

## NC Licensed Child Care Association (NCLCCA) 2023 Agenda

### Preserve child care access for families by allowing more time for workforce development and system reforms:

- 1) Extend time-limited regulatory flexibilities (provisions) in [2021 state budget, page 246, lines 105](#), as follows:

*“SECTION 9C.2.(d) Subsection (a) of this section is effective when it becomes law and expires **on June 30, 2024**. ~~six months after the date the Governor signs an executive order rescinding Executive Order No. 116, Declaration of a State of Emergency to Coordinate Response and Protective Actions to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19.~~ Subsection (b) of this section is effective when it becomes law and expires **June 30, 2026**. ~~June 30, 2023.~~”*

### Implement reforms to expand the talent pool, improve the operating climate and increase access for families:

- 2) Direct the NC Child Care Commission to develop QRIS reform recommendations and submit to the NC General Assembly to enact in 2024, as follows:

*“The NC Child Care Commission shall complete recommendations for QRIS (Star-Rating System) reform by March 31, 2024, and submit the NC Child Care Commission’s QRIS reform recommendations to the [Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services](#) before the start of the NC General Assembly’s 2024 Session. The NC Child Care Commission’s QRIS reform recommendations should include accreditations from [national early childhood education \(ECE\) accreditation organizations](#) as an alternative pathway for licensed child care programs to earn a star rating equivalent to each accreditation’s standards, including, but not limited to: National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation; National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs (NAC); National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA); National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC); American Montessori Society (AMS); International Montessori Council (IMC); and Cognia (formerly AdvanceED).”*

### Funding to help address the child care workforce crisis and expand access to high-quality care for families:

- 3) Reallocate unused federal pandemic-relief funding or other appropriate *non-recurring* funding to support the child care workforce by extending [compensation grants](#) (used for bonuses, pay raises and/or benefits) for 18 months through June 30, 2025. (Cost: \$300 million, or \$16.7 million per month to continue current uptake of more than 93% of programs.)
- 4) To improve quality and workforce retention, invest in [“Technical Assistance” \(TA\) resources](#) and [behavioral health supports](#) to expand availability for all licensed child care programs across the state, regardless of star rating. (Cost: \$12 million recurring funding over two years to expand resources by 25%.)
- 5) Seek an increase in reimbursement rates for the Subsidized Child Care Assistance Program to meet the most [current market rate \(2021\)](#), and implement a new statewide rate floor to reduce rate disparities among counties. (Cost: \$265 million recurring over current budget to sustain 2018 rates implemented with one-time funding **and** implement 2021 market rate + \$103 million to implement new subsidy rate floor.)
- 6) Increase NC Pre-K reimbursement rates to fully cover the [average cost of the program’s requirements](#), which were \$908 per child per month in 2017. (Cost: Estimated at \$60 million)

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