

# Child Care Connections

ND Early Childhood Section and Child Care Assistance Program



Welcome to North Dakota's child care provider newsletter. Each quarterly issue is filled with all the latest updates that you need to know as a child care provider. By [subscribing to Child Care Connections](#) you will be kept informed and learn about resources and opportunities that will help you as you serve North Dakota children, families and communities.

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## Child Care Program Grants

The North Dakota Child Care Initiative has made it possible for Health and Human Services to offer several grants for child care programs and training incentives for individuals. These will be offered while funding is available, for HHS licensed programs and individuals meeting eligibility requirements.

[Learn more](#)

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## The Mandated SIDS Training is Now Titled North Dakota Safe Sleep

To align with the update made in the law during the last legislative session, HHS has retitled the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) training to ND Safe Sleep.

Everyone who cares for infants in a licensed child care program must complete safe sleep training annually. Not all safe sleep training meets the HHS requirement. North Dakota Safe Sleep is ND Growing Futures Registry approved and meets licensing requirements.



Learn more about safe sleep practices

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## Needs Assessment Results



As part of the Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five, a systems building grant received by HHS in 2023, a needs assessment was conducted in the fall. **Thank you to all providers who participated and provided valuable information.**

Over the coming months, HHS will use that information to update the 2018 Strategic Plan.

See a visual summary or read the whole report here

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## Crafting the CCDF State Plan – What You Need to Know

The federal Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) requires states to submit a Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan every three years.

The state plan serves as HHS' application for CCDF funds by describing how the program will be administered in accordance with CCDF law and regulations to provide high-quality child care services to eligible families. CCDF supports North Dakota's efforts to provide child care subsidies through the [Child Care Assistance Program](#) to more than 4,100 children from 2,600 income-eligible families, making child care more affordable as they work toward economic security. The state plan process also benefits **all children** in North Dakota by setting the basis for health and safety standards, professional development and background checks.

CCDBG law requires HHS to consult with tribal CCDF child care administrators, the North Dakota Early Childhood Council, and local governments such as the Human Service Zones (HSZ) when writing the plan. HHS has been sharing components of the plan with the North Dakota Early Childhood Council, HSZ directors, and tribal administrators. Child care providers appointed by the Governor offer a provider voice as members of the ND Early Childhood Council. They represent:

- Center-based licensed child care providers
- Home-based licensed child care providers
- Non-religious based providers of early childhood education
- Religious-based preschool providers

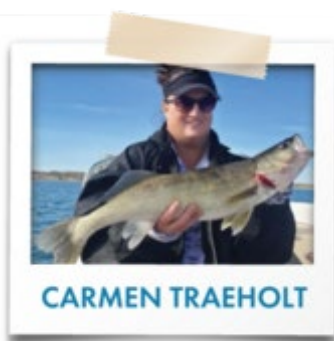
Licensed child care providers also have the opportunity to contribute to the state plan and help set future Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) payment rates by participating in the Cost Analysis and Market Rate Survey. The most recent survey was sent to providers in October 2023 and closed this month.

The draft of the 2025-2027 state plan will be available in late April 2024. HHS will hold a public hearing along with a time for you to provide feedback during a comment period before submitting the application.

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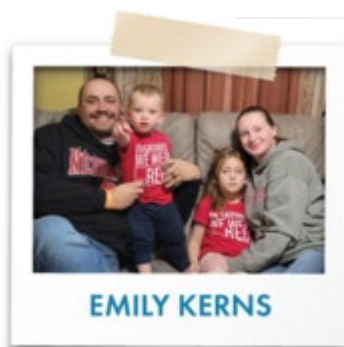
## Meet the Team that Leads HHS' Completion of the CCDF Application, Quarterly Reports, and an Annual Quality Progress Report

Carmen Traeholt and Emily Kerns are the co-CCDF administrators and are supported by Mariah Hill our CCDF coordinator.



Prior to becoming the HHS Early Childhood licensing administrator, **Carmen** was a child care provider for 25 years.

**Fun fact:** She loves to salmon fish. While this may not be salmon, Carmen caught this 28 inch walleye all by herself and even put the bait on the reel.



**Emily** started working in Economic Assistance as a college intern and has been there ever since.

**Fun fact:** She loves to bake and we request her scotcheroos at meetings.



**Mariah** worked in child care for 18 years before coming to HHS as the CCDF coordinator. Mariah also provides support to the Early Childhood Council.

**Fun Fact:** She loves to travel and visit national parks.

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## CCAP Materials Are Coming Your Way



HHS is mailing out CCAP material packages to licensed providers to raise awareness about child care assistance that is available to North Dakota families.

Please distribute these materials to families as you see fit. We appreciate your willingness to help us in this effort to ensure all families have access to resources that support working families and strengthen our workforce.

Electronic copies of these materials for additional print and distribution can be found on our [CCAP provider webpage](#).

