

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

HB Section(s): 2.270

Child Care Quality Initiatives

Program is found in the following core budget(s): Child Care Quality Initiatives

1a. What strategic priority does this program address?

Early Learning & Early Literacy

1b. What does this program do?

The purpose of this funding is to improve the child care and education system by helping families find quality child care and delivering professional development to child care providers. The initiatives described below support contracts to provide services for increasing parental engagement and knowledge surrounding child care options. The initiatives also elevate the early care and education community to better serve and prepare children to be ready for school. Additionally, quality initiatives support families accessing resources and family choice by locating appropriate child care options that meets the needs of the family. These funds support the initiatives for child care providers listed in 2a.

2a. Provide an activity measure(s) for the program.

In FY 2023, the Department will report the number of customers served within each of the initiatives below.

Resource & Referral

The Missouri Child Care Resource and Referral Network, d.b.a. Child Care Aware® of Missouri, provides statewide resource and referral services to families seeking child care and consumer education, operates a statewide toll-free telephone system that links families to their appropriate local resource and referral agency. Child Care Aware® of Missouri supports child care providers with statewide training coordination for the DESE-approved child care provider trainings, and provides onsite technical assistance to child care providers to improve parental involvement in the care and education of their children based on the national Strengthening Families Protective Factors model.

Professional Development Registry

The registry provides early childhood and before/after school workforce with a professional development system. The system collects and verifies early childhood, school-age/after school, and youth development professionals' credentials (e.g., education) and training information. The registry provides valuable workforce data for providers and trainers working in Missouri. An enhanced version of the system is expected to be released in FY 2022 with features for a training calendar, learning management system, and the inclusion of additional professionals (e.g., home visitors, parent educators, early intervention providers) in order to increase access to quality training.

Educare

Educare is an initiative providing resources, technical assistance, and support opportunities for child care programs including registered providers who care for six or fewer children, licensed family child care homes, licensed group child care homes, child care centers and license-exempt child care programs. Services are free or at reduced cost to early learning programs that accept child care subsidy. There are currently nine Educare sites in Missouri serving all 114 counties and the City of St. Louis.

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Child Care and Development Fund Grant

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Grant provides quality early childhood programs in public schools and colleges/universities. These funds include innovative or creative approaches or services beyond the normal child care program including enhancements such as: parent involvement, parent education, inclusion of children with special needs, professional development, assistance in meeting and maintaining licensing and accreditation, care for infant/toddler ages and teen parent programs. The 2019-2020 CCDF awards cannot exceed three (3) years. Upon receiving the initial award, grants may be renewed in one (1) year increments for a total of two (2) additional years, provided funds are available.

Missouri Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership Project:

The goal of the Missouri Early Head Start (EHS) Child Care Partnership Project is to promote quality early childhood services for Missouri's birth to age three population, including prenatal care. Using the national Early Head Start model, this program partners with a wide range of child care and early learning programs in communities. Partnerships may include public and private programs, religious-based programs, family child care programs, group homes, and centers-based programs. The EHS model directly serves families under 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and currently supports 444 EHS slots in Missouri.

Infant and Toddler Specialist Network

The Infant and Toddler Specialist Network (ITSN) program supports licensed and license-exempt child care centers who are caring for children ages 0-36 months. The provider must be caring for at least one child receiving state child-care subsidy. Infant/Toddler Specialist will work with child care centers, home providers, and license-exempt providers to improve the quality of infant-toddler care. Participation in the ITSN program is voluntary and there is no cost to participate. Participating providers receive an Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale (ITERS-3) assessment of infant toddler classrooms, on-site consultations, follow-up support, relationship based targeted trainings, and innovative ideas to improve their work with infants and toddlers.

Child Care Inclusion Services

The Child Care Inclusion Services program promotes inclusive child care services for families and children with special needs by providing contract funding for inclusion services. These services include providing child care referrals to families of children with special needs, collaborating with child care providers to create new or convert existing child care openings for children with special needs, online and in-person training for child care providers, and onsite technical assistance when requested by parents or providers. Child care providers are also trained in an inclusion curriculum that teaches practical strategies and additional inclusion training sessions based on the surveyed needs of providers. Inclusion services support the increasing need of children with behavioral concerns. When a family must take off work or leave employment to care for their children, many are affected. Inclusion specialists work with child care providers to develop strategies for the child with a goal of maintaining the child's placement in the program.

