



Child Care Regulation Modernization Projects

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The Department of Human Services is investing in the future of child care licensing and regulation. Multiple initiatives are underway to improve processes for child care providers, licensors, and families receiving child care.

Child Care Licensing Systems Transformation

This transformation will launch the Provider Hub, a website that will simplify all licensing activities.

- No more printing and mailing! 24/7 self-service access to manage existing licenses/certifications or apply for new ones, all in one place.
- Information about visits, changes, personnel, variances, and more will be managed through the Hub.
- Licensors and providers can work together more transparently and efficiently via the Hub.

DESIGNED FOR



Child Care Providers	Applicants
Licensing Staff	CCAP Staff

Changes will take effect for license classes at different times:

- Certified | April 2023
- Licensed Centers | October 2023
- Licensed Family Child Care | TBD, no earlier than Nov 1

Child Care Regulation Modernization

This modernization will launch three new components for child care licensing regulations.

- **Weighted Risk System** will allow consistency throughout the state on licensing actions.
- **Abbreviated inspections** will allow shorter inspections for those who are eligible.
- **Revised child care licensing standards** will meet 21st Century early childhood principles.

DESIGNED FOR

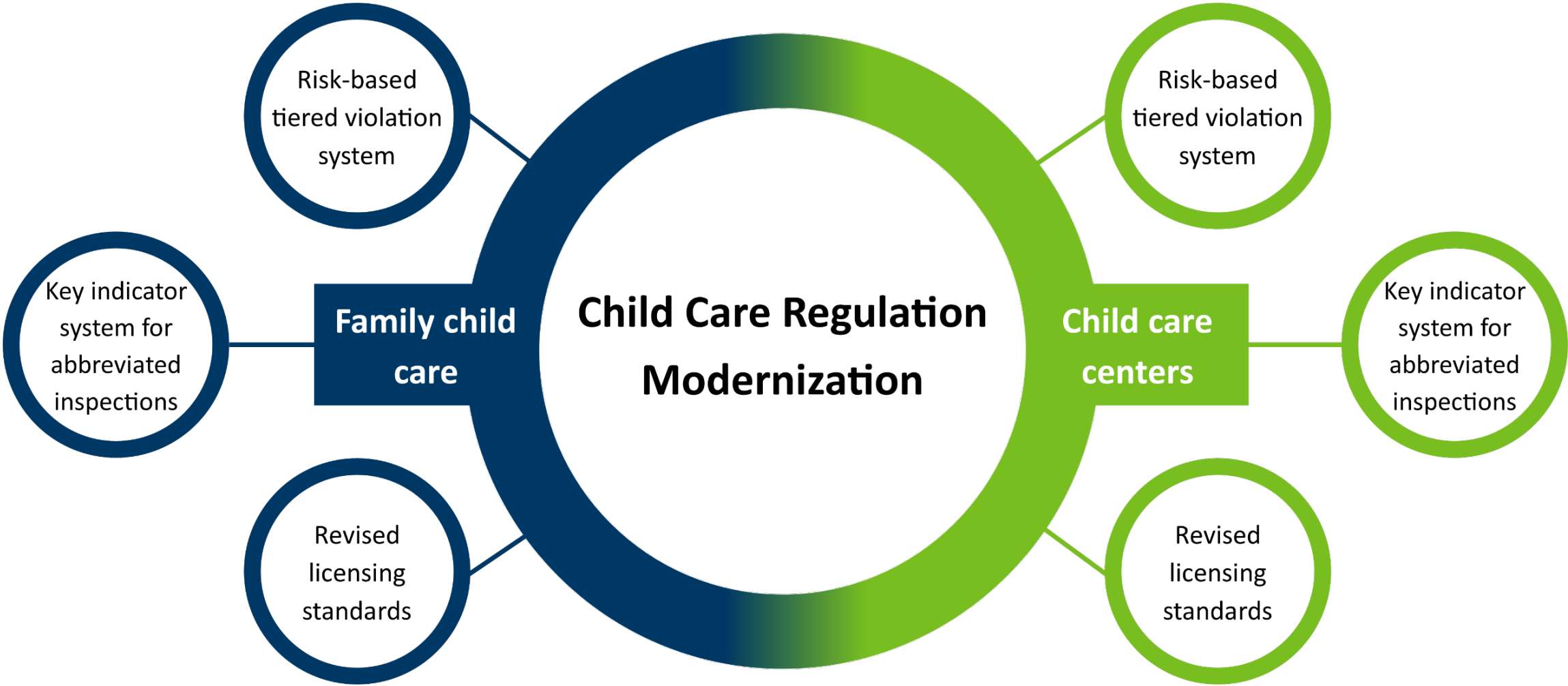


Child Care Providers	Licensing Staff
Parents & Guardians	DHS Compliance

Upcoming Milestones:

