

Early Childhood Barriers & Waivers


Colorado Department of Education
Colorado Department of Human Services

Prepared by The Franko Group, Ltd.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Purpose

- To summarize the legislation that gave rise to early childhood waivers of law and rule in Colorado
- To identify what waivers have been requested by local communities and granted by the state
- To define what barriers these waivers addressed or were intended to address
- To discover what barriers might still exist to realizing quality early childhood services for all of Colorado's youngest children.



Study Methodology

- Survey
- Interviews
- Data analysis



POLICY BACKGROUND

Authorizing Legislation

- SB97-174: Concerning Community Consolidated Child Care Services, and in Connection Therewith, Establishing a Pilot Program with a Special Emphasis on Moving Families from Welfare to Work

Intent of Law:
To increase the availability of child care services – particularly for families where the parents were transitioning off of the welfare system – by eliminating barriers to providing these services that were caused by inflexible funding requirements.



Subsequent Legislation

- SB99-226: Concerning Consolidated Child Care Services, and Making an Appropriation in Connection Therewith
- HB07-1062: Concerning the Creation of a Statewide System of Early Childhood Councils, and Making an Appropriation Therefor



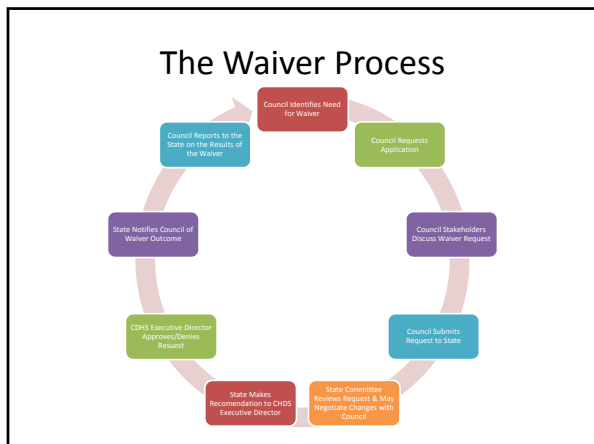
Intent of SB99-226:
"...enhancing the ability of the State department of Human Services to identify the best practices relative to increasing quality, meeting the diverse needs of families seeking such child care, and integrating early childhood care with education programs in order to effect improvements in child care services on a statewide basis.

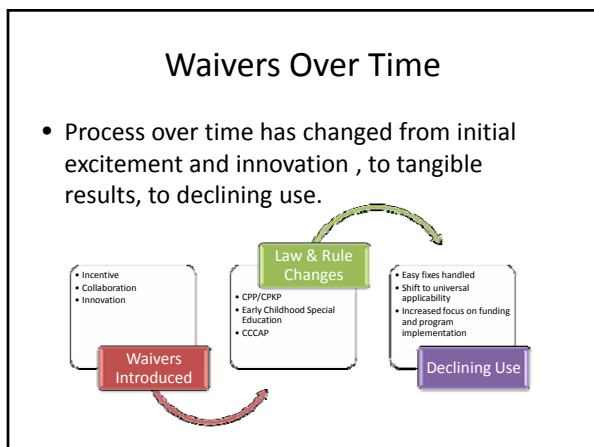
Related Programs

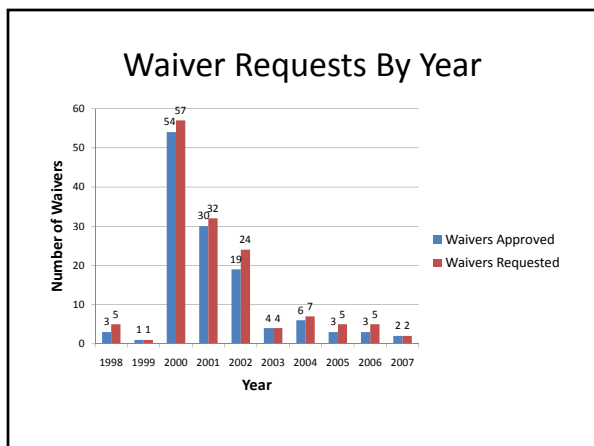
- Colorado Preschool (and Kindergarten) Program
- Early Childhood Special Education
- Colorado Child Care Program

