

# Child Care in Vermont

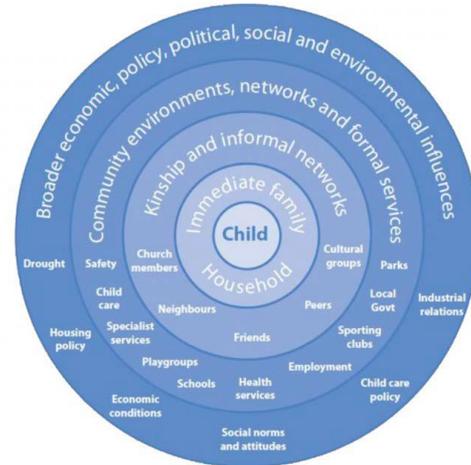
House Human  
Services Committee:  
February 14, 2019 

Reeva Murphy,  
Deputy Commissioner



# Child Care in Context

Vermont's **mixed delivery system** consists of **1,246** public and private regulated Early Care and Learning (ECL) and After School programs including:



- **Center Based Child Care and Preschool Programs (CBCCPP)**
  - Early Head Start & Head Start
  - Publicly operated pre-kindergarten(PreK) programs
  - Private PreK and child care programs
- **Registered and Licensed Family Child Care Homes (FCCH)**
- **Afterschool Programs**
  - Publicly operated in schools
  - Privately operated in schools
  - Privately community based

# Common Program Standards

Child Care Regulations create common program standards across all ECL & AS settings that assure children are safe, healthy and developing well in any care and learning program

- Clarity and due process
- Legal responsibility and program stability
- Family engagement
- Health, Safety and Nutrition
- Teaching and Learning
- Staffing and Qualifications

# Supply – how many?

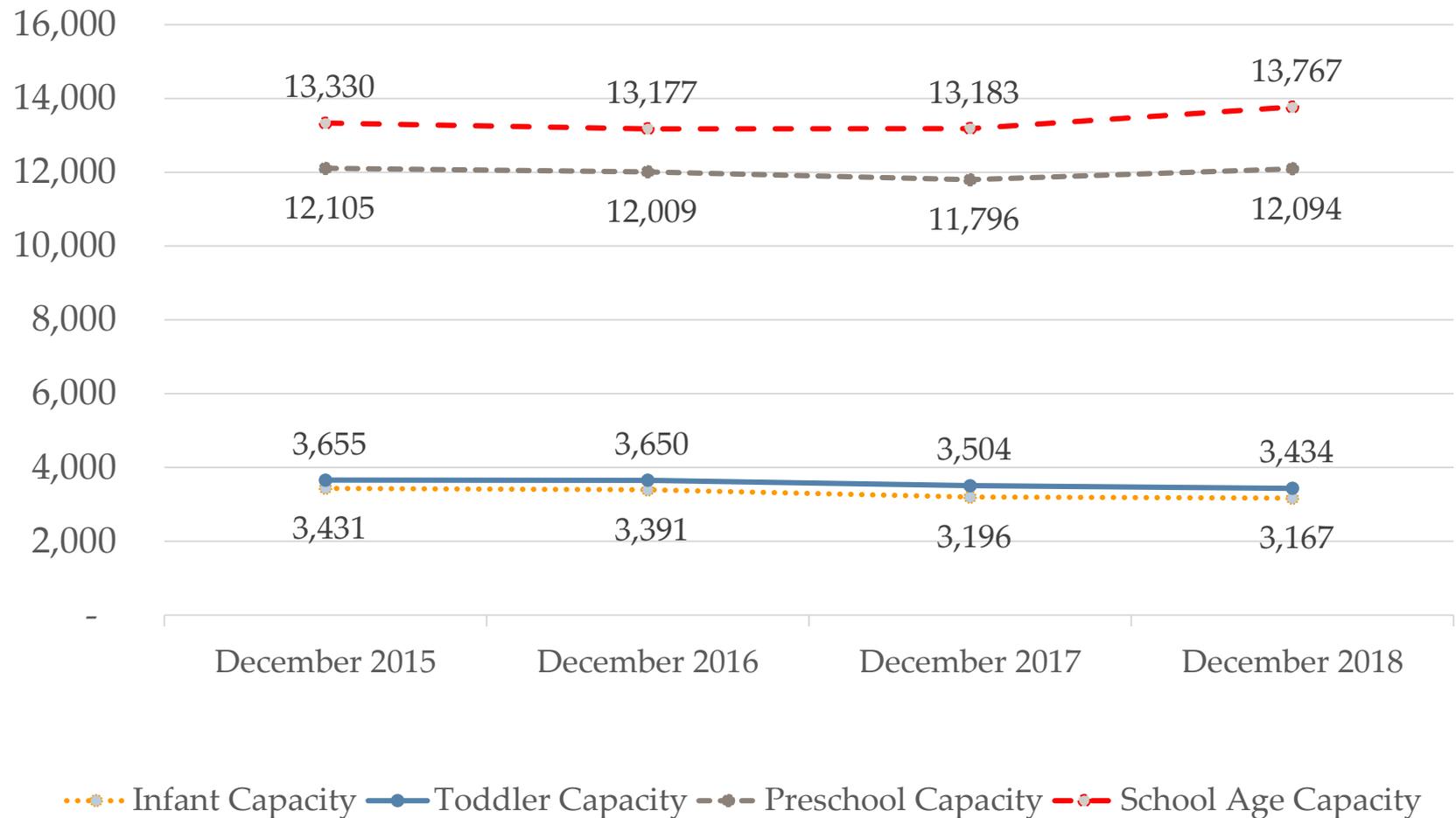
Program Types	Number of Programs	Infant Capacity	Toddler Capacity	Preschool Capacity	School Age Capacity	Total Capacity
ASP	164	0	0	0	9860	9860
CBCCPP	512	2,102	2,281	10,683	1,886	16,952
FCCH	570	1,065	1,153	1,381	2,021	5,620
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,246</b>	<b>3,167</b>	<b>3,434</b>	<b>12,064</b>	<b>13,767</b>	<b>32,432</b>