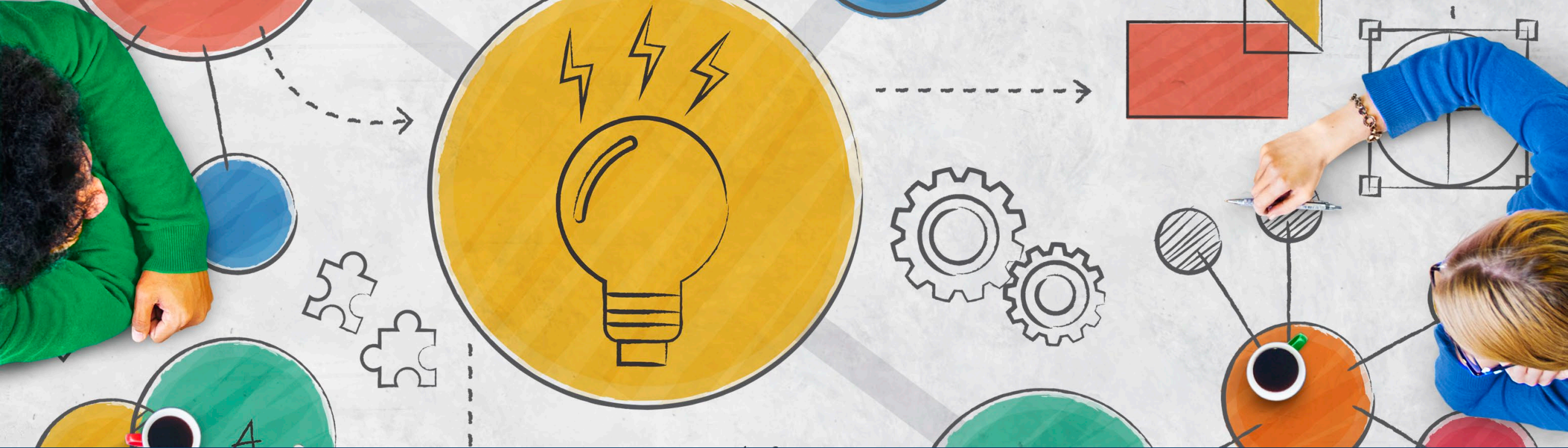
- Stakeholder Engagement | Ongoing
- Weighted Risk System Pilot | September 2023
- Abbreviated Inspections Implementation | Early 2024
- Revised Licensing Standards Pilot | Spring 2024

Projects at a glance



Child Care Regulation Modernization Projects

- The 2021 Legislature allocated federal funding to support regulation modernization projects for both licensed child care centers and family child care
- DHS has a three-year contract with the National Association for Regulatory Administration (NARA) to conduct these projects
- NARA and DHS are working together to:
 - Develop and implement a stakeholder engagement process that solicits input from parents, licensed child care providers, licensors, experts in child development, staff from DHS, and others
 - Report is due to the legislature by February 1, 2024



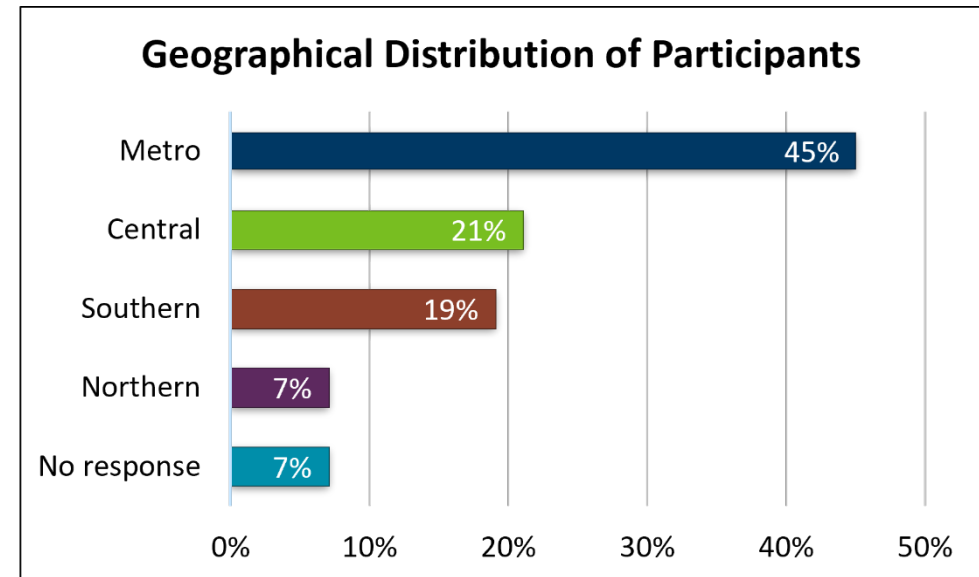
Risk-based tiered violation system

Risk-based tiered violation system overview

- A tiered enforcement framework (AKA Weighted Risk System) that is weighted to reflect the level of risk that a violation poses to children
- Steps to develop this component:
 - ✓ **Complete:** Gather data and input from DHS, family child care providers, child care centers, county licensing agencies, and other stakeholders
 - ✓ **Complete:** Collect and analyze data to determine when various enforcement mechanisms would be used
 - ✓ **Complete:** Use data analysis to develop a weighted risk system
 - **In Progress:** Develop a pilot project to implement the Weighted Risk System (WRS)
 - Develop materials to help licensors, providers, and the public understand the new system

Risk-based tiered violation system engagement

- Over 300 Minnesotans from across the state participated in the focus groups or completed a survey
- 7 family child care focus groups and 6 child care center focus groups
- Occurred July – early September 2022
- Audience types: Licensors, providers, parents/guardians/family members, and child care-related organizations
- Report of findings are on the project website

