

Mid-Program Update: St. Paul Early Childhood Scholarship Program

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Market-based approach to ECE

- Demand-side
 - Empower parents with tools: parent mentors, information and scholarships
- Supply-side
 - Must achieve 3- or 4-star Parent Aware rating
 - ECE programs compete for scholarship families



Goals of Scholarship Program

- School readiness
- Parent engagement
- More high-quality openings at ECE programs



Administration

City of Saint Paul	Coordination and marketing
Resources for Child Caring	Referral assistance, application and scholarship payment processing
Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health	Parent mentor coordination and delivery
Minnesota Early Learning Foundation	Fundraising
SRI International	Evaluation



Scholarship Program Eligibility

Residence: Live in Frogtown, North End or Payne-Phalen neighborhoods in St. Paul

Income: Below 185% of poverty

Child Age: Either age 3 or age 0-1 on September 1st of current school year

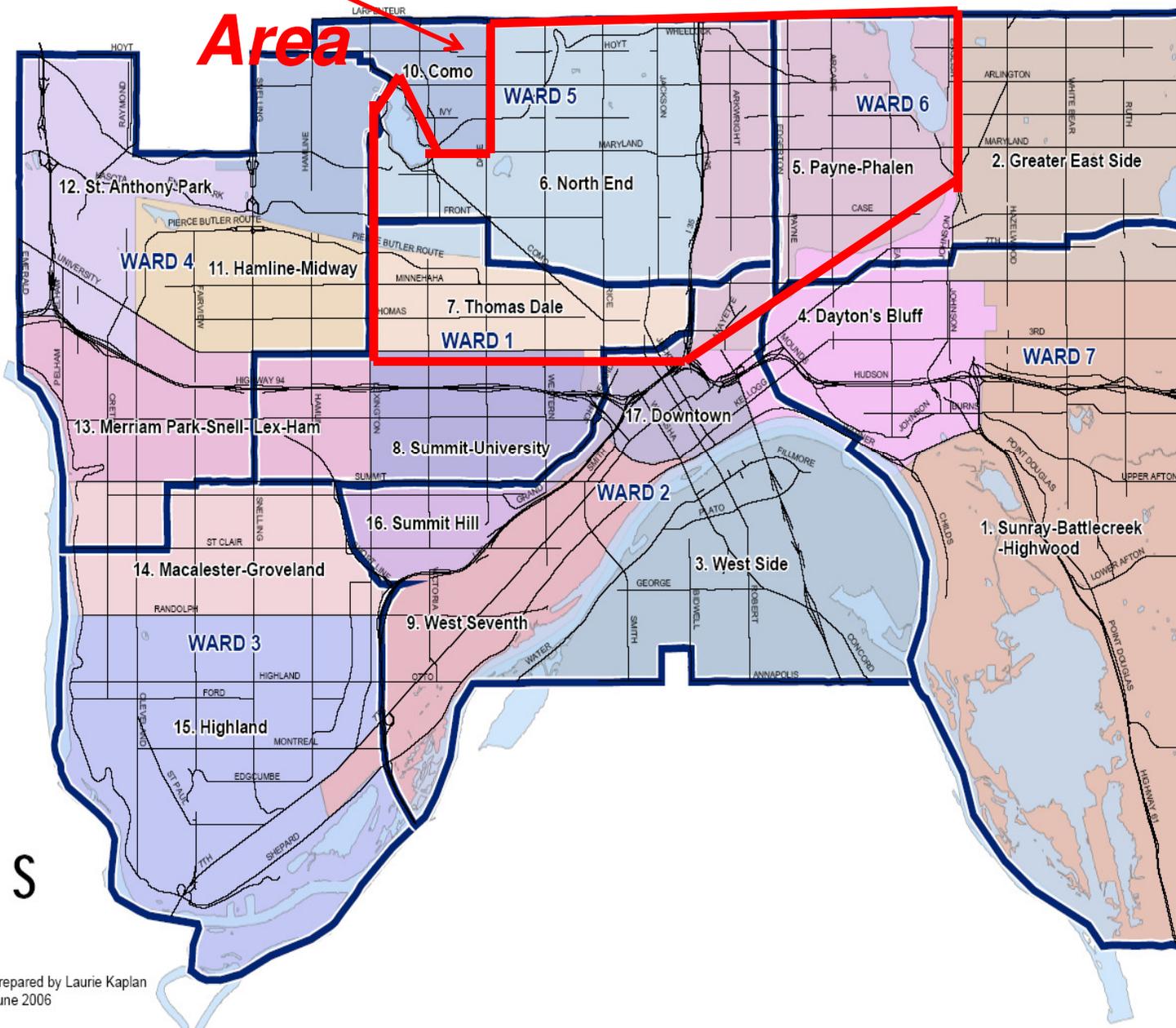
Pilot timeframe: January 2008 through August 2011

