



## 2020 Advocacy & Accomplishments

1. All trainings that are required on a two-year and five-year schedule are now allowed to be completed during a provider's licensing year to align with all other required trainings. This was an MACCP bill.
2. The date when Early Learning Scholarships can only be used in programs with Three-or Four-Star Ratings was extended to July 1, 2024 (from a previous July 1, 2020 deadline). This means that providers who have any rating with Parent Aware can still accept ELS until June 30, 2024. MACCP has advocated for this change for more than two years.
3. Actively participated and advocated for licensed family child care providers through more than 21 Family Child Care Task Force and workgroup meetings and led one of the workgroups.
4. Participated in and advocated against detrimental changes and supported positive ones in the Safe Sleep Workgroup.
5. Requested help from Governor Walz and legislators on March 20. Our requests included:
  - **Creation of a child care provider support fund/grants** to cover the loss of income providers will experience during a COVID-19 related closure and reduced income.
  - **Prioritized COVID-19 testing** in any situation where a provider would otherwise have to self-isolate due to symptoms or exposure.
  - **Direction to the Minnesota Department of Health** to work with us in developing any additional guidelines and criteria so we may implement best practices for exclusion of ill or potentially ill children, self-isolation, and other policies to reduce the virus' spread.

- **Direction to the Minnesota Department of Human Services** to work with us to develop temporary waivers for training, fingerprinting, and drop-in enrollment paperwork, emergency variances to exceed ratios, and extended deadlines for requirements that are more difficult to meet under these circumstances.
  - **Exemption and relief from food and supply limitations and shortages** so we are able to properly care for the children in our care and meet licensing standards.
  - **Ensure that CCAP and ELS payments continue** for providers who remain open, even if parents cannot go to work, and exempt them from the absence day limit.
  - **Collaboration on any future child-care-related changes** so we can propose potential solutions that can meet the needs of both providers and families while reducing risk.
  - **Provide child care hotline staff** who are able to accurately answer family child care providers' questions about CCAP and ELS, licensing requirements, and COVID-19.
6. Created a "Support Family Child Care Providers" document (English and Spanish) in March to educate and encourage the public about ways they can support providers through this crisis. The document was shared thousands of times and used by more than a dozen other organizations outside of Minnesota to advocate for their providers.
  7. Advocated for financial support through grants for family child care providers as they experienced loss of income, increased costs, and higher risks during these unprecedented times. MACCP provided detailed updates and clarifications and answered thousands of questions about grants and financial resources available to family child care providers this year.
  8. Compiled and shared accurate and detailed information about financial resources available to providers through the current crisis—including grants, loans, and unemployment—into easy-to-understand documents and social media posts and helped many providers navigate those processes.

- 9.** Worked with the Minnesota Grocers Association to educate grocers about how they can help child care providers and how child care providers can work with grocers to purchase the supplies and food they need for the children in their care. Grocers were encouraged to allow child care providers to purchase beyond any limits set for typical customers, reserve supplies, and shop during convenient hours.
- 10.** Issued a position statement with 15 reasons to exempt family child care programs from masking requirements, especially children and providers. We then created a successful call to action that resulted in thousands of calls and emails to the governor that reiterated our opposition to mandatory masking in family child care programs. MACCP also created and shared signs about mandatory masking that providers can display for visitors.
- 11.** Encouraged prioritized and accessible testing and timely results for child care providers. In the first week of April, a family child care provider was denied testing at a hospital, despite providing care for Tier 1 children and having several COVID-19 symptoms. MACCP worked for many hours with the governor's office and legislators to ensure that other child care providers would be prioritized, as directed by the governor and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).
- 12.** Shared timely updates about emails from state agencies, including licensing modifications and health information.
- 13.** Compiled and shared information about numerous free trainings/webinars related to COVID-19 and how providers can navigate this crisis. Thanks to MACCP's advocacy with DHS, one of the MDH trainings counted for licensing hours and all future MDH trainings that relate to child care will be approved through Develop.
- 14.** Provided comprehensive summaries of provider calls with the Children's Cabinet, DHS, MDH, MDE, and DEED.

*We are thankful for the individuals and organizations that have worked with us to support family child care providers this year, especially Senator Kiffmeyer, the Minnesota Grocers Association, All Hands MN, all the businesses that donated supplies, Child Care Aware, and Minnesota's Children's Cabinet.*