Overview of programs and initiatives funded by:

Division of Early Childhood Care and Development
Mississippi Department of Human Services
Division of Early Childhood Care and Development Overview

- The MDHS, Division of Early Childhood Care and Development was designed to deliver and manage the Mississippi Child Care Certificate Program.
- The MCCCP is a federally funded program created to help low income working parents remain in the workforce by providing child care tuition subsidies.
Mississippi Child Care Certificate Program

- Parental choice is a key component
- In the last program year, the MCCCP provided subsidy assistance for over 57,000 children in Mississippi.

Funding breakdown FFY 2010:
- $92.4M In federal dollars
- $5.8M In required state matching funds

Funding breakdown FFY 2011:
- $75.5M In federal dollars
- $5.8M In required state matching funds
Mississippi Child Care Certificate Program

- This federally funded program requires that a minimum of 4% be expended to improve the quality of child care programs in our state.
- ECCD recognizes the importance of quality programs, and has elected to allocate 5% of funds to quality initiatives in Mississippi.
New Initiatives

• Allies for Quality Care
  • A comprehensive approach to supporting quality improvement in child care centers.
    • Programs who enroll will receive an ITERs/ECERs evaluation for every classroom in the center.
    • Based on those scores, an action plan will be developed and materials will be purchased for each classroom.
    • Technical Assistance will be provided to teachers until their ITERs/ECERs scores show an acceptable level of quality.
    • Business Advisors will work with program administrators to ensure fiscally sound business practices.
    • Nutritionists will work with centers to ensure that menus are healthy and appropriate.
New Initiatives

- Home Visitation Program
  - ECCD collaborated with the Mississippi Department of Health and was awarded $1.3 million to implement a home visiting program in Mississippi. At this time, we are working to identify the home visiting program that will best meet the diverse needs of Mississippi families. This program will begin early in 2011.
New Initiatives

- Annual Needs Assessment
  - Extravaganza materials and trainings
Professional Development and Workforce Development

- **Mississippi Child Care Resource and Referral Network (Mississippi State University Extension Service)**
  - Provides free training to early childhood teachers across the state for the implementation of the Mississippi Department of Education’s Early Learning Guidelines.
  - To date, 8,871 child care providers received distance training and 13,140 received face-to-face training.

- **MS Forum on Children and Families**
  - Provides free training designed to evaluate the knowledge and a wide range of skills of child care professionals for successful completion of the Child Care Management Best Practices. To date, 2,588 staff has completed the course.
Professional Development and Workforce Development

- Project IMPACT (Jackson State University, College of Lifelong Learning)
  - Provides free training to early childhood teachers across the state for the implementation of the Mississippi Department of Education’s Early Learning Guidelines.
  - To date, Project IMPACT has provided training to 785 childcare educators/providers.
Professional Development and Workforce Development

- Partners for Quality Care (Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute)
  - Provides CDA scholarships for early childhood educators.
  - 371 scholarships offered
- Memberships to the Mississippi Early Childhood Association
  - ECCD pays membership dues for every director of a licensed early childhood education program.
Professional Development and Workforce Development

• Project PREPARE (University of Southern Mississippi, Institute for Disability Studies)
  • Provides free training to early childhood educators on best practices for serving children with special needs.
  • During SFY 2010, 57 workshops have been offered.

• Voices for MS Children
  • Provides free training to early childhood teachers across the state.
Program Quality

- Mississippi Child Care Quality Step System (Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute)
  - This program was written into legislation in 2006, and is currently funded by the State of Mississippi.
  - The MCCQSS evaluates the quality of child care environments using the ITERs and ECERs.
  - Centers are awarded a star rating on a scale of 1-5 stars, with 5 stars indicating the highest quality.
  - MCCQSS is in its second year of statewide participation and currently has 507 child care centers enrolled
    - 1 Star - 205
    - 2 Star - 78
    - 3 Star - 23
    - 4 Star - 16
    - 5 Star - 2
Program Quality

- Nurturing Homes Initiative (Mississippi State University Extension Service)
  - Provides quality assessments of in-home care environments using the FCCERs
- Allies for Quality Care (Mississippi Center for Education Innovation)
  - Provides ITERs and ECERs evaluations to centers participating in the Allies program
  - Provides nutritionist to evaluate and improve the nutritional content of meals and snacks served
- Partners for Quality Care
  - Provide child care centers with ITERs and ECERs evaluations to support quality enhancement efforts.
Technical Assistance

- **Allies for Quality Care**
  - On-site TA provided to every classroom in a child care center. Dosage is based on the classroom’s ITERs/ECERs score.

- **Mississippi Child Care Resource and Referral Network**
  - Free on-site TA is provided to child care centers, at the request of the center director.
Technical Assistance

- Nurturing Homes Initiative
  - On-site TA is provided to in-home care providers on a monthly basis.

- Partners for Quality Care
  - On-site TA is provided to classrooms in a child care center related to teacher-child interactions as well as the learning environment.