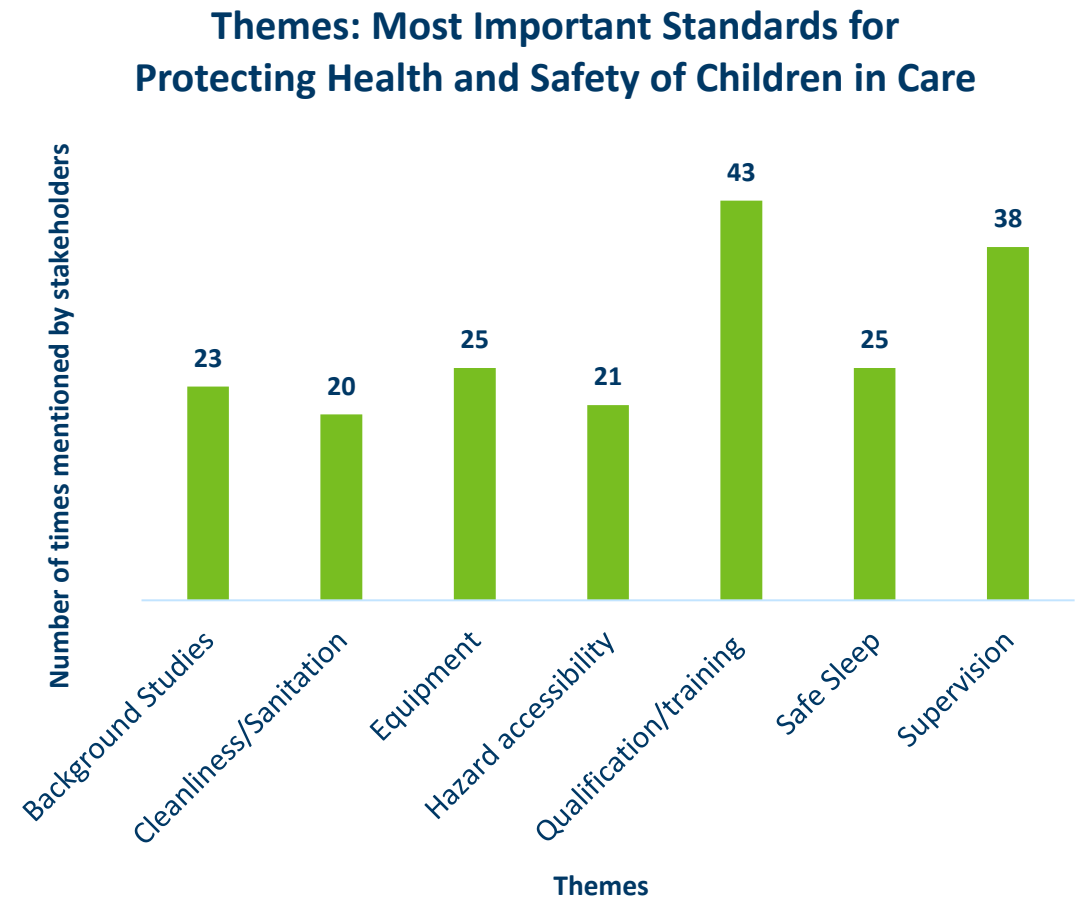


Note: Results are rounded to the nearest whole number

Initial Findings – Risk-based tiered violation system

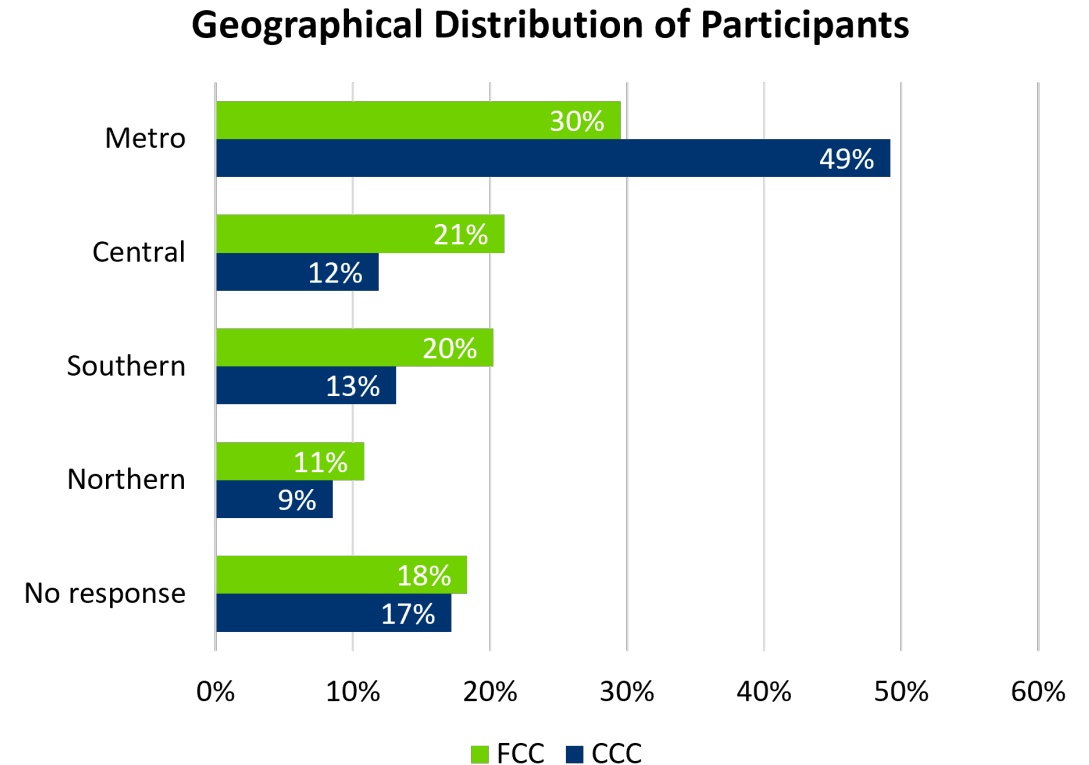
Lessons learned include:

- *“DHS licensing staff and providers largely agree on similar rules that place children at greatest risk if not followed.”*
- Most important rules for health and safety include: Qualifications and training, supervision, safe sleep practices, and equipment being well-maintained



