the project.	This purpose of this study is to understand the changes over a 3-year period in legal, unregulated family child care homes in North Carolina.	
Project Summary	A summary of the project, including: purpose of the study, research questions, population studied, data collection and analysis, and key findings, if available. The summary should be brief (fewer than 1,700 characters, including spaces); written in a language accessible to a wide audience; accurate; self-contained; non-evaluative; and well-organized, coherent, and readable.	<p>This purpose of this study is to understand the changes over a 3-year period in legal, unregulated family child care homes in North Carolina. We will finish collecting data in the spring of 2005. To date, we have collected data from 170 providers over a 3-year period. We gather information on quality of care; children's engagement; provider, child, and family characteristics; provider continuity; and child turnover. Data are collected through annual on-site visits and phone interviews plus brief phone contacts every 3 months. Some key preliminary findings are provided below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality of care, as measured by the Family Day Care Rating Scale, is low across all years of the study. This is not surprising given the low education level of providers (48% with HS or less) and low participation in education or training during the study. ▪ From Year 1 to Year 2, only 19% of providers stopped caring for children. ▪ These providers meet a need not met by traditional licensed care by allowing flexible scheduling and by providing care during nontraditional hours. 	

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Research Questions	The overarching research question(s), followed by the more specific research questions, if applicable. Specific research questions should be stated for each component of the project, if applicable.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What are the characteristics and quality of legal, unregulated family child care homes and providers who participate in the child care subsidy system?2. What are the characteristics of families and children served in legal, unregulated family child care homes?3. What is the relationship between quality of care and children's engagement in these family child care homes?4. What is the continuity of care provided in legal, unregulated family child care homes over time?5. What is the turnover rate among children cared for in small family child care homes?6. What best predicts provider continuity over time?7. What is the global quality of care provided in small family child care homes?8. What best predicts the global quality of care provided in small family child care homes?9. What is the relationship between the global quality of care and children's engagement?10. What is the relationship between quality of care and providers' participation in quality improvement activities?11. What is the relationship between quality improvement and providers' participation in quality improvement activities?12. What best predicts improvement in the quality of care provided in small family child care homes?
Design and Method	Brief description of the overall design and method followed in the project in order to address the overarching research question(s). Descriptions will be provided for each component of the project, if applicable.	This longitudinal study has followed for 3 years a group of legal, nonregulated family child care providers in North Carolina. During recruitment, providers were first asked to participate in annual site visits (Tier 1). If they declined to participate, they were then asked to participate in a phone-only portion of the study (Tier 2). For Tier 1 participants, observational measures of quality, and children's engagement are completed annually during on-site visits to the family child care homes. For both Tier 1 and Tier 2 participants, information about the provider, children served, reasons for caring for children, services provided, and participation in quality improvement activities is obtained from annual provider interviews. We also complete a quality measure by phone for Tier 2 participants. Parent surveys are used to obtain information about the families who use this type of care, including the reasons for choosing this kind of care. Between annual visits/interviews, brief phone interviews with the providers are conducted every 3 months to determine changes in patterns of care (e.g., open or out of business; stability of children served).

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Sample	The major socio-demographic characteristics of the sample and the population, as well as the type of sample, the sample design used to select study participants, and the sample size. Detail about the characteristics of sample subgroups should be brief, yet enough to help understand the generalizability of data. Characteristics of sub-samples for separate project components, if applicable.	The sample was drawn from county lists of providers who participated in the child care subsidy system in all 100 North Carolina counties. Of the 1,583 providers originally identified, 323 (20%) were reachable and eligible to participate in this study. One-hundred ninety (59%) of the 323 agreed to participate in the study. Of those 190 providers, 32% (60) agreed to participate in the Tier 1 observational and interview portion of the study and 68% (130) agreed to participate in the Tier 2 phone interview only portion of the study. Characteristics of the Participants: The average age of providers is 51. Most (85%) are ethnic minority (73% African American). Almost half (48%) have a high school diploma or less.
Data Collection and Analysis	All types of information collected (or to be collected) from observations and analyzed as part of the project, as well as methods utilized for observing, measuring and recording information. Provide descriptions for the project's separate components, if applicable.	<p>We gather data for this study from observational measures, interviews, and surveys. We gather most of the data annually but also conduct brief phone interviews 3 times between annual data collection efforts. The following measures are used in the study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Quality measures:</i> Family Daycare Rating Scale, Caregiver Interaction Scale, Learning Activities Scale, Summary Provider Rating, and modified Child Care HOME Inventory (phone and visit versions) ▪ <i>Modified EQUAL</i> observational measure of child engagement ▪ <i>Provider annual interview</i> gathers information such as provider characteristics, reason in subsidy system, and information about children served ▪ <i>Parent survey</i> gathers information such as family characteristics and reason chose this care ▪ <i>Brief interview</i> gathers information such as whether the provider is continuing to care for children, child turnover, and continued participation in the child care subsidy system
Key Findings or Date of Expected Findings	Bulleted summary of the main results obtained in the project, relevant to the research question(s). Specific findings should be stated for each component of the research study or paper, if applicable. If findings are not available yet, state the date when they are expected.	<p>Some key preliminary findings are provided below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality of care, as measured by the Family Day Care Rating Scale, is low across all years of the study. This is not surprising given the low education level of providers (48% with HS or less) and low participation in education or training during the study. ▪ From Year 1 to Year 2, only 19% of providers stopped caring for children. ▪ These providers meet a need not met by traditional licensed care by allowing flexible scheduling and by providing care during nontraditional hours. ▪ At the beginning of the study, 84% of providers cared for at least 1 child who was receiving a child care subsidy. The percentage of providers caring for children receiving child care subsidies decreased at each data collection point. By Year 2, for example, only 51% of providers cared for at least 1 child who was receiving a child care subsidy. This suggests that providers do not actively try to stay in the subsidy system.