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# Supporting Dual Language Learners

Chances are your child care program may be working with children and families who are dual language learners. Watch this [short video](#) about the importance of supporting dual language learners in early childhood.

For more strategies to support dual language learners when you do not speak the languages of the children in your care visit the [Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center](#).

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## Leadership Opportunities

### Early Childhood Professional Development Workgroup

HHS is seeking representatives from the Early Childhood mixed delivery system for a professional development workgroup. This group will:

1. Gather three to five times face-to-face.
2. Revise *North Dakota Core Competencies for Early Education and Care Practitioners* so they are aligned with the [NAEYC Professional Standards and Competencies for Early Childhood Educators](#).
3. Crosswalk the revised *North Dakota Core Competencies for Early Education and Care Practitioners* with the *North Dakota Early Learning Standards for Birth to Kindergarten*.
4. Discuss the framework to support intentional training.

A link to the application can be found [here](#). The deadline for submission is 5 p.m. CT on Feb. 2, 2024. Applications should be submitted to [dhsecpd@nd.gov](mailto:dhsecpd@nd.gov).

### North Dakota Interagency Coordinating Council

The North Dakota Interagency Coordinating Council (NDICC) is currently looking for parent members. The NDICC advises and assists the HHS Early Intervention Program in its effort to implement a statewide system for services for children with disabilities, ages birth through two. Parent members of the NDICC must have a child who is under 13 years old and received early intervention services in North Dakota. The NDICC meets for three hours, once every other month. Most meetings are held virtually. If you are interested in becoming a parent member of the NDICC, please reach out to Jackie Adusumilli, ND Part C coordinator at [jadusumilli@nd.gov](mailto:jadusumilli@nd.gov) or (701) 328-8968 for more information, or visit the [NDICC website](#).

NDICC meetings are open to the public, so feel free to join in to see what the excitement is about!

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## Coming Soon

### North Dakota's Best in Class

Applications for North Dakota's Best in Class competitive award will be available at the beginning of the new year. See if you are eligible to apply [here](#).

## Bright & Early ND



Want to participate in the next Bright & Early ND cohort? Applications are due by April 15 for the May cohort. Learn more [here](#).

## Training Opportunities

### Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant - Early Learning Zoom Training

#### Growing Futures approved - one hour each

All training sessions are held 7-8 p.m. CT on Zoom.

**Feb. 15** | How to move beyond basic questions to enhance a child's understanding of topics

**March 21** | Helping children prepare for writing by developing fine motor skills

**April 18** | Connecting art, literacy and drama through storytelling

**May 9** | Literacy begins with language skills

[Join the sessions here](#)

## Become a CDA Professional Development Specialist™

Coming in early 2024 HHS will be offering an incentive for CDA Professional Development Specialists™. If you are currently certified as a PD specialist with the Council for Professional Recognition and successfully completing verification visits you could qualify for an incentive of \$400 per completed visit.

If you enjoy mentoring, coaching, meeting new people and observing educational environments, becoming a CDA PD specialist may be for you. PD specialists use early childhood expertise to assess CDA candidates' competencies and facilitate reflective conversations with the candidates.

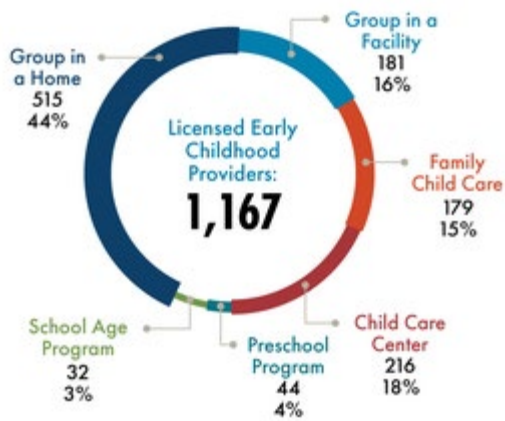
[Learn more](#)

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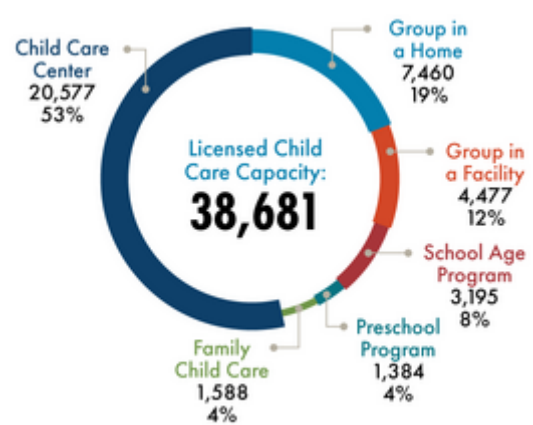
## Quarterly Provider Snapshot

(As of Dec. 18, 2023)

## Number of Licenses by Provider Type



## Number of Licensed Slots by Provider Type



[Learn More at HHS.ND.GOV](https://www.hhs.nd.gov)