



Shaping the Future of Child Care: Innovation, Integrity, and Partnership

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Strengthening Child Care Access Through Smarter Federal-State Partnership

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICA'S FAMILIES



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Opportunities to Improve Federal Grant Administration

- Improve consistency, clarity, and predictability across administrations
- Empower states and local communities to develop responsive, locally-driven solutions
- Reduce ambiguity in federal guidance that can slow innovation and implementation
- Eliminate unnecessary administrative burden so that more resources reach children, families, and providers
- Focus federal oversight on outcomes and accountability rather than process-heavy compliance



[Home](#) > [Data & Research](#) > [Child Welfare Data](#) > [A Home for Every Child Power Rankings](#)



A HOME FOR EVERY CHILD POWER RANKINGS

Real-time data. Real accountability. Better outcomes for children and families.

These rankings provide a transparent look at how states are performing on key child welfare outcomes. Data is reported monthly by participating states.

 Data updated monthly | Last updated: May 9, 2025



15 STATES. ONE GOAL.

Every child has a safe, stable, loving home.

[About A Home for Every Child](#) →

RANKINGS

STATES

MEASURES

METHODOLOGY

FAQS

RESOURCES

[Download Data \(CSV\)](#)

RANK	STATE	OVERALL SCORE (out of 100)	HOMES TO CHILDREN RATIO (weight 40%)	TIMELY DATA REPORTING (weight 20%)	SAFETY & STABILITY OUTCOMES (weight 20%)	PREVENTION & FAMILY SUPPORT (weight 20%)	TREND vs last month
1	 Louisiana	87.6	85.2	92.1	84.3	88.9	↑
2	 Oklahoma	82.4	80.1	88.7	78.6	82.2	↑
3	 Utah	79.3	76.4	85.9	77.2	77.6	↑
4	 Indiana	76.8	72.3	83.1	74.6	76.9	↑
5	 North Carolina	74.1	70.2	80.4	72.1	73.8	↑
6	 Tennessee	72.3	68.7	78.9	69.5	72.2	—
7	 Kentucky	68.9	64.3	74.2	67.1	69.9	↓
8	 Arizona	65.1	60.5	72.8	63.3	63.9	↑
9	 Missouri	62.4	58.7	68.3	60.9	61.6	↓
10	 Ohio	59.8	55.1	66.2	57.3	60.5	—
11	 Michigan	55.6	51.0	61.7	54.2	55.5	↓
12	 Georgia	51.2	46.9	58.9	49.7	49.3	↓
13	 Mississippi	47.3	43.2	55.1	45.4	45.5	↓
14	 Alabama	43.6	39.8	51.2	42.1	41.3	↓
15	 South Carolina	39.2	35.6	47.9	38.3	34.9	↓



Name it. Share it. Improve it.

Transparency drives change. These rankings highlight what's working—and where we can do better.



A better way forward.

Less red tape. More timely data. More time for caseworkers. Better outcomes for children.



Interested in joining?

More states can join A Home for Every Child and qualify for the summer incentive.
[Learn more about the initiative](#) →

HOW THE RANKINGS WORK

States are scored monthly on five key areas that drive better outcomes for children and families. Scores are weighted by what matters most—ensuring more homes, safety, stability, and strong family support.

[View Methodology](#) →

KEY MEASURES



Homes to Children Ratio (40%)

Availability of foster homes relative to the number of children in care.



Timely Data Reporting (20%)

States submit key data monthly, not years later.



Safety & Stability Outcomes (20%)

Permanency, re-entry rates, and placement stability.



Prevention & Family Support (20%)

Supports to keep families strong and prevent foster care entries.



Our Goal

No child without a safe, stable, loving home.

A Home for Every Child is an initiative of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

Sample only – does not leverage current data



CCDF Landscape and Opportunity

Measure	Recent Estimate
Children receiving CCDF subsidy (average monthly)	1.623M
CCDF as a percent of paid child care market	12%
CCDF as percent of both paid and unpaid child care market	8%



Child Care Priorities

- Expand parental choice and flexible care options that meet the realities of working families
- Strengthen child care supply in settings that reflect family preferences and community needs
- Empower states, providers, and communities to design locally-responsive solutions
- Direct resources toward children and families with the greatest needs
- Maintain strong accountability while reducing unnecessary administrative complexity
- Support innovation that improves access, affordability, and provider sustainability



Accomplishing these Priorities

- Reasonable people can disagree on the right approach to balancing affordability, access, supply, and quality
- States and communities face different workforce conditions, economic realities, and family preferences
- Who should decide these points of variation – federal regulators, state regulators, providers, or families?



ACF Next Steps

- May 2026: Finalized rescissions package restoring state flexibility for payment model, copayments
- Exploring other regulations that empower local decision-making for states, providers, and families





