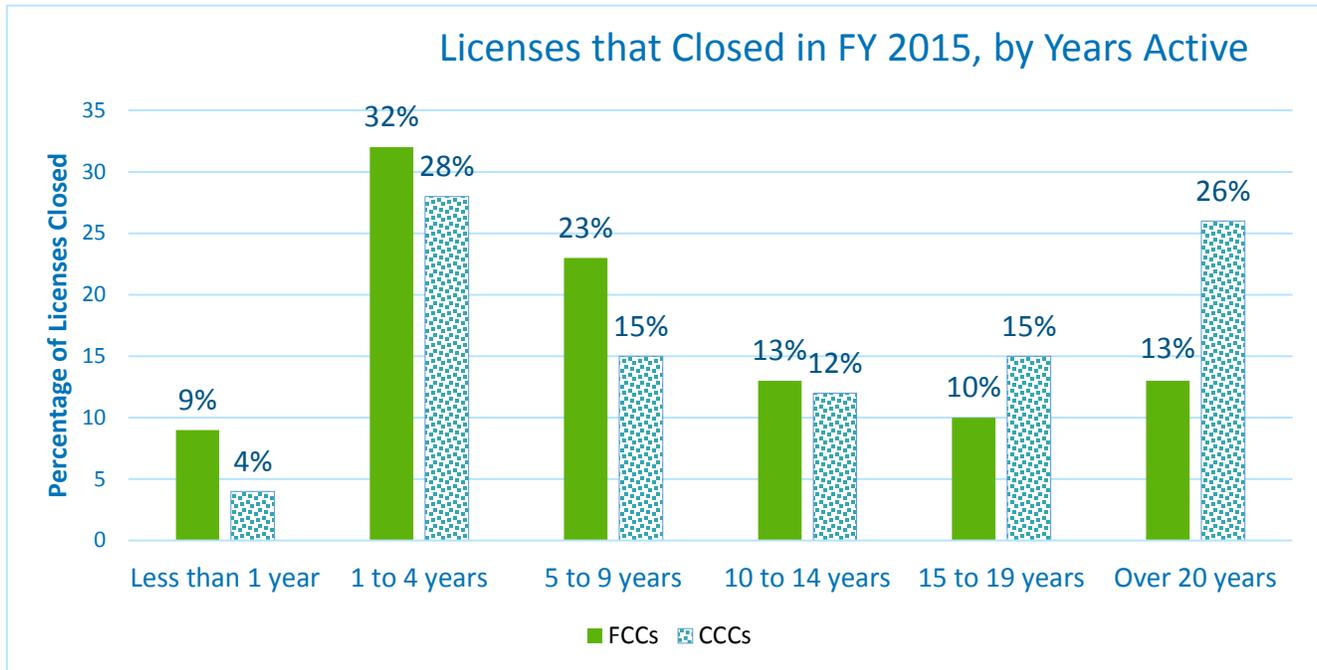


2014 Reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant – Key Health & Safety Requirements

The CCDBG is administered by Office of Child Care in the federal Department of Health and Human Services. The purpose of the Block Grant is to provide financial assistance to low-income families to access child care and to improve the quality, supply and availability of child care. Reauthorization of the CCDBG was passed on November 19, 2014. In general, the changes to federal law serve to improve health and safety of child care, improve the quality of child care, facilitate access to child care, and promote stable child care arrangements. Minnesota already has in place a number of the new federal requirements, but there are several that are new for Minnesota. Highlights of health and safety requirements that will impact DHS Licensing:

- Annual licensing inspections for child care centers and family child care.
- Annual inspection requirement for legally non-licensed providers.
- Expanded background study requirements, to include FBI fingerprint based background studies.
- Enhanced health and safety requirements, including prevention of infectious diseases; prevention of sudden unexpected infant death; medication administration; prevention and response to allergic reactions; building and physical premise safety; prevention of abusive head trauma; emergency preparedness and response planning; handling of hazardous materials and bio-contaminants; precautions in transporting children; first aid and CPR. Many of these are already addressed in current licensing requirements, and those that are not will need to be added.
- Licensing monitoring and inspection reports, as well as the number of deaths, serious injuries, and instances of substantiated maltreatment, must be made available by electronic means, in a consumer-friendly and easily accessible format.
- Qualification and training requirements for licensors in related health and safety requirements, and in all aspects of licensing requirements.