Weighted Risk System Assessment Engagement

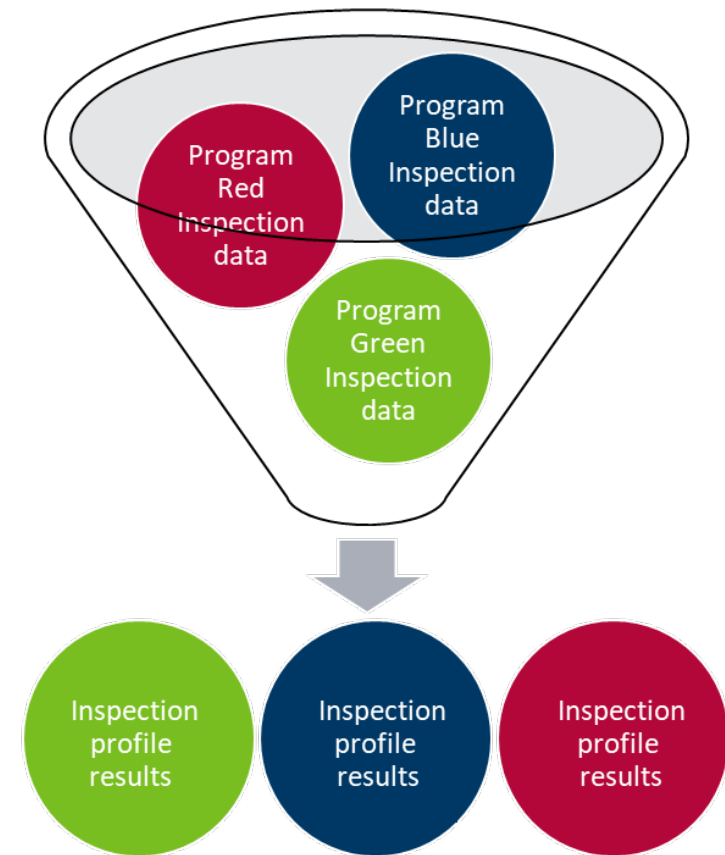
- Over 4,500 Minnesotans from across the state participated in the assessment
- 2,850 family child care respondents and 1,600 child care center respondents.
- Occurred February 2023 – May 2023
- Audience types: Licensors, providers, parents/guardians/family members, and child care-related organizations
- Report will be posted on website when completed



Note: Results are rounded to the nearest whole number

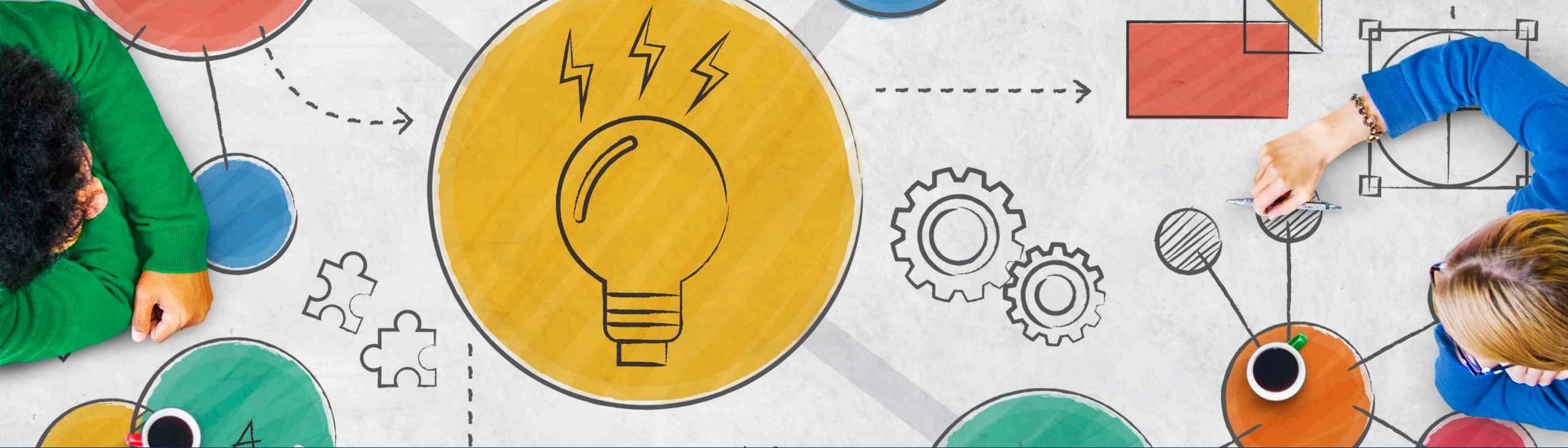
Weighted Risk System Pilot

- **This pilot occurs in the background. It does not affect any providers or licensors day-to-day work.**
- The pilot only analyzes historical inspection data.
- Data team will run each inspection through the new system to create a program inspection profile.
- We anticipate the new system to have three tiers of different licensing actions/assistance.
- After analysis is complete DHS and NARA will discuss if changes need to be made, or if we can propose current system to the legislature.



Concept: Program Inspection Profile

- **Just a concept; subject to change**
- Creates an “Inspection Profile”: A data-driven overview of licensee’s performance based on past inspection findings and the weights of violated regulations. Data may include:
 - Average risk score of violated regulations
 - Number of repeat violations
 - Number of high-risk and key indicator violations
- Informs licensors and licensing agency, to achieve:
 - A tiered enforcement system, with low-, medium-, and high-risk regulations
 - More consistent enforcement and licensing actions