Insights from ACF Leadership

A Conversation between Assistant Secretary Adams
and Director Horman



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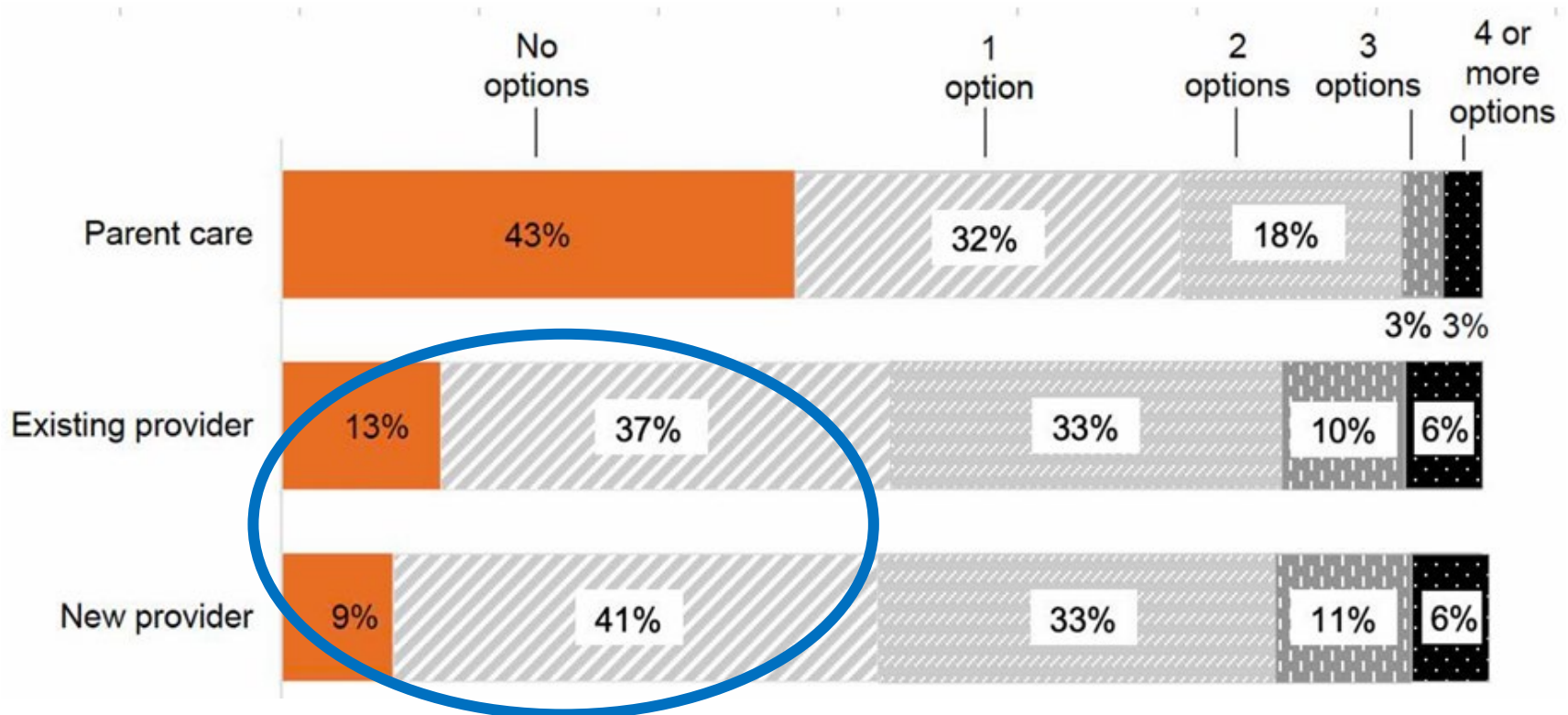
Wendy Horman

Director, Office of Child Care



Families struggle to find care that meets their needs.

- Among parents who chose out of home care (existing or new provider), 50% found no or only 1 option that met their needs.
- Among parents who chose parent care, 43% found no options that met their needs.

