
List of Recommendations

- When conducting surveys of market rates for child care, the Department of Human Services should take steps to ensure that rate information is collected from an adequate number of providers in each county. The department and its consultant need to review the rate information to determine whether child care resource and referral agencies are adequately performing their duties (p. 34).
- When calculating maximum reimbursement rates for child care centers, the Department of Human Services should rely primarily on the licensed capacity data available from its Licensing Division. In some cases, the department may need to supplement these data with information gathered during the survey (p. 36).
- The Department of Human Services should become more familiar with the different types of rates reported in the 2004 survey and work with child care resource and referral agencies to ensure consistency in how rates are reported in future surveys (p. 37).
- The Department of Human Services should discontinue using converted maximums and related conversion rules to calculate maximum reimbursement rates. The department should instead consider using converted rates to set an upper limit on maximum rates (p. 42).
- Along with using converted rates to set an upper limit on maximum rates, the Department of Human Services should consider using reverse converted rates to set a lower limit on maximum rates (p. 43).
- The Department of Human Services should seek changes in state laws that would clearly allow the department to implement maximum rates based on geographic areas larger than a single county (p. 49).
- The Legislature should review the advantages and disadvantages of setting regional and statewide maximum rates for child care centers and provide policy direction to the Department of Human Services (p. 49).
- The Department of Human Services should revise its requirements for the number of rates needed in each county in order to set maximum daily or weekly rates for licensed family home care (p. 52).

- The Department of Human Services should consider whether it would be feasible and cost effective for the department to perform the rate analyses currently conducted by a consultant. Even if the department retains its consultant, department staff should become more familiar with the rate information being reported and adequately review the work of the consultant and the child care resource and referral agencies (p. 53).
- The Department of Human Services should examine whether there is a problem in some counties with providers charging the Child Care Assistance Program a higher rate than they charge the general public (p. 63).