



OKLAHOMA HUMAN SERVICES

CHILD CARE INTERIM STUDY

OCTOBER 2027

UNDERSTANDING CHILD CARE

- **Workforce:** Child care enables parents to work, attend school, and participate in the workforce.
- **Children:** Quality care supports children's healthy development and prepares them for school.
- **Families:** Access to reliable, affordable care provides stability for families.
- **Economy:** Child care is part of the infrastructure that supports Oklahoma's workforce and businesses.
- **Communities:** The availability of child care can influence where families work, live, and do business.



HOW SHOULD WE APPROACH CHILD CARE?



Think Beyond “Child Care as a Social Service”

Child care should be viewed through **three connected lenses**:

- **Child Development**
Are children safe, supported, and receiving experiences that promote healthy development?
- **Family & Workforce**
Can parents access care that allows them to work, attend school, or pursue training?
- **Economic Infrastructure**
Is there a sustainable child care system that has enough providers, workers, and available slots to meet community needs?

The question is not.....

- **“How much does child care cost the state?”**

The broader policy question is:

- **“What child care system does Oklahoma need to support children, families, and the state's workforce—and what role should state government play in sustaining that system?”**

THE AGENCY ROLE IN CHILD CARE

OUR AGENCY PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN BUILDING A STRONG CHILD CARE SYSTEM BY MANAGING FEDERAL AND STATE RESOURCES, SUPPORTING PROVIDERS AND FAMILIES, AND WORKING TO IMPROVE QUALITY AND ACCESS ACROSS OKLAHOMA.

What We Manage

- Through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), our agency administers and oversees key components of Oklahoma's child care system:

Licensing

- Ensures child care programs meet health, safety, and operational standards.

Subsidy

- Helps eligible families afford child care so they can work, attend school, or pursue training.

Quality

- Supports programs in improving quality through education, technical assistance, and quality rating systems.

The State's Role — But It's Bigger Than the State

- While our agency manages key parts of the system, child care is not just a state issue. It takes a coordinated effort across many partners and systems to ensure children get what they need to thrive.
- The state plays a critical role in funding, policy, regulation, and support, but a strong child care system also depends on other pieces of the early childhood ecosystem.

FY27 SUBSIDY BUDGET BREAKDOWN

TOTAL FUNDING: \$233.9M

\$25.1 M

**State Share
Maintenance
of Effort (MOE)**



\$138.8 M

CCDF Allocation



\$70 M

TANF Allocation

BUDGET SIMPLIFIED

12% Quality

3% Infant
and toddler

7% Administrative
Cost

81% Subsidy
Payments

QUALITY INVESTMENTS

- OPSR/Clearinghouse
- Child Care Resource and Referral
- Center for Early Childhood Professional Development (CECPD)
- Scholars
- Quality Coaches



OKLAHOMA CHILD CARE LANDSCAPE

Number of Permitted/Licensed Programs

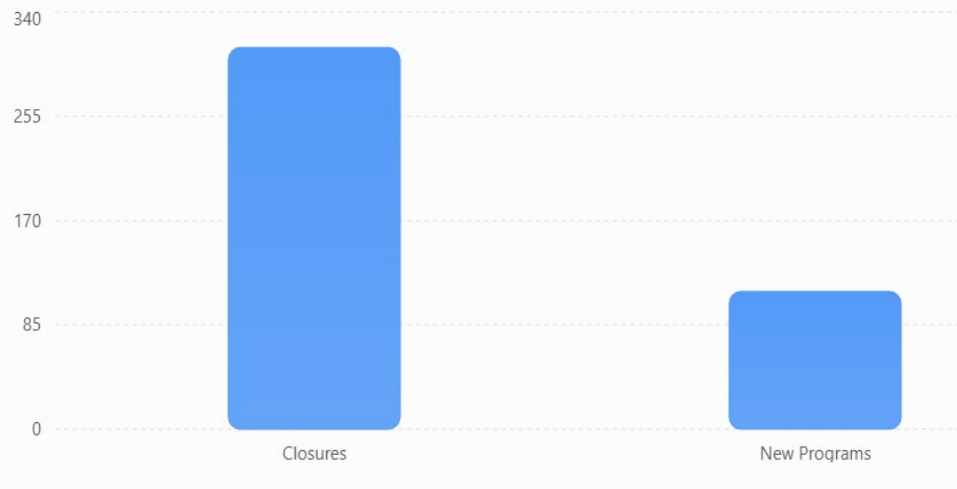
	1 Stars	2 Stars	3 Stars	4 Stars	5 Stars	Grand Total
Child Care Programs	197	86	316	416	382	1397
Family Child Care Homes	484	166	114	374	117	1255
Inactive	31	22	10	27	5	95
Grand Total	712	274	440	817	504	2747

- Total licensed capacity statewide: 119,126
- Licensed capacity of contracted providers: 89,368
- Children receiving child care assistance: 31,190
- Total licensed providers: 2,747
- Total contracted providers: 1,855

OPENINGS AND CLOSURES

Child Care Closures and New Program Openings

Child care program activity from January 1, 2026 through September 1, 2026.