CITY OF SAINT PAUL
COUNCIL WARDS & PLANNING DISTRICTS



Department of Planning
and Economic Development

**Pilot
Area**

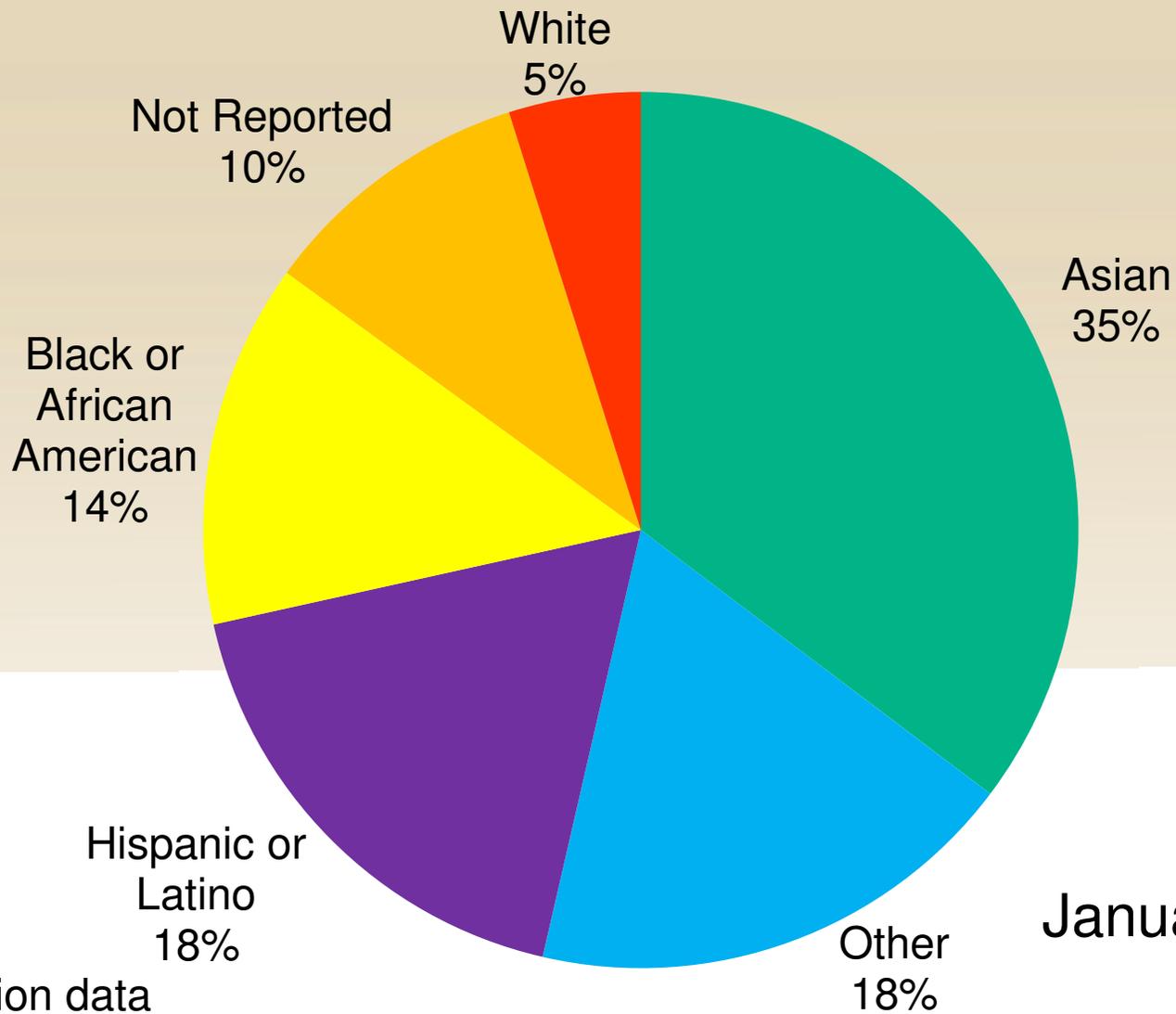


PLANNING DISTRICTS

- 1. Sunray-Battlecreek-Highwood
 - 2. Greater East Side
 - 3. West Side
 - 4. Dayton's Bluff
 - 5. Payne-Phalen
 - 6. North End
 - 7. Thomas Dale
 - 8. Summit-University
 - 9. West Seventh
 - 10. Como
 - 11. Hamline-Midway
 - 12. St. Anthony Park
 - 13. Merriam Park-Snell-Lex-Ham
 - 14. Macalester-Groveland
 - 15. Highland
 - 16. Summit Hill
 - 17. Downtown
- WARDS