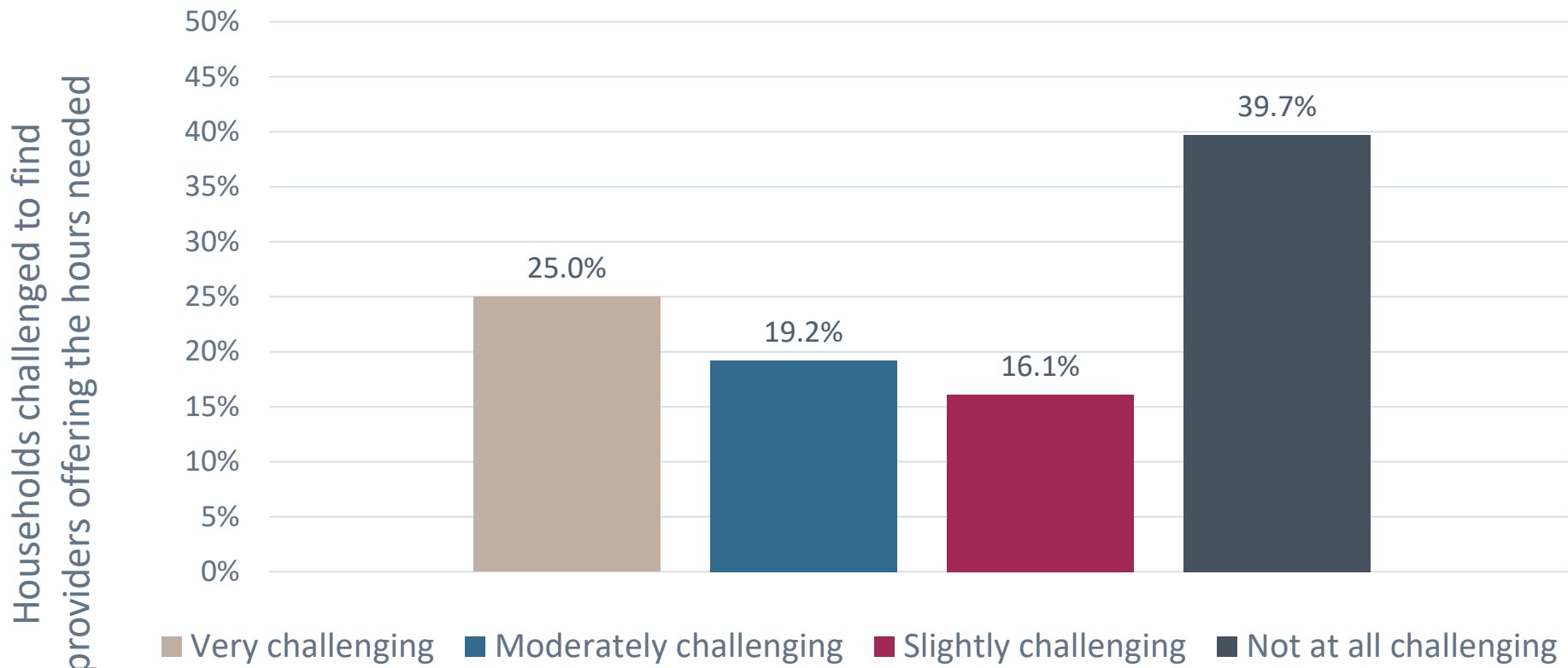


Source: Consumer Education & Parental Choice in ECE project (CEPC), 2024 Parent survey. Data are reported here by decision group-- whether they ultimately chose parental care or to enroll their child with an existing or new provider. Report available at

https://acf.gov/sites/default/files/documents/opre/final_opre-connecting-parents-cc-decisions-sep25.pdf

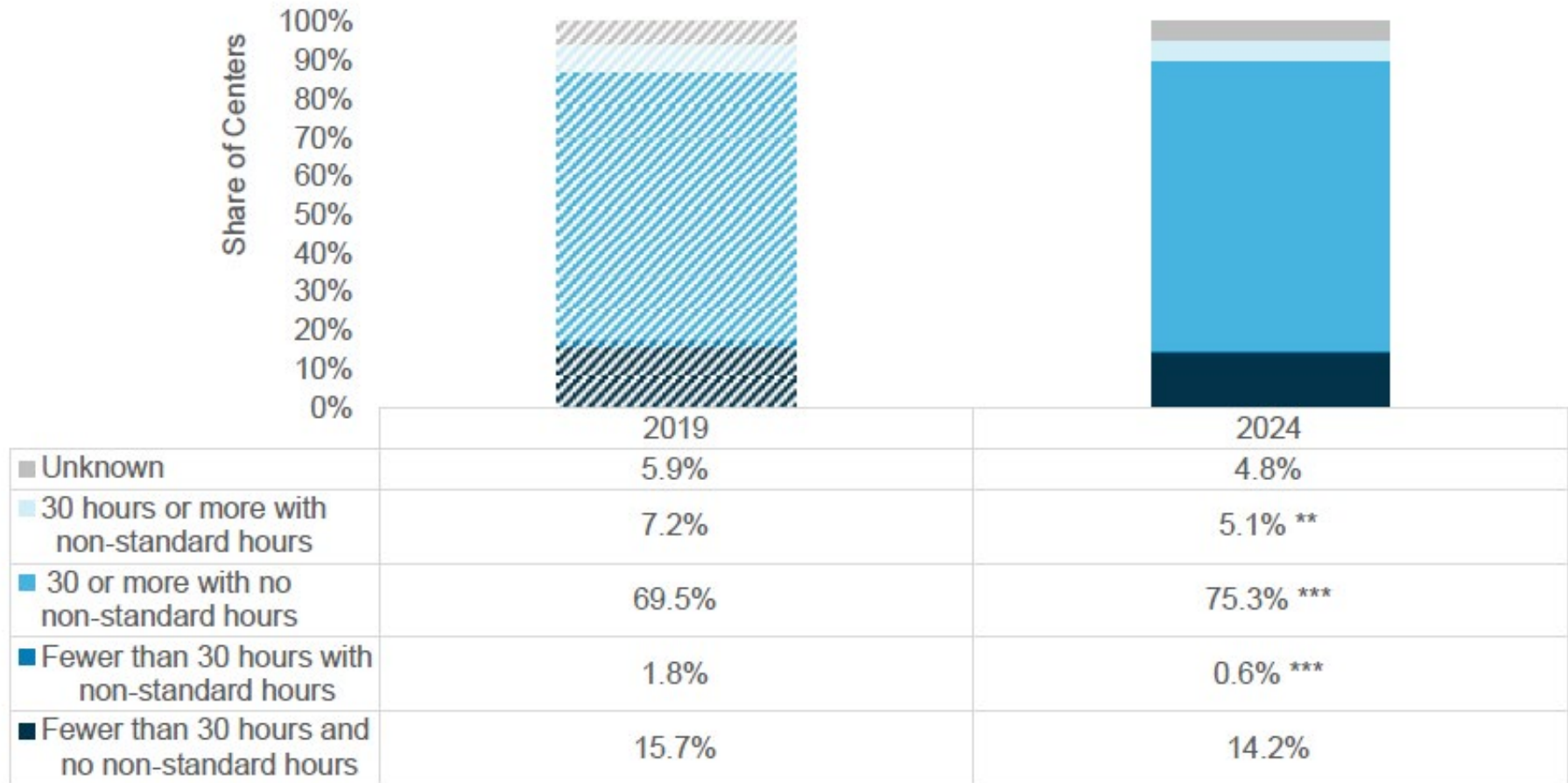


Key challenge: Families struggle to find care during the hours they need to be able to work



