

# Approaches to Incorporating Parent and Provider Perspectives in CCDF Policy Research

CCEEPRC 2023 Meeting

June 28, 2023

# Facilitators

- Planning Research on Subsidy Payment Rates (PROSPR)

teams:

- California – Tribal: Joanne Roberts, Boston Children’s Hospital
- Connecticut: Heidi Rosenberg, EDC
- DC: Diane Schilder, Urban Institute
- Massachusetts: Kate Giapponi Schneider, Brandeis University
- Minnesota: Liz Davis, University of Minnesota

# Session Objectives

- Understand importance of tapping into parent and provider perspectives in research examining implementation and impact of CCDF policies
- Identify specific approaches to capturing parent and provider perspectives
- Explore how parent and provider perspectives can be meaningfully integrated into a research design using administrative/secondary data
- Discuss common challenges to incorporating parent/provider perspectives and promising strategies to address those challenges

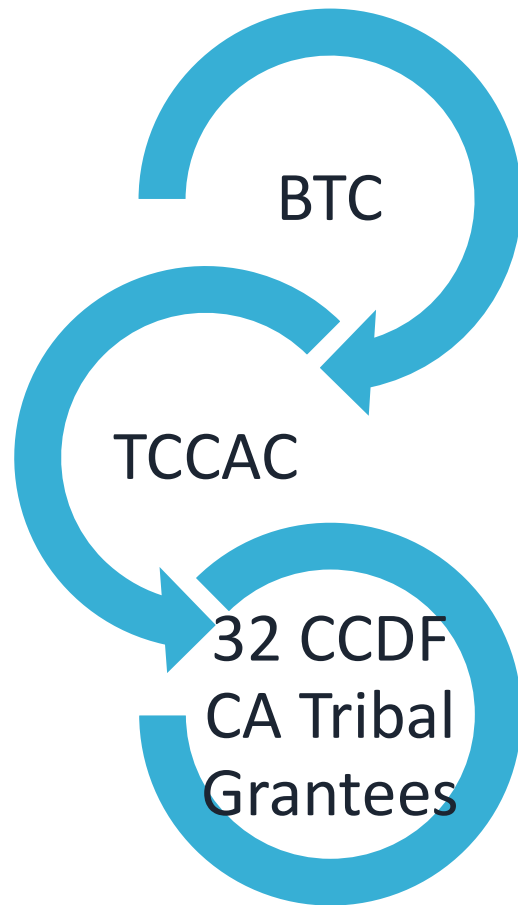
# Agenda

- Brief overview of planned approaches from each team
- Roundtable discussions
- Full group share-outs

# Commonalities Across Teams

- Examination of how **providers** experience CCDF payment policies and degree to which policies affect their decisions about serving children whose families use subsidies
- Examination of how **parents** experience CCDF payment policies and how policies affect parents' perceptions of affordability, choice, and quality
- **Innovative** ways of capturing parent and provider perspectives
- Inclusion of parent and provider perspectives as **outcomes** of interest in evaluation plans

# CA Tribal Project Team



The Tribal Child Care Association (TCCAC) is comprised of individuals who work for tribal lead agencies/grantees administering the CCDF and /or other Tribal child development programs.

Oversee Region 11 Quality Counts CA Block Grant through the California Department of Social Services.

# CCDF Payment Policies – CA Tribal

## Support for Tribal Sovereignty

Understanding the impacts of blended policy systems

Determining Payment Rates and Costs of Care

Connections between payment practices and the availability of culturally-grounded care

Parent Preferences and Needs for Care

# Proposed Evaluation - Overview



- Analysis of Administrative Data—CA, County and Community

- Study of Community Leadership and Providers' Practice and Policies

- Intensive Case Studies of 4 TCCAC CCDF grantees

- Data-driven and community informed Recommendations & Resource Development



# Engagement Opportunities

TCCAC Quarterly Meetings

Provider Surveys,  
including FFN  
care

Case studies:  
Focus Groups  
with providers

Parent Cafes

# Partnership Planning Grant: Coordinated Evaluation of Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Policies and Initiatives in Connecticut