# Supply by County – where?

County	Infant Capacity	Toddler Capacity	Preschool Capacity	School Age Capacity
Addison	166	123	668	861
Bennington	230	230	712	470
Caledonia	176	222	654	311
Chittenden	1075	1008	3251	4690
Essex	10	12	98	20
Franklin	223	242	873	661
Grand Isle	15	24	99	165
Lamoille	126	245	534	602
Orange	83	109	456	619
Orleans	128	137	496	387
Rutland	281	266	1101	1891
Washington	255	282	1248	1063
Windham	171	279	759	608
Windsor	228	255	1145	1419
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>3167</b>	<b>3434</b>	<b>12094</b>	<b>13767</b>

# Changes in Supply



## Change in Capacity over 3 years

County	Change in Infant Capacity	Change in Toddler Capacity	Change in Preschool Capacity	Change in School Age Capacity	Change in Total Capacity
Addison	4	19	-23	-43	-43
Bennington	-19	-21	-102	-58	-200
Caledonia	0	44	7	8	59
Chittenden	52	-57	99	1048	1142
Essex	-6	-4	-9	-12	-31
Franklin	-54	-73	-32	-63	-222
Grand Isle	-12	-13	-24	-8	-57
Lamoille	-39	37	0	-89	-91
Orange	-11	4	-4	18	7
Orleans	-12	-10	-32	-28	-82
Rutland	-36	-75	-32	-8	-151
Washington	-36	-43	120	-190	-149
Windham	-74	-8	-113	-83	-278
Windsor	-21	-21	134	-55	37
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>-264</b>	<b>-221</b>	<b>-11</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>-59</b>