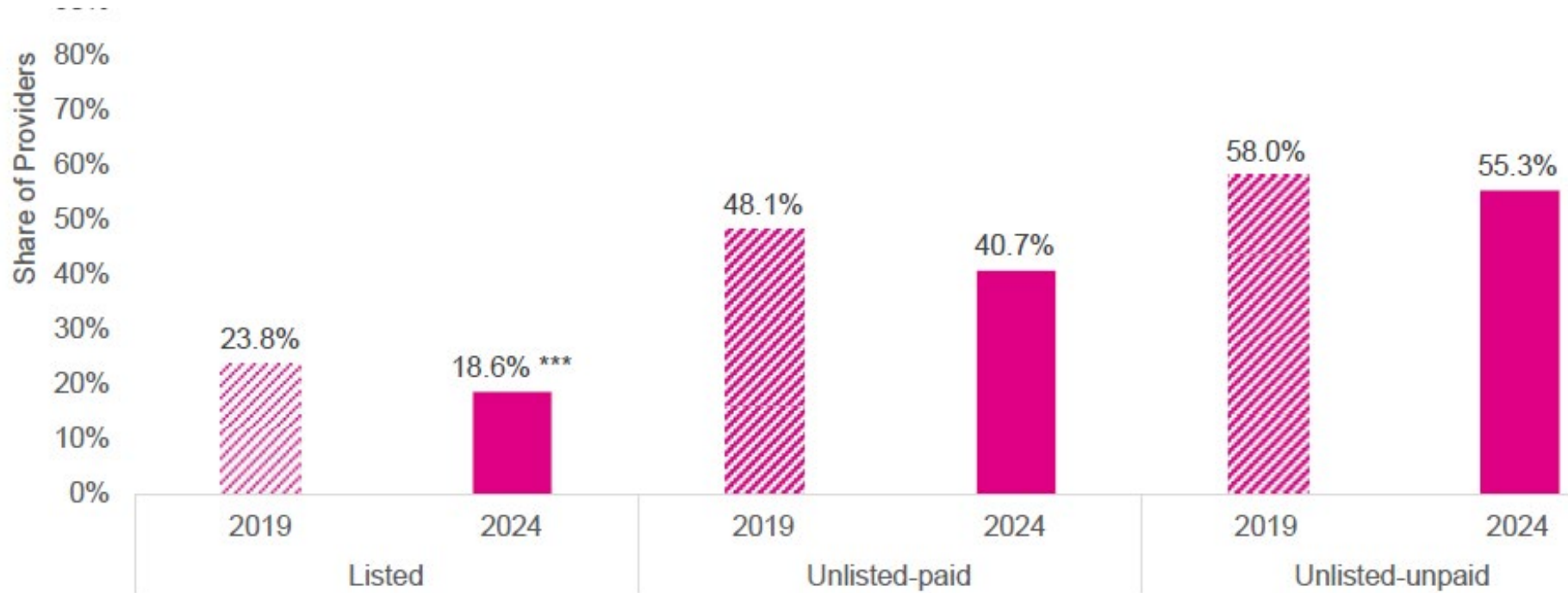


Decline in providers offering non-standard hours between 2019 and 2024 – Center-based





Decline in providers offering non-standard hours between 2019 and 2024 – Home-based





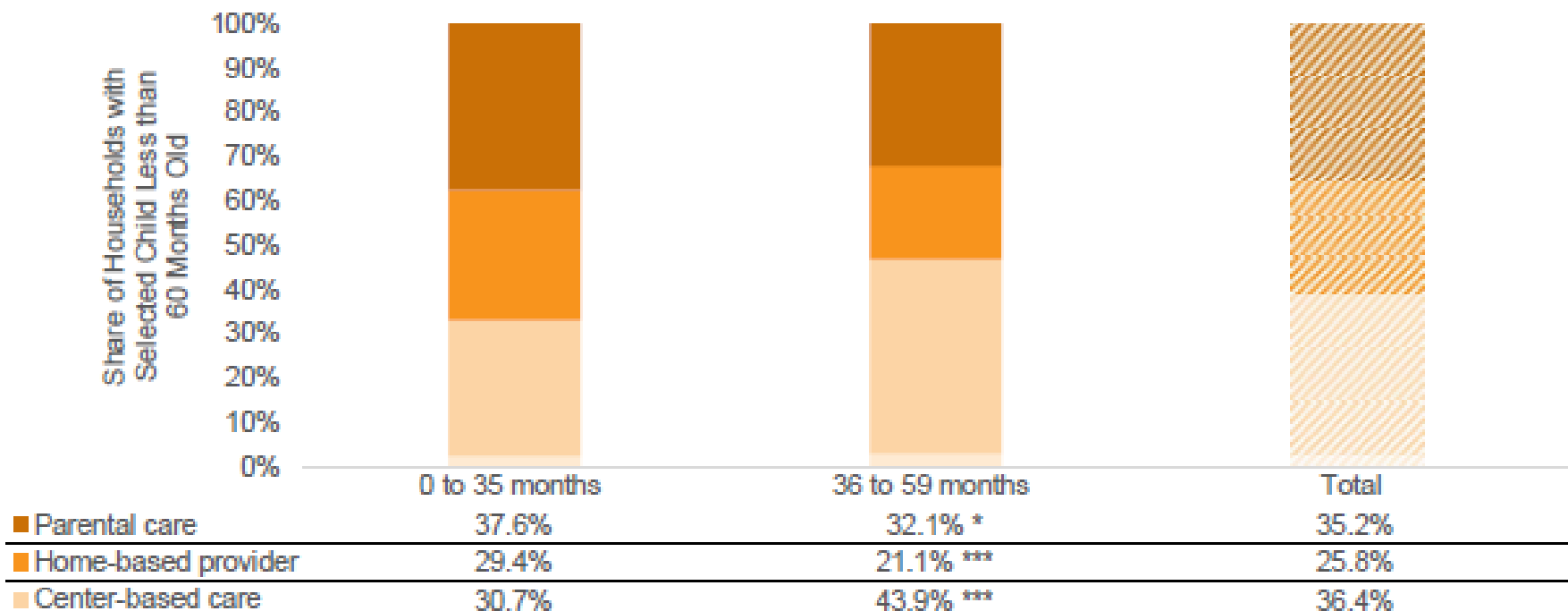
Families
struggle to
find care in
the setting
they prefer





What type of care do families most want for their child, if all options are free and in a convenient location?

