

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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March 15, 2018

Honorable Members of the Maine 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature  
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Dear Committee Members:

We are pleased to present this annual report of the activities of Maine's Child Care Advisory Council from October 2016 to December 31, 2017. The Child Care Advisory Council (CCAC) has three legislatively-mandated duties:

1. To advise Maine's Legislature and the Department of Health and Human Services (the Department) regarding child care services in the state;
2. To encourage the development of coordinated policies among state agencies that promote quality, consistency, and efficiency in child care services;
3. To facilitate community input on child care issues through communication with state government, the Legislature, service providers, and the public.

The CCAC's work focuses primarily on childcare subsidy, effective child care licensing regulations, and professional development supports for the child care workforce. These components of Maine's Early Care and Education System are funded by the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), one of the largest sources of funding supporting young children and their families in Maine. Federal dollars comprise a percentage of the annual funding, with the State of Maine providing the required match in funds.



CCAC meetings are held on the 1st Friday of every month, from 9:00 AM -12 PM, at the DHHS Office of Child and Family Services at 2 Anthony Avenue, Augusta, ME 04333. CCAC meetings are open to the public. The CCAC's website can be found at <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/ec/occhs/advisorycouncil.htm>.

Over the past two years, the CCAC has seen a transition in membership as well as staff at DHHS OCFS. During 2017, staff positions at OCFS have been filled, and the Governor has appointed new members who meet the Legislative requirements and represent the multiplicity of perspectives in order to best inform the department and the legislature of the present needs of the child care field. The focus of 2017 has been rebuilding the council and setting goals for the future of the council.

Recognizing the fact that child care is an integral part of Maine's workforce, the CCAC is looking at the following areas of focus for the upcoming year (2018);

- Gather input and contribute feedback to the Department and to Child Care Licensing regarding proposed changes to Family, Center Based and Nursery School Licensing Rules;
- Provide guidance to the Department in setting subsidy reimbursement rates that reflect the costs of providing quality child care for child care providers that serve children and families on the Child Care Subsidy Program;
- Use community outreach to collect data to determine the decline in child care providers in Maine, advise the department and legislature of the common issues and reasons for leaving the industry, and establish ways to support and promote licensed child care in Maine to decrease the impact of the child care crisis and the rate of decline.
- Examine the proposed revision to Maine's Quality and Improvement Rating System (QRIS), *Quality for ME*, and provide feedback to the department regarding the impact of the revisions on Maine's child care programs, families and children;
- Inform the Department and the Legislature regarding the resources and supports that the field of Early Care and Education needs to continue to provide quality child care to Maine children.

We hope that you will take the opportunity to read the enclosed information that provides a snapshot of the decreasing number of child care programs in Maine and the numbers of child cares that accept subsidy compared to the total number of licensed child cares.

We appreciate your time and efforts to support our work and would be interested in sharing further information upon request at your convenience.

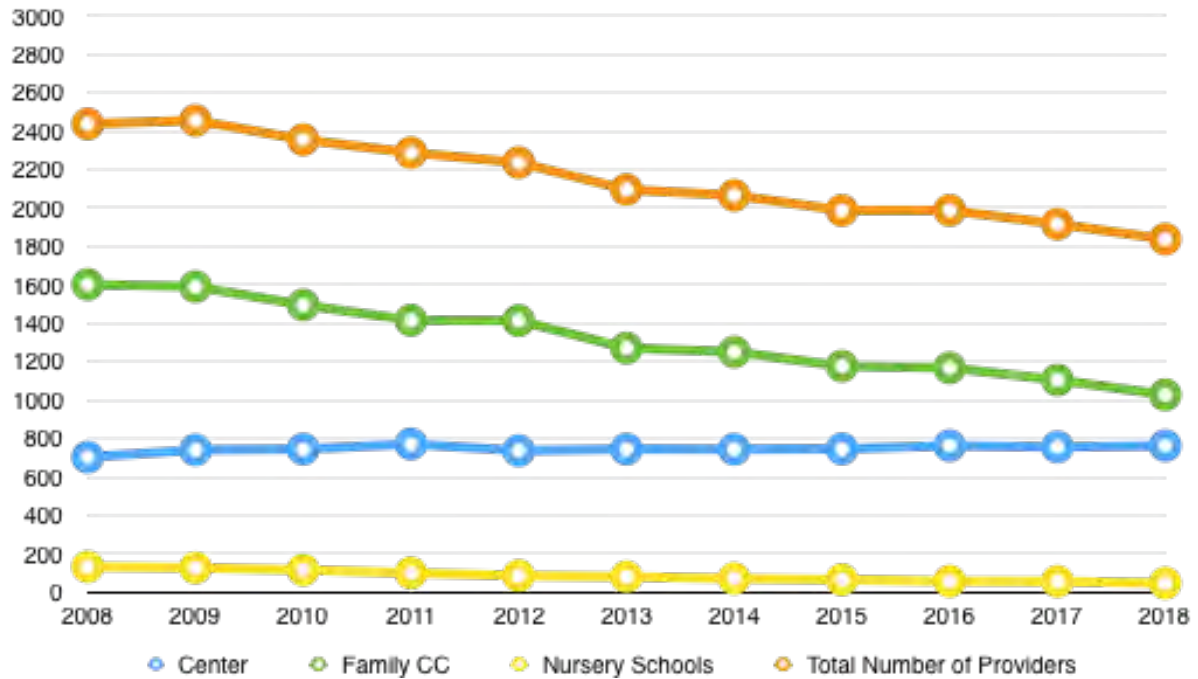
Respectfully,  
Maine's Child Care Advisory Council

Chantel Pettengill - Chair





Maine Licensed Child Care Providers



## Providers With Subsidy Authorization

Center Based

Family Child Care

Total # of Child Cares

360  
Providers  
out of 763

260  
Providers  
out of 1028

620  
Providers  
out of 1791

47.18%

25.29%

34.62%