

Certified Child Care Centers Outreach Handout

MN Requirements for Certified Child Care Centers

Legislative requirements for certified license-exempt child care centers help protect the health and safety of children by requiring that providers meet minimum standards for care and physical environment. The requirements are in law and published by the Office of the Revisor of Statutes.

- Search and read MN Laws, Statutes, and Rules on the [Office of the Revisor of Statutes website](#)
- [MN Statutes, chapter 142C Certified License-Exempt Child Care Centers](#)
- [MN Statutes, chapter 245C, Human Services Background Studies Act](#)
- [MN Statutes, chapter 260E, Maltreatment of Minors Act](#)

Contact Certified Child Care Center Licensing

A licenser is available to answer questions Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Voicemail messages and emails are answered as promptly as possible.

- **Contact:** 651-431-6015 or DCYF.ccc.licensing@state.mn.us
- [Certified child care centers webpage](#)

Child Care Center Licensing and Certification training specialists

- **Contact:** DCYF.cclictraining@state.mn.us

Legislative update

New laws passed by the 2025 Legislature include several provisions that impact certified child care centers.

The [Implementation Plan for 2025 Legislative Changes](#) was sent to certified child care centers on June 30, 2025, and is posted on the [Certified Child Care Centers website](#).

The [Guidelines for Developing Policies and Procedures for Certified Centers](#) form has been updated to reflect legislative changes and now includes guidelines for behavior guidance and supervision policies.

Provider Hub

- Apply for certification, funding and programs at the [Provider Hub website](#)
- Manage your certification and program requirements

- Log in anytime, from any device
- Access in English, Hmong, Somali or Spanish
- Sign up for the Provider Hub Newsletter on the [Provider Hub: Getting Started webpage](#)

Provider Hub resources

- Refer to support articles — short articles to help you with specific tasks — in the tool
- Four new articles on notices of action:
 - [Notice of Action Overview](#)
 - [View a Notice of Action](#)
 - [Respond to a Notice of Action](#)
 - [Request Appeal or Reconsideration of a Notice of Action](#)
- [Certified Child Care Centers | Certification Learning Library \(Notices of Action section\)](#)

Provider Hub support

- Submit a support case in the tool
- Call 651-431-6075
- A local support team responds to cases Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The team will connect you to the applicable licensing or program team as needed.

Provider Hub feedback

- Email us at providerhub@state.mn.us

Great Start Compensation Support Payment Program

The Great Start Compensation Support Payment Program is a nation-leading effort designed to strengthen Minnesota’s child care workforce by increasing compensation and benefits for those caring directly for children.

Eligible providers currently apply each month to receive Great Start Compensation payments, ensuring that funds continue to support staff on an ongoing basis.

Great Start Compensation Support Program in the Provider Hub

- Centers licensed or certified by the state complete their monthly applications directly within the Provider Hub.
- The Use of Funds Report has been added to the Hub, giving providers an easier way to report how program dollars are used and the impact they’re having in their programs.
- Providers can now update their Supplier ID information and manage payment preferences all within the same system.

Policy updates and reminders

This month, the Great Start Compensation team sent out a newsletter that included a few important policy updates and reminders about the program. Read the highlights below and [read the full October 2025 GovDelivery here](#).

- Payroll Taxes: Federal payroll taxes allowed; state payroll taxes not allowed starting Jan. 1, 2026.
- Expense Backstop Rule: Funds may be used only for expenses on or after the designated backstop date.
- Baseline Pay Removed: The “baseline compensation” concept is no longer required—funds must raise pay beyond what would have occurred without the program.
- Programs should report actual hours worked directly with children—no Full Time Equivalent (FTE) math needed.
- Get paid faster by setting up direct deposit

More information and contacts

[Great Start Compensation Support Payment Program](#)

[Great Start Compensation Support Payment FAQs](#)

Contact supportfunds@childcareawaremn.org or call 651-273-2644 with questions or for more information.

Child care certification reminders

VaxCheck

Certified Child Care Centers can now participate in VaxCheck to support the collection of immunization information for enrollees. VaxCheck is a tool designed by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) that allows certified child care centers to collect immunization information for children enrolled in their center.

Immunization information for children enrolled at the certified child care can be accessed once a parent/guardian completes an electronic consent form. VaxCheck will search for the child’s immunization record in the [Minnesota Immunization Information Connection \(MIIC\)](#). If a match is found, the child’s immunization information will be made available to you in a downloadable spreadsheet.

If your organization is interested, submit an enrollment request at [VaxCheck Portal](#). After enrollment you can add additional facility accounts if your organization has multiple locations.