Key Indicator for Abbreviated Inspections

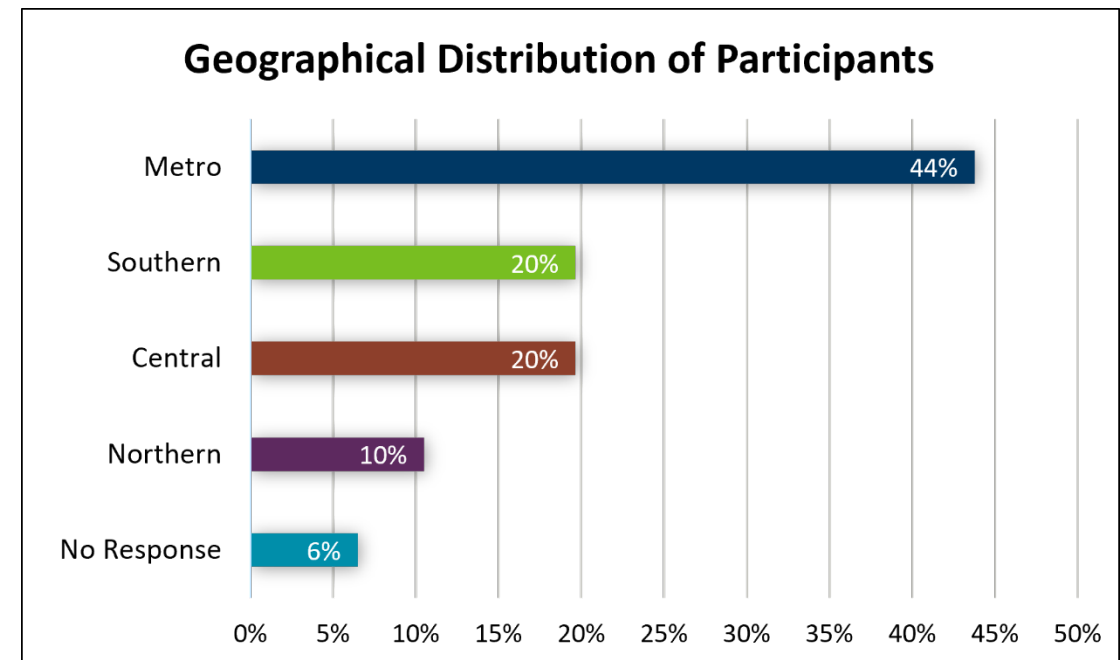
Key indicator systems for abbreviated inspections

- Abbreviated inspections will allow shortened annual inspections for providers who meet the eligibility criteria
- Abbreviated inspections will include:
 - ✓ a subset of standards, known as key indicators, which statistically predict compliance with the entire list of standards
 - ✓ high-risk rules that are determined through stakeholder input
 - ✓ and a set of random rules.
- **In Progress:** IT systems changes and develop training materials
- Abbreviated inspections will not go live until after the Provider Hub is implemented for all providers (child care centers and family child care)

Abbreviated Inspections Engagement

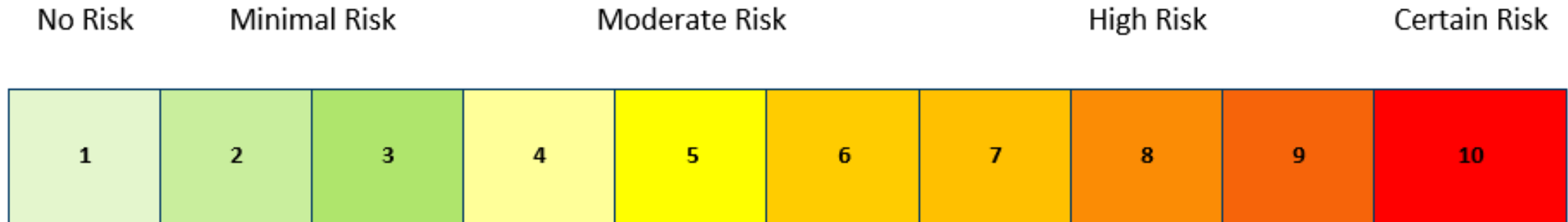
Abbreviated Inspections

- Over 440 Minnesotans from across the state participated in the stakeholder sessions;
- 230 completed follow-up surveys on eligibility criteria
- 5 sessions in November 2022
- Audiences: Licensors, providers, parents/guardians/family members, and child care-related organizations



Note: Results are rounded to the nearest whole number

Weighted Scale – Family Child Care



Lowest Weight:

9502.0335, subpart 1.A The applicant submitted an application on the department form in the county where the applicant resides.

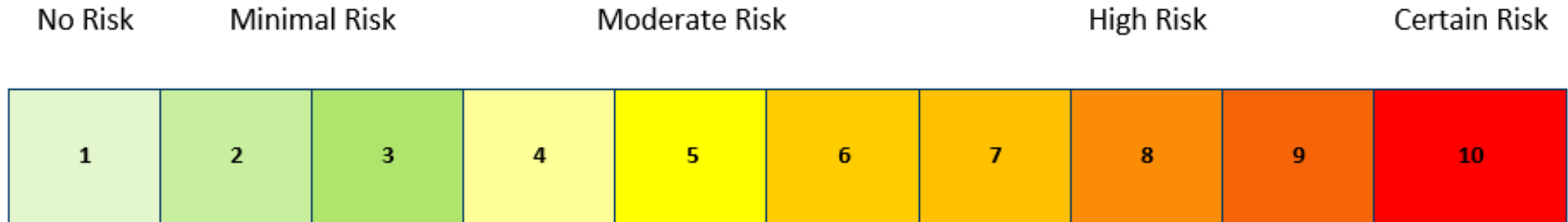
Weight: 1.91

Highest Weight:

9502.0335, Subpart 2.D Caregivers, occupants, or people present when children are in the home may not abuse prescription drugs, use controlled substances, or drink alcohol when children are present in the home. An applicant, provider, caregiver, or household member who abuses prescription drugs, uses controlled substances, or drinks alcohol in a manner that may impede their ability to care for children may be subject to physical examination, psychological examination, or licensing sanctions.

Weight: 9.52

Weighted Scale –Child Care Centers



Lowest Weight:

9503.0170, subpart 3: The license was posted in a conspicuous place within the program.

