



Family Child Care Task Force recommendations: Licensing's updates

Alyssa Dotson | Deputy Inspector General, Licensing Division

Larry Hosch | Manager of Policy, Legislation and Stakeholder Engagement

Orientation for family child care license applicants

- Overview:
 - By July 1, 2022, DHS will develop a recommended orientation for family child care license applicants.
 - The orientation will cover basic information about family child care licensing requirements
- Update:
 - DHS Licensing sent a survey to family child care providers and county licensors to collect input on the new orientation
 - Over 1,600 family child care providers and nearly 100 licensors responded to the survey
 - DHS Licensing also hosted three webinars for providers and one for licensors to collect input
 - DHS has compiled the responses and is using that input to inform the development of the new orientation

Special family child care changes

- Overview:
 - Effective July 1, 2022, this section allows DHS to issue up to four special family child care licenses to an organization and clarifies that there may be up to four special family child care licenses under the same roof or at the same location.
 - If the license holder is an organization, it must designate a primary provider of care.
- Update:
 - Updating licensing forms to reflect special family child care changes
 - Developing a form for provider organizations that need to designate a primary provider of care
 - Plan to provide training on the new forms to licensors and provide guidance to license applicants

Family child care FAQ webpage

- Overview:
 - By July 1, 2022, DHS will develop a frequently asked questions (FAQ) webpage for family child care providers that includes a search function
- Update:
 - DHS Licensing pulled together the most frequently asked questions
 - Our webpage experts have developed a plan to create a search function on the FAQ page and will update it as time allows

Alternate child care licensing models

- Overview:
 - DHS, in consultation with counties, child care providers, and other relevant stakeholders, will review child care models that are not currently in state statutes, including standards related to age, group size, and capacity.
 - This project will consider whether any models could address the state's child care needs while protecting children's safety, health, and well-being and make recommendations for implementing the models that meet these criteria.
 - DHS will report recommendations to the legislature by January 1, 2023.
- Update:
 - Contract execution for this project is imminent
 - We anticipate this project starting in February 2022 and that the facilitator will be announced shortly

Child care regulation modernization projects

- The 2021 Legislature allocated federal funding to support regulation modernization projects for both family child care and child care centers
- The Family Child Care Task Force (2019-2021) recommended a modernization project in their final report
- The regulation modernization projects support the development of:
 - New licensing standards
 - Risk-based tiered violation systems
 - Abbreviated inspections

Child care regulation modernization projects

- DHS and NARA will develop and implement a stakeholder engagement process that solicits input from parents, licensed child care providers, county licensors, staff from DHS, and experts in child development
- Pilot projects will allow DHS, licensors, and providers to have an opportunity to identify technical or policy issues and make necessary changes before final implementation (**dependent on 2022 legislative authorization**)
- NARA will work with DHS to put together a report and proposed legislation to implement the new licensing models and new licensing standards
 - The report will be submitted to the legislature by February 1, 2024
 - New licensing standards, risk-based tiered violation systems, and abbreviated inspections will need to be adopted into statute or administrative rule before they will take effect

Inclusive Child Care Grant

- Children have a right to education in the least restrictive setting; integrated options improve outcomes for ALL children.
- The 2021 Legislature authorized a grant program to expand access to childcare for children with disabilities and medical complexities.
 - DHS recently received conditional approval from CMS to implement
 - Next steps:
 - Form leadership team with stakeholders who have an interest in inclusive child care, including professionals and family members
 - Finalize RFP draft, integrating stakeholder feedback
 - Issue grant awards to lead agencies in summer of 2022