



Parent Aware: Minnesota's Quality Rating and Improvement System

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Family Child Care Task Force Duty 6

Duty 6:

Review Parent Aware program participation and identify obstacles and suggested improvements.

Today's goals:

Provide an overview of Parent Aware:

- QRIS and Parent Aware
- How programs earn stars
- Which programs are eligible and options for pursuing Ratings
- How child care programs are supported to improve
- Continuous improvement process and recent updates
- Growth in Ratings and children in Rated programs
- Provider feedback survey results and on-going research

QRIS is a systemic approach to:



Quality in child care and early education programs

(qrisguide.acf.hhs.gov)

Parent Aware (MN Statute 124D.142)

Parent Aware is Minnesota's QRIS

- Provides a set of Standards and Indicators, known as “kindergarten readiness best practices,” which are based on research and public input
- Recognizes and rewards programs that use best practices
- Critical part of Minnesota's early care and education infrastructure

Parent Aware authorization language (MN Statute 124D.142)

Parent Aware authorization language:

- Is limited in scope. It addresses:
 - The program's goals and purpose
 - Requirement the program is voluntary and statewide
 - Requires standards and indicators for determining Star Levels are based on evaluation results
- Parent Aware polices are established by DHS, informed by stakeholder engagement, and are provided in a policy manual

Linked to:

- **Early Learning Scholarships (124D.165)**
 - To accept scholarships, programs must have a Star Rating
- **Child Care Assistance Program (119B.13)**
 - 15% higher rate paid to programs with a Three-Star Rating
 - 20% higher rate paid to programs with a Four-Star Rating

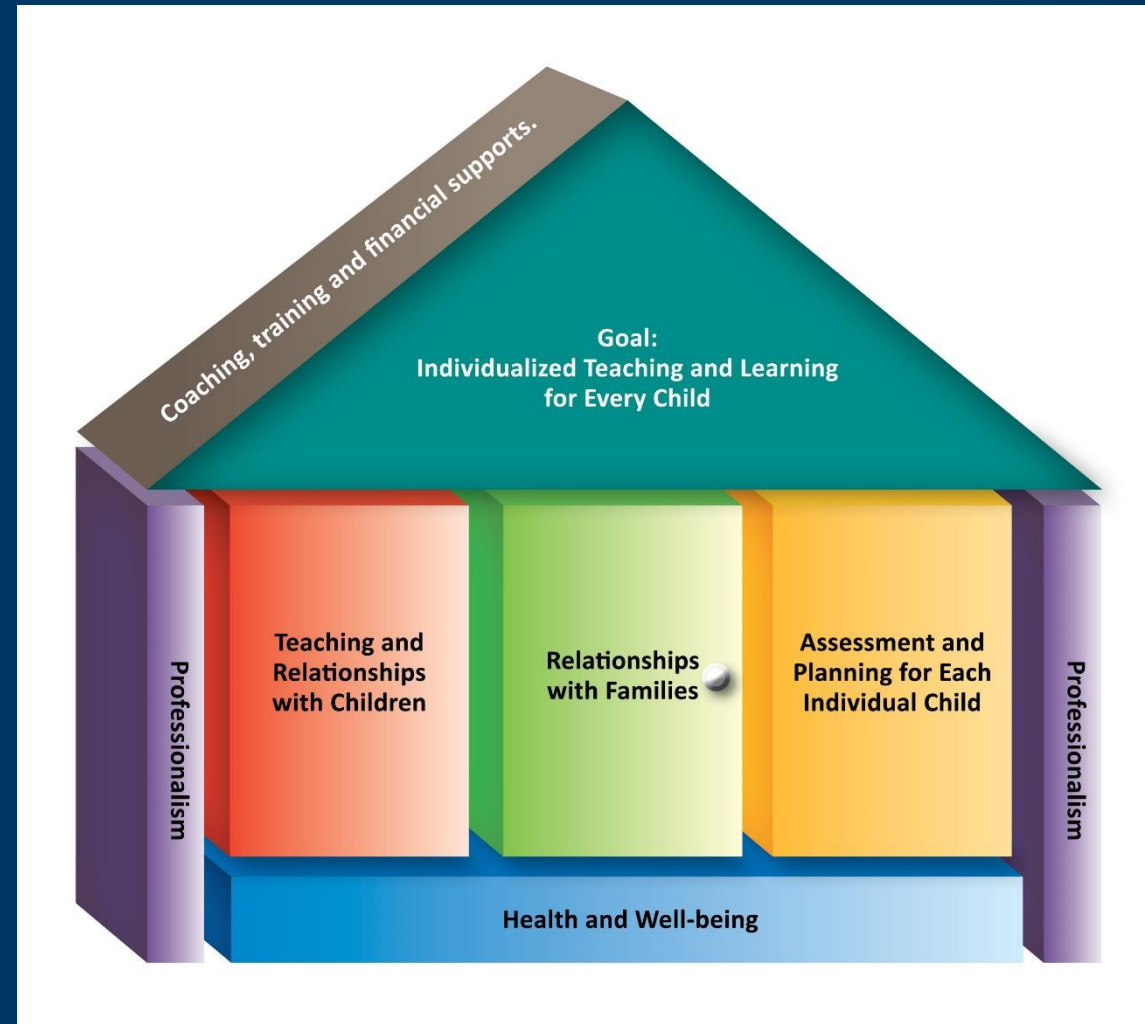
How do programs earn stars?

