Early Childhood National Centers

NATIONAL CENTER ON
Early Childhood Quality Assurance

Strategies to Strengthen Family Child Care: Addressing the Decreasing Number of FCC Providers

April 25, 2019

National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance (ECQA Center)

Supports state and community leaders and their partners in planning and implementing systems to do 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

Welcome

Shannon Christian
Director
Office of Child Care

Today's Session

- Decrease in the number of family child care (FCC) providers
  - What is the impact on children and families?
  - Why are providers leaving?
- Strategies for retaining FCC providers

Today's Presenters

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ECQA Center Consultant

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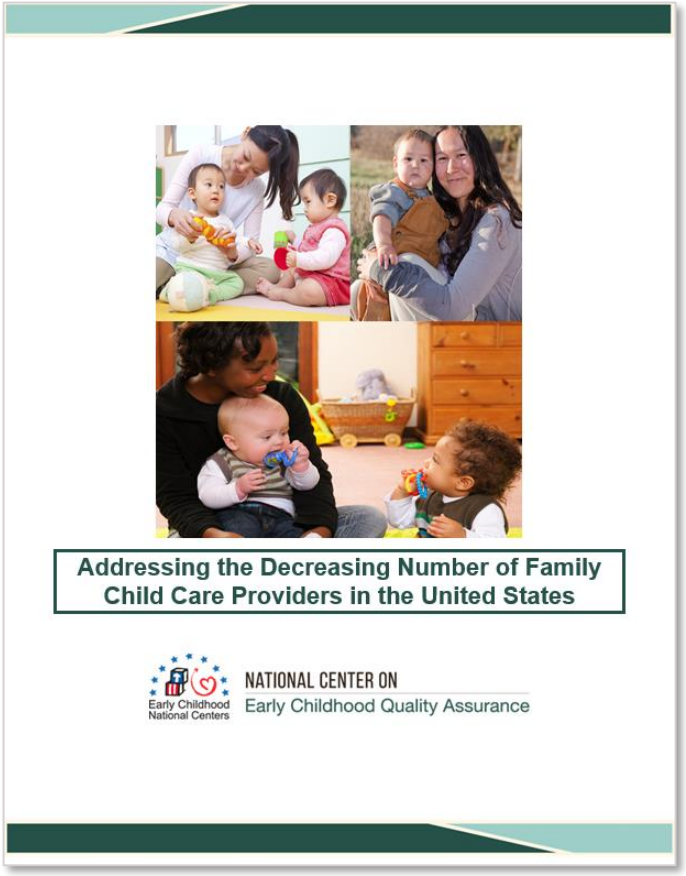
Director of Child Care Policy
Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning
Indiana Family and Social Services Administration

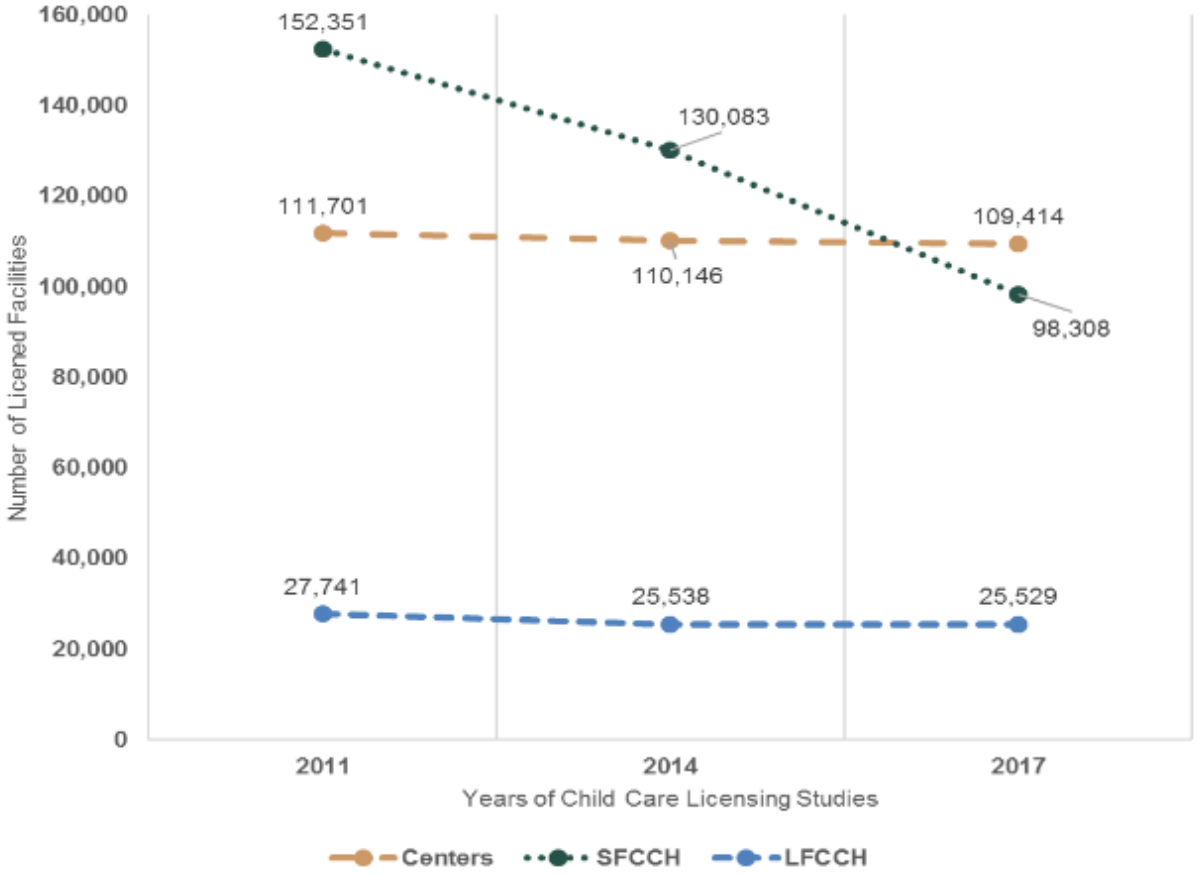
What Do You Hope to Learn Today?

