

# STATE OF COLORADO



Colorado Department of Human Services  
*people who help people*

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD  
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John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

Reggie Bicha  
Executive Director

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Dear Licensed Child Care Provider,

The purpose of this letter is to request your assistance in providing information about your child care program to your local child care resource and referral agency (CCR&R) on a regular basis.

While the information collected is invaluable for many reasons, at a minimum, having a valid e-mail address for child care providers is crucial in emergency situations. The fires and floods of 2013 required rapid communication with hundreds of licensed providers, and e-mail is the most efficient method of accomplishing mass emergency communications.

CCR&R's also play a significant role in guiding families to child care providers in their community. Colorado families and child care programs benefit from data sharing by enabling data-driven decision making about the care and education of our state's youngest children.

The Division of Early Care and Learning within the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) is responsible for the licensing and monitoring of child care facilities, managing the child care assistance program (CCCAP) for eligible families, administering child care grants and quality initiatives, and serving as the lead agency in implementing federal child care programs. CDHS funds the Colorado Child Care Resource and Referral Network with federal funds. A federal requirement of this funding is that CDHS collect and disseminate information about child care providers to parents and the general public. We meet that federal requirement in part through a contract with Qualistar Colorado.

Qualistar Colorado is a nonprofit agency that manages a statewide network of local CCR&Rs that are charged with maintaining information about all licensed child care programs within their service delivery areas. CCR&Rs use that information to connect families with child care programs through a free referral service. CCR&Rs support child care providers and programs by offering trainings, technical assistance and other supports. CCR&Rs and Qualistar also analyze local and statewide child care data and make that information available to policy makers and other child care stakeholders. For example, this data is used to guide the setting of CCCAP provider reimbursement rates.

You should receive information requests from them via email, phone or mail approximately every six months. Thank you for your commitment to the field of early childhood education.

Regards,

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

David A. Collins