



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Early Childhood Quality Assurance

# Strategies for Strengthening Family Child Care: *Using Data to Inform Policy Change*

Webinar

April 9, 2019

# National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance (ECQA Center)

Supports state and community leaders and their partners in planning and implementing systems to achieve the following:

- ◆ Advance strong health and safety standards and licensing regulations
- ◆ Support the development and enhancement of state quality initiatives
- ◆ Encourage the use of technology, data analysis, and research

# Agenda

- ◆ Family child care
  - National data
  - Characteristics
- ◆ Using administrative data
- ◆ Technical assistance (TA) opportunities
- ◆ Resources



# Welcome



**Shannon Christian**  
Director  
Office of Child Care

# Family Child Care in the United States

- ◆ Approximately 25 percent of children in subsidized child care are in home-based care (child's home, family home, or group home).
- ◆ Family child care is a critical component of our early care and education system.

(Administration for Children and Families, 2018)

# Decrease in Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Options for Families

- ◆ Between 2011 and 2016, the number of children receiving CCDF subsidies in FCC declined by **35 percent**.
- ◆ The overall loss of **145,910** FCC providers has contributed to fewer child care options for families receiving CCDF support.

(Administration for Children and Families, 2013, 2017)

# State Systems Building

The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 includes efforts to accomplish the following:

- ◆ Ensure families continue to have child care options
- ◆ Develop strategies for increasing the quality and supply of services for children who may benefit the most from family child care (FCC) settings

(National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance, 2017)



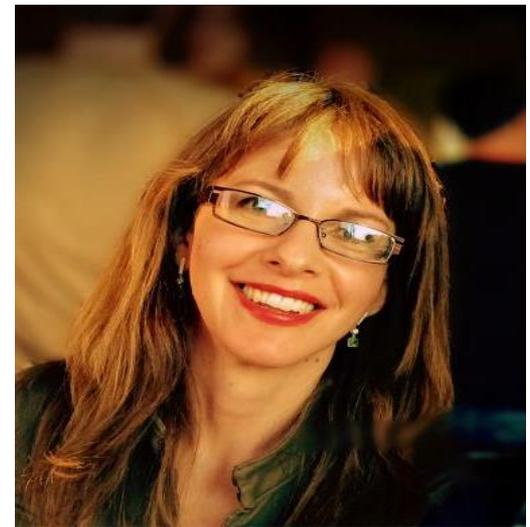
# ECQA Center Presenters



**Zelda Boyd**



**Michele Adams**



**Nina Johnson**

# Poll Question

- ◆ How can I use my data to better understand the FCC population in my state?
- ◆ How can I better understand the existing supports for FCC providers and gaps in my state?
- ◆ How can I ensure our state and local policies support and sustain existing FCC providers?
- ◆ How can I strengthen family child care as a supply building strategy in my state?
- ◆ How can I ensure we are meeting the needs of families who are most likely to use FCC?

# Advantages of Family Child Care

## Children

- Single caregiver
- Family setting
- Nurturing and responsive

## Parents

- Convenient, flexible, and affordable
- Siblings kept together
- Familiar language and culture

## Community

- Economic asset
- Social asset
- Continuity of care

(Bromer, 2016)

# Decrease in Family Child Care Homes

- ◆ From 2011 to 2014, the number of licensed small FCC homes decreased by **19 percent**.
- ◆ The number continued to decrease by **20 percent** from 2014 to 2017.



(National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance, 2018)

# Challenges of Family Child Care

- ◆ Serving mixed-age groups
- ◆ Understanding multiple standards and regulations
- ◆ Caregiver isolation
- ◆ Lack of access to information and resources
- ◆ Role burden



(Bromer, 2016)

# Assessment: Four Steps to Action

1. Assessments of current systems and data to inform policy change
2. Policy strategies to support access to high-quality family child care
3. Initiatives to support supply and quality of family child care
4. Outreach to full range of providers

(National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance, 2017)

# Data to Inform Policy Change

- ◆ Assessing data collection on family child care
- ◆ Determining types of useful data
- ◆ Identifying sources of data
- ◆ Analyzing data to “tell a story”



(National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance, 2017)

# Technical Assistance (TA) Opportunities

The following opportunities are available to states and territories:

- ◆ Strengthening Family Child Care Individualized TA
  - Examining policies
  - Reviewing existing efforts to support FCC
  - Assessing outreach strategies
  - Identifying priorities, goals, and next steps
- ◆ Understanding the Family Child Care Landscape TA

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