Weight: 2.67

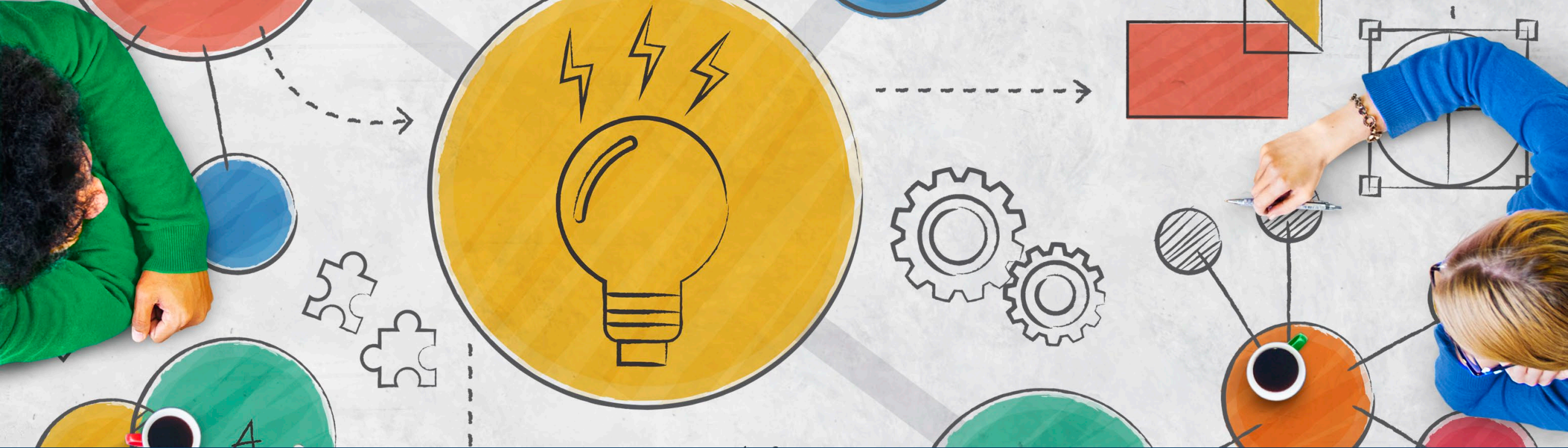
Highest Weight:

9503.0055, subpart 3: The program did not subject children to corporal punishment, emotional abuse, isolation, punishment for lapses in toilet habits, withholding basic needs as punishment for behavior, or physical or mechanical restraints.

Weight: 9.39

Abbreviated Inspections – Upcoming Milestones

- Licensor training for abbreviated inspections will begin after System Transformation is implemented for all service types
- Informational sessions will be made available for providers and other stakeholders interested in learning about abbreviated inspections
- Topics that will be included in trainings and informational sessions
 - Overview of abbreviated inspections process
 - Abbreviated inspections policies and procedures



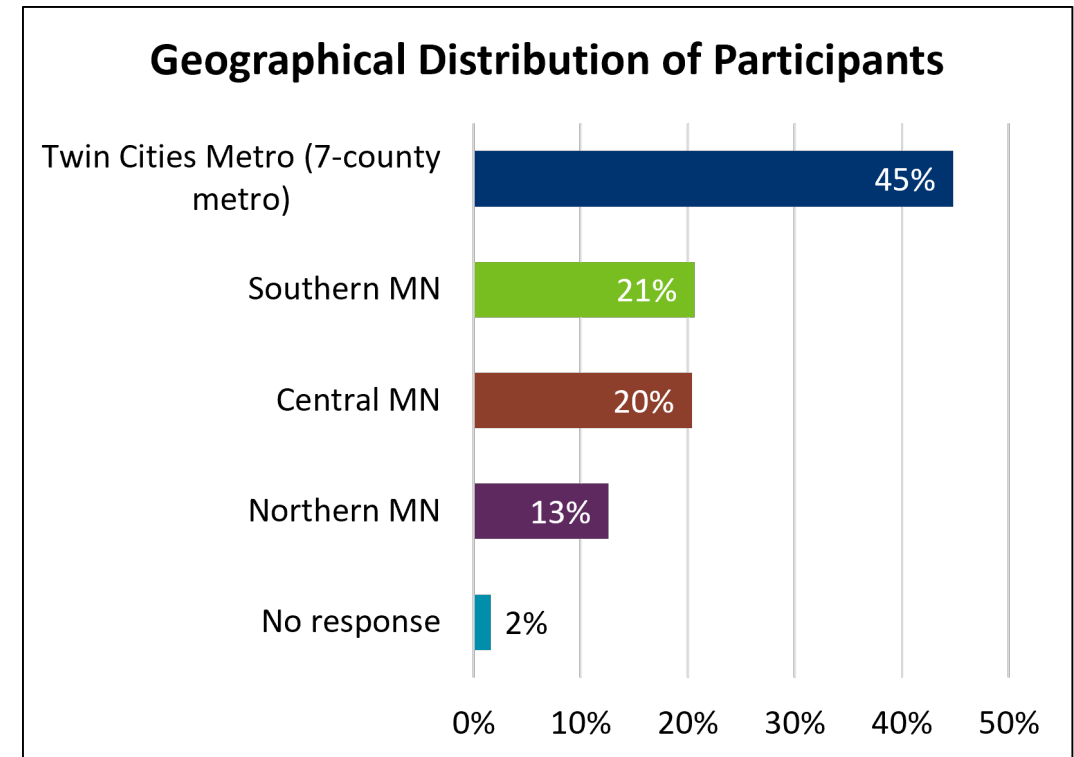
Revised Licensing standards

Revised licensing standards overview

- Relying on its experience in other states, NARA will draft updated licensing standards for family child care and child care centers
- NARA will navigate DHS, child care providers, county licensing agencies and other stakeholders through the process of developing the new updated standards by:
 - ✓ **Initial engagement completed; Ongoing engagement:** Collecting stakeholder input on current licensing standards
 - **In Progress:** Drafting proposed revisions to licensing standards
 - DHS engaging with stakeholders including licensors, providers, and state agency partners on topics needing more input
 - Developing a pilot project to gain more feedback on Draft 2
 - Reviewing and revising draft standards with stakeholders

Revised Licensing Standards Engagement

- Over 1,400 Minnesotans from across the state participated in the survey to inform revised licensing standards
- 560 CCC specific respondents. 782 FCC specific respondents and 52 respondents who identified working with both CCC and FCC
- Occurred October 2022
- Audience types: Licensors, providers, parents/guardians/family members, and child care-related organizations
- Report of findings are on the project website



