

## State Quality Initiatives Study



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SRS

## Survey of State Quality Initiatives Using CCDF \$'s




- Completed in 2004 by 35 states
- Published in April, 2006
- Co-authored by:
  - National Association of State Child Care Administrators (NASCCA)
  - Child Trends
  - Bank Street College of Education



## What Are Quality Initiatives?

- Projects, programs, activities funded using CCDF \$'s that focus on improving the quality of child care/early education
- Examples:
  - Grants to Early Head Start Programs
  - Funding for Child Care Licensing activities
  - Funding for KACCRRRA



## Why Was The Quality Initiatives Survey Completed?

- To determine state's priorities when making quality investments
- To identify common quality objectives among states
- To examine trends in achieving common objectives
- To identify populations targeted by investments
- To identify funding amounts dedicated to initiatives
- To identify state's attempts to collect data and evaluate initiative's effectiveness



## The Survey Gathered Information On:

- Objectives/Goals
- Target Populations
- Funding
- Data Collection



## Common Quality Objectives Identified by States

- Adequately small child to adult ratios (66%)
- Continuity in relationships between children and caregivers (94%)
- Emotionally supportive and responsive care giving (97%)
- Healthy and safe environments (97%)
- Caregivers with sufficient formal education (97%)



## Common Quality Objectives Identified by States

- Caregivers with initial or on-going non-credit-bearing training (97%)
- Stimulating materials and supplies (94%)
- Activities that support early learning (97%)
- Communication with parents (91%)
- Family supports (91%)
- Higher overall quality for the purpose of achieving accreditation or other specific quality ranking (80%)



## Systems-Level Objectives Identified by States

- Widely disseminate information on quality child care (97%)
- Develop the regulatory system (51%)
- Assure sufficient payment levels within the subsidy system (44%)
- Strengthen professional development (100%)
- Coordinate service systems (82%)
- Create or improve data management systems (56%)



## Populations Targeted by Quality Initiatives

- Individual child care providers (100%)
- Child care programs/facilities (100%)
- Parents (97%)
- Licensing staff (74%)
- Trainers, consultants and developers of educational materials (82%)
- Institutions of higher education (65%)
- Resource and referral agencies (76%)



## Funding Sources for State Quality Initiatives

- CCDF - 96%
- State General Fund – 1%
- Other State Funds (Tobacco Money, Tax Initiatives, etc.) – 2%
- Other Federal Funds – 1%
- Private funds - .4%



## Data Collection

- Percentage of initiatives collecting some type of data – 82%
- Percentage of initiatives with no data collection – 18%



## Types of Data Collected

- Number of initiative's participants (82%)
- Characteristics of participants (47%)
- Number of programs accredited or going through accreditation process (21%)
- Number of programs meeting higher quality standards (11%)
- Observation of quality to measure changes in child care programs (18%)



## Types of Data Collected

- Parent report of change in experience of care or satisfaction (9%)
- Retention and turnover of caregivers (13%)
- Change in caregiver qualifications (32%)
- Assessment of caregiver knowledge or skills (15%)
- Data on compensation or benefits (14%)
- Data on physical setting or materials (14%)
- Child outcome data (4%)



## Data Sources

- Observations of the child care environment
- Direct child assessments
- Parent or caregiver report about a child's development
- Surveys completed and returned by respondents
- Interviews carried out in person or by phone
- Focus groups
- Administrative data

## General Findings

- States have broad flexibility in choosing quality investments
- Initiatives chosen by states target similar goals/objectives
- Initiatives chosen are generally supported by research

## Kansas Initiatives

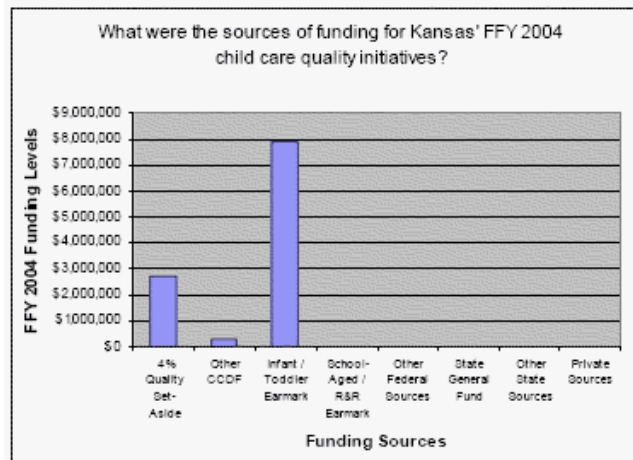
Overview of Kansas' Child Care Quality Initiatives<sup>1</sup>

	Provider- and Program-Level Objectives										Systems-Level Objectives								
	Child care rates	Continuity with caregivers	Emotionally supportive caregiving	Healthy, safe environments	Childcare: Home/education	Language: Learning	Stimulating, interactive and supplies	Advanced to support early learning	Communication with parents	Family activities	Accreditation/quality rating <sup>2</sup>	Other	Measurement/evaluation on quality	Access: Quality and availability	Strengthen professional development	Coordinate care and systems	Improve child management system	Other	Research
1. Accreditation Assistance Project	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								
2. Child Abuse and Neglect E-Learning				X		X													
3. Child Development Associate Project	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X								
4. Core Competency Training	X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X								
5. Early Childhood Associate Apprenticeship Project	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X								X
6. El Dorado Film Academy Project (School Age)							X						X						
7. Infant/Toddler Project	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								
8. KACCRRN-Resource and Referral Network						X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X				
9. Kansas Early Head Start	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								
10. Ready to Learn Public Television							X	X	X	X	X								
11. T.E.A.C.H.	X	X	X	X	X	X			X										X