Closures: 311 programs

New programs: 112 programs

Most documented reason for closure:

Financial issues

Retired

Unable to locate

Owner request

No children in care

OKLAHOMA CHILD CARE: A SYSTEM IN TRANSITION

MOVING FROM PANDEMIC-ERA EXPANSION TOWARD LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY.

THEN:

Unprecedented Investment

- Significant temporary federal resources
- Provider stabilization funding
- Expanded child care assistance

NOW:

A Changing Environment

- Demand for care remains
- Providers continue to face workforce and operational pressures
- CCS is balancing access with available resources

NEXT:

A Sustainable System

- Target resources where they can have the greatest impact
- Strengthen provider and workforce stability
- Improve accountability and measure outcomes

The question is no longer simply how to expand the system—it is how to sustain it and strategically invest for the long term.

CHILD CARE SERVICES CURRENT PRIORITIES

PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS

Reducing Administrative Burden

- Simplify processes
- Reduce unnecessary administrative requirements
- Improve efficiency and customer experience (eligibility staff transition)

SPECIAL NEEDS SERVICES

Improving Access & Coordination

- Improving access to child care supports for children with special needs
- Reducing barriers for families and providers
- Creating more streamlined and coordinated service delivery

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Better Data. Better Decisions.

- Update the Child Care Advisory Committee
- Strengthen the use of data in stakeholder engagement
- Inform policy and system improvements through meaningful input

PROGRAM INTEGRITY

Strengthening Accountability

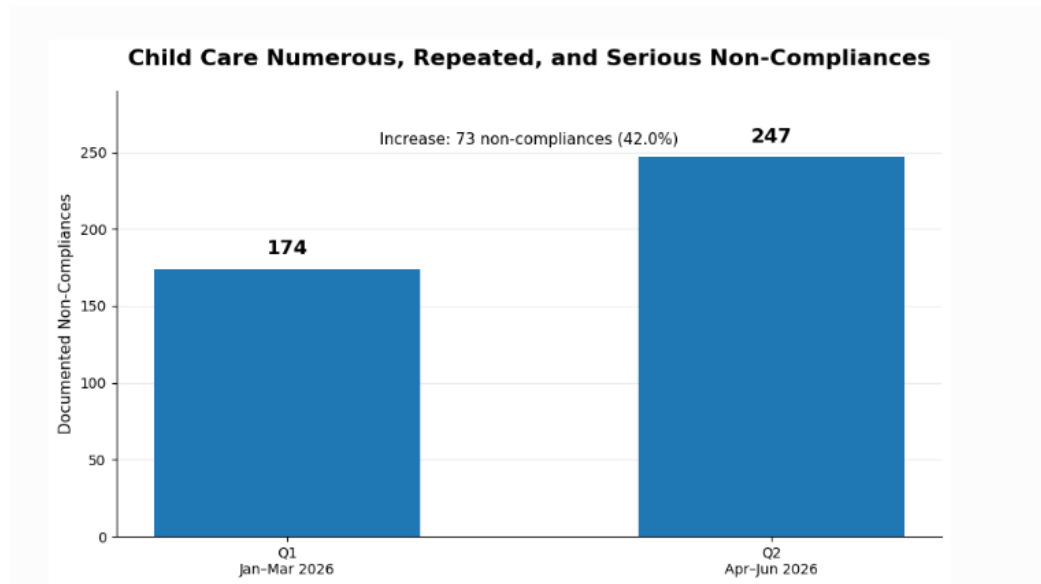
- Strengthening accountability, oversight, and compliance
- Improving processes to ensure public funds are used appropriately
- Using data and monitoring to identify risks and drive improvement

HEALTH & SAFETY

Protecting Children & Strengthening Quality

- Maintaining strong licensing, monitoring, and enforcement standards
- Promoting safe, healthy, and developmentally appropriate environments
- Using monitoring and technical assistance to support continuous improvement

HEALTH AND SAFETY



Numerous, repeated, and serious noncompliance is fundamentally different from routine noncompliance and should not be treated as interchangeable terms. Each term represents a distinct level and pattern of noncompliance that must be evaluated based on its frequency, recurrence, and severity.

- **Numerous:** Multiple violations or areas of noncompliance.
- **Repeated:** The same or similar violation occurs again after it has been addressed.
- **Serious:** A violation that presents significant risk to children's health, safety, or well-being.

***Routine Non-Compliances** is an isolated or less significant violation that can generally be corrected through technical assistance or corrective action.

PROPOSED RULE CHANGES FY2027



Transition of one monitoring visit to a program engagement and technical assistance visit.



Removal of partial monitoring in QRIS policy.



Revision to equipment inventory removing the annual requirement and reducing the burden of required equipment on the industry. Also updated for current terms.



Update to Child Care Advisory policy referencing governed by state law.