Addressing the Decreasing Number of Family Child Care Providers in the United States

Coming Soon



National Data



The number of licensed small FCC homes decreased by 35 percent from 2011 to 2017.

Source: National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance. (2019). Data analysis of data from the 2011, 2014, and 2017 Child Care Licensing Studies. Unpublished data.
Note: SFCCH = small family child care homes; LFCCH = large family child care homes.

FCC Providers Receiving Subsidy Payments

Decrease in Providers Receiving Subsidy Payments, Fiscal Years (FY) 2011–FY 2016

Type of Provider	FY 2011	FY 2016	Percentage Change
All child care providers	513,550	305,524	-41%
Family home providers legally operating without regulation (license-exempt)	208,813	93,535	-55%
Licensed or regulated family child care providers	88,729	58,097	-35%

Sources: Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2017). Preliminary FY 2016 data from ACF-800. Unpublished data.
Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2013). Final FY 2011 data from ACF-800. Unpublished data.

FCC Is an Important Option

- Families seeking infant and toddler care
- Parents with nonstandard work hours or variable work schedules
- Families with children who have special needs
- Families living in rural areas, where FCC is often the only type of care available

Advantages of FCC

- Flexibility in responding to families' needs
- Intimate, family-like setting that is often compatible with families' cultures and the languages they speak at home
- Opportunity to develop a one-on-one relationship with a single caregiver
- Less expensive than center-based care

What Is the Impact of the Decrease on Families and Children?

- Children losing trusted providers and familiar child care settings
- Families losing access to child care options—this especially affects families who have low incomes, work nonstandard hours, and have Hispanic backgrounds (as compared to Black and White families)

Why Are Providers Leaving the Profession?

- Low income and lack of benefits
- Lack of business expertise
- Demands of the job
- Local challenges
- Providers aging and retiring
- Lack of respect or recognition

Strategies for Retaining FCC Providers

- Increase awareness of FCC as an option
- Address housing barriers
- Assess the impact of regulatory changes
- Adopt provider-friendly subsidy policies and payment rates
- Ensure meaningful inclusion in quality improvement systems

Indiana Supports for Family Child Care

- Funding Incentives
- Quality Improvement/Capacity Building Projects
- Accreditation Supports
- Peer Learning Communities

Funding Incentives

- Family Child Care in Indiana are eligible to participate, voluntarily, in Indiana's QRIS. Indiana has QRIS Standards specifically designed for Family Child Care Providers.
- Indiana's QRIS provides tiered reimbursement at an increased rate based on the level attained on the QRIS
- FCC providers are eligible to receive QRIS Incentives for advancing levels on the QRIS. Incentives include material packages all the way up to cash incentives.
- L3 & L4 providers, including FCC, are eligible to On My Way PreK Providers in the designated participating counties
- On My Way PreK providers, including FCC, receive a higher reimbursement rate above the QRIS tiered reimbursement for each PreK Child enrolled in their program

Quality Improvement/Capacity Building Projects

- Local philanthropic organization providing project management and coaching for family child care providers with two main goals:
  - Increase capacity of Family Child Care providers available in target counties
  - Increase quality by advancing Family Child Care providers up the levels of Indiana's QRIS

National Accreditation Supports

- Technical Assistance available to prepare for national accreditation
- Funding available to cover accreditation expenses
- National Accreditation makes a FCC eligible for the highest level of quality in Indiana's QRIS

Peer Learning Communities

- Administered through the local Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

Strategies for Retaining FCC Providers

- Create family child care networks
- Encourage family child care associations and peer support
- Expand professional development opportunities
- Develop shared services alliances
- Start projects aimed at strengthening and maintaining the quality of license-exempt family child care

Technical Assistance (TA) Opportunities

The following opportunities are available to states, territories and tribes:

- 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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Thank
You!

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