

Accreditation System and Child Care Unit Services

Goal: Provide services to for all regulated providers in the City of Madison to ensure access to high-quality child care options for residents and the workforce

- Accreditation as a tool
- Startup and expansion case management
- Entry level training in Spanish and English
- MMSD 4K support
- Inclusion and expulsion practices
- City and statewide collaborations

Feedback from Providers about current system

- Dedicated City service increased longevity and quality
- Ability to have needs addressed locally
- Value of feeling appreciated by the City
- Focus on serving children who are excluded or asked to leave other programs
- Need for clarity in the process
- Annual accreditation is burdensome on provider time and budget
- Length of accreditation process can vary
- Left feeling unsure of next steps
- Definition of religious bias is unclear

Child Care Accreditation System Changes

Exploring accreditation process changes

- 3 Year Accreditation Cycle
 - Initiated by program
 - Annual reports
 - Child Care Program Specialist assignment Changes
 - Technical Assistance available before and after accreditation process
 - Clear schedules and timelines for accreditation
 - Lessen required meeting and classroom observations
 - Accreditation expires 3 years after accreditation is awarded

Child Care Accreditation System Changes

Accreditation Systems

- Electronic File Sharing
- Plain language tools, guidance and standards

Funding and Eligibility Criteria

- Require programs or agencies not previously accredited by the City to earn a 3 Star rating prior to beginning accreditation services
- Redefining eligibility, timelines and criteria for grant funding
- Focus on highest needs

Tuition Assistance Program

- Assessment of community need

Child Care unit specific ordinances

- Review, develop and recommend new ordinances

City of Madison Child Care Standards Revision

City of Madison Child Care Standards Revision

- Align with National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and YoungStar Evaluation Criteria
- Eliminate duplication with regulatory agencies where able
- Infuse City of Madison values
- Critical lens on suspension, expulsion and inclusionary practices
- Develop standards that are clear to experienced staff and individuals entering the workforce
- Support for diverse families, abilities, children and providers
- Technical assistance and guidance documentation for providers

City of Madison Child Care Accreditation Standard Example

F-2b. (pg 20.) Written **policies** promote healthy practices that reduce the risk of preventable disease in both children and adults in the program. Program **practices** include:

- **Serving healthy meals that include fruits and vegetables, whole grains, meat and meat alternatives.**
- Celebrating special occasions (e.g. **holidays**, birthdays) by offering nutritious snacks and doing creative activities that focus on the reason for the celebration.
- **Limiting beverages to milk, water, and juice (if desired) on an occasional basis.**
- **Providing family style meal service.**
- **Planning and providing daily physical activity (per recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics), including daily outdoor play as weather permits.**
- Staff **modeling** of healthy eating and physical activity, and **avoiding** consumption of unhealthy foods and beverages in front of children.

Changes to Child Care Services

Formalize Process to request services:

Startup and Expansion Support

Tuition Assistance

Emergency Facility Grant Funding

Technical Assistance

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

Accreditation

Child Care Facility Loan Program

Referrals for program and families to local and state agencies

City Services include a provider commitment to meeting City of Madison Standards or other high-quality pathways

Timeline

Current:

- Internal review of City of Madison Accreditation Standards
- Determining effective services to align with community needs and City of Madison budget

May-June 2024

- Finalize Draft Standards for public input
- Conduct information and feedback gathering sessions
- Finalize accreditation of programs not accredited in 2023-2024
- Develop Accreditation process materials
- Provide training and outreach to currently accredited providers

July 2024-January 2025

- Present Ordinance change recommendations to the Early Childhood Care and Education Committee
- Provide currently accredited programs official accreditation dates
- Department of Children and Family approval for City of Madison Child Care Accreditation Standards
- Present finalized City of Madison Accreditation Standards to ECCEC
- Resolution changes to the Common Council
- Communicate provider expectations and provide training on new systems