Education  
Development  
Center

# Connecticut State Team



Heidi Rosenberg, EDC



Anne Huntington, EDC



Michael Strambler,  
Yale School of Medicine



Joanna Meyer,  
Yale School of Medicine



Julie Giaccone,  
CT Office of Early Childhood



# CCDF Payment Policies - CT



**Increases in base payment rates to providers**



**Increase in quality bonus for accredited (NAEYC, NAFCC) providers**

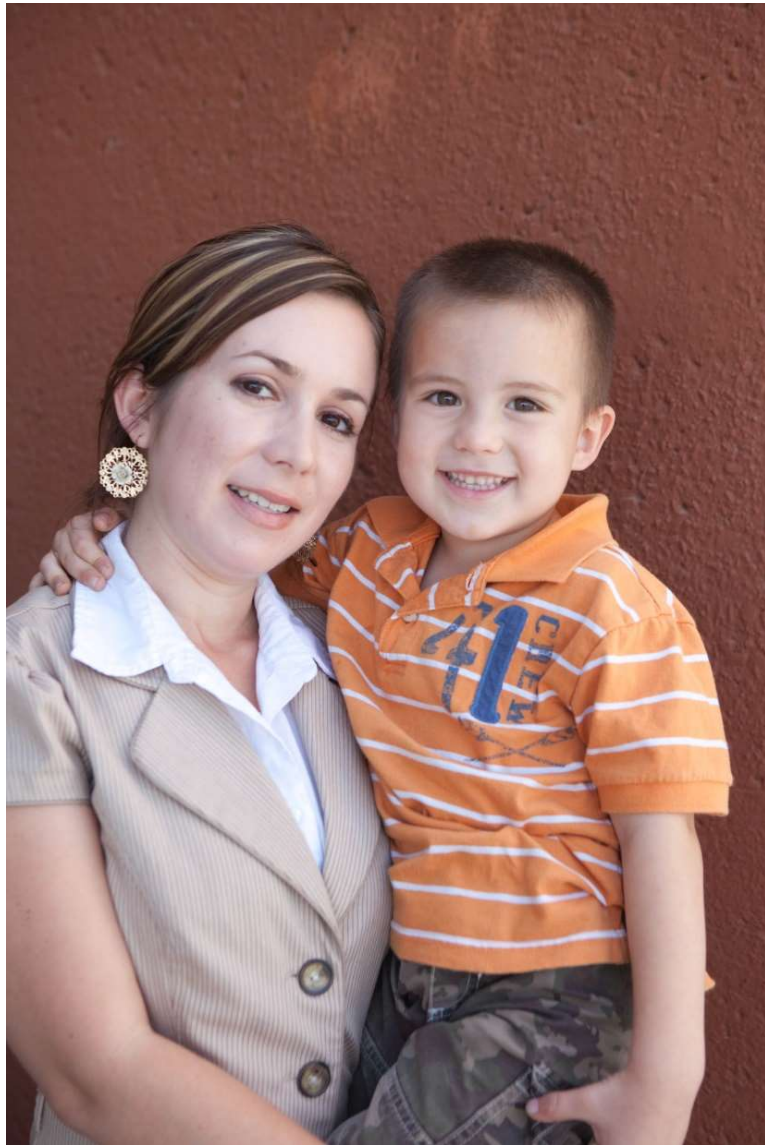


**Temporary waiver of family co-payment**



**Coverage of provider registration fees**

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## Proposed Evaluation - Overview

- Implementation evaluation examining providers' and parents' experiences with C4K subsidy payment policies
  - Key informant interviews
  - Provider survey, interviews
  - Parent survey, focus groups
- Impact evaluation examining whether subsidy payment policies associated with:
  - Increased number of providers (including accredited providers) participating in C4K
  - Increased number of C4K children served by accredited providers
  - Changes in C4K enrollment "churn"



# Engagement Opportunities

**OEC-convened  
Parent Cabinet**

**Connecticut  
Early Childhood  
Alliance**

**Child Care  
Resource &  
Referral**

**Additional  
Advisors**

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# District of Columbia State Team



Diane Schilder, Urban



Dawn Dow, Urban



Laura Wagner, Urban



Justin Doromal, Urban



Kathryn Kigera, Office of the  
State Superintendent of  
Education



# About the District of Columbia Partnership Study

Grant Number: 90YE0257

Title: District of Columbia Child Care Subsidy Innovations: Questions and Answers

Principal Investigator and Staff: Diane Schilder (PI), Dawn Dow, Justin Doromal, and Laura Wagner

This presentation is partially supported by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of the United States (U.S.) Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award (Grant #: 90YE0257) totaling \$180,000 with 100 percent funded by ACF/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACF/HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit the ACF website, Administrative and National Policy Requirements.