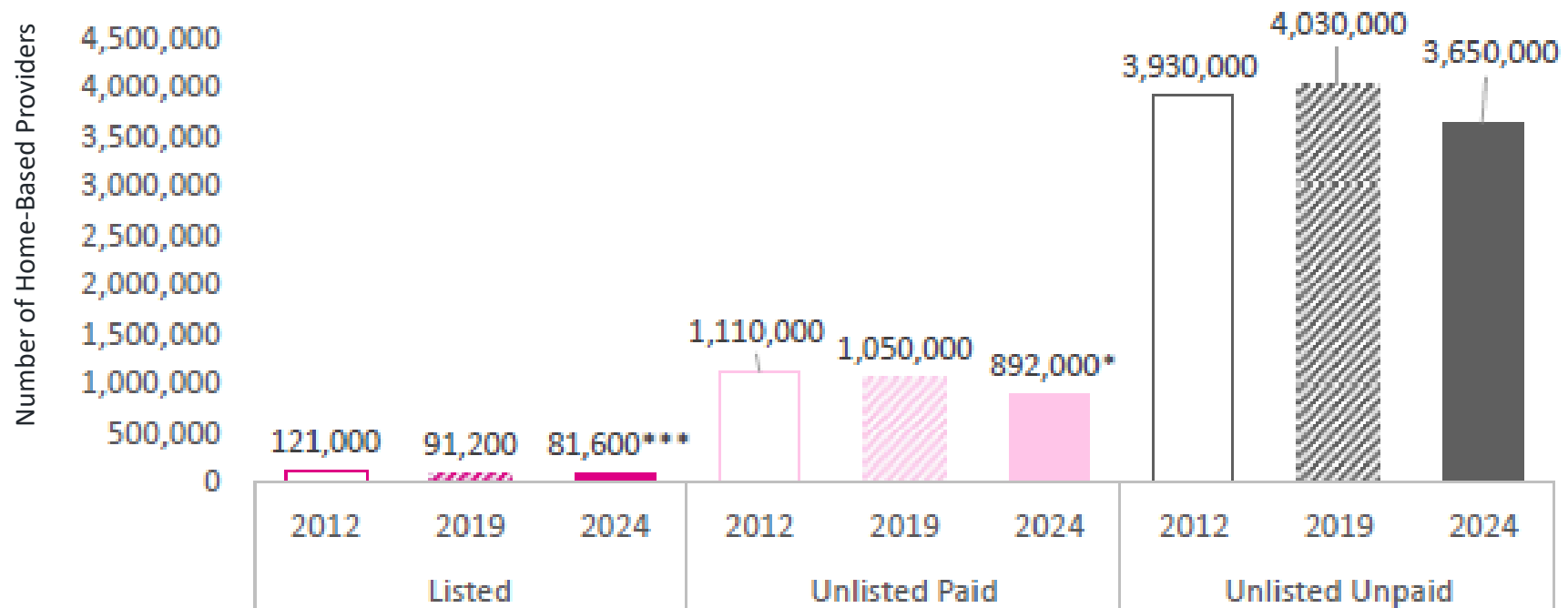
- Most parents prefer parental care (35%) or home-based (26%)
- Parents of infants/toddlers are less likely to prefer center-based (31%) than parents of preschool-aged children (44%)





Over time, the child care market has shifted away from what parents want.

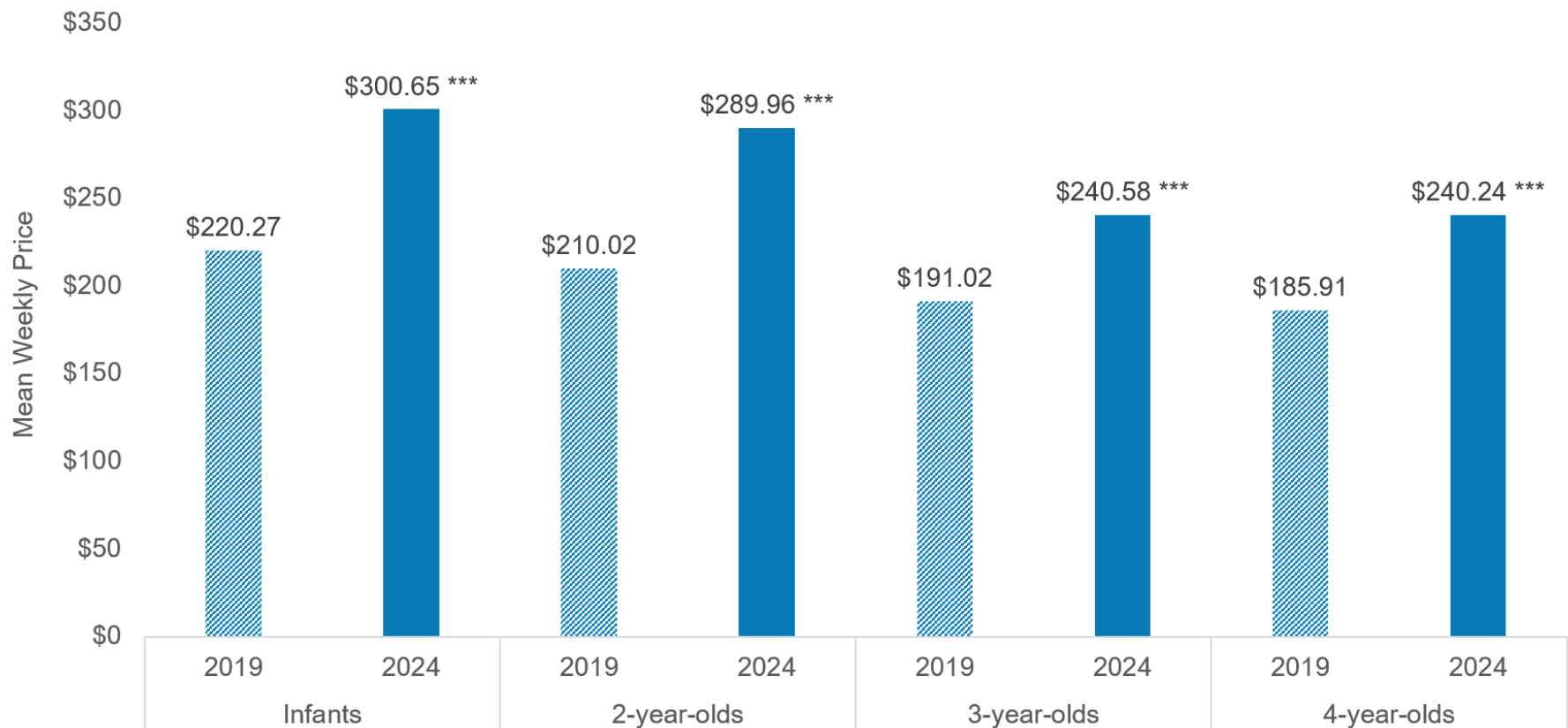
- Number of home-based providers in the market continues to decline
- Proportion of infants/toddlers in centers increased from 22% to 26%