Flexible Framework:

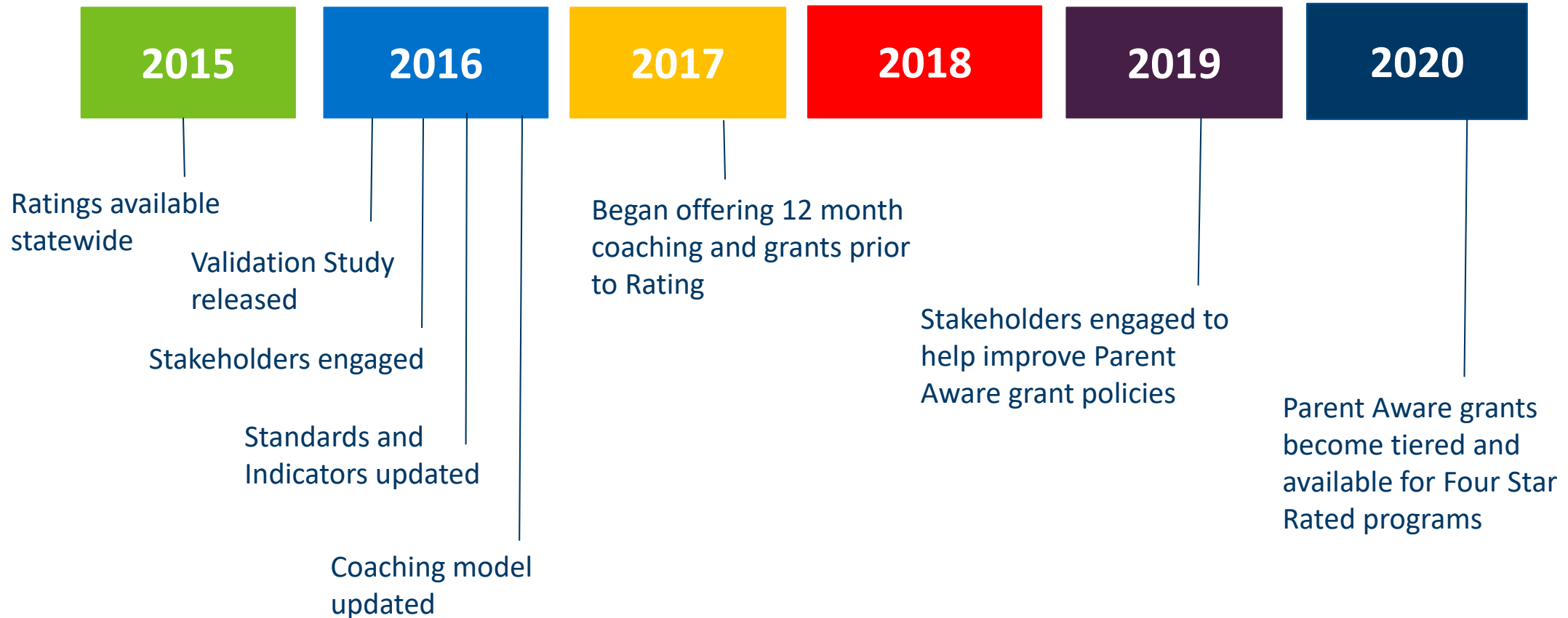
Standards and Indicators describe best practices