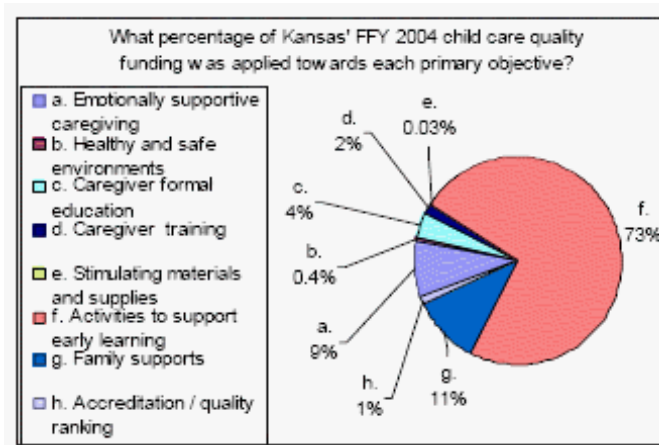
<sup>1</sup> This survey only collected information on initiatives with at least \$1,000 of CDDP funding.

<sup>2</sup> If a state indicated that "higher overall quality for the purpose of achieving accreditation or other specific quality ranking" was the primary objective, they were asked not to check other provider and program objectives that were addressed as part of the accreditation/quality ranking.

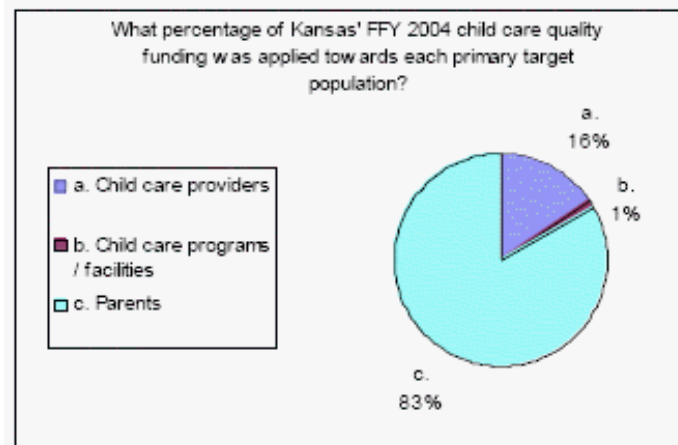
## Kansas Initiatives



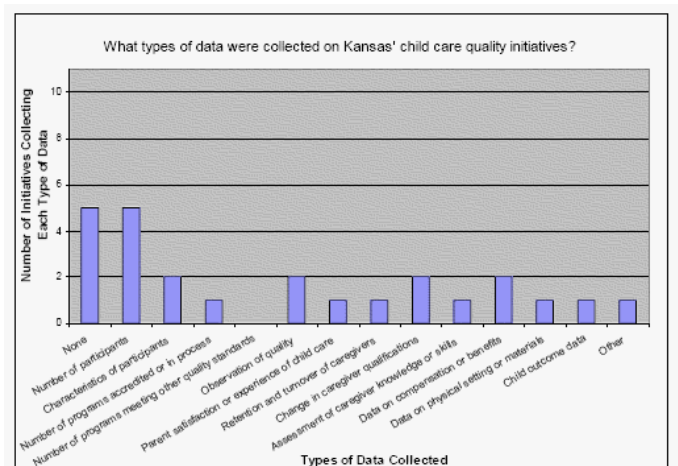
## Kansas Initiatives



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## Kansas Initiatives





## More Specific Findings

- Major goals of state quality initiatives
  - Promoting healthy and safe environments
  - Professional development for providers
  - Increasing emotionally supportive and responsive care giving
  - Promoting early learning
- Populations most often targeted
  - Regulated child care providers – center and family home providers
  - Parents



## Kansas Initiatives Included in Survey

- Kansas Early Head Start
- Ready To Learn Public Television
- T.E.A.C.H.
- Child Abuse and Neglect E-Learning
- CDA Project
- Core Competency Training
- Early Childhood Associate Apprenticeship Project
- El Dorado Film Academy Project – School Age



## Kansas Initiatives Included in Survey

- Infant Toddler Project (KACCRRA)
- Resource and Referral Network (KACCRRA)
- Accreditation Assistance Project



## How We Can Use Survey Information

- Catalogue of initiatives nationwide to use as resource
- Identification of methods to improve child care quality
- Ideas for initiatives Kansas might want to consider
- Comparison between initiatives in Kansas and other states



## Questions or Ideas???

- Additional information you would like to have?
- Other ways you would like to see this information shared?
- Additional research the State Child Care Administrator's Association could collect that would be helpful?