

Name/Organization	Topic/Comments
<p>Mary Pat Messmer and Noelle Pina, Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce</p>	<p>Reimbursement Rates/Contractor Procurement: For the past year the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce Early Education and Care Task Force has been working to address the access and affordability crisis on Cape Cod. We applaud the team at EEC for their commitment to reform and spirit of partnership. Today we are reaching out to urge the passage of the rate increases proposed at the December meeting. The Three Region approach has great merit and is a positive step towards true rate equity. Additionally, we would like to offer some thoughts relative to the upcoming procurement. Not only are areas of the Cape considered child care “deserts” but there is an alarming scarcity of subsidy contract slots and priority population contracts. We believe the procurement may alleviate this situation.</p> <p>We are offering a number of possible strategies to address the unique characteristics of the Cape as you move towards the procurement.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Given the number of small programs the concept of a “hub” or navigator model has great merit and could be applied for both income eligible and priority population contracts. These smaller providers lack the infrastructure for successfully managing the administrative and personnel requirements of these contracts. A “marketing” campaign may be needed to engage the provider community to consider this model. 2. Would the Department consider a contract model that would provide for a funded start -up period before actual service delivery begins. This may support a program who wishes to expand their services. 3. There is concern relative to the readiness of the current provider community to consider responding to the procurement. Would the Department consider establishing a Cape-specific allocation in the event there is a lack of response. Targeted recruitment and provider supports could be developed for a future contract award. 4. If there will be in person bidders conferences, we would like to see one held on the Cape. 5. The Cape has a very high number of grandparents raising grandchildren. It would be a positive step if this population could be considered a priority population for eligibility and access. <p>Thank you for your consideration of these issues. We look forward to working in partnership with you as we address the unique needs of our community.</p>
<p>Ashley Garay, Parent</p>	<p>CFCE Play Groups Hello my name is Ashley Garay and my family moved to Worcester this past July from Minnesota. CFCE/Worcester Family</p>

Partnership has been such a blessing to our family. Day one we were welcomed with open arms and introduced to everything the program has to offer (support services, parenting classes, connections to community resources, early literacy night...the list goes on 😊).

Since attending playgroup I've noticed such a huge improvement in my son's social skills as well as vocabulary. Playgroup has also given me the opportunity to connect with other parents and families in our new community. I truly cannot say enough good things about CFCE/WFP and recommend to every family I can.

Thank you for your time and consideration