Programs have flexibility in how they demonstrate quality

Programs show how they meet the Standards in the House Framework



Parent Aware continuous improvement process



Parent Aware eligibility and Rating options for programs

Program types Programs must serve children ages 0 - 5	Building Quality Six month cohort, pre-Rating coaching, can be extended to twelve months	Full-Rating Six month cohort, documentation, coaching	Accelerated Fewer items documented, no coaching	Automatic Fewer items documented, no coaching
Licensed family child care	X	X		
Licensed, accredited family child care	X	X	X	
Licensed child care centers	X	X		
Licensed, accredited centers	X	X	X	
School-based Pre-kindergarten (non-VPK)			X	
Voluntary Prekindergarten				X
Head Start				X

Quality improvement supports

Supports are available to help Parent Aware participating providers **use best practices.**

Supports for family child care include:

- Quality coaching and technical assistance
- Parent Aware grants
- Training
- Professional development advising
- Other kinds of coaching and consultation

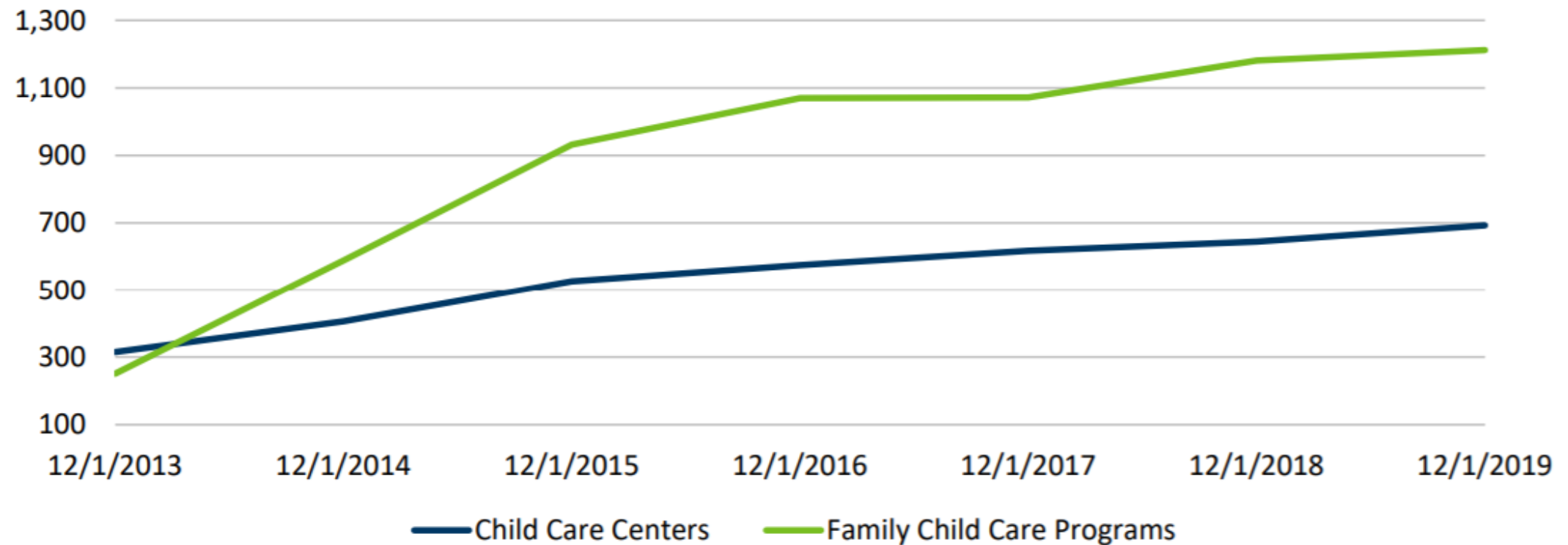


“The child care providers I work with are awesome and I get to help them illuminate that, really show them all the wonderful things they’re doing!”

