Frequently asked questions

Accreditation approval process for the Child Care Assistance Program
The Minnesota Department of Human Services approves accreditations for child care centers and school-age programs to be included in the list of accreditations that qualify for the Child Care Assistance Program 15 percent higher rate for quality.

Why was the policy created?
The purpose of this policy is to allow the list of accreditations approved for the Child Care Assistance Program to keep up with changes in the early childhood and out-of-school time fields. Accrediting organizations change their names and/or standards periodically and new organizations are formed. This policy provides a process for any accrediting organization to apply to be recognized for the 15 percent higher rate for quality using set criteria to assess the standards used for accreditation.

When and how should an accrediting body apply?
The department will offer the opportunity for accrediting organizations to apply and be added to the list annually, and will publish an updated list each year. Applications will be due August 15 of each year. To request an application, contact the department at dhs.ccap@state.mn.us.

When will an updated list of approved accreditations that qualify for the 15 percent higher rate for quality be announced?
The list of approved accreditations will be posted on the Minnesota Department of Human Services website in February.

Once an accreditation is approved, will the accrediting body need to reapply for approval?
Yes, accreditations must be reviewed once every two years. This process allows the department to learn about changes to accreditations and update the list if needed. The department will contact the accrediting body when a renewal is needed.

What is the statute reference for this change?
Minnesota Statutes, Section 119B.13, subdivision 3a.

Where can I get more information?
For questions about the application process or about Minnesota Child Care Assistance Program payment policies, contact the Minnesota Department of Human Services at dhs.ccap@state.mn.us.