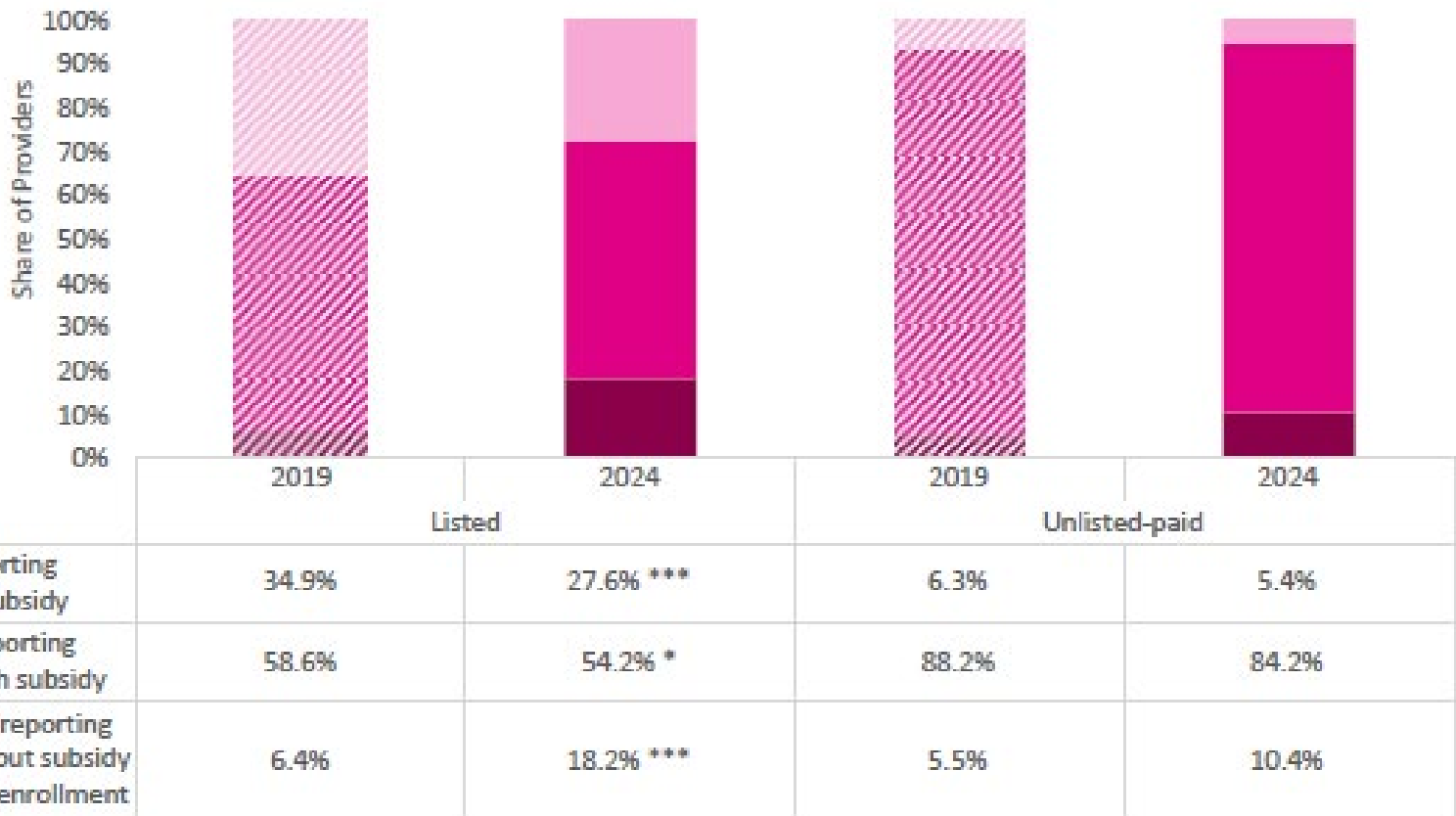
Families struggle to find care they can afford.

