



Office of Child Care Pathways and Partnerships Priorities

Highlights From the Technical Assistance and Child Care Resources Sponsored by the Office of Child Care

Issue Number 2 • September 2010

Resource Spotlight on School-Age and Quality Rating and Improvement Systems

Region I: School-Age QRIS Standards in Rhode Island

Rhode Island's BrightStars' quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) leadership team is working closely with the Office of Child Care (OCC)-funded Afterschool Investments Project (AIP) staff to revise the State's draft school-age standards and indicators to ensure that school-age programs can thrive in their efforts to improve quality. At the July meeting of the BrightStars Steering Committee, the school-age subcommittee reviewed information researched by AIP staff on school-age specific QRIS standards from other States in group size, staff qualifications, curriculum and learning environment, and program quality measures. The committee produced tools and memos to inform the work of leaders. AIP staff provided on-site consultation over the past 6 months as Rhode Island prepares for its baseline study of school-age program quality and a validation of the draft ratings to be conducted in fall 2010.

Emerging Projects

Region V: School-Age Quality Improvement Strategic Plan in Minnesota

On October 7, 2010, Minnesota's youth and school-age stakeholder team will host a one-day strategic planning meeting to build a shared understanding of the current strengths and gaps in the school-age quality improvement system. AIP will facilitate the meeting, in partnership with the National Child Care Information and Technical Assistance Center (NCCIC) State Technical Assistance Specialist, Region V, to help the team define roles and responsibilities for the priority work areas going forward, and to identify new partners, including the Minnesota P-20 Education Partnership, Youth Community Connections, Minnesota's afterschool network, and the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) policy planning of the Department of Human Services. AIP staff will continue to support the team in the coming year.

Preparation for the strategic planning process included an AIP staff presentation of the elements of a school-age quality improvement system to Minnesota's youth and school-age stakeholder team, including the State child care administrators, resource and referral agency staff, higher education staff, Department of Education staff, and others. AIP staff also facilitated a discussion of the strengths and priorities of Minnesota's school-age quality improvement system and introduced the tool, "Building a System of Quality Improvement for School-Age Programs: State Self-Assessment Tool."

Targeted Resources: School-Age Care

Framework for the Development of School-Age Program Quality Standards

This document provides a national overview of the key features of school age program quality standards.

http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/quality_standards.html

Building a System of Quality Improvement for School-Age Programs: State Self-Assessment Tool

AIP staff developed this self-assessment tool to help State leaders identify the strengths, opportunities, and gaps in their current system of quality supports for school-age programs. http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/self_assessment.doc

Use of Program Quality Measures in States with School-Age QRIS

This issue brief explores how States use specific program quality measures in their school-age QRIS.

http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/program_measures.html

A Closer Look at School-Age Quality Indicators in Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Standards

This article examines State QRIS standards and indicators. http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/qrис_indicators.html

Quick Facts on School-Age Care: Trends in Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS), January 2010

This document provides an overview of State policy trends in QRIS for school-age care and includes a map showing which States have incorporated specific school-age indicators into their statewide QRIS. http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/qrис_trends.html

Where are the Kids? Key Facts on the Care Arrangements of School-Age Children, April 2010

This overview of the different types of care arrangements for school-age children focuses on children from low-income families that access Federal funds for school-age programs. <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/wherearekids.html>

AIP Webinar on Including School-Age Programs in State Quality Rating and Improvement Systems

This webinar explores key issues for States to consider when designing or enhancing State/Territory QRIS to include school-age programs. <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/webinars.html>

Spotlight on New Resources

Compendium of Quality Rating Systems and Evaluations—This report provides information, analysis, and resources on quality rating systems for States and other key stakeholders. Available at:
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/cc/childcare_quality/index.html#reports

Quality Rating and Improvement System Resource Guide—This guide provides detailed information and State examples on developing, implementing, and evaluating QRIS. Available at:
<http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/qrisesourceguide/index.cfm>

Quality Rating and Improvement System Cost Estimation Model—This tool helps to project the costs of implementing a QRIS initiative under a variety of scenarios determined by the user. Available at:
<http://qriscostmodel.nccic.acf.hhs.gov/index.cfm>

Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements: Spring 2005/Summer 2006; Issued August 2010—The latest in a U.S. Census series dating back to 1985, this report shows the number and characteristics of children in different types of child care arrangements from the Survey of Income and Program Population (SIPP) child care module. Available at:
<http://www.census.gov/prod/2010pubs/p70-121.pdf>

To receive notification when new child care research results are posted on *Research Connections'* Web site, go to www.childcareresearch.org and scroll over to What's New?

Planned Technical Assistance Activities

The OCC sponsors training and technical assistance for Grantees through its Child Care Technical Assistance Network (CCTAN). Hundreds of activities are scheduled each year. Here is a sample of activities scheduled in your Region in the next quarter:

Region I ME: Support to analyze market rate survey data

Region IV AL: Planning for fall professional development conference

GA: Coordination of peer-to-peer exchange on professional development registry

FL: Support for early childhood core competency planning

Region V MI: Support for cross-systems planning

Regions VIII, IX & X

Tri-regional school-age conference calls

For more information on OCC-sponsored technical assistance activities contact:

The Office of Child Care or your Regional Program Offices:
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/helpcont/index.htm> or

The Child Care Technical Assistance Network:
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/ta/cctan.htm>

Office of Child Care Pathways and Partnerships Priorities

- Workforce and Professional Development
- Quality Rating and Improvement Systems
- Health and Safety Including Licensing
- Program Integrity and Accountability
- Cross-Sector Systems Building

For more resources to support these priorities and OCC-sponsored technical assistance, go to

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/ta/index.htm>

School-Age Quick Facts

- 31,923,927** Children ages 5–12 in U.S. population¹
- 700,300** Children ages 5–12 served monthly by CCDF²
- 44%** Of all children served monthly by CCDF are ages 5–12³

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) targets funds for afterschool and Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. The FY 2010 CCDF allocations include:

\$5,044,081,000 Total FY 2010 CCDF distributions to Grantees⁴

\$18,960,000 FY2010 CCDF distributions to Grantees for targeted school-age and child care resource and referral activities that improve the quality and availability of child care.⁵

Each State determines how to spend its school-age targeted funds:

- 11** States with a credential for school-age child care teachers⁶
- 9** States with school-age care adaptations to their state-wide QRIS⁷

For more information on State and Territory school-age care, visit *State Afterschool Profiles* at:

<http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/statep.html>

1 U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey. Retrieved August 11, 2010 from

http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_program=ACS&_submenu1d=datasets_2&_lang=en&_ts

2 Child Care Development Fund Administrative Data.

3 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Child Care Bureau, FFY 2008 CCDF Data Tables
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/data/ccdf_data/08acf800_preliminary/table9.htm

4 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Child Care Bureau, FY 2010 CCDF Allocations (Based on Appropriation). Retrieved August 11, 2010 from
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/law/allocations/current/state2010/est_fin_all_2010.htm

5 Ibid

6 Afterschool Investments, National Profile. Retrieved August 11, 2010 from
<http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/nationalprofile.html#facts>

7 Ibid



About the Office of Child Care

The Office of Child Care (OCC) administers the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program, a multibillion-dollar Federal and State partnership to support access to high-quality child care for working families. OCC helps States, Territories, and Tribes administer their CCDF programs through program support, policy guidance, technical assistance, and research.