

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Department: Social Services

HB Section(s): 11.385

Program Name: Purchase of Child Care

Program is found in the following core budget(s): Purchase of Child Care

### 1a. What strategic priority does this program address?

Quality child care for working parents

### 1b. What does this program do?

The Children's Division Early Childhood programs assist families with breaking the cycle of poverty and achieving self-sufficiency by increasing the children's chances of succeeding in school, and ensuring children receive quality early childhood care and education. The funding for this program improves the quality of early childhood development targeting primarily low-income families and families with children under age three, to ensure that these children have positive early childhood experiences both in and out of the home. These programs help prepare children to enter school ready to succeed and reduce the potential for child abuse and neglect. Research has proven that quality early childhood care and education experiences are critical for children to enter kindergarten prepared to succeed. The program is partially funded with the federal Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) block grant.

CCDF quality funds support the following initiatives:

#### 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. Among the services provided, the following are those specifically supported by this appropriation:

- Child Care Aware® of Missouri maintains a child care referral computer database that uses nationally recognized resource and referral software programs for families seeking child care.
- Operates a statewide toll-free telephone system that links families to their appropriate local resource and referral agency.
- Provides statewide training coordination for the DHSS/DSS approved child care provider trainings which include Basic Knowledge Curriculum, Infant/Toddler Child Care Orientation, and School Age Child Care Orientation.
- Provides on-site 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.

#### Before & After School Care

The Department of Social Services funds Before and After School programs for children in high poverty urban areas to support working parents and to provide safe, constructive, extended day services for children. These services are provided free of charge or at a minimal charge to the parent. Services are provided at 42 sites in the Kansas City Area through the Greater Kansas City Local Investment Commission (LINC) and at 21 sites in the St. Louis Area through Area Resources for Community and Human Services (ARCHS).

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### Opportunities in a Professional Education Network (OPEN)

Opportunities in a Professional Education Network (OPEN), a professional development registry, provides early childhood and before/after school workforce with a career development system. OPEN maintains the Missouri Professional Development Registry (MOPD Registry) which is a database system that collects and verifies early childhood, school-age/after school, and youth development professionals' education and training information. The registry collects and verifies education and experience for providers and trainers in Missouri. This registry allows teachers/practitioners to participate in Missouri's career development system and provides a source of valuable data for the field. Responsible for generating and maintaining the MOPD ID which is the workforce ID used by professional development partners.

### Educare

Educare is an initiative providing resources, technical assistance, and support opportunities targeting family home child care programs. Services are free or at reduced cost to state-subsidized child care and early learning programs. There are currently nine Educare sites in Missouri serving all 114 counties and the City of St. Louis.

Registered and Licensed Exempt Child Care providers are required to take specific trainings, including, but not limited to First Aid/CPR, Child Development, Infection Control and Prevention and other health and safety trainings. Training records are obtained in the automated tracking system.

The guiding principles of Educare are:

- Strengthen the ability of child care programs to offer developmentally appropriate early care and education activities and programs;
- Develop and expand school-linked, integrated services to serve young children, focusing on the special needs of children from low-income families;
- Encourage parental involvement and participation with their child's developmental process;
- Draw on community leadership for design, implementation and continued involvement to improve early child care and education systems; and
- Create programs that are designed to meet the unique needs of communities.

Educare services include:

- Professional development opportunities for child care and early learning programs;
- Individualized home visits for family child care programs;
- Customized center-based training;
- Supporting coordination of existing community resources to optimize funding; and
- Linking child care and early learning programs and families to schools and community resources.

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### 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 FPL. The Missouri Early Head Start Child Care Partnership also offers parents a wide range of child care arrangements that meet federal Early Head Start Performance standards. EHS services include child care, parent education and support, age-appropriate developmental screenings, access to a medical home, support toward attaining family self-sufficiency, and mental health services including substance abuse counseling. Because of the partnerships with community child care and early learning programs, the Missouri Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership program can provide quality early childhood experiences to substantially more children than those directly funded through this appropriation. This funding currently supports 444 EHS slots in Missouri.

