

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

Gina Adams

The Urban Institute

Child Care Policy Research Consortium

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Acknowledgements

■ Research team

Monica Rohacek, Ellen Kisker, Matthew Stagner, Deborah Phillips, Kathleen Snyder, Debra Mekos, Sara Bernstein, Regan Main, Joanna Parnes, Laura Wherry, Bonnie Gordic
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■ Local Collaborators

CCR&R agencies, state and local subsidy administrators and staff, center directors and teachers, family child care providers, and family, friend, and neighbor caregivers serving families with vouchers

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