## Change in Capacity in the Past Year

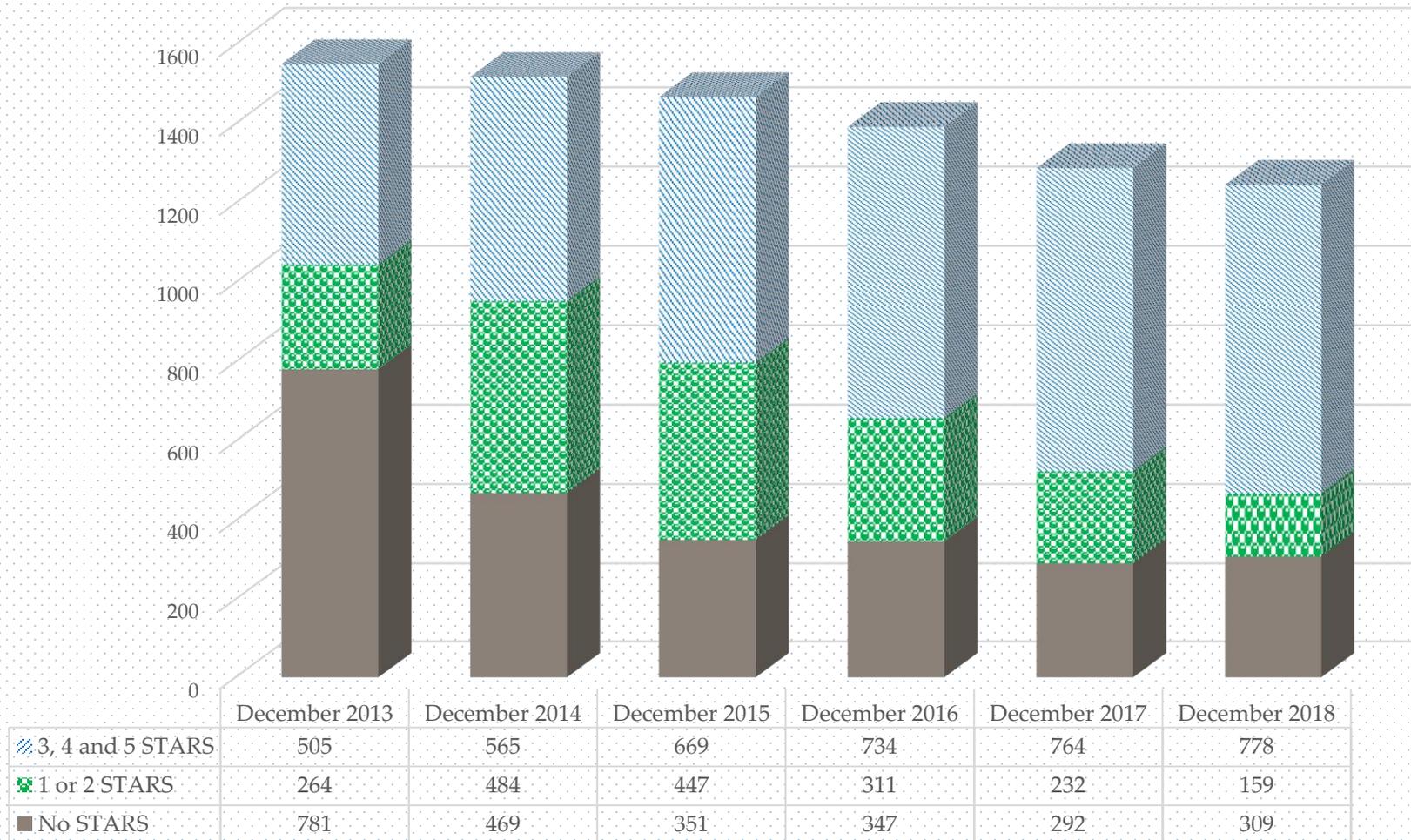
County	Change in Infant Capacity	Change in Toddler Capacity	Change in Preschool Capacity	Change in School Age Capacity	Total Capacity
Addison	14	12	-19	57	64
Bennington	0	-13	15	-16	-14
Caledonia	-2	38	-26	-9	1
Chittenden	52	-63	169	747	905
Essex	-2	0	12	-4	6
Franklin	-10	-13	21	-13	-15
Grand Isle	-2	-4	0	8	2
Lamoille	-50	25	3	-23	-45
Orange	0	5	18	57	80
Orleans	4	6	38	-34	14
Rutland	-17	-43	-28	-80	-168
Washington	-9	-20	74	-139	-94
Windham	1	1	-36	38	4
Windsor	-8	-1	57	-5	43
Grand Total	-29	-70	298	584	783