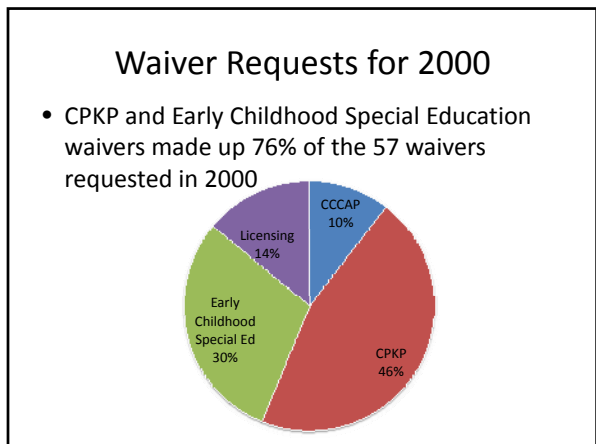


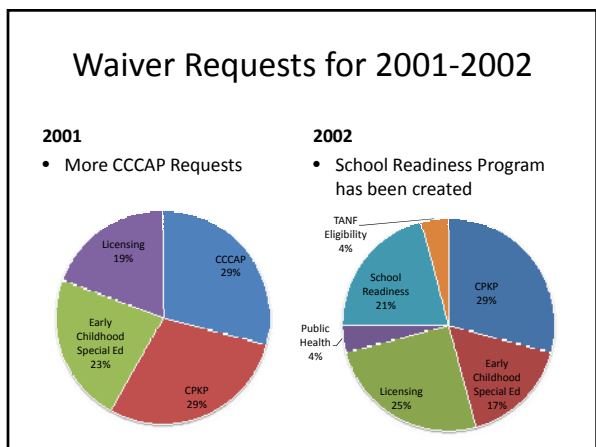
WAIVERS

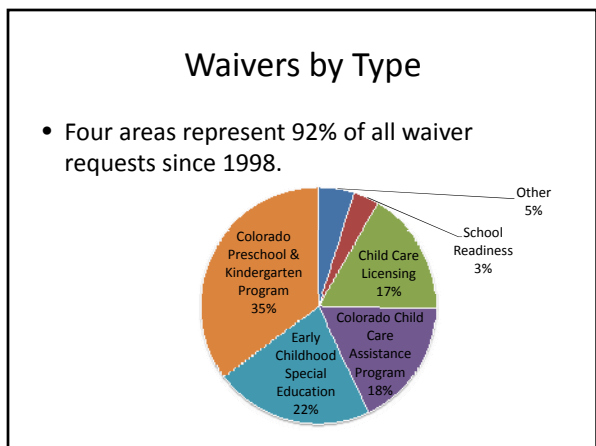






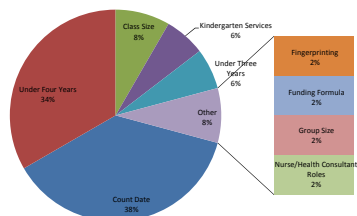






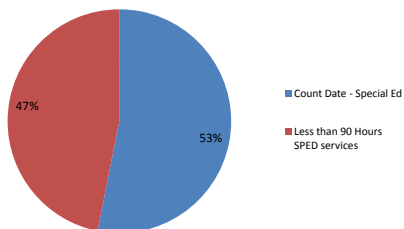
CPKP Waivers

- 78% of all CPKP waivers addressed either the count date or the age of children served by the program



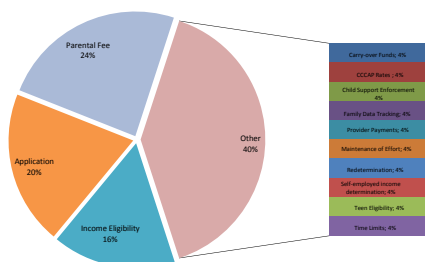
Early Childhood Special Education Waivers

