



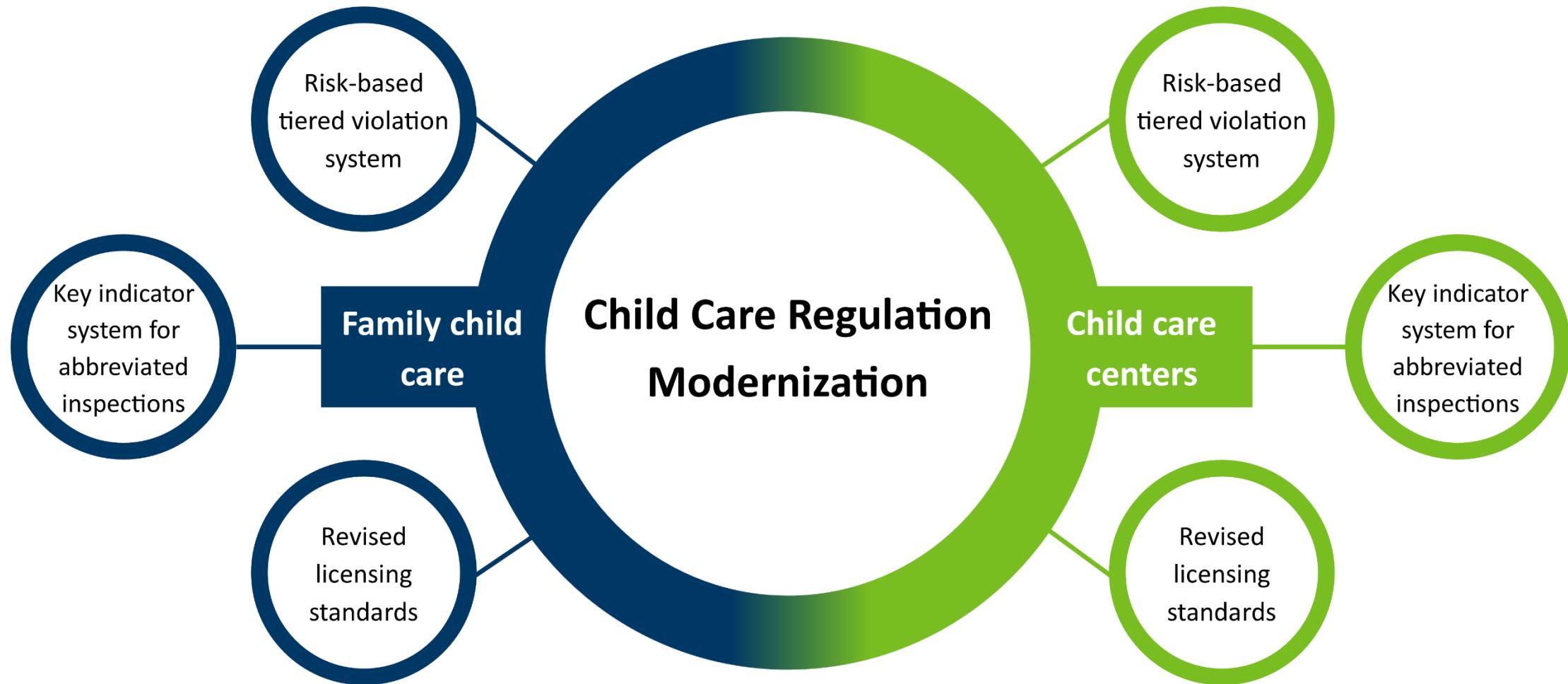
# Child Care Regulation Modernization

Department of Human Services, Office of Inspector General, Licensing Division

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# Project at a glance



- **Draft 2** – Shared in February 2025
  - Draft 2 is NOT final language.
  - It is a working document designed to reflect the next step of modernizing the licensing standards.
  - The Child Care Regulation Modernization team invites the child care community, parents, and all other interested parties to ask questions and share feedback regarding Draft 2.
- **Supplemental materials** – Shared with Draft 2
  - Revision Document
  - Significant Changes Summary



# Significant changes to both the FCC and CCC drafts



# Both – Cleaning, Sanitizing, & Disinfecting

- **Simplified cleaning requirements**
  - Language which was too prescriptive has been removed – particularly regarding the use of sanitizers and disinfectants.
  - Draft 2 simplifies the requirements by reorganizing the content for clarity, eliminating excessive documentation, and allowing providers more discretion in product usage.