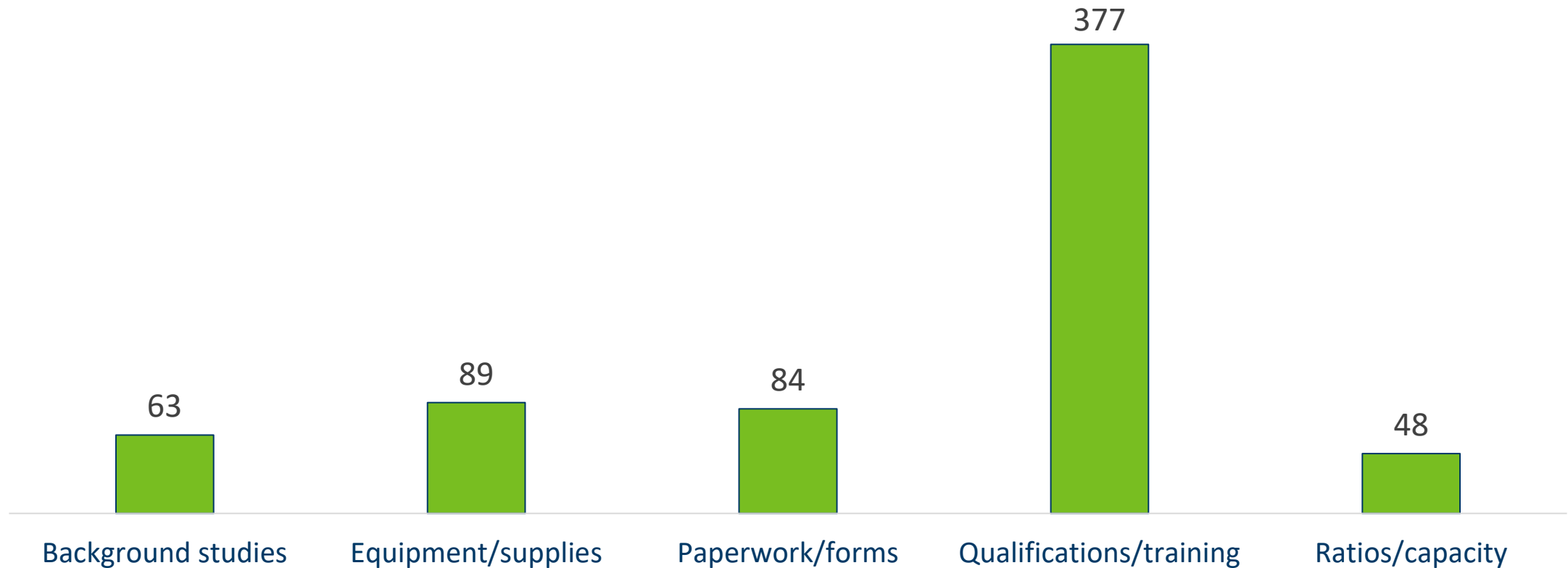
Note: Results are rounded to the nearest whole number

Initial Findings – Revised licensing Standards

- What current licensing standards for child care centers do you think **are not working or need improvement?**
- What current licensing standards for child care centers **are effective and should remain the same?**

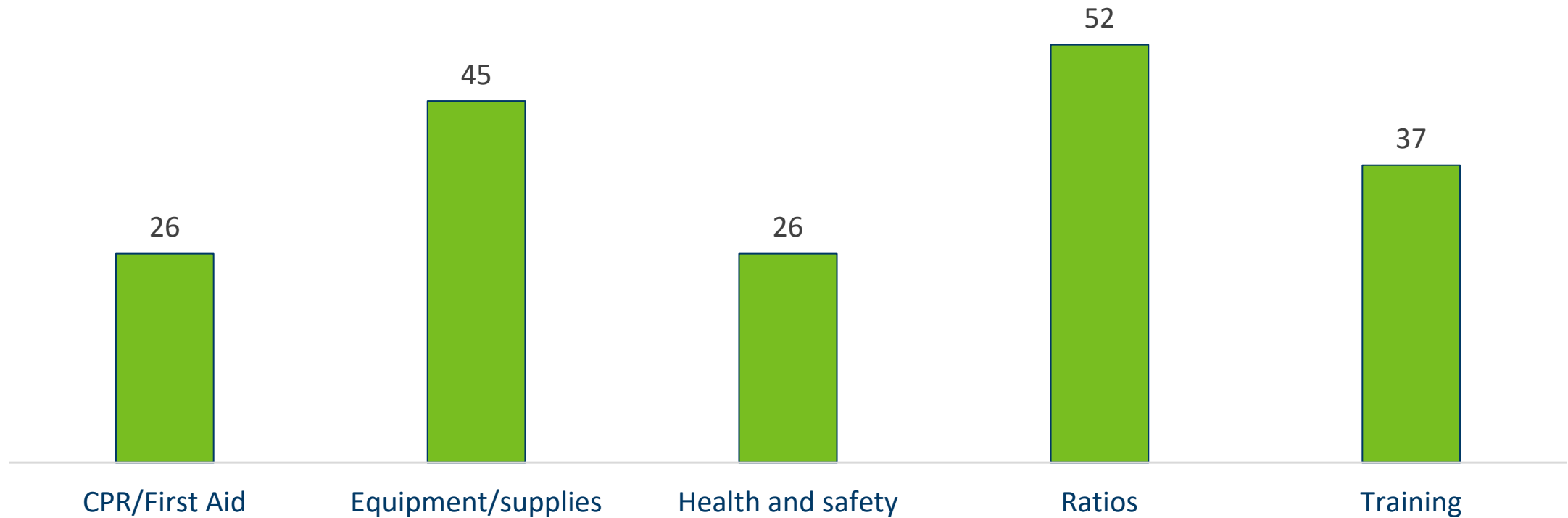
CCC top responses for 'updates needed'

What current licensing standards for child care centers do you think **are not working or need improvement**?