The Early Childhood Development Education and Care Fund (ECDEC), established in RSMo 313.835, sets aside funds to be jointly administered by the Departments of Social Services (DSS) and Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The overwhelming evidence from research conducted on early childhood indicates early childhood experiences directly impact a child's potential for future learning. Children begin learning at birth. Experiences during the critical early years affect, either positively or negatively, on long-term development. Providing parents with support systems and education on child development and age-appropriate behavior in the early years, are proven factors in reducing the potential for child abuse and neglect.

The Head Start State Collaboration which develops and expands a framework of collaboration to facilitate the work of the Missouri Head Start State Collaboration Office is also funded through this appropriation.

### Child Care Facility Inspections

All providers must meet state and federal requirements prior to receiving federal assistance (RSMo 210.027, Federal Child Care Development Block Grant). Children's Division has secured a contractor to conduct unscheduled onsite monitoring of registered child care providers, prior to providers receiving state or federal funds, and annually thereafter. Inspections include minimum requirements for building and physical premises, to include compliance with state and local fire, health and building codes, emergency preparedness and response planning. All providers are required to be tested for tuberculosis and meet pre-service training requirements. All providers must meet statutory requirements prior to receiving federal assistance.

### Child Care Providers Comprehensive Background Screenings

Missouri Revised Statute 210.025 requires child care providers and staff, including Religious-In-Compliance organizations receiving or applying to receive CCDF funding, to submit fingerprints to the Missouri State Highway Patrol. The fingerprints are used to screen for criminal history with the Missouri State Highway Patrol and with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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Child care provider and staff includes, but is not limited to, an applicant child care provider; persons employed by the applicant child care provider for compensation, including contract employees or self-employed individuals; individuals or volunteers whose activities involve the care or supervision of children for the applicant child care provider or unsupervised access to children who are cared for or supervised by the applicant child care provider; or individuals residing in the applicant's family child care home who are seventeen years of age or older. Eligibility as a registered child care provider is not determined until all screening results are received and evaluated.

### Child Care Business Information Systems

In order to improve the tracking of attendance in the child care subsidy program, an electronic time and attendance system has been implemented. The Child Care Business Information Solution provides providers with an electronic point of service device for parents to use to check their children into and out of the child care facility. The system interfaces with the payment system resulting in a decrease of paper attendance records, paper invoices, and will provide other program efficiencies. The system was implemented in July 2020.

### Infant and Toddler Specialist Network (ITSN)

The Infant and Toddler Specialist Network (ITSN) program is funded by the Missouri Department of Social Services, Children's Division. This 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, Religious in Compliance (RICs) to improve the quality of infant-toddler care. Participation in the ITSN program is voluntary and there is no cost to participate. Participating providers will receive: Free Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale (ITERS-3) assessment of infant toddler classrooms; on-site consultations including follow-up support; relationship based care courses and/or targeted trainings (obtain clock hours with trainings); materials to use in the child care program; and new, innovative ideas to improve work with infants and toddlers.

### ParentLink:

Provides quality parenting information, materials, resources, and other services, such as outreach activities and support groups. ParentLink maintains a WarmLine that help customers with their needs by providing resources and action plans.

### Child Development Associate (CDA) Scholarship Project Services

Provides services to identify, recruit, and enroll child care educators who meet target requirements with the goal attaining a CDA Credential.

### Trauma Smart

Supports children experiencing traumatic events who exhibit internalized and externalized behaviors that disrupt the environment and create high levels of stress for caregivers.

### CPR/ First Aid Training via Public Health Departments

Providers reimbursement to public health departments to deliver pediatric CPR and First Aid training to child care providers receiving child care subsidy.

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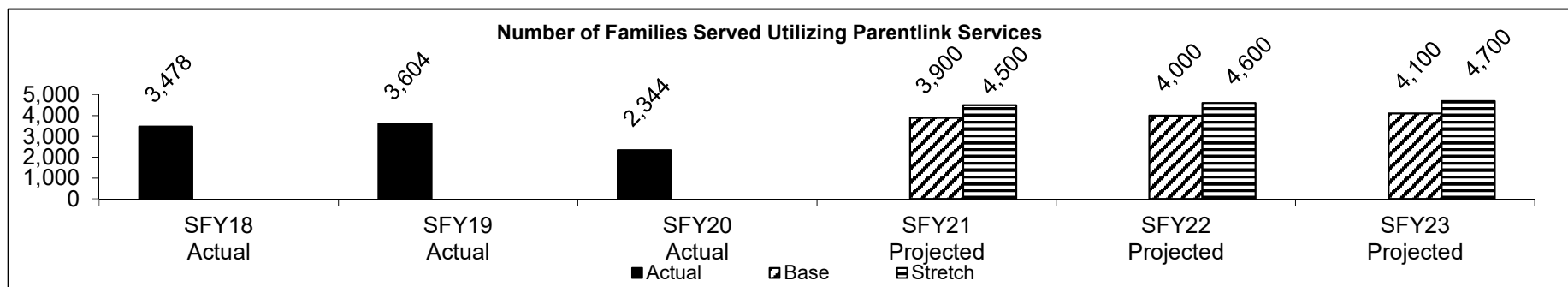
Department: Social Services

