



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

ARRA CCDF Appropriations Child Care Quality Summary

Of the \$26.1 million in federal economic stimulus or American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding flowing through the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), \$3,406,878 is required to be spent on improving the quality of child care. The 2009 Legislature directed that these ARRA CCDF funds support specific efforts to improve child care quality in FY2010-11.

Family, Friend and Neighbor Grant Program

- Extends the Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Grant Program for FY2010-11 (\$750,000 for FY10-11). This grant program was established in Minnesota statute to promote children's early literacy, healthy development, and school readiness, and to foster community partnerships to promote children's school readiness. Grants are made available to community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, and Indian tribes working with FFN caregivers.

Implementation: Grants have been continued for the six initiatives first funded in FY2008-09. Current grantees are Resources for Child Caring, Inc.; Early Childhood Resource and Training Center, Inc.; Neighborhood House, Inc.; Northland Foundation, Inc.; West Central School District #2342; and White Earth Reservation Tribal Council. For more information, contact Dru Osterud at dru.osterud@state.mn.us or (651) 431-3870.

Parent Aware Quality Rating System Pilot

- Supports the continuation of the Parent Aware quality rating system pilot in St. Paul, Minneapolis, the Wayzata School District and Blue Earth and Nicollet counties for FY2010-11 (\$1.384 million for FY10-11).

Implementation: Funds support DHS and grants to the Minnesota CCR&R Network, the Center for Early Education and Development (CEED) at the University of Minnesota, Resources for Child Caring, and CCR&R, Inc. Over 250 child care centers, family child care homes, preschools, Head Starts and school-based pre-kindergarten programs have received ratings through the Parent Aware pilot. These ratings are posted on the Parent Aware website. For more information about the Parent Aware pilot go to: www.parentawareratings.org. For more information, contact Michelle Lenhart at michelle.lenhart@state.mn.us or (651) 431-3871.

Training, Coaching, Consultation, Grants and Supports to Prepare for a Statewide Quality Rating & Improvement System

- Provides training, coaching, consultation and supports to prepare child care providers for a voluntary statewide quality rating & improvement system (QRIS) in FY2010-11 (\$1.266 million for FY10-11).

Implementation: Funds will flow out through grants or contracts — including the Minnesota CCR&R Network, local CCR&Rs, Metropolitan State University, University of Minnesota Center for Early Education and Development (CEED) and others — to:

- Develop and deliver infant/toddler training resources aligned with the QRIS. (\$154,075 for FY10-11)

- Build the capacity of the professional development system to support the QRIS. Includes development of the Minnesota Child Care Credential -- a core curriculum for child care providers based on indicators of quality piloted in the Parent Aware quality rating system, Minnesota's core competencies for early childhood professionals and the National Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential. (More information is available at <http://www.mncpd.org/>.) (\$379,854 for FY10-11)
- Build capacity of the CCR&R system to provide (a) consultation on the Environmental Rating Scale, (b) guidance on professional development opportunities to prepare for a QRIS, and (c) curriculum and assessment materials to providers. (\$508,646 for FY10-11)
- Deliver Building Quality Initiative resources – training, consultation and grants -- in FY2011 to providers interested in preparing for a voluntary QRIS. These funds will be used to provide low cost training on MN Child Care Credential courses, consultation on the Environmental Rating Scale, and grants for quality improvement activities identified through completion of a self-assessment tool. (\$223,425 for FY10-11 plus proposed redirection of \$500,000 in non-ARRA CCDF funds)

For more information, contact Deb Swenson-Klatt at deb.swenson-klatt@state.mn.us or (651) 431-4886.