



GLOBAL SECTION B SUBCOMMITTEE REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION EARLY CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY SUPPORT DIVISION

Inflation Impacts:

The primary impacts of inflation include the following:

- Some provider rates and participant benefit rates were adjusted based on child care market rate surveys, Part C and Family Education Support rate study, WIC food benefits.
- Changes in lease agreements in field offices and Helena with additional cost escalators.
- The Early Childhood & Family Support Division (ECFSD) does not typically use a formula to calculate cost of living adjustments (COLA) or inflation within multi-year procured contracts.

DPHHS 2025 Annual Plan:

ECFSD is represented in the HB 190 annual plan as follows:

Strategic Outcome #2: Drive Independence and Accountability through Public Assistance Programs by expanding access to quality childcare for working families, including through implementation of performance-based resource and referral contracts.

Key Measure: Improve the access to quality childcare by enrolling 25% of licensed/registered providers in Montana's Quality Rating System (QRS).

Through the procurement of new Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR contracts) the Department moved to a pay-for-performance model.

Pay-for-Performance Metric: SHINE will maintain the 25% of current providers currently in the QRS system during years 1 and 2 of the contract while the state modifies the QRS program. The goal for Year 3 meets or exceeds 30% of licensed programs at state rating of 2 or higher in the QRS system. For the following years, Year 4 meets or exceeds 35% at a state rating of 2 or higher, Year 5 meets or exceeds 40% at a state rating of 2 or higher, and Years 6 and 7 meet or exceed 45% at a state rating of 2 or higher.

Due to the federal nature of most of the funding within ECFSD, annual plans, performance plans, and evaluation reports are required to be in compliance with federal funding. Further, assessments and surveys are conducted by programs to gather information in the design of state plans. Each program includes federally required data, or data to match federally approved state plans. A list of the major programs includes:



CCDF Federal Reports

CCDF State Plan (ACF-118):

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/ecfsd/childcare/documentsandresources/MontanaCCDFStatePlan.pdf>

CCDF Quality Progress Report (ACF-218):

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/ecfsd/childcare/documentsandresources/ACF218QPRFFY23Approved.pdf>

CCDF Subsidy Error Rate (SDAP, ACF-403, ACF-404, ACF-405): submitted into GrantSolutions.gov Online Data Collection (OLDC)

CCDF Financial Report (ACF-696): submitted in GrantSolutions.gov Online Data Collection (OLDC)

Montana CCDF Program Information

Child Care Managerial Reports of Expenditures & Program Participation:

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/StatisticalInformation/childcare>

Child Care Capacity and Subsidy Authorizations:

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/InteractiveDashboards/ChildCareCapacityandSubsidyAuthorizations>

2023 Montana Child Care Market Rate Survey:

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/ecfsd/childcare/documentsandresources/2023MontanaChildCareMarketRateSurvey.pdf>

Child Care Licensing Project:

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/ChildCare/childcarelicensingproject>

2022 Montana Child Care Licensing Assessment:

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/ecfsd/childcare/MTCCLProjectAssessment.pdf>

WIC:

WIC State Plan-<https://dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/wic/wicstateplan>

HMF:

Our Annual Performance Report data is in the dashboards below:

[MIECHV Demographic Service Utilization Dashboard](#)

[MIECHV Performance Measures Dashboard](#)

MCH:

TITLE V/MCHBG annual Application/Report (includes MCH and CSHS)-

[MT_TitleV_PrintVersion](#)

MOMS- Maternal Health Innovation Program Annual Report and Impact Report in the HRSA Electronic Handbooks (EHB)

MMRP- ERASEMM Final Performance Report, Annual Performance Review in Electronic Reporting System in Grant Solutions



Efficiencies:

Efficiencies included in the division presentation include:

Increased efficiencies in data systems and processes

- Replaced Aging Data Systems for CACFP, Child Care (In progress), and WIC
- System Consolidation for Children with Special Health Services
- Created interface with Child Care Licensing and Dept. Of Justice for background check approvals
- Conversion to electronic payment system for Farmer's Market program

Streamlined eligibility for Best Beginnings Scholarship and WIC: eligibility determination is streamlined as of October 1, 2024. Families who are eligible for traditional Best Beginnings Scholarship are now eligible for WIC without having to provide additional income paperwork.

As presented, procurement of new contracts and services to update aging IT systems, move to pay for performance metrics, and adjust benefit or provider rates based on rate and market surveys are also strategies being used to increase efficiencies.

Describe any direct or indirect interactions your division has with justice-involved individuals.

Individuals that receive benefits or services through the division may be justice involved, as eligibility for programs is not contingent upon a client's involvement or non-involvement with the justice system. This may include home visiting, child care, WIC, maternal child health programs, families with children in Part C or FES services, and programs through the Children's Trust Fund locally funded grant program.