# Vermont Step Ahead Recognition & Improvement System

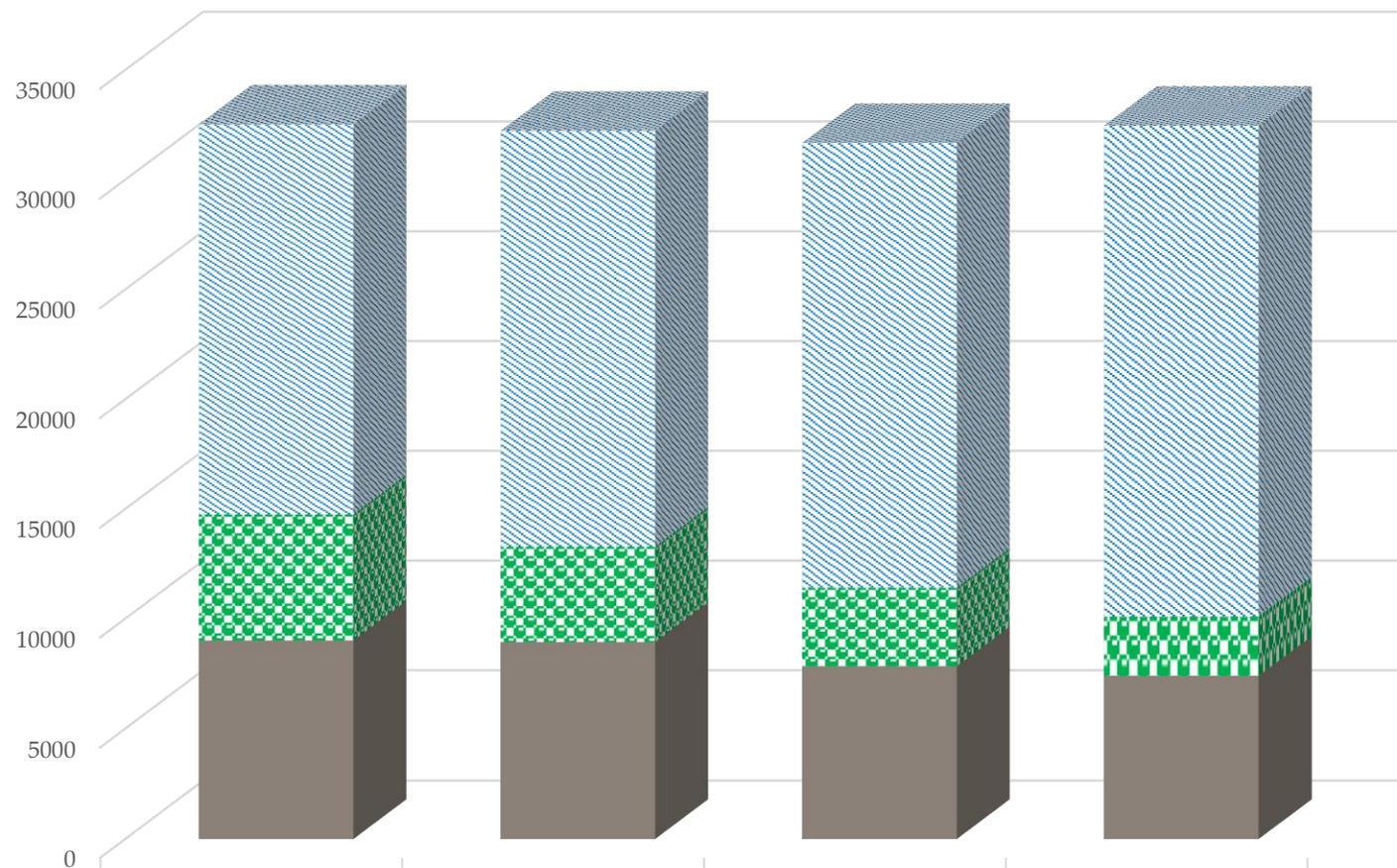


- Implemented in 2004, Vermont STARS is Vermont's quality recognition system for all ECL and AS programs
- Research on best practices and child outcomes informs Vermont STARS standards
- Programs that participate in Vermont STARS are stepping ahead — going above and beyond state regulations to provide professional services that meet the needs of children and families
- Vermont's Early Learning Challenge Grant::evaluation and marketing of Vermont STARS

# Increasing Participation in VT STARS



# Program Quality is Increasing



	December 2015	December 2016	December 2017	December 2018
3, 4 and 5 STARS	17762	18939	20260	22358
1 or 2 STARS	5747	4352	3586	2708
No STARS	9012	8936	7833	7396

# What's Next for Quality Standards

Child Trends Evaluation and Marketing Research & Development supported by Vermont's Early Learning Challenge Grant is taking Vermont STARS to a new level

## Phase 1 (Fall 2019)

- Bring licensing and Vermont STARS into full alignment – all regulated programs in
- Streamline & simplify processes
- Launch marketing campaign

## Phase 2 (2018 - 2021)

- Apply evaluation and validation study results to develop changes to the structure of STARS.
- Gather feedback from all participants
- Examine impacts on providers
- Evolve



# Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP)

## Two generation goals

- Strengthen families: Helping eligible families pay for child care supports participation in the workforce, increased education and training, and financial stability.
- Optimal child development: Access to high quality early care and learning and afterschool programs advances children's healthy development and success in learning

