



**Virginia Star Quality Initiative  
Family Child Care Home  
Demonstration Pilot:  
Findings from the Implementation  
Evaluation**



***Summit Celebration  
Richmond, Virginia  
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# Evaluation Team

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# Funding

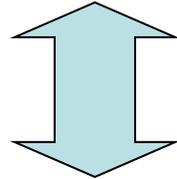
## American Recovery and Reinvestment Act:

*The purpose of ARRA funds has been to help states build or maintain infrastructure to be better prepared for the future and to stimulate the economy at the present.*

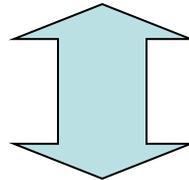


# Administrative Structure

- **Virginia Department of Social Services  
Office of Early Childhood Development**



- **Virginia Early Childhood Foundation**



- **Local agencies, Smart Beginnings coalitions**



# Evaluation Charge

- *Help VECF evaluate the Star Rating Standards for family child care home-based providers*
- *Conduct an implementation (process) evaluation*
- *Develop a plan for ongoing evaluation*



# Fine Tuning...





# Be prepared for the long haul





# Main Goal of VSQI

***Support provider ability to improve  
quality of child care for young  
children***





# Pilot Service Components

- *Training* raters, mentors and coordinators
- *Recruiting* family child care providers
- *Observing* and providing feedback
- *Developing* a quality improvement plan
- *Working* on the plan with a mentor

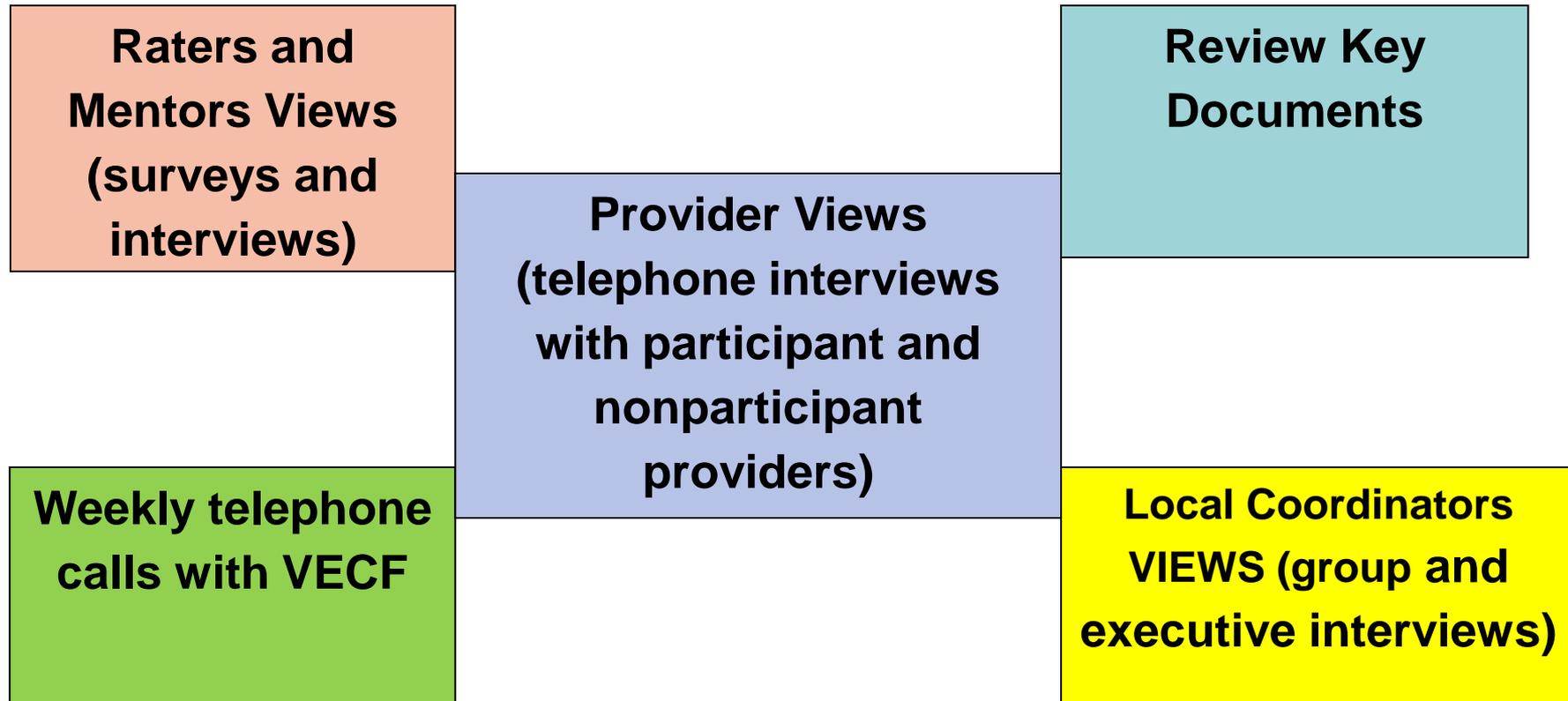
A wide-angle photograph of the Virginia Tech campus, showing the iconic Campanile tower in the center, surrounded by trees with autumn foliage and other campus buildings under a blue sky with light clouds.

