Supplemental Material for Granite Guide to Early Childhood: Fewer Providers, Longer Distances: NH's Child Care Landscape

 Carsey School of Public Policy analysis of May 2024 New Hampshire child care licensing data. The file initially contained 734 providers, 712 of whom were licensed. Of the 712 licensed providers in the 2024 data, 135 were missing information about the age of children served.

To populate these missing data, we undertook a multi-stage approach. First, of the 712 licensed providers in 2024, 661 also appeared in licensing data from 2023. As a first attempt to fill missing information, we matched providers' ages served information from 2023 with their licensing record from 2024. For 123 of the 132 providers with missing ages served data, information was available in 2023. For providers with no information available in either year, two researchers searched for individual providers' information online, working together to reconcile disparities in their findings if needed. Where no information was available online, a student called providers and collected this information directly.

Beyond the missing ages served data, the availability of 2023 data for so many 2024 providers allowed us to conduct a quality assurance check on the 2024 data. For 113 licensed providers who appeared in both years, ages served information did not match. Comparison of 2023 and 2024 data revealed some systematic patterning in discrepancies around ages served, particularly for what are typically large, schoolage providers like the Boys and Girls Club. Specifically, in 84 of the 113 cases of mismatched data, we found that providers serving only older children were marked as serving children under 1 year old. Further, the patterning in this discrepancy suggests that some information might have been lost in data storage, specifically around storing the age of youngest children served in years and months separately. For instance, 38 of the 84 providers had 2023 data that indicated they served children as young as 56 months old—or 4-years-8-months-old—were listed as serving children down to 8 months old in the 2024 data. Upon closer examination, all 38 operated under names that indicated these were school-age providers. Where the difference between ages served in months in 2023 and 2024 was divisible by 12 (e.g., 56 – 8 = 48 months, or 4 years), AND where the provider's name indicated it served a specific age group, 2023 ages served data were substituted into the 2024 file as corrections.

In all other cases in which the 2023 and 2024 ages served data existed, but did not match, we followed the process described above for determining true ages served among providers who only appeared in 2024.

Once each provider had ages served values for their youngest and oldest children served, we created a set of four "age groups served" indicators, indicating whether the providers served infants, toddlers, preschoolers, or school age children.

Providers were marked as serving infants if their youngest age served was 12 months or younger. Providers were marked as serving school age children if their oldest age served was 60 months or higher. Providers were marked as serving toddlers if their youngest age served was between 13 and 35 months, OR if they served infants and if their oldest age served also indicated they served children who were 36 months or older. Providers were marked as serving preschoolers if their youngest age served indicated they also served infants or toddlers AND their oldest age served indicated they also served children who were 60 months or older. This "bookend" approach assumes that providers who serve younger children and older children will also serve age groups in between, although this may not always be the case, and counts of toddler and preschool providers may vary if using another approach.

- 2. Carsey School analysis of Enrollment Statistics 2023, Program Information Reports, the Office of Head Start.
- 3. **Figure 1 Notes**. The number of unregulated, home-based providers—both paid and unpaid—who provide care to New Hampshire children is not well determined. However, national estimates on the prevalence of unlisted home-based providers and the average number of children they care for suggest that paid, unlisted home-based providers care for about 4 times as many children as paid, listed home-based providers (e.g., listed home-based providers). The number served by unpaid, unlisted providers—most often relatives—is about 9 times as many as those served by paid, listed home-based providers. Using the total capacity of New Hampshire's listed, paid (licensed) home-based providers, we estimate the relative size of the two gray boxes in this figure. However, for application in more detailed settings, we recommend further data collection to supplement these extrapolated estimates.
- 4. Carsey School of Public Policy analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, Phases 3.6–3.8 (Weeks 49–57).
- 5. Carsey School of Public Policy analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics.
- 6. This project was supported by New Hampshire's Preschool Development Grant, sponsored by the Administration for Children and Families (Award# 90TP0110). Additional project support was provided by the Couch Family Foundation. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations do not necessarily reflect the views of any organization or agency that provided support for the project. The authors are grateful to the Bureau of Child Development and Head Start Collaboration for data sharing. The authors also thank Amy Barry, Evan England, Rebecca Glauber, Nicole Heller, Laurel Lloyd, Carrie Portrie, and the PDG Leadership team for insight and support.