- Between 2019 and 2024, weekly prices of center-based care increased by 25-35%



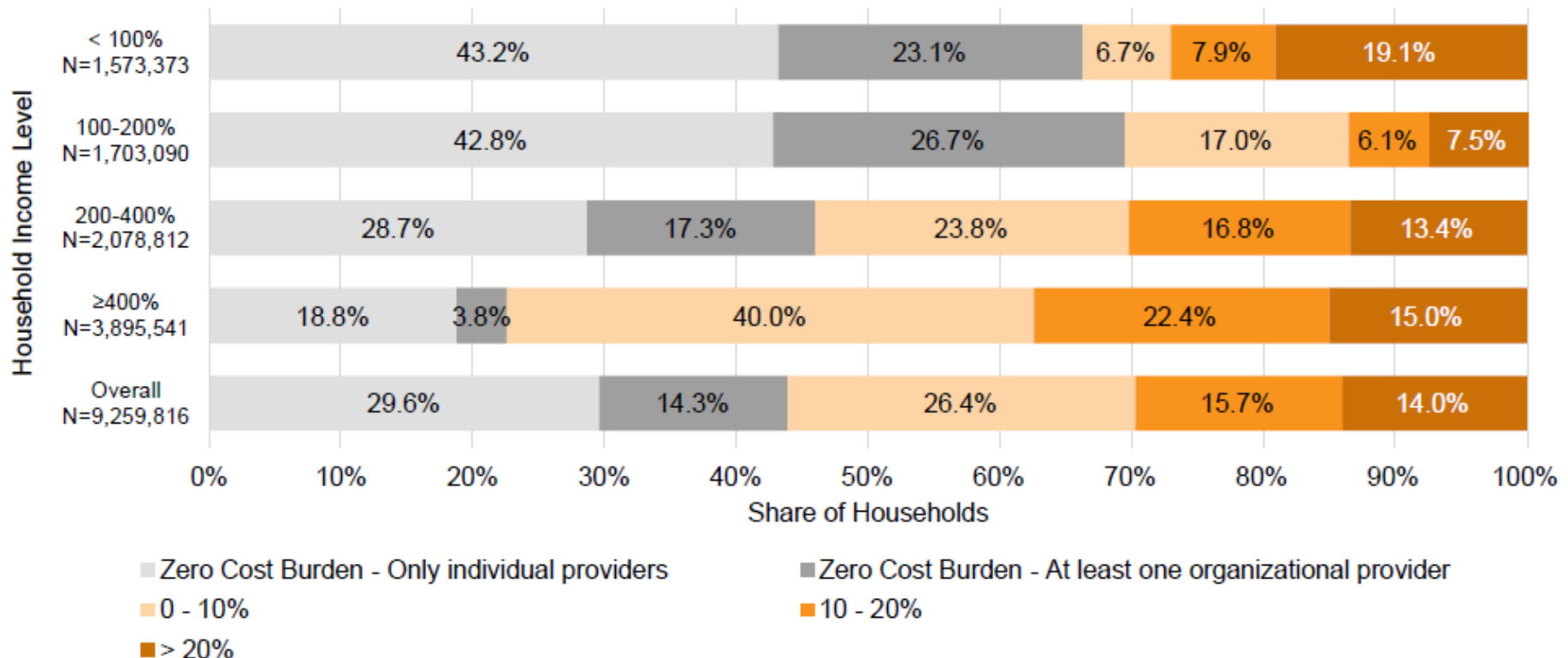


Fewer home-based providers are serving children with subsidies in 2024 (28%) compared to 2019 (35%).



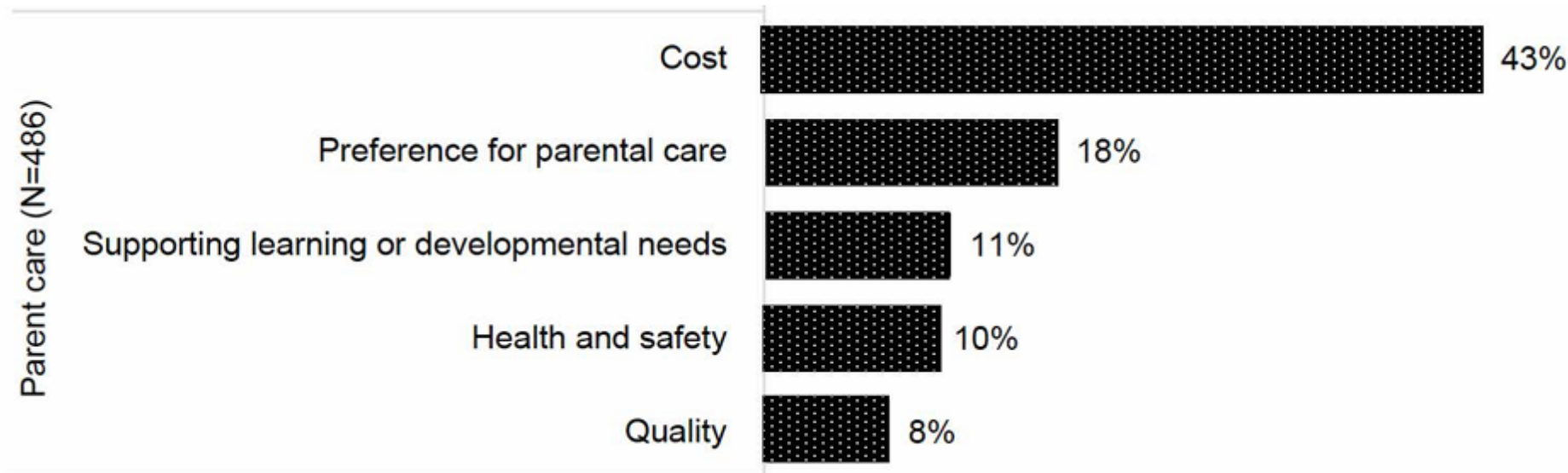


Families' cost burden for child care is substantial.