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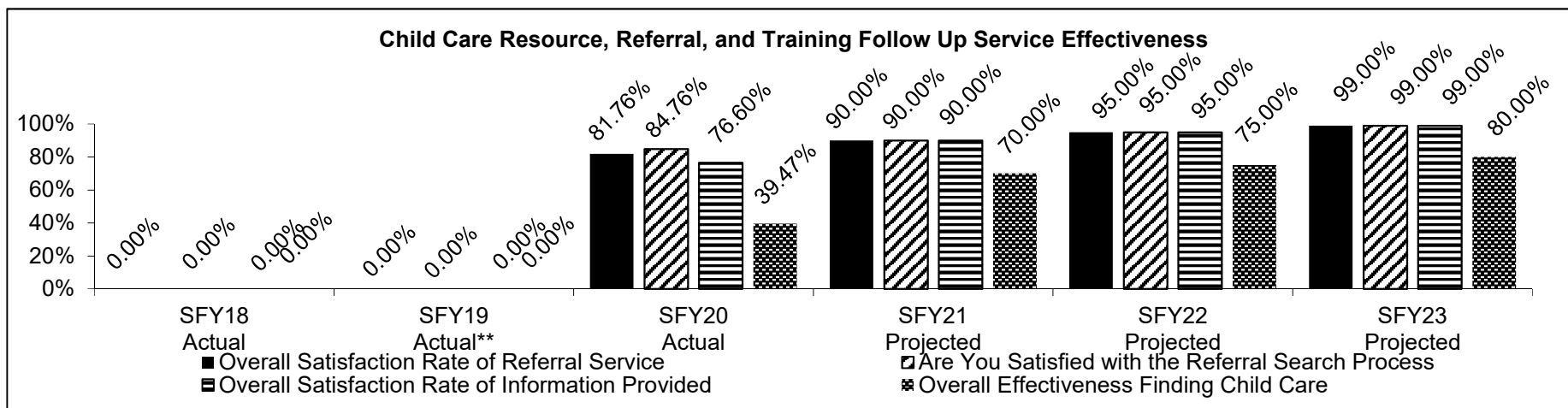
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### 2a. Provide an activity measure(s) for the program.