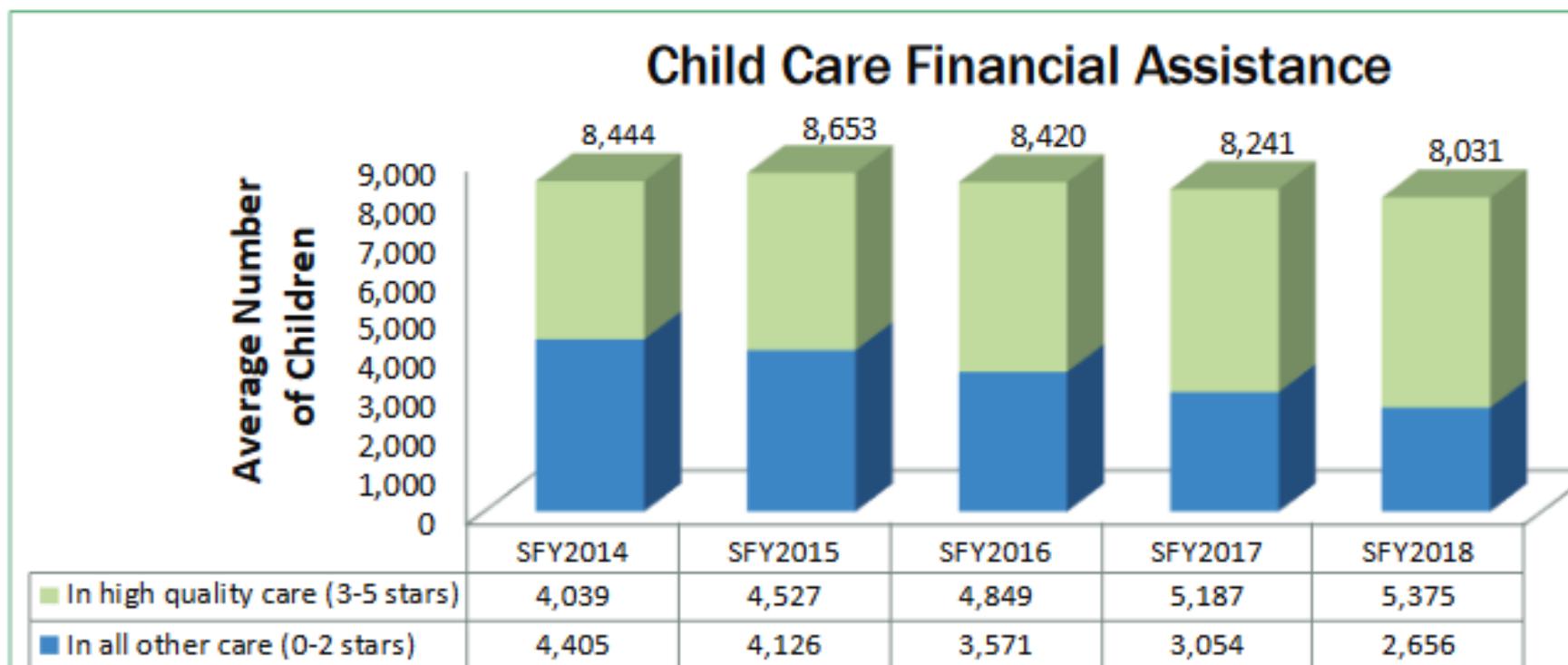


# Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP)

## Program Structure & Funding

- Assistance for eligible families is provided on a sliding fee scale that gradually reduces the assistance benefit as family income rises.
- CC FAP payments are made directly to child care providers on behalf of families.
- Families pay a co-payment directly to providers to make up the difference between what the state pays and what the provider charges.
- Funding authorized under the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG 2014 or CCDF) provides base funding for CC FAP

# CCFAP Participation



## Critical Policy Levers Related to CCFAP Investments

- Rates of reimbursement or **rates**
  - *how much the state pays for services*
- **Eligibility** criteria
  - *who can get help*
- Benefit levels or **benefits**
  - *how much help eligible families get*

**State decisions on these three policy levers interact to impact affordable access and quality.**

Quality - whether or not providers and programs have sufficient resources to incorporate and sustain the critical elements of high quality programs that are developmentally beneficial for children and contribute to building protective factors in families