Cost was the most frequent reason parents reported for choosing parental care



Source: 2024 parent survey under the Consumer Education & Parental Choice in ECE project.

Report available at: https://acf.gov/sites/default/files/documents/opre/final_opre-connecting-parents-cc-decisions-sep25.pdf

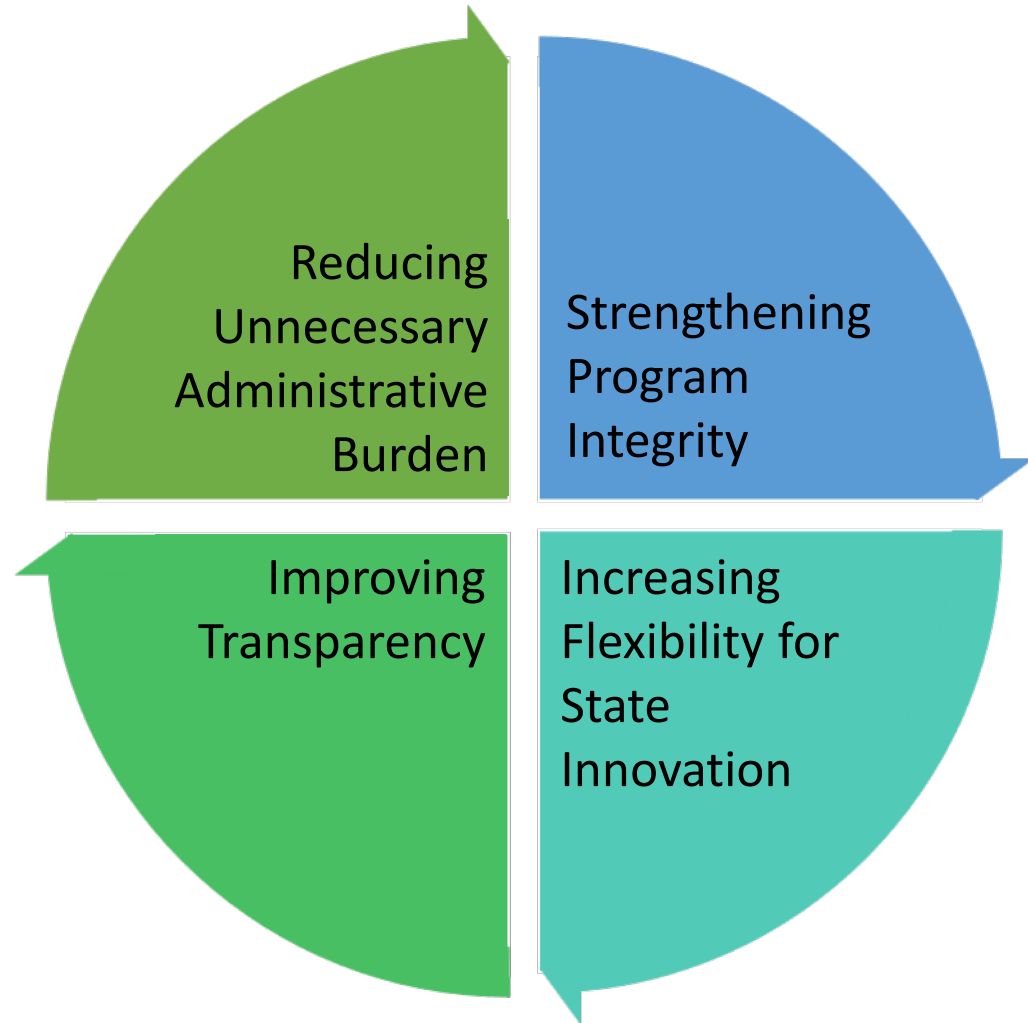


Where do we go from here?





OCC Priorities





Reducing Unnecessary Administrative Burden



- Regulations
- State Plan
- Plan amendments
- Quality Progress Report (QPR)



Strengthening Program Integrity



Strengthening
Program Integrity

- Monitoring and oversight approach
- Error rate accountability
- Audits



Supporting State Innovation

Increasing
Flexibility for
State Innovation



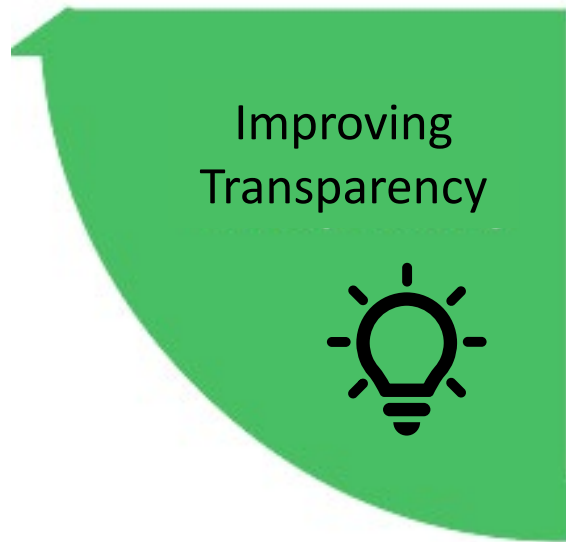
- State snapshot series



- Research partnerships funding opportunity
- Peer-to-peer sharing



Improving Transparency



- Monitoring and inspection reports
- CCDF funding formula
- USDA School Lunch program data

2026 State and Territory CCDF
Administrators Meeting
STAM July 21-23
Hyatt Regency Reston
in Reston, Virginia



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Office of Child Care
An Office of the Administration for Children & Families

