

**Excerpts from the MSDE RFP for FY 2019**

The SCE [State Coordinating Entity] shall provide grant management, training, technical assistance, support, monitoring, and evaluation of services to the MCCRCN [Maryland Child Care Resource Center Network]. The primary goal of the CCRCs [Child Care Resource Centers] is to address the needs of parents seeking quality early care and education programs and to improve capacity building for child care professionals and licensed child care programs. This includes strategic management support as well as leadership development for licensed child care center staff and registered family child care providers that participate in child care quality initiative programs to include the Maryland Child Care Credentialing program and licensed child care centers and registered family child care providers that participate in the Maryland EXCELS, the state's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS).

**Capacity Building for Improving Quality of Programs**

- The SCE shall direct the CCRCs to assist early care and education professionals to achieve quality education and care of children through on-site appraisal, strategic management, and leadership development;
- The SCE and the CCRCs shall assist licensed providers in utilizing state and/or local resources, including the state's Early Childhood Accreditation Project, the Maryland Child Care Credential Program, Training Voucher and Reimbursement programs, Child Care Career and professional Development Fund, and Maryland EXCELS;
- The SCE shall direct the CCRCs in supporting early care and education professionals to participate in the Maryland Child Care Credential program and Maryland EXCELS to meet the requirements and to move to a higher level such as providing workshops and technical assistance;
- The SCE and CCRCs shall improve the child care services for infants and toddlers (birth through three years of age) through specialized training and technical assistance for infant and toddler care providers through infant-toddler specialists by using the Healthy Beginnings Guidelines; and
- The SCE shall direct the CCRCs on how to implement the Results Based Accountability process to evaluate the effectiveness of all capacity building efforts such as utilizing the Maryland Knowledge and Competencies Self-Assessment tool.



**Excerpts from MFN's Response to the MSDE RFP** (for FY 2019)  
**Capacity Building/Technical Assistance**

Technical assistance is defined by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and Child Care Aware of America as targeted and customized supports by a knowledgeable professional to develop and strengthen processes, knowledge application, and implementation of services by recipients, in this case child care providers. Research has consistently demonstrated that professional development alone does not change an individual's behavior, despite increasing knowledge from training. In her ground-breaking work, Frede analyzed child care programs to find common elements that are critical to creating long-term positive effects for children. One of those common elements identified in effective programs, and consistently supported by subsequent research, is that the teachers received support to reflect on and improve teaching practices.

Technical assistance provided through the MCCRCN ensures child care providers have access to knowledgeable specialists through the CCRCs on a variety of topics and initiatives. These specialists provide support on Maryland initiatives, such as Maryland EXCELS, the Child Care Credential, program accreditation, as well as national initiatives such as the CDA, Environmental Rating Scales, and the Business/Program Administration Scales.

Services also include support on environment, materials, developmentally appropriate practices, regulations, infant/toddler care, business practices, and curriculum selection/implementation. These services are provided in-person (either at the CCRC or at the child care program), or remotely, which can include by telephone, email, or other use of convenient technology as the provider is comfortable.

In FY17, the CCRCs conducted over 960 cases, services provided over a period of time on a focused issue, spanning 4,400 hours. The CCRCs assisted over 8,910 individuals through contacts, a single interaction over 1,531 hours. The CCRCs conducted 220 group sessions serving 2,140 participants in a group setting.