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ParentLink

ParentLink program provides quality parenting information, materials, and other resources, such as research-related literature, educational brochures, and lending library items, as well as services, such as outreach activities and support groups, to proactively strengthen and support Missouri's families/grand-families and communities. ParentLink maintains a WarmLine that helps families by providing appropriate information and resources to address their need and assist with developing a plan of action to mitigate or eliminate their identified need. ParentLink WarmLine provides information, assessment and referrals for developmental assessments and social-emotional screenings for birth through six (6) years of age. There were 2,206 families that utilized ParentLink services.

Child Care Health Consultation

The Child Care Health Consultation program enhances health and safety practices and provides outreach to a variety of child care providers. Health professionals from Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs) provide training and consultation to child care providers and health promotion education to children in child care settings across the state. The education provided encourages healthy behaviors and usually is accompanied by an item the child may keep to encourage continuing the healthy behavior (e.g., if a dental health promotion is provided, the children may receive a tooth brush and tooth paste). While parents are not the specifically targeted population for the program, they are encouraged to attend.

2b. Provide a measure(s) of the program's quality.

Beginning in FY 2022, the program will track the total number of hours of child care provider clock hour training delivered through the following contracts: Child Care Resource & Referral, Child Care Inclusion, Child Care Health Consultation, and Educare.

2c. Provide a measure(s) of the program's impact.

Beginning in FY 2022, the program will collect and analyze data on the percent of early childhood professionals who increased knowledge before and after attending a training or receiving onsite consultation.

2d. Provide a measure(s) of the program's efficiency.

Beginning in FY 2022, the program will collect and analyze data on the utilization and satisfaction in a customer service questionnaire to determine the efficiency and effectiveness in locating the resources needed.

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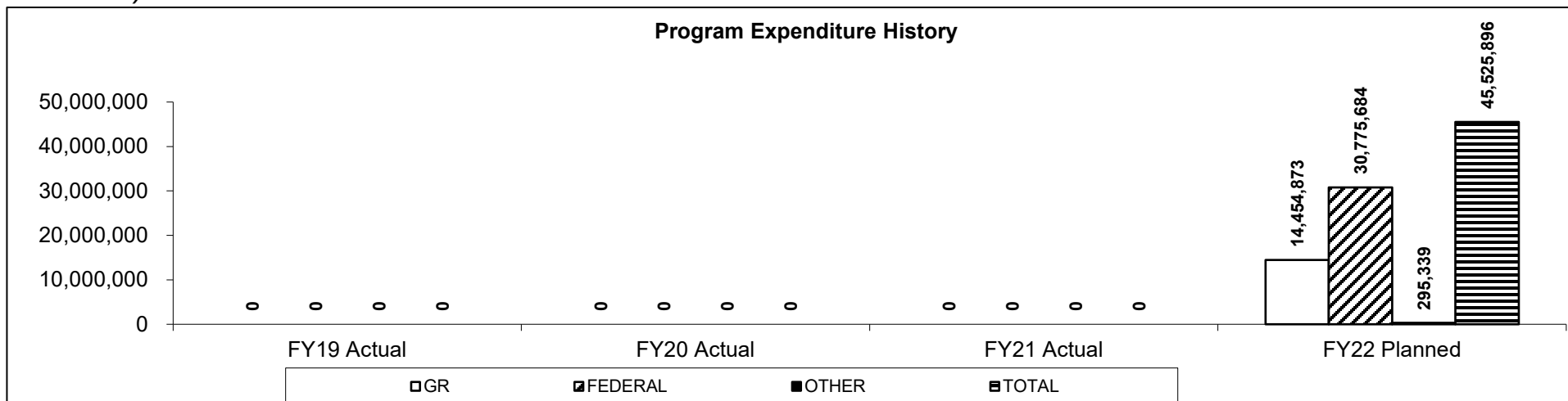
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3. Provide actual expenditures for the prior three fiscal years and planned expenditures for the current fiscal year. (Note: Amounts do not include fringe benefit costs.)



Note: DESE does not have prior year expenditure history for these funds.

4. What are the sources of the "Other " funds?

Early Childhood Development Education and Care Fund (0859).

5. What is the authorization for this program, i.e., federal or state statute, etc.? (Include the federal program number, if applicable.)

State statute: Sections 161.215, 208.044, and 208.046, RSMo.; 13 CSR 35-32.040; Federal Regulation: 45 CFR 98.10.

6. Are there federal matching requirements? If yes, please explain.

Yes. The federal CCDF block grant funds subsidy and quality subsidy supports. This block grant is broken down into three types of funding: mandatory, matching, and discretionary. To receive mandatory funding, a state must maintain Maintenance of Effort (MOE). The CCDF reimbursement rate for matching funding is the FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentage). The FMAP fluctuates annually based on state and national economic and population data, but generally, the state matching requirement is around 35% and the federal match 65%.

7. Is this a federally mandated program? If yes, please explain.

No.