

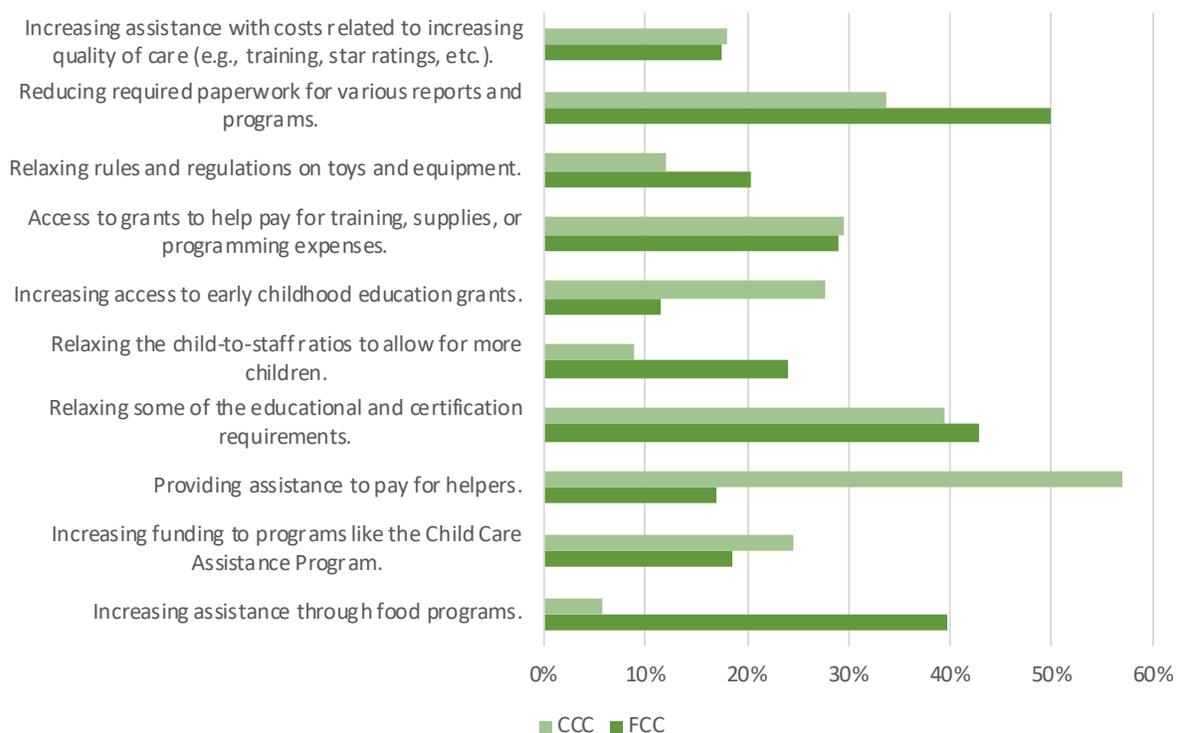
Listening to child care providers

Results of a statewide survey

Takeaways at a glance

- **Regulations:** Both family (FCC) and center (CCC) providers agreed that changes in regulations are causing difficulties in operating, 80% and 68% respectively.
- **Duration:** Center providers are more likely to plan on staying in the business more than 10 years, compared to family providers, who cited a shorter timeframe.
- **Sustainability:** Family providers showed more confidence in the financial sustainability of their business.
- **Staffing:** Center providers expressed serious concerns over the ability to hire and retain staff. When asked what would have the most positive impact on their business, they overwhelmingly said help with paying staff or increasing their pay. Their challenge: losing qualified workers to higher paying opportunities with schools and other employers.

Providers were asked which options would have the most positive impact on their ability to operate their business.



To read the full report, visit our website at ruralmn.org.

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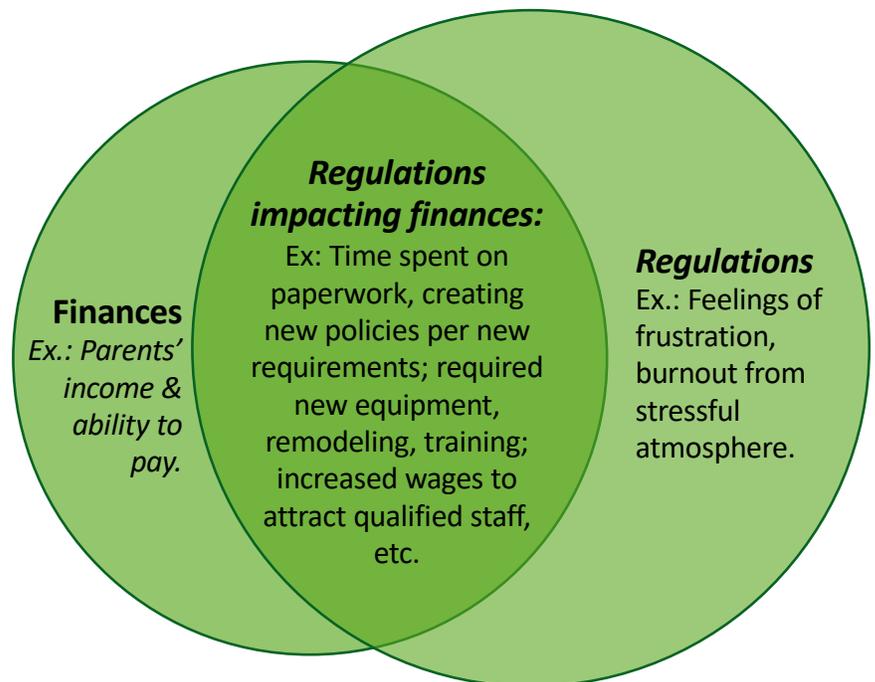
Results of a statewide survey

Regulations and finances

Family and center providers agreed: regulations are adding difficulties to running their child care businesses, especially when it comes to keeping up with changes, which are adding cost and frustration.

Comments fell into four areas:

- A punitive and overzealous regulatory system leading to a fearful atmosphere of stress, frustration and burnout.
- Excessive required training or training repeated too often for skills already learned, leading to increased expenses.
- Keeping up with the paperwork and frequent regulatory changes eating up precious time and money.
- For center providers, regulations were a major factor making it more difficult to hire staff.



According to providers' comments, regulations overlap and impact finances in many areas.

Differences between family and center providers:

- When asked how long they intended to operate their child care business, family providers gave a shorter timeframe (1-5 years) than center providers (more than 10 years).
- Center providers expressed less confidence in their financial sustainability.
- Center providers' chief concern was the ability to attract and afford staff that meet required standards. Family providers' top concerns were the increasing time spent on paperwork and cost of food. Both expressed concern over new requirements that took time away from the children and/or their families.

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