- Karen Bradley, Parent Aware Quality Coach

Growth in Parent Aware Rated programs

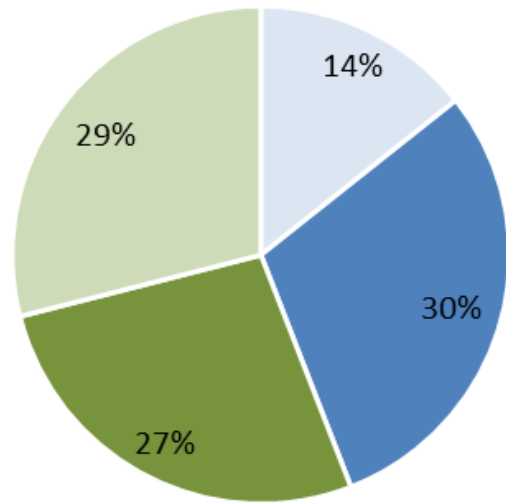
Parent Aware Rated, licensed family child care and centers, by year:



Parent Aware family child care and center rating levels

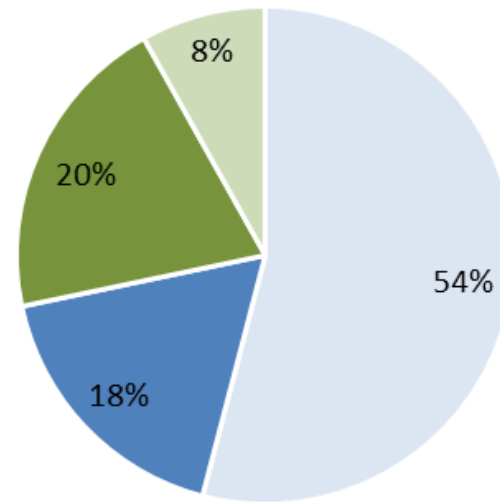
Ratings among family child care providers are more distributed than ratings for licensed centers, with fewer providers earning Three and Four Stars:

Family child care programs



■ Four-Star ■ Three-Star ■ Two-Star ■ One-Star

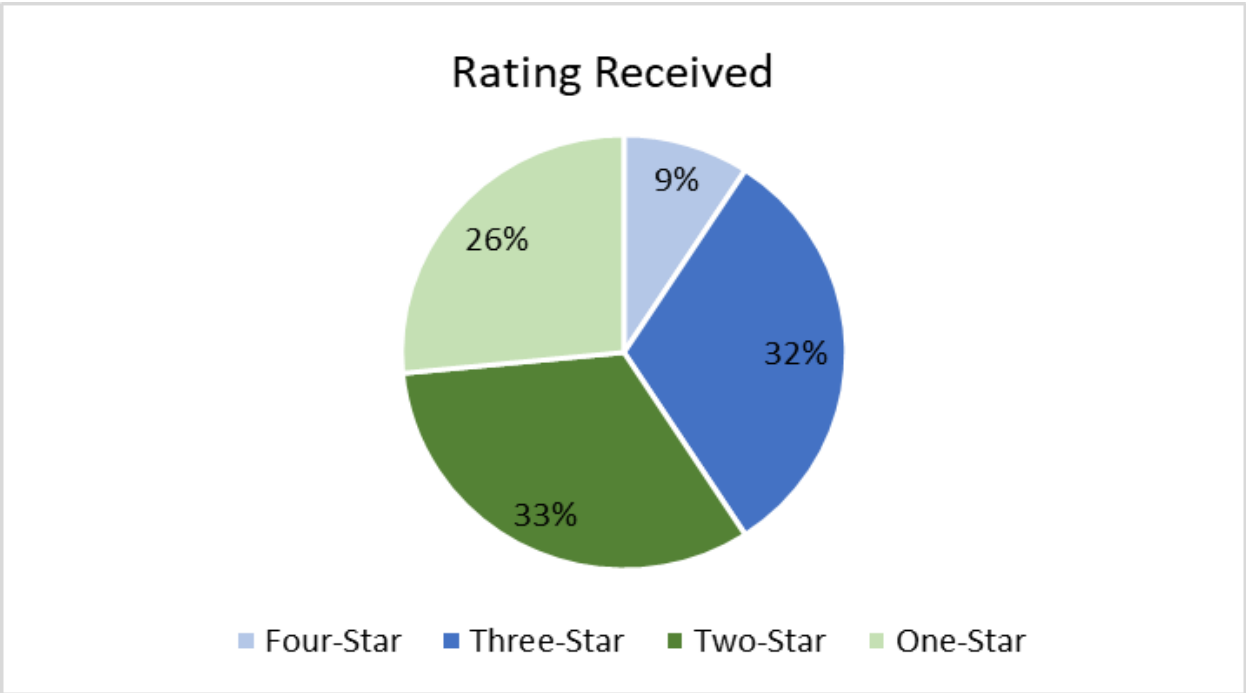
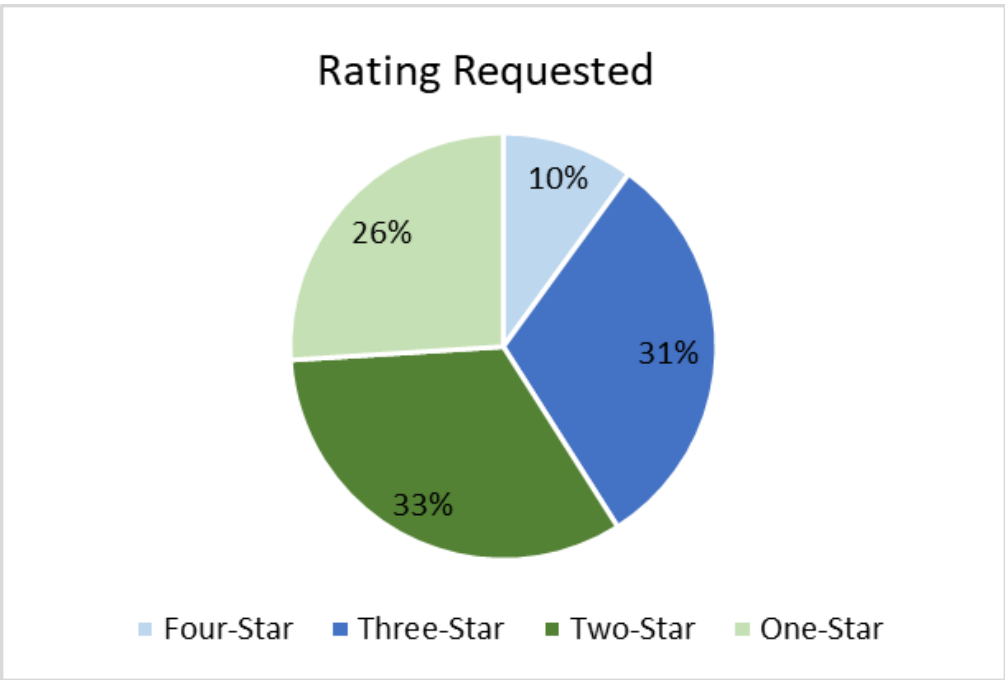
Child care center programs



■ Four-Star ■ Three-Star ■ Two-Star ■ One-Star

Do family child care providers achieve their rating goals?