Contact Health.VaxCheck@state.mn.us with questions.

Background studies

Individuals affiliated with a certified child care center must complete an enhanced background study every **five years**. This includes studies for AAs, center operators, directors, all staff, all substitutes and all unsupervised volunteers. To comply with this requirement, new studies must be submitted and should be initiated no more than 90 calendar days before the study's expiration date.

Use your provider roster in NETStudy 2.0 to check study expiration dates. It is very important that you keep your roster up-to-date for each certification number. (Separate if staff are no longer working at the program.)

Through an agreement with DHS, DCYF will continue to cover child care background study and fingerprinting fees until further notice.

Background studies resources

- [MN DHS Background Studies main webpage](#)
- Contact Background Studies at 651-431-6620
- For child care background study related questions, email: dhs.backgroundcc@state.mn.us
- For NETStudy 2.0 related questions or technical assistance, email: dhs.netstudy2@state.mn.us
- For those with access to NETStudy 2.0, a help section is available within NS2, including:
 - Fingerprint Vendor Transition Guide for Entities
 - Consent and Disclosure Overview for Entities
 - Emergency Background Study Fee Credit Overview and Instructions
 - Identifying Emergency Background Studies
 - NETStudy 2.0 User Manual (updated)
 - Background Study Fingerprinting and Consent Process—Resolving Common Problems
- Additional background study and NETStudy 2.0 resources:
 - [IdentoGO—check status](#)
 - [MN DHS NETStudy 2.0 Enhanced Study Applicant Disclosure](#)
 - [Frequently asked questions about DHS background studies](#)
 - [DHS background study information for child care providers](#)
 - [Certified Child Care Centers Background Study Worksheet: Is a Background study required?](#)
 - [NETStudy 2.0 frequently asked questions](#)
 - [List of fingerprint locations and go-live dates for new sites](#)
 - [Frequently asked questions on IDEMIA \(the fingerprint vendor\)](#)

Additional resources

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

Child Care Assistance Program goals include helping families with low income pay for child care and help ensure children are well cared for and prepared for school. CCAP serves approximately 30,000 children from 15,000 families per month.

- Child Care Assistance Program - Information for families
<https://dcyf.mn.gov/programs-directory/child-care-assistance-program>
- Child Care Assistance Program - Information for child care programs
<https://dcyf.mn.gov/child-care-assistance-program-information-child-care-providers>
- **Contact:** dcyf.ccap@state.mn.us; 651-431-3809

Child Care Aware of Minnesota

[Child Care Aware of Minnesota](#) is a partner agency of DCYF Child Care Center Licensing. They are available to support the child care industry as a statewide network of district agencies that support professional growth of child care in Minnesota. See their website for information on a variety of resources including grants and various professional development opportunities. Child Care Aware Minnesota also serves as the public facing website for child care in Minnesota and oversees and/or provides support to other programs designed to help the child care industry.

Early Childhood Connector newsletter and calls

Early Childhood Connector newsletter

Sign up to receive communications from the Early Childhood Connector, a cross-agency effort to provide updates to child care providers and early educators in Minnesota. This is an effort between the Minnesota Children’s Cabinet and DCYF (MN Department of Children, Youth, and Families), MDE (MN Department of Education), MDH (MN Department of Health), and DHS (MN Department of Human Services). By signing up, you can expect to receive a quarterly newsletter highlighting resources, supports and updates on child care and early education from the Minnesota Children’s Cabinet and Departments of Education, Health, and Human Services. Content will be tailored to licensed and nonlicensed child care, Head Start, and prekindergarten programs.

Early Childhood Connector calls

On a quarterly basis, the state hosts Connector Calls with child care providers and early educators to answer questions related to legislation, licensing, programs, grants and more. The purpose of the call is to answer clarifying questions that providers may have. Calls are hosted online on WebEx, and providers attending the call will not be on video or be able to ask questions live. Calls will be recorded and available publicly for those that weren't able to attend.

Sign up for the newsletter or learn more about the Connector Calls on the [Early Childhood Connector website](#).

Questions must be submitted two weeks before the provider call to be answered. State staff will try to answer all questions but may not have time to get to all of them.

First Children’s Finance

[First Children’s Finance](#) is a national nonprofit organization that provides loans and business development assistance to child care businesses serving low- and moderate-income families. First Children’s Finance addresses the business and finance needs of child care in three different ways: building the financial sustainability of child care entrepreneurs, partnering with communities to preserve and grow their child care supply, and influencing state and federal systems to provide supports and investments needed to sustain child care businesses. As a grant recipient of state funding, First Children’s Finance offers several free services to support child care businesses in Minnesota.