We thank partners at the District of Columbia, Office of the State Superintendent of Education, subsidy staff, community leaders, providers, and parents for engaging with us.



# CCDF Payment Policies and Practices – **District of Columbia**



Changes in payment rates to providers based on cost estimation model



Increase in rates based on cost of quality



Temporary waiver of family co-payment during COVID-19 health emergency and currently a cap of no more than 7% of household income



Shared Services Business Alliances cover many costs incurred by small and home-based providers

# Proposed Evaluation - Overview



Focus on subsidy payments and practices related to access with focus on all four dimensions of access, especially **equity**

- Implementation evaluation examines policymakers', subsidy staff, community members', providers', and families' experiences with subsidy payment policies and practices
  - Key informant interviews
  - Surveys
  - Interviews
  - Focus groups
- Impact evaluation examines associations, outcomes and impacts of changes in subsidy payment policies and practices &:
  - Number of subsidized providers and number of slots
  - Subsidy density
  - By community characteristics and characteristics of providers and families

# Unique Engagement Opportunities: Elements of Community **Engaged Methods**

**Advisory  
Committee**

**Engage  
Community  
Leader**

**Continued  
Engagement in  
Provider and  
Parent Meetings**

**Pulse Surveys  
using River  
Sampling**  
(administered in  
Amharic, English and  
Spanish)

**Use of Snowball  
Sampling to  
engage Under-  
represented  
Participants**

# Evaluation of the Relationship between Massachusetts' Child Care Subsidy Payment Policies and Access to Care

C5: Approaches to Incorporating Parent and Provider Perspectives in Child Care and Development Fund Policy Research  
CCEPRC Meeting  
June 28, 2023



# Project Team



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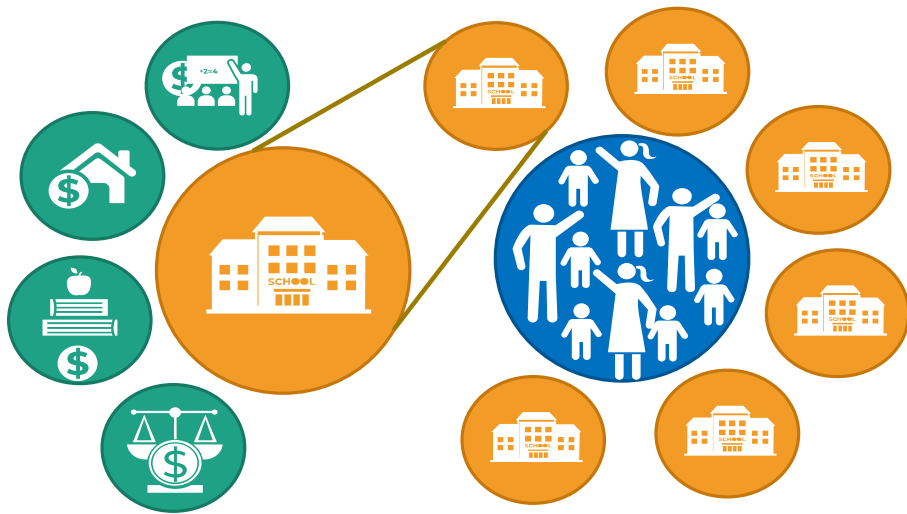
MASSACHUSETTS  
**Department of  
Early Education and Care**

# MA CCDF Payment Policies

## Provider Payment Rates

- **Post-Pandemic:** small rate increases (2-4%)
- **2023:** 10% rate increase, with additional targeted increases to ensure that all rates are at least at the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile of market prices
- **2024 (anticipated):** increase rates to the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of market prices

# Integrated Mixed Methods Evaluation Overview



## Policy Impact Analysis

- Evaluate the effect of rate changes on access to care using:
  - Administrative data
  - Provider focus groups
  - Parent survey



## Intervention Impact Analysis

- Evaluate the effect of a **communications-** focused intervention on **improving the impact** of rate changes on access to care using:
  - Administrative data
  - Parent survey

# Parent & Provider Engagement



## Provider Focus Groups

- Participating & **Non-Participating** Providers
- Centers & FCCs
- English & Spanish
- Zoom (video/phone)
- **Spiral Model Approach**
- **EAST Framework**



