



Department for Children and Families
Child Development Division
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05671-2901
(802) 241-3110 Fax (802) 241-1220

TO: BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES STATE COUNCIL
EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS/LOCAL BBF COUNCILS
CHILD CARE PROVIDERS
CHILD ADVOCATES
THE BROADER EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMUNITY

FROM: STEVE DALE, DCF COMMISSIONER
REEVA MURPHY, DCF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR CHILD
DEVELOPMENT

DATE: September 14, 2009

SUBJECT: CHILD CARE RESTRUCTURING APPROVED

On September 10, 2009, the Joint Fiscal Committee unanimously approved of the plan put forward for restructuring the Child Care Financial Assistance Program. The Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR) will meet in early October to give final approval to changing the fee scale from the 2000 Federal Poverty Level to 2009. We are assuming that change will be approved, so are now fully engaged in planning for implementation, effective January 3, 2010.

We want to thank all those providers, parents, and child advocates who have supported the development of the proposal and who have encouraged adoption of this plan.

Over the next month, we will finalize the implementation plan. We are committed to excellent communication during this period to be certain that everyone affected knows how the new system will work and how to address questions and issues. We will complete the design of the "Strengthening Families Grants" by the end of this month, so that funds will be available to recipients by January.

We will send and post regular updates on implementation.

We are very excited about this opportunity to strengthen the early childhood system for the benefit of Vermont's children and their families.