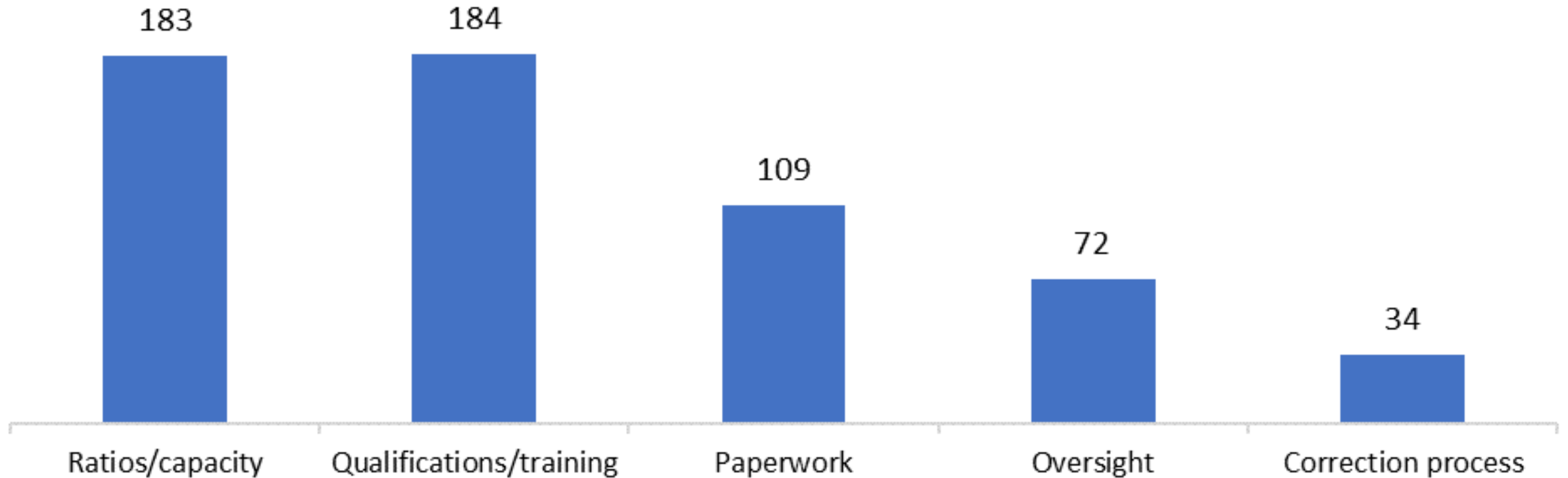
CCC top responses for 'remain the same'

What current licensing standards for child care centers **are effective and should remain the same**?



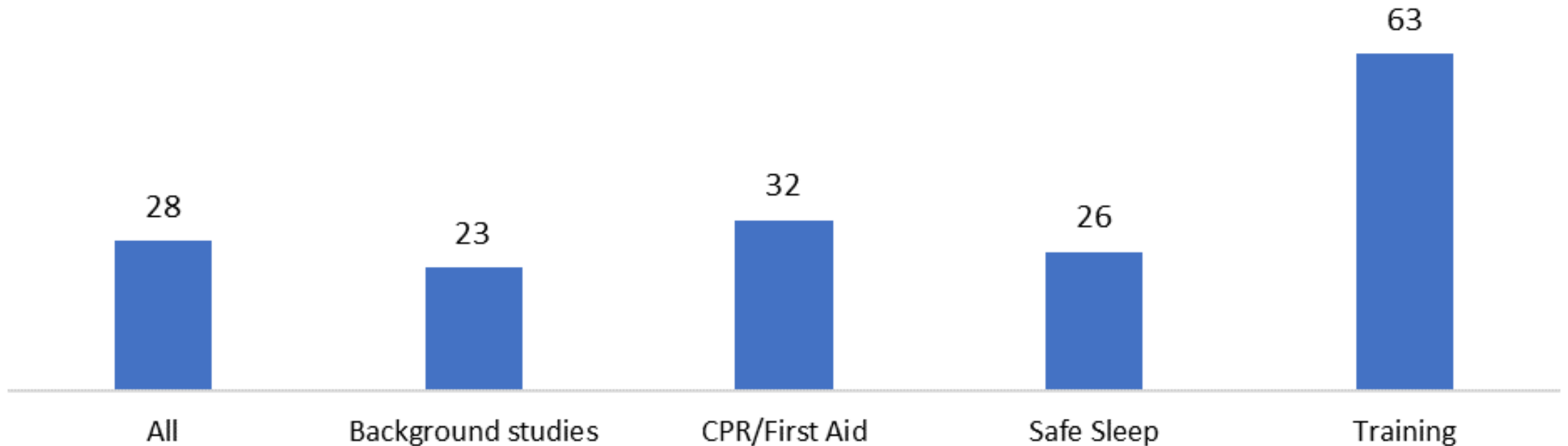
FCC top responses for 'updates needed'

What current licensing standards for family child care do you think **are not working or need improvement**?



FCC top responses for 'remain the same'

What current licensing standards for family child care are **effective and should remain the same**?



Revised Licensing Standards – Upcoming Milestones

- August – December 2023: DHS will engage licensors, providers, and state agency partners on topics needing more input
 - Sign up form: <https://forms.office.com/g/7kDKwKBxcK>
 - We acknowledge there is a lot of interest in this component. We may not have the capacity to respond to everyone at this point. **Everyone will get a chance to provide input on Draft 2.**
- February 2024: NARA will submit Draft 2
- Spring 2024: Revised licensing standards pilot
 - Draft 2 will be distributed broadly
 - DHS will have multiple avenues set up for stakeholders to provide feedback

Questions



Thank You!

Email the project team: CCRegModernization.DHS@state.mn.us

Project website: [Child Care Regulation Modernization / Minnesota Department of Human Services \(mn.gov\)](#)