## Virginia Star Quality Standards Home-Based Child Care

- 1: Education, Qualification and Training**  
*(assessed by documentation)*
- 2: Environment and Interactions**  
*(assessed by observation)*
- 3: Structure**  
*(assessed by observation)*
- 4: Program Management**  
*(assessed by documentation and observation)*



# How Do We Look at the Standards & QI Process?





# What Did We Find?

In general, the family child care home demonstration project pilot was:

- ✓ ***Well-delivered***
- ✓ ***Well-coordinated***
- ✓ ***Well-received by providers, particularly mentoring and purchasing***

# Speed Bumps and Potholes

*Naturally, challenges  
occurred*



*Some parts need  
lubrication, realignment,  
or replacement*





## But Overall...

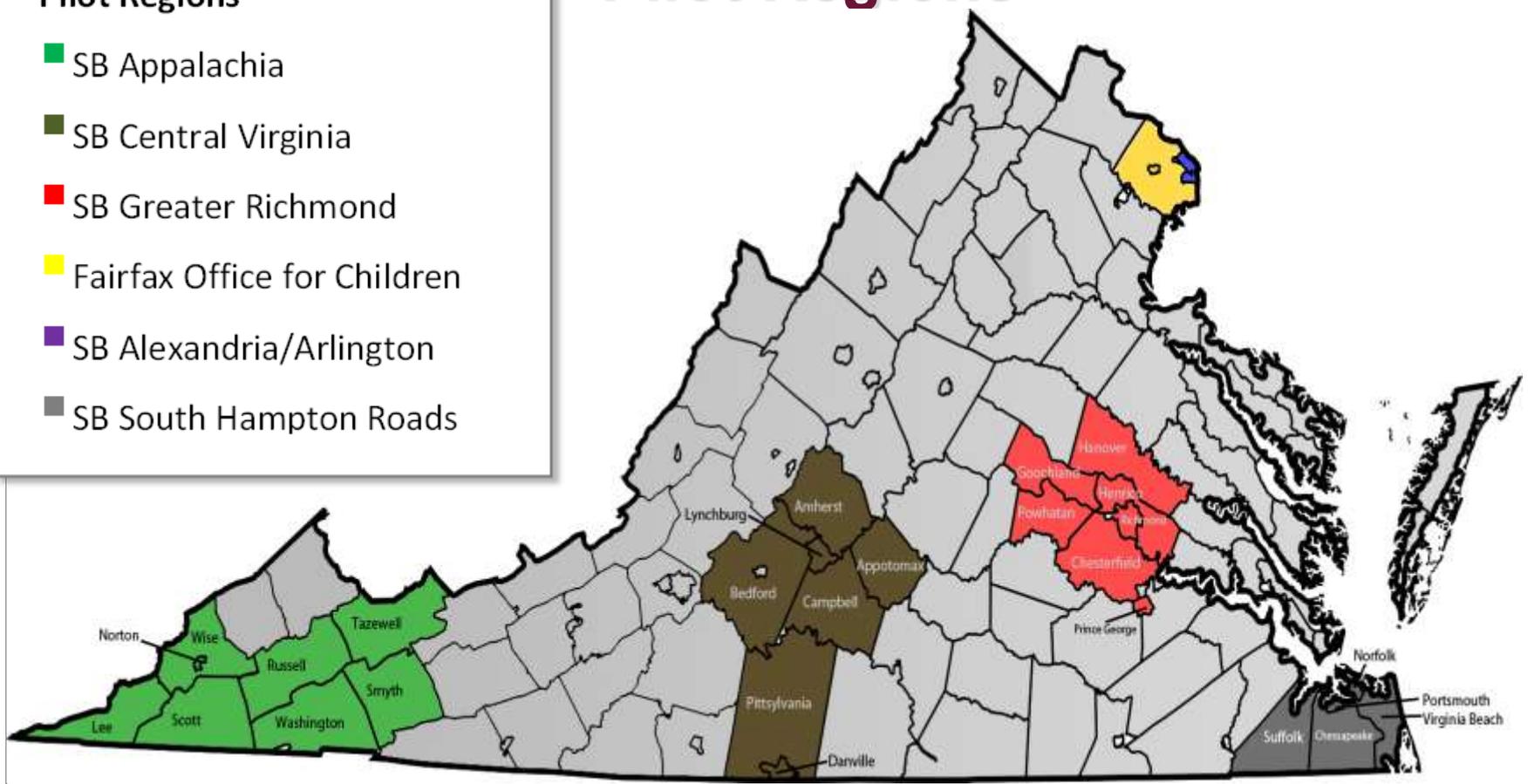
- *Satisfaction by May or June was high*
- *Challenges help us learn and re-tune*
- *So, how did we get to these conclusions?*