- Project PREPARE
  - On-site technical assistance is provided upon request to assist inclusion practices for children with special needs.
Child Care Program Licensure

- ECCD provides the Mississippi Department of Health with $1M annually to operate the Child Care Licensure Division.
- Currently there are approximately 1,761 licensed child care centers in Mississippi, serving 103,382 children.
Parent Resources and Education

- Mississippi Child Care Resource and Referral Network
  - Makes referrals to parents who request information on child care programs to meet their specific needs.
  - Provides parenting education classes
- Mississippi Child Care Quality campaign
  - ECCD has created a brochure for low literacy adults, providing a visual representation of what quality child care looks like. An interactive brochure has been added to the new ECCD website which will provide parents with additional information about finding quality childcare.
- Home Visitation Program
Parent and Provider Resources and Education

- Redesigned Website
- Parent Quality Brochures
- Parent Education Campaign
Choose the best for your child!

Look For...

Love & Care
- Time to Hug
- Talk
- Smile
- Comfort
- Sing
- Play
- Laugh

Room & Space
- Room to Learn
- Eat
- Rest
- Play

Safety
- Secure Clean Rooms
- Safe Playgrounds
- Washed Hands
- Background Checks

Trained Staff
- Lesson Plans
- Daily Schedules
- Experience
- Time for Parents
Not all providers are the same; you have a choice of childcare providers. Learn more about how to find the right care for your child. For more info visit www.childcare.ms or call 1.800.769.3456 x 123. Se Hable Español

Safety Checklist
- Covered storage
- Childproofing supplies and chemicals out of reach
- First Aid Kit available
- Working smoke detectors
- Emergency exits

To Learn More Go To: www.childcare.ms

1.800.877.7582

Mississippi Department of Human Services
The Division of Early Childhood Care and Development
formerly the Office for Children and Youth
Office 601-589-4631 Toll Free 800-877-7582

A Parent’s Guide To Choosing Quality Child Care

What To Look For...
Three to Five Years

healthy food

Nutritious Snacks • Posted Menus
Well Balanced Meals

learning

Learning Centers • Planned Activities
Play Materials
ECCD Collaboration

- In addition to all of the programs discussed previously, ECCD is committed to the continued development of a statewide service delivery system for early childhood. This system includes ECCD, Head Start, the Mississippi Department of Education, the Early Childhood Institute, MS Child Care Resource and Referral Network, Mississippi Building Blocks, the Mississippi Center for Education Innovation, and many other organizations and agencies performing important work on behalf of young children in Mississippi. As stakeholders work together to align efforts in the creation of a system, all children and families will benefit from comprehensive service delivery.
# System of Child Care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Home Based Providers</th>
<th>Licensed Child Care</th>
<th>Head Start Centers</th>
<th>Pre-K</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regulation</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td>MS State Health Department Licensing Regulations</td>
<td>MS State Health Department Licensing Regulations US Office of Head Start Performance Standards</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Guidance</strong></td>
<td>Pilot QRS Pilot Certification Program R&amp;R Registry National Family Childcare Assoc. NACCRA</td>
<td>QRS ELG I&amp;T / 3&amp;4 ITERS/ECERS NAEYC NACCRRA</td>
<td>QRS ELG I&amp;T / 3&amp;4 ITERS/ECERS NAEYC NACCRRA</td>
<td>Pilot Pre-K QRS ECERS CLASS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supports</strong></td>
<td>Nurturing Homes Initiative</td>
<td>ECCD TA Subgrantees MS Center for Education Innovation Children’s Defense Fund SPARK MBB Health Department Training MSECA/SECA Director’s Networks MPB</td>
<td>ECCD TA Subgrantees Head Start Association Governor’s Head Start Collaborative Office Head Start Technical Assistance MS Center for Education Innovation Children’s Defense Fund SPARK MBB Health Department Training MSECA/SECA Director’s Networks MPB</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
QRS - Quality Rating System
ITERS - Infant and Toddler Environment Rating Scale
ECERS - Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale
CLASS - Classroom Assessment Scoring System
NAEYC - National Association for the Education of Young Children
ELG - MS Department of Education Early Learning Guidelines - Infants and Toddlers/ 3&4 Year Old Children
ECCD TA Subgrantees - Division of Early Childhood Care and Development Technical Assistance Subgrantees
  • Jackson State University Life Long Learning
  • MS Center for Education Innovation
  • MS Early Childhood Association
  • MS Forum on Children and Families
  • MS Friends of Children
  • MS State Early Childhood Institute
  • MS State Extension Service - MS Child Care Resource and Referral Network, Nurturing Homes Initiative, Afterschool Mentoring Project
  • University of Southern Mississippi Institute for Disabilities
  • Voices for MS Children
MBB - MS Building Blocks
MPB - MS Public Broadcasting
MSECA - MS Early Childhood Association
SECA - Southern Early Childhood Association

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