Annual Inspections as a Way to Improve Child Care License Holder Retention



- Family child care and child care centers receive a pre-licensure inspection and an inspection prior to the end of the first year of licensure. Family child care homes must be inspected at least once every two years and DHS generally inspects child care centers once every two years.
- Turnover is highest in the first years of licensure for family child care and child care centers
- Newly licensed child care centers are more than twice as likely to be issued a fine or conditional during their first 24 months of licensure in comparison to all child care centers
- A family child care program is at the highest risk of being issued a temporary immediate suspension within the first months and years of licensure. A family child care program that has held their license for less than one year is twice as likely to be issued a temporary immediate suspension in comparison to all family child care programs

Annual inspections will allow DHS and counties to provide more technical assistance in years 1-4, when most license closures occur.

Licensing Workload – FY2015

Child Care Center Applications

- 105 Center Applications Received
- 85 Center Licenses Issued

Child Care Center Inspections

- 841 Center Inspections\
- 50% of Centers Visited
- 706 Complaints Received
- 252 Complaints Substantiated
- 971 Correction Orders Issued

Technical Assistance and Oversight to County Licensors

- 833 FCC County Recommendations
- 709 FCC Licenses Issued
- 979 Phone Calls and 1,306 Emails
- 44 Trainings Conducted Statewide

Family Child Care Activities (CY15)

- 4,536 Providers Inspected & Renewed
- 92 Temporary Immediate Suspensions
- 41 Conditional Licenses
- 98 Revocations
- 100 Fines

Licensors Caseloads*

- DHS Licensors: 172:1
- County Licensors: 88:1

*County and state caseloads may be higher as licensors may also be required to oversee other licensed programs

Minnesota Cited by Federal OIG for High Caseloads

Some Minnesota Child Care Centers Did Not Always Comply with State Health and Safety Licensing Requirements, (A-05-14-00022) March 2015; Some Minnesota Child Care Home Providers Did Not Always Comply with State Health and Safety Licensing Requirements, (A-05-14-00021) March 2015

Minnesota has some of the nation's heaviest licensor caseloads. According to the federal OIG, "limited oversight occurred because the inspectors were responsible for too many providers, resulting in high caseloads and limiting the amount of time spent on each inspection." The National Association for Regulatory Administration recommends a maximum caseload of 50-60 programs per licensor.

Governor Dayton’s 2017 Budget Request for Implementation of the Child Care & Development Block Grant – Licensing and Background Study Divisions’ Full Time Equivalents

Licensing – Child Care Centers (20.5 FTE)

The change to annual inspections will require significant investment in child care licensors in addition to training, program integrity, administrative support, and supervisory staff.

Licensing – Family Child Care (11.5 FTE)

Counties will also be required to conduct annual inspections, leading to the need for increased and more consistent oversight of county activities – requiring FTEs for supervision, technical assistance, and county licensor training.

To offset the cost to counties of performing annual inspections for family child care homes, the Governor has recommended an investment of \$2.4 million annually in grants to counties.

Licensing – Division-Wide (8 FTE)

The CCDBG requires that licensing monitoring and inspection reports and other information be made available electronically in a consumer-friendly and easily accessible format. To support these requirements of the CCDBG, FTEs are needed to revise related web content for providers and families using licensed child care, to develop policy and analyze data to improve consistency among counties and target training where needed, and to complete legal appeals of correction orders in a timely manner.

Background Studies (9 FTE)

The requirements under reauthorization will result in the need to conduct approximately 100,000 background studies on existing child care providers between 2018 and 2020. During this period, 9 FTEs will be required in the Background Studies Division to carry out these studies