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



\*\* No historical data due to change in measurements on contract year

Overall Effectiveness Finding Child Care began during COVID-19 Pandemic

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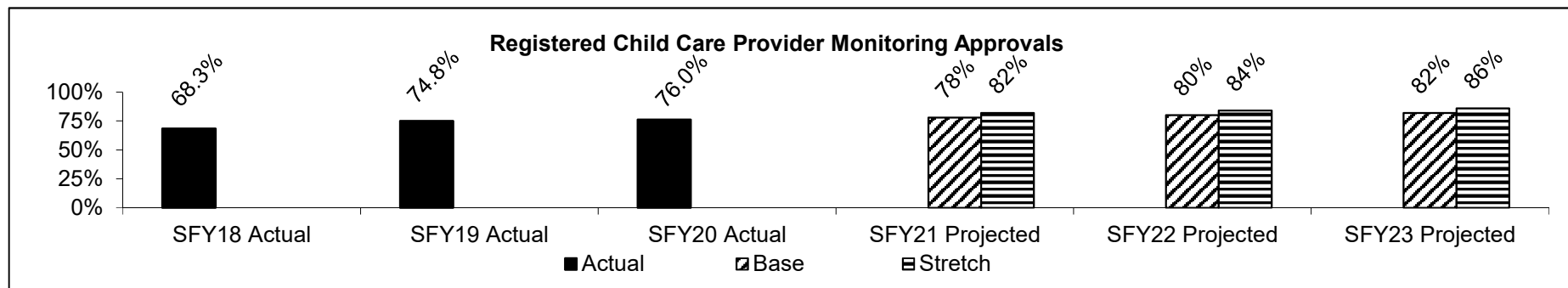
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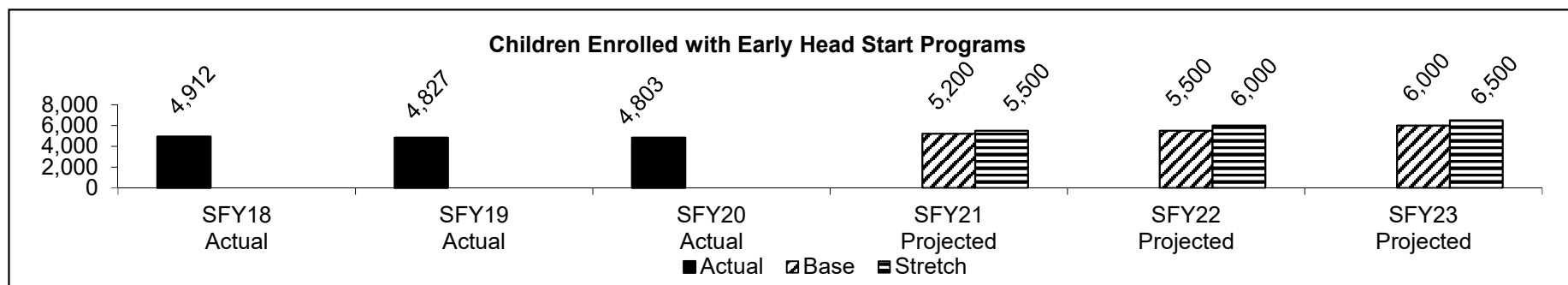
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### 2c. Provide a measure(s) of the program's impact.



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



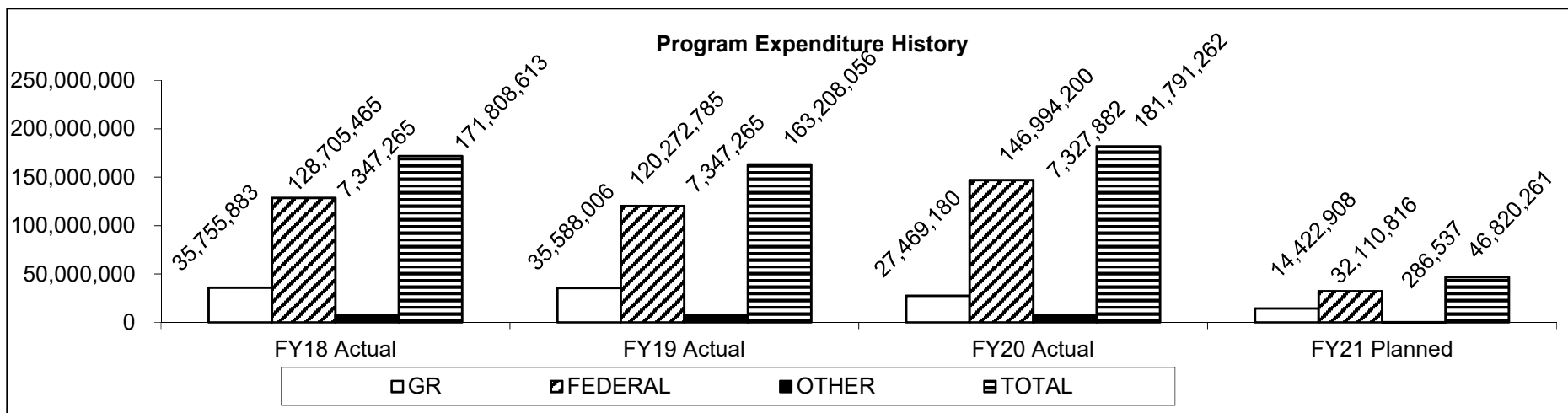
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**3. Provide actual expenditures for the prior three fiscal years and planned expenditures for the current fiscal year. (Note: Amounts do not include fringe benefit costs.)**



Planned FY 2021 expenditures are net of reverted and reserves.

**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.