Principal Investigator(s)	Person that received and is responsible for the grant or contract. <i>For each principal investigator, complete the fields below. For each PI, use a separate column to the right, headed "PI", "Co-PI 1", "Co-PI 2", etc. Use as many columns as needed. Enter names in the order in which they ought to be cited.</i>	PI	Co-PI 1
First Name – PI(s)	First Name, Middle Initial Do not include titles, prefixes or suffixes.	Kelly L.	Donna M.
Last Name - PIs	Agent's Last Name. Do not include titles, prefixes or suffixes.	Maxwell	Bryant
Affiliation - PIs	Name of the department or division and the organization.	FPG Child Development Institute	FPG Child Development Institute
Address - PIs	Complete address: Number, street, office number, city, state, zip code.	CB # 8040, Chapel Hill NC 27599-8040	CB # 8180, Chapel Hill NC 27599-8180
Telephone - PIs	Telephone number, area code first, in parentheses.	919-966-9865	919-966-4523
Email - PIs	Email address.	Maxwell@unc.edu	Bryant@unc.edu
PUBLICATION DESCRIPTION FORM			
Information on Your Publication (s)			
Study Publications/Reports	Reports and other publications based on the project, published or forthcoming. <i>For each report or publication, complete the information below, using one column to the right for each.</i>	Publication 1	Publication 2
Title	Complete title and subtitle of the publication. Separate title and subtitle with a colon.		
URL	URL for the publication, if available. Do not include "http://", just start with the www, etc.		
Type of Resource	Publication type according to the following categories: Reports, Papers & Book Chapters: Reports of original research and theoretical papers. Literature Reviews: Extensive reviews of original research literature that indicate the criteria used to select studies for inclusion in the review. Fact Sheets & Briefs: Summaries of research findings or discussion of policy implications developed by researchers and others and often are geared toward the policymaking and advocacy communities. Other: Any publication not fitting in any of the categories above.		

Source	<p>For Periodicals: Provide the journal title, volume number and pages. For Monographs: Provide monograph title, volume number, and, in parentheses, the serial (or whole) numbers. For Books: Provide the city and state of publication, and the publisher. For Chapter in Edited Book: Provide the city and state of publication, and the publisher. Provide the editor(s), if applicable (last name, first name, middle initial). For Technical and Research Reports: provide the report number, if available, city and state of publication, and publisher. For Doctoral Dissertations: Indicate in parentheses that the resource is a doctoral dissertation and add the complete name of the university granting the degree. For Online Publications: Provide the URL of the publication and date when it was last accessed. Follow the format: Retrieved (date) from (url). For Other publication Types: Please consult the APA manual of editorial style, 4th edition.</p>		
Content Area	Terms describing the major content area addressed by the publication. Select the three major content areas, using the attached list.		
Date Issued or Expected Dissemination Date	Actual or expected date of publication or dissemination.		
Abstract	Use this field if the publication type is <i>Reports, Papers & Book Chapters</i> . A summary of the research report, including: purpose of the study, research questions, population studied, data collection and analysis, and key findings. For a theoretical paper, describe the topic; the purpose, thesis, or organizing construct and the scope of the paper; the sources used; and the conclusions. The abstract should be brief (fewer than 1,700 characters, including spaces); written in a language accessible to a wide audience; accurate; self-contained; non-evaluative; and well-organized, coherent, and readable.		
Findings Reported	Use this field if the publication type is <i>Reports, Papers & Book Chapters</i> . Bulleted summary of the major findings from the report.		
Author(s)	Last Name, First Name, and Middle Initial for all authors of the publication, in appropriate citation order, separated by commas.		