Yes – 96 percent of family child care providers received their goal rating.
Ratings requested and received are almost identical:



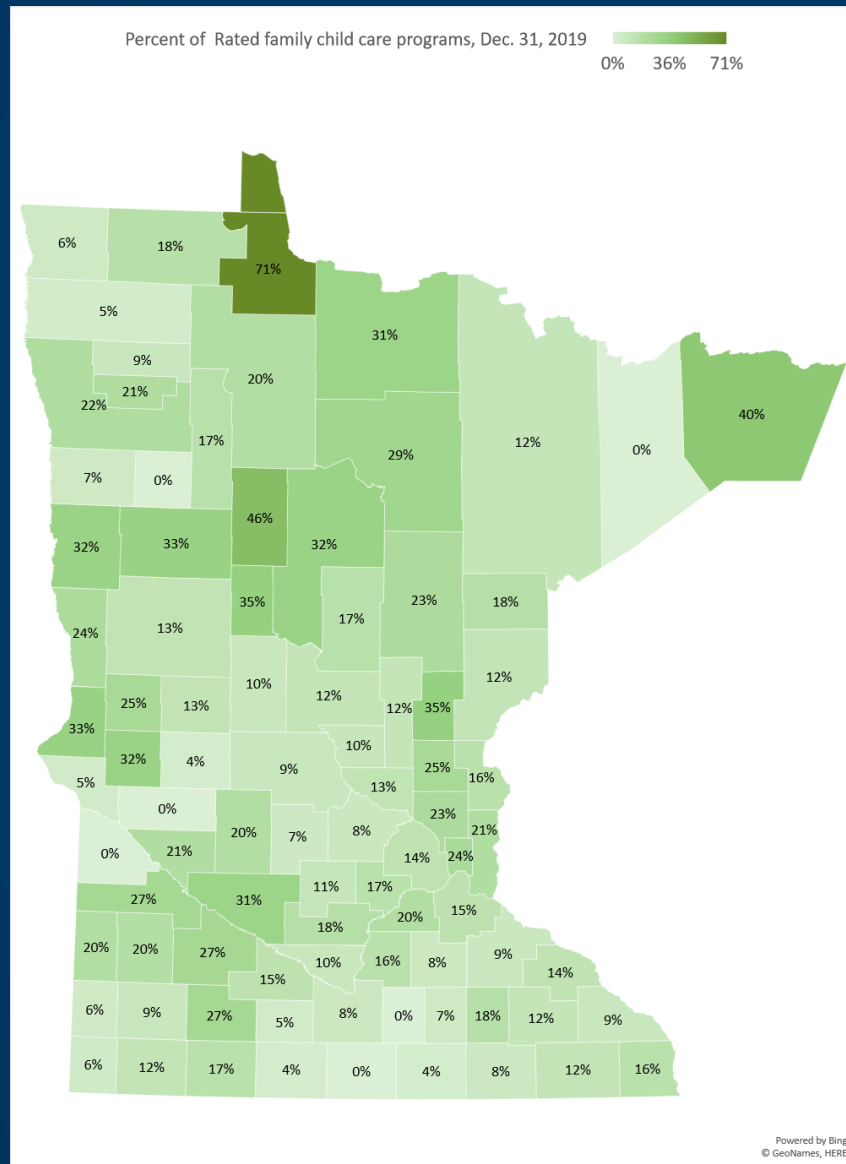
Children served in Parent Aware Rated programs

Children ages 0 - 5:

- As of Dec 2019, 1 in 5 (20%) of Minnesota children attend a Parent Aware Rated program
- Over half (62%) of Minnesota children receiving child care assistance attend Parent Aware Rated programs



Percent licensed family child care programs Rated by county



18 counties have 25% family child care providers Rated or higher

30 counties have less than 10% family child care providers Rated or lower

6 counties have no family child care providers Rated

Research and provider feedback survey results

Full-Rating participants feedback:

- 86% reported a positive impression of Parent Aware
- 94% said Quality Coach was the most helpful support
- 86% said free and reduced training was helpful
- 74% said Parent Aware grants were helpful

Recommendations:

- 31% shared concerns about access to grants and Early Learning Scholarships, especially lack of grants to Four Star Rated programs.
- 17% shared concerns about required paperwork. *Examples of recommendations include:* alleviating repetition of documentation each re-rating, and ensuring wording is appropriate for each program type, as there are different licensing requirements for family child care and centers.

Thank You!

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