# Both – Program space

- **Scents**

- Language prohibiting use of scented products, aerosol sprays, and other products has been removed.

- **Pets**

- Animals and pet language has been updated to provider greater clarity and simplification.

- **Pests**

- The pest control requirements have been simplified.

# Both – Environmental health

- **Lead**
  - Requirement to test for lead in soil has been removed.
- **Water supply**
  - Requirements for water supply have been reduced to realign with current requirements.
- **Radon**
  - Radon testing requirement retained but simplified.
  - Testing is required two years from effective date and every five years thereafter.

# Both – Documentation simplification

## FCC

- Sections where documentation was simplified
  - Behavior Guidance
  - Children with Special Health Care Needs or Disabilities
  - Health Policies and Safety Requirements

## CCC

- Sections where documentation was simplified
  - Behavior Guidance
  - Children with Special Health Care Needs or Disabilities
  - Staff qualifications (experienced aide documentation)

# Family Child Care: Draft 2 Significant Changes



# FCC – Licensed capacity, child and adult ratios

- **Introduction to license class B3:**

- A new license class: B3 – allows capacity of 10 children with 2 adults. Allows 10 children under school age. No more than 6 children may be infants and toddlers, and no more than 4 may be infants.
- License class D has been eliminated – allowed capacity of 9 children with 2 adults. No more than 7 under school age with no more than 4 infants.

- **Updates to license class C3:**

- License class C3 has been increased to 18 children with 2 adults – Allows 10 children under school age. No more than 5 children may be infants and toddlers, and no more than 3 may be infants.
- Previously, the capacity was 14 children with 2 adults. It allowed 10 children under school with a limit of 4 infants and toddlers and no more than 3 infants.

# FCC – Licensed capacity, child and adult ratios continued

- **Additional licensing requirements:**

- To hold a B3 or C3 license class, the license holder must meet certain criteria to ensure the health and safety of children with the expansion of these child-to-adult ratios.
- This criteria includes looking at compliance history and at least four additional hours of annual training in:
  - behavior guidance,
  - child development, and
  - active supervision.

# FCC – Physical space requirements

- **Outdoor fencing:**
  - In Draft 1, a continuous fence or natural barrier around the licensed play area was required.
  - In Draft 2, the language has been altered to allow programs without a fenced outdoor play space to create and implement a supervision and safety plan.
  - Also prohibits children's access to electrical fences.
- **Indoor temperature and humidity:**
  - In Draft 1, providers were required to maintain an indoor temperature between 68 – 82 degrees Fahrenheit with humidity controls.
  - In Draft 2, this has been realigned with the current requirement of maintaining indoor temperature of at least 62 degrees Fahrenheit and no humidity requirements.

# FCC – Physical space requirements continued

- **Fall zones:**
  - In Draft 1, outdoor play equipment designed for climbing, swinging, balancing, and sliding required specific materials and depths for protective surfacing.
  - In Draft 2, this requirement was removed in response to significant cost concerns raised by providers.

# FCC – Activities and equipment

- **Flexibility and simplification:**

- In Draft 1, there was a focus on providing detailed lists on what equipment is required for each age group.
- In Draft 2, the equipment lists for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children were broadened into categories.

# Child Care Centers: Draft 2 Significant Changes



# CCC – Staff qualifications and education

- Increased flexibility for qualifying as a teacher or assistant teacher, updated with Montessori and Professional Educator Licensing and Standards (PELSB) credential options
- Changes to Experienced Aide qualifications:
  - Aides -> Aide I
  - Experienced Aides -> Aide II
    - no longer required to track how they are used, and
    - required hours of experience reduced from 4,160 to 2,080 hours
- New expanded definition of education

# CCC – Training requirements

- Child Care Basics training: a new training to be developed by DHS and required for all center directors, staff and volunteers.
  - Concept: establish a foundational and free training for those working in centers
- Orientation and Child Care Basics training **may count towards in-service training hours.**

# CCC – Outdoor activity requirements

- Draft 1 specified outdoor activities must be offered for children attending 3+ “daylight hours” per day.
- Draft 2 increases this to children attending for 6+ hours per day.
  - Greater clarity that infants must go outside only “as practicable” based on weather conditions and individual needs.
  - Retains once per day for infant outdoor activity; twice per day for older age groups.
- Aligned outdoor temp. guidelines with MDH outdoor play guidance.