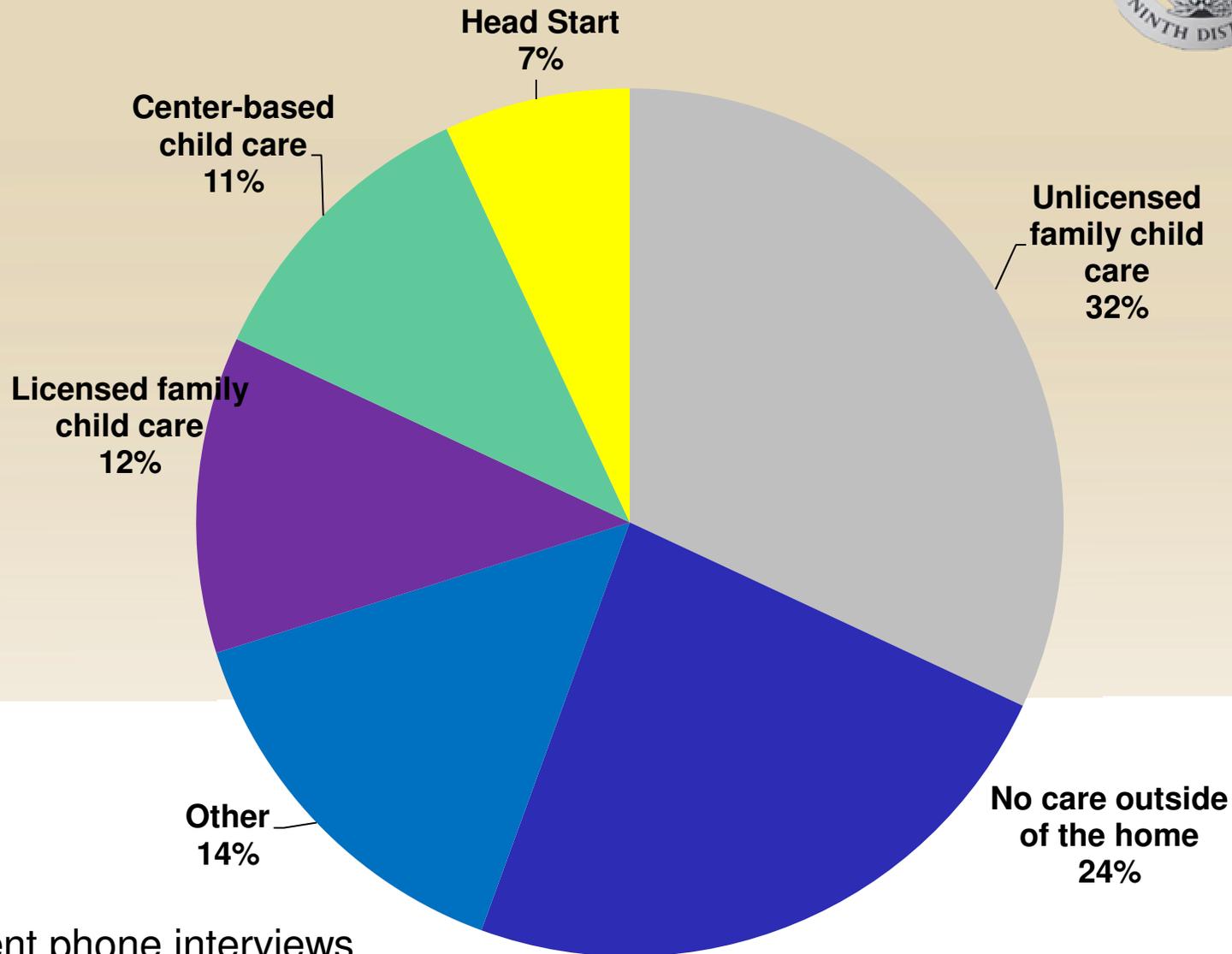
Ethnicity



January 2009

Administration data

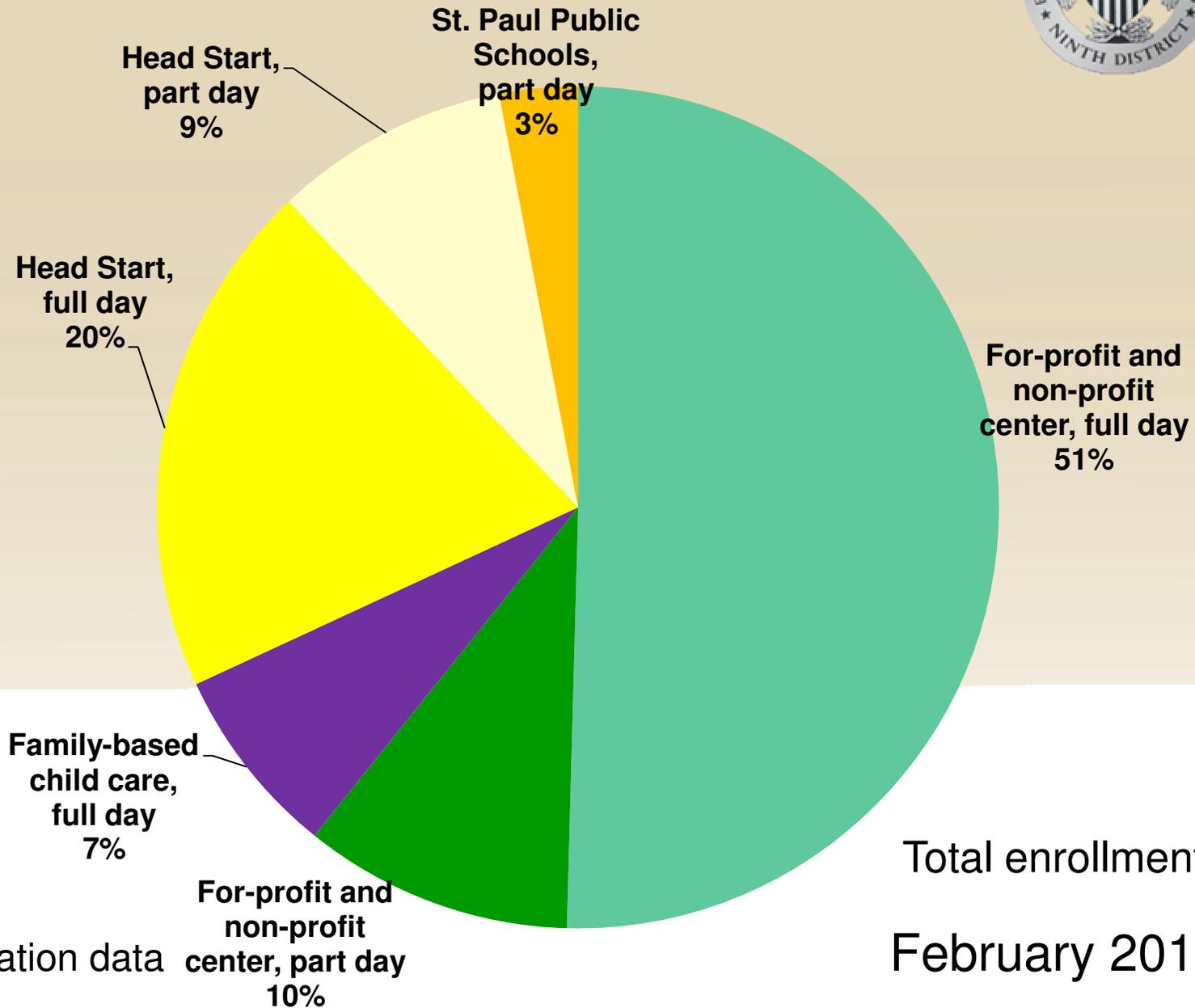
Parents' report of child's care prior to Scholarship Program enrollment



SRI parent phone interviews
(n=144)

December 2009

Children enrolled in a variety of ECE programs



Administration data

Total enrollment: 232

February 2010



MELF Scholarship Evaluation Findings

Based on interviews by SRI

- Increased support for and awareness of high-quality ECE programs
- Overall, implementation went well
- Challenges:
 - Transportation
 - Recruitment: Person-to-person works best
 - Integrating non-tuition programs into model



Scholarship parent responses

- Enthusiastic about the program
- Program considered user friendly
- Participation provided school and work opportunities
- Strong positive opinions about parent mentors



Lessons in progress

- More children enrolled in high-quality programs
- More spaces at high-quality programs
- Parents involved in children's education
- Next year: Information on child outcomes



Web resources:

www.melf.us

minneapolisfed.org

E-mail:

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