## Parent Survey

- English & Spanish
- Online/phone
- **EEC Parent Council:** Design/pilot test
- **Expert Review Panel:** EEC staff, EEC Board (Community Organizations), CCR&R administrators



# Massachusetts Funding Acknowledgement

This study was conducted through the Coordinated Evaluations of Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Policies and Initiatives: Phase I (Planning Grants) program and was supported by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of the United States (U.S.) Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$180,000 with 100 percent funded by ACF/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACF/HHS, or the U.S. Government or the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care. For more information, please visit the ACF website, Administrative and National Policy Requirements. (Grant No. HHS-2021-ACF-OPRE-YE-1901)

We thank our partners at the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care and the families and providers for their time and engagement with us during the Phase I Planning Grant.

# Minnesota Planning Grant: Coordinated Evaluation of Minnesota's Child Care Assistance Payment Policies and Initiatives

## University of Minnesota

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## Minnesota Department of Human Services

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**Driven to Discover®**



# Minnesota Subsidy Payment Policy Changes

## 1. (Maximum) Provider Payment Rate increases

- 2014: First increase in payment rates since 2006 and had been decreased in 2011.
- Sept. 21, 2020: Next increase: Rates based on the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 2018 market rate survey.
- Nov. 15, 2021: Rates increased to 40<sup>th</sup> percentile for infants and toddlers and 30<sup>th</sup> percentile for preschoolers and school-age, based on 2021 market rate survey.
- October 30, 2023: Rates will increase to the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 2021 survey.
- January, 2025: Rates will increase to the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 2024 survey.

## 2. Tiered rates based on QRIS ratings

3. Providers can charge parents the gap between the payment rate and their price.

# Phase I Community Engagement

- **Place based recruitment:** We recruited providers in three different parts of the state, chosen based on differences in payment rates, and diversity of types of care and of the population.
- **World Café participatory format** (virtual)
- A small “**core**” **team of providers** partnered with us to identify the questions for the participatory sessions
- Providers had the opportunity to review the key learnings with us to “**make sense**” of the findings.

# World Café General Flow

Two rounds of conversation, 20 min each, in groups of approx. 4 providers

- **Round 1: What is your experience with CCAP reimbursements and copays? Based on your experience with CCAP, what would you want to tell a new provider entering the field?**
- **Round 2: What would change at your child care if CCAP payments were higher? What would or could you do with increased resources?**

After Round 2, we gather to share insights and themes across the groups. The participants help to “harvest” these themes.

Findings from Phase 1	Implications for Phase 2 study
Variation in implementation of payment practices across counties.	Collect data on and analyze geographic differences in payment practices.
Lack of information and misinformation about rates, rate settings, and differentials was common.	Learn what providers and families know (and don't know) about policies to better interpret findings.
Some providers would use higher payment rates to increase wages or programs and activities like field trips; others felt they would not see higher rates because they feel they can't raise prices.	Investigate who benefits and who does not as the effects on providers differ based on their circumstances.
Providers who accepted subsidies did so to help families, but collecting the copays was sometimes a headache.	Consider the interaction of subsidy policies as the effect of copays on families and providers varies with circumstances.
Attendance policies, holiday and vacation leaves, and other differences between providers' policies for private pay families and subsidized families are a common concern for providers.	Payment practices and policies beyond rate increases affect provider willingness to accept subsidies.

# Engagement with Families

- Engage families to develop a story or journey map of their child care decisions and participation in the child care subsidy program.
- Focus on
  - Their perceptions of child care access and options
  - Challenges of participating in the subsidy system
  - Interactions with providers about subsidies and payment policies
  - Interactions with county workers about subsidies
- Outreach to families through community organizations and child care providers in the same three parts of the state.

# **Phase 2: Planned Engagement for the Implementation Evaluation**

- **Surveys**
  - Center directors
  - Center workers
  - Home-based providers
  - Families
  
- **In-depth interviews**
  - Center directors
  - Home-based providers
  - Families



# **Minnesota funding acknowledgement**

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- We thank our partners at the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the families and providers for their assistance and feedback.

# Roundtable Discussion Prompts

- How have you integrated provider and/or parent perspectives into your research designs?
- What specific approaches have you used to capture parent and/or provider perspectives in your research?
- What challenges have you faced in incorporating parent and/or provider perspectives in your work? What strategies have you used to address those challenges?