

**Family Friend & Neighbor
Child Care:
Policy Options and Research Questions**

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Project Overview

- Funded by AECF as follow-up to 2004-2010 investments in FFNC work
- Goal: understand current state of policy and research in the field from the perspective of grantees and non-grantees
- Individual interviews with AECF grantees (19) and non-grantees (9)
 - 10 in evaluation research
 - 3 in policy research
 - 13 in system development
 - 2 in private funding

Home Based Child Care

Unregulated (FFNC)

Regulated

Relatives

Non-relatives

Paid

Paid

Unpaid

Paid

Unpaid

Public subsidies

Private pay

Public Subsidies

Private pay

Cross-cutting Themes in Interviews – Policy & Research

- Diversity
- Quality
- Family Strengthening
- Regulation

FFNC Diversity

- FFN caregivers and care arrangements are not an “it”
 - While primarily relatives – particularly grandmothers
 - others provide care in many circumstances
 - FFNC is often provided in combination with other arrangements
- Policy context for FFNC varies considerably across states
 - Use of child care subsidies for FFNC
 - Regulations

FFNC Diversity

- Question: Where does FFNC fit?
 - Subsidized child care
 - Child welfare
 - Work support versus child learning
 - QRIS
 - Family Strengthening System
- One size does not fit all

Quality: Research Questions

- How does QRIS improve learning environment and child outcomes in regulated home-based settings?
- Are quality standards applicable to both regulated and unregulated home-based care settings?
- To what extent is the rating process essential to improvements? That is, can quality be improved without ratings?

Quality: Research Questions

- How could effective quality improvement strategies be adapted for unregulated home-based settings?
- What are the thresholds of quality that really make a difference for child outcomes?
- What will it take for such strategies to go to scale, either inside or outside QRIS?

Family Strengthening with FFNC Settings

- Promising strategy that can build on successful parent education/home visiting models
- Coaching and mentoring with ongoing practice and feedback utilizes adult learning principles
- Challenges
 - Providing intensive support of sufficient duration
 - Organizing support to meet different needs & interests
 - Efficiently using limited resources

Family Strengthening: Research Agenda

- Develop and rigorously evaluate programs that support specific groups of FFN caregivers
- Explore how cultural differences affect results in engaging FFN caregivers, meeting their needs, enhancing their caregiving, and improving children's learning
- Identify critical components and threshold levels of interventions that produce results, with implications for replication and going to scale

State Regulations & Requirements

- Focus in regulations for licensed child care providers is generally health & safety
- FFNC Providers receiving subsidies may be subject to some requirements
- States vary greatly in use of subsidies for FFNC
- States also vary in requirements for FFNC receiving subsidies

Federal Role in State Requirements for FFNC

- Recent clarification that states can meet parental choice while requiring subsidized providers to meet quality criteria
- Reauthorization of CCDBG = potential opportunity to:
 - Increase requirements for and monitoring of FFNC subsidies
 - Expand support for quality improvement activities with FFNC providers

State Regulation: Research Questions

- How are state requirements for FFNC providers associated with the role these providers play in subsidy system?
- When new requirements for registration or training are adopted, what are the effects on FFNC provider participation in the subsidy system? On child/family care arrangements?

Crosswalk with National Survey of Early Care and Education

Research Topics	NCECE
Who uses FFNC?	X
Family characteristics	
Child characteristics	X
Community characteristics	X
How is FFNC used by families?	X
Primary or supplemental?	
Short or long term?	X
Who are FFNC providers?	X
Motivation?	X
Turnover?	
Quality?	X
Interests and needs?	
How does FFN caregiving vary across subgroups?	X
By relationship to child	X
By compensation arrangements	
By interest in “professionalism”	X

Questionnaires available at www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/nsece

Questions?

