

Moving Child Care Forward in New Hampshire



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Early Learning is Important

- More Granite Staters understand the importance of early learning.
- Investing in key early years pays off for children's ability to succeed and parents ability to work.



New Hampshire Could Do Better

- From 2006 to 2013, approximately 2100 New Hampshire children lost child care assistance.
- Child care providers are reimbursed at the 50th percentile of 2014 market rates, vs the recommended 75th percentile.
- Families at the top of the eligibility scale
 - (250% FPL) pay 20% of income in copayments.
- Since 2011, more infants and toddlers receive child care assistance but fewer school age children do.
- NH has made an effort to create a QRIS but it is modest.



Federal Competitive Grants

- New Hampshire is the only New England state that did not receive a Preschool Development Grant or a Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant.
- The state had divested child care funds and did not promise to restore them.
- Their application included a roadmap to a more robust QRIS and stipends to providers.

Workforce

- New Hampshire does not invest in T.E.A.C.H. to help providers get degrees.
- New Hampshire does not invest in WAGES to increase caregiver compensation.
- The average household wage for child care workers is \$10.44 an hour.



CCDBG Reauthorization

- Requires monitoring license exempt care by non-relatives, which NH does not do now.
- Requires a 12 month eligibility redetermination period, which NH does not do now.
- The state cut \$8 million from child care in 2011.
- CCDBG implementation costs are approximately \$4 to \$5 million.
- An additional \$5 million a year needs to be made available to reach the 75th percentile.
- An additional \$5 million could fund an improved QRIS.



Prekindergarten

- New Hampshire is one of just 5 states without any prekindergarten program.
- All of the New England states invest in prekindergarten.



Child Care Costs are High for Families

- The cost of child care fees for two children exceeds housing costs for homeowners with a mortgage in 24 states and the District of Columbia.
- The cost of child care is comparable to or exceeds college tuition.

In 2014, the average annual cost for an infant in center-based care was higher than a year's tuition and fees at a four-year public college in 28 states and the District of Columbia.

- Low-paid providers hold up the system.

Child Care Gaps

- NH and other states need a federal-state partnership.
- Nationally, over 364,000 children have lost child care assistance since 2006.
- Only 1 in 6 eligible children receives federal child care assistance.
- Only 1 state reimburses providers at the 75th percentile.
- Federal child care funds have been decreasing.



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