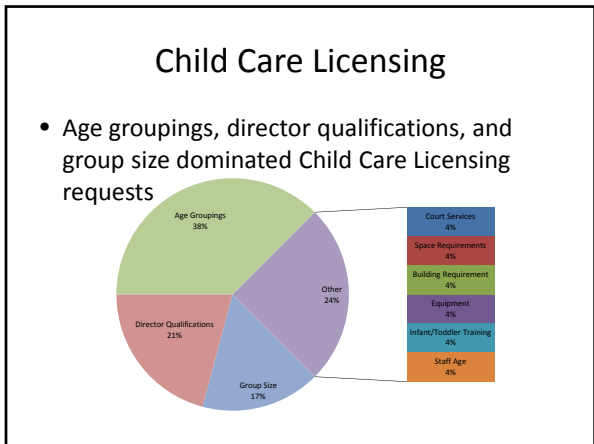
- Count Date and Hours of Service were the focus of these waivers

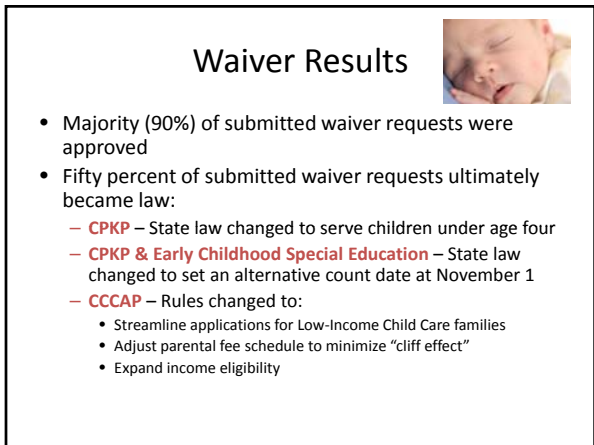


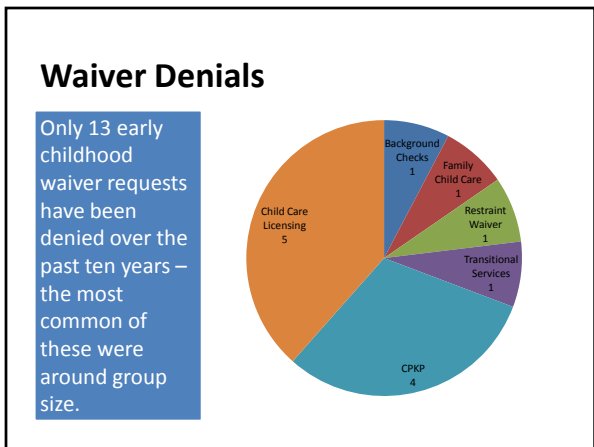
CCCAP Waivers

- More variation in requests



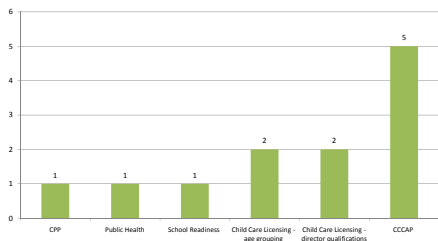






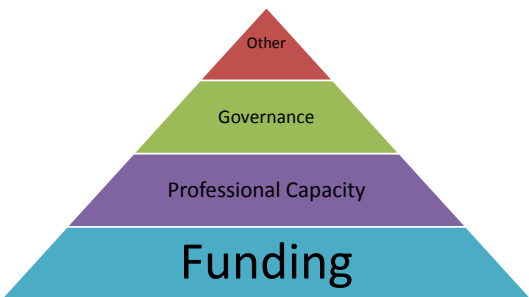
Active Waivers

- Only 12 waivers are currently active



BARRIERS

Ongoing Barriers



Effective Tools for Overcoming Barriers



Provider Incentives	Coalition Building & Collaboration
Waivers	Lobbying Elected Officials
Fundraising	Training Availability
Technical Assistance	Blending Funding

POLICY IMPLICATIONS & NEXT STEPS

Policy Implications

Many Waivers Have Been Effective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Laws and rules have been changed as a result of the waiver processMore children and families are accessing early childhood funding
There Are More Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Active waivers suggest that some rules may still need more work to help families
Approaches to Addressing Child Care Licensing Barriers Need to Be Clarified	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Communities are unclear about where to take far-reaching licensing concernsThe state has an opportunity to better define and communicate its approach to licensing
Additional Funding is Needed in the Early Childhood System	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Better access to existing early childhood funding is not enough to eliminate barriers to quality early childhood servicesAdvocacy for increased early childhood funding will help improve access, availability, quality and capacity issues