# Affordable Access

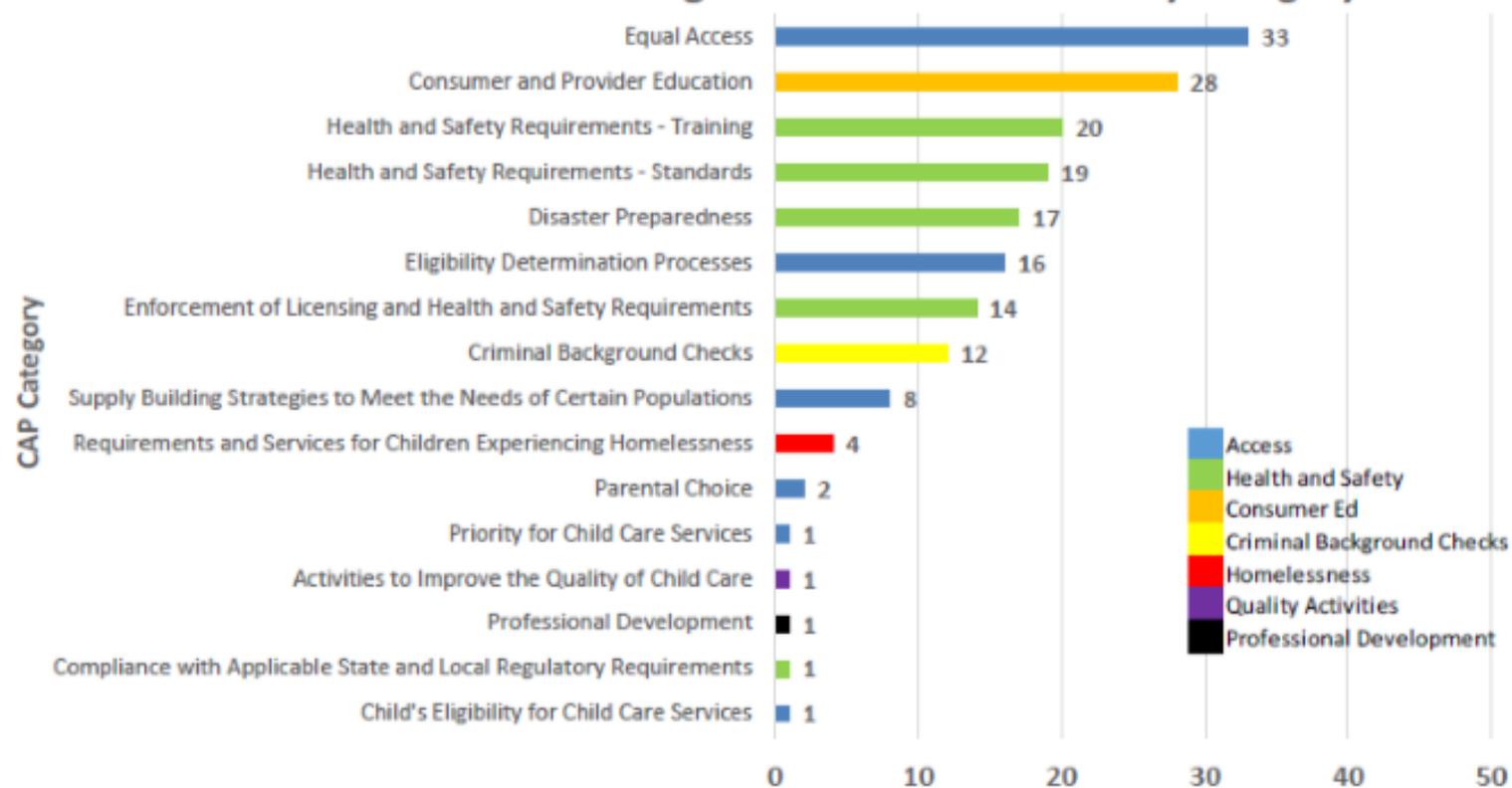
- **Access** –means that parents, with reasonable effort and affordability, can enroll their child in an arrangement that supports the child’s development and meets the parents’ needs. This encompasses factors such as program quality, location, hours and days care is available, transportation, and linkages to other sectors
- **Affordability** means that a family’s income after taxes can support the cost of high quality childcare for their children **and** all of their other basic needs - such as housing, food, and transportation



# Compliance with CCDBG 2014

## National Snapshot

Number of States Receiving Corrective Action Plan by Category



# Redesigning CCFAP

- **Set a flat co-payment amount for a family, based on family size and income – what can a family afford to pay?**
- **Family co-payment assessed at the youngest child first – no change for more than one child.**
- **Stop using a benefit level based on a percent of the state rate.**
- **Pay the provider's reported rate based on age of child and schedule after the co-payment is assessed, up to a capped rate.**
- **Maintain a tiered rate system based on Vermont STARS assessed quality and current MRS**

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House Human Services Committee:

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