# CCC – Furnishings, equipment, materials, and supplies

- **Accessibility of equipment language updates**
  - Clarified distinction between what equipment must be available on-site, versus the requirement to have sufficient equipment for children attending care on a given day.
  - Clarified that materials may be stored in inaccessible locations at certain times of day (art supplies and musical instruments).
- **Other clarifying updates**
  - removed duplicate or confusing items.

# Next Steps



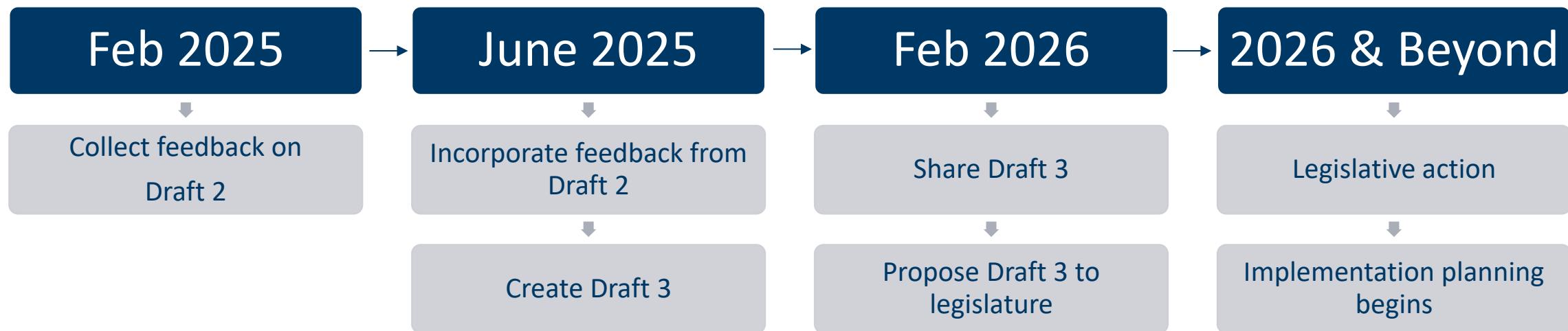
# Public engagement on Draft 2 is ongoing

- DHS hosted 4 info sessions the week of Feb 24<sup>th</sup> (2 for FCC, 2 for CCC).
- 429 attendees across all sessions (247 for FCC, 182 for CCC).
- On average, the webinar satisfaction rating was a 3.95 out of 5 for all participants.
  - 80% of family child care session participants were very satisfied or satisfied
  - 70% of child care center session participants were very satisfied or satisfied

# Upcoming engagement opportunities

- **Licensor focus groups** – 6 FCC licensor sessions scheduled through March and April. CCC licensor input as begun.
- **Provider associations** – Over 37 associations or groups submitted interest. Scheduling has begun through April and May.
- **Survey** – Designed for providers, licensors, community members, and parent input is in active development.
- **Regional engagement** – MN Initiative Foundations and DHS are actively planning regional meetings.
- **DHS-led engagement sessions** – Virtual sessions are being planned, each focusing on specific topics throughout the draft.
- **Email** – Providers and community members can also submit feedback through our project inbox at [ccregmodernization.dhs@state.mn.us](mailto:ccregmodernization.dhs@state.mn.us).

# Child Care Revised Licensing Standards Timeline





# Thank You!

Email the project team: [CCRegModernization.DHS@state.mn.us](mailto:CCRegModernization.DHS@state.mn.us)

Project website: [Child Care Regulation Modernization / Minnesota Department of Human Services \(mn.gov\)](http://Child Care Regulation Modernization / Minnesota Department of Human Services (mn.gov))