KINDERSYSTEMS

MODERNIZING CHILD CARE ATTENDANCE AND PAYMENT SYSTEMS



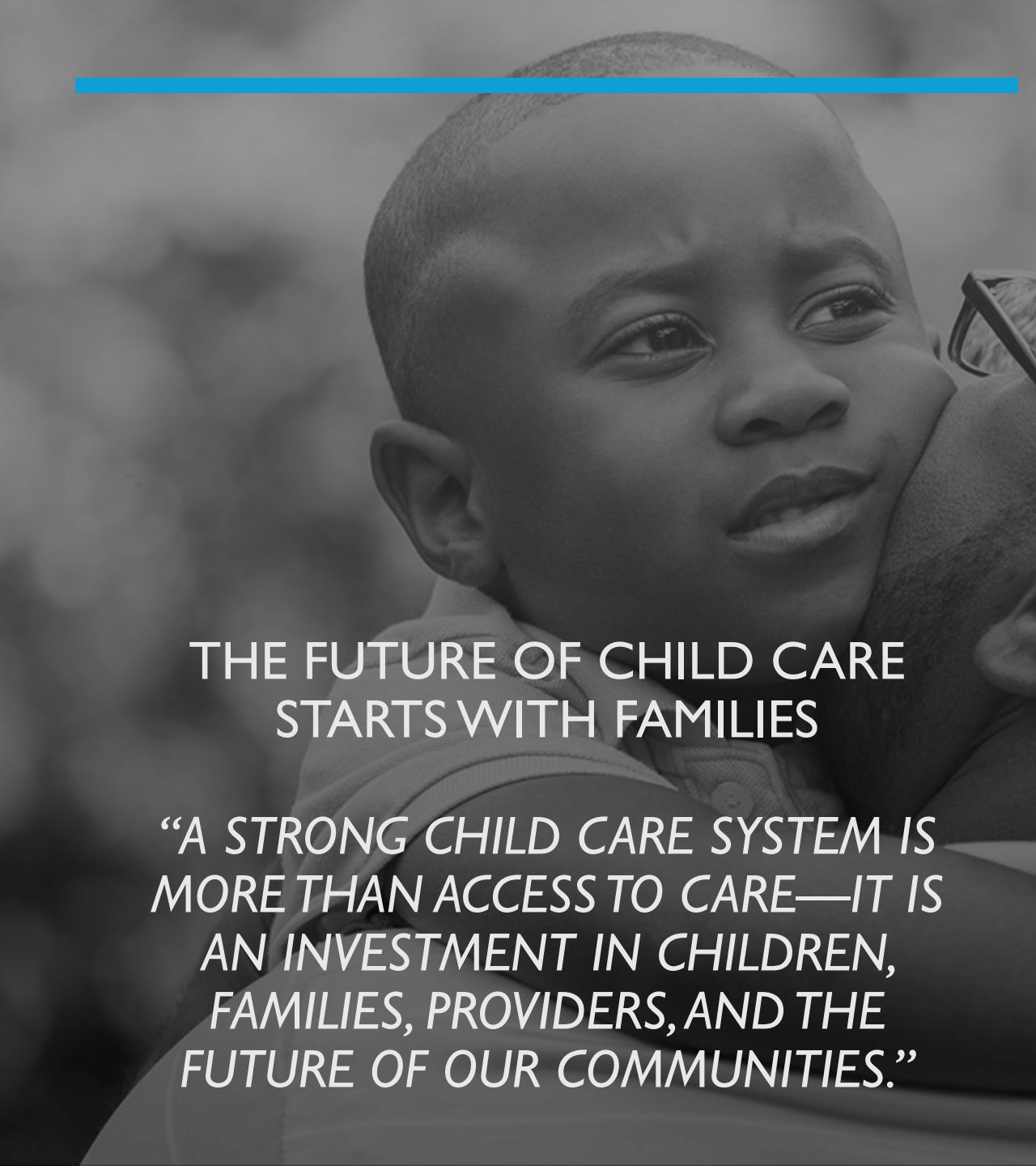
Oklahoma is transitioning to KinderSystems in 2027 to improve attendance tracking and payment processes, provide real-time attendance, payment process visibility, reduce manual work for payment workers, and eliminate swipe cards.

Key functions:

- Collect attendance through website and mobile applications, including smartphones and tablets.
- Match children to families, providers, and authorized care.
- Geofencing to verify check-ins/outs occur at the child care provider's general location.
- Photo capture of Parent/Caregiver.
- Track updates to provider, family, and authorization information daily, including STAR ratings and active statuses.
- Calculate payments based on attendance, authorizations, rates, and applicable rules, including specialized care arrangements.
- Enforce authorization limits and flag incomplete, inaccurate, or unapproved data to prevent improper payments.
- Provide payment calculation details, including unpaid days and reasons.
- Exchange attendance and payment data with OKDHS to support processing, reconciliation, and audits.
- Restrict system access and reporting based on user roles.

WAYS TO ENGAGE AND STAY INFORMED

- RaiseYourHand: To make recommendations or express concerns.
- CCS Inbox: Childcare.OCCS@okdhs.org: Request to join our mailing list for up-to-date information, or ask child care questions.
- General child care licensing questions: 405-522-5050 option 5.



THE FUTURE OF CHILD CARE STARTS WITH FAMILIES

“A STRONG CHILD CARE SYSTEM IS
MORE THAN ACCESS TO CARE—IT IS
AN INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN,
FAMILIES, PROVIDERS, AND THE
FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITIES.”

