

DECCD Action Statement:

DECCD intends to support the healthy development of all of Mississippi's children by supporting healthy families and quality educational care environments.

Goals:

The Division of Early Childhood Care & Development (DECCD) serves thousands of clients across the state through several programs and initiatives. To ensure that DECCD meets its goals, a great deal of thought is invested in mapping the course of services offered to clients.

DECCD is guided by three goals:

1. All children have access to high quality early learning environments.
2. All families have access to parenting supports and resources within their communities.
3. All early childhood professionals have skills and resources to nurture children's healthy development.

These goals keep the focus on the most important aspect of DECCD's work, ***the clients***. Each decision is carefully made to align with these goals and support the outcomes described below. DECCD is dedicated to maintaining forward momentum to achieve these goals and encourage the intended outcomes.

Outcomes

Outcomes have been organized into three primary service areas:

1. Early Learning Outcomes:

- A tiered system of professional development designed to give early childhood professionals skills to provide quality care for young children of all abilities.
- Increased access to high quality early learning environments for all children.
- Increased involvement of early childhood professionals in leadership opportunities, community programs and policy development.
- Increased number of quality rated early learning environments.
- Increased number of early learning environments with leadership and educational environments to support all children's physical, cognitive and social/emotional development.
- Increased availability to supports/support networks available to early childhood professionals and their programs.
- Increased number of children entering kindergarten ready to succeed.

2. Family Strengthening and Support Outcomes:

- Increased number of child care subsidies provided to eligible families.
- Increased availability and use of quality parenting information and supports.
- Increased involvement of families in early childhood learning environments, community programs and policy development.
- Increased family knowledge of child development to support healthy development in the home.
- Increased ability of families to identify quality early childhood care environments and support programs.

3. Health Support Outcomes:

- Increased number of children who receive well-child care and are fully immunized.
- Increased number of children covered by health insurance.
- Increased knowledge of health and wellness concepts.
- Increased availability and family use of high quality emotional & mental health services and supports.
- Increased number of early childhood programs connecting families to early intervention services.
- Improved knowledge and practice of nurturing behaviors among early childhood professionals and parents.

Organization of Service Delivery:

DECCD is reorganizing its current method of service delivery to help meet program goals. Below is an overview of how services will be aligned under the Early Years Network scheduled to begin Oct. 1, 2014. The Early Years Network will house a collaboration of services together under a single fiscal agent to lower costs and increase services.