# Pilot Regions

## Pilot Regions

- SB Appalachia
- SB Central Virginia
- SB Greater Richmond
- Fairfax Office for Children
- SB Alexandria/Arlington
- SB South Hampton Roads





# Pilot Participation

<i><b>Region</b></i>	<i><b>Providers</b></i>	<i><b>% FCCH</b></i>
Appalachia	9	21%
Arlington/Alexandria	10	3%
Central Virginia	15	23%
Fairfax	10	2%
Greater Richmond	15	5%
South Hampton Roads	15	3%



# Roadmap

- *Who were the key players?*
- *What happened?*
- *How well did procedures go?*
- *Lessons learned from challenges*
- *Stakeholder reactions*
- *Conclusions*

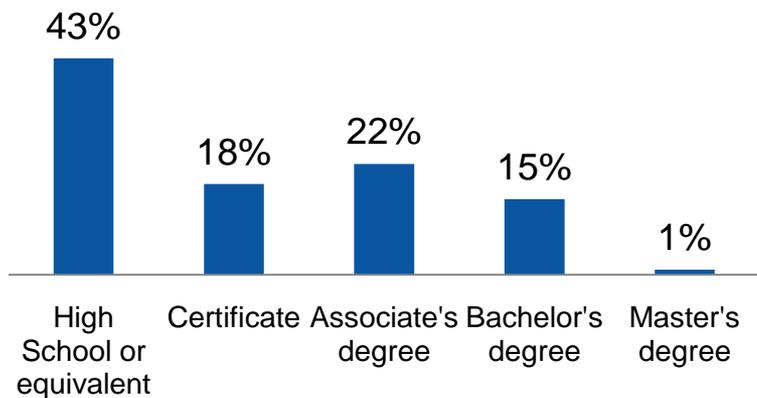
# Key Players

- ✓ 6 local coordinators
- ✓ 12 raters (2 also LCs)
- ✓ 20 mentors (1 also LC)
- ✓ 75 family child care home providers



# Who Are the Providers?

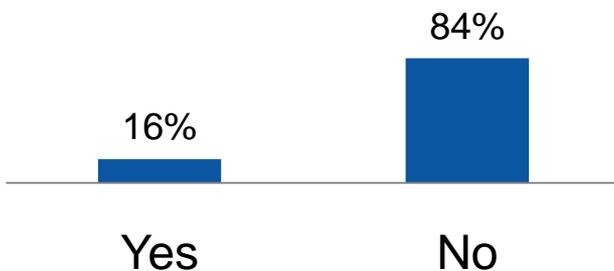
## Education Level



## Years in Business



## NAFCC Accredited



## Primary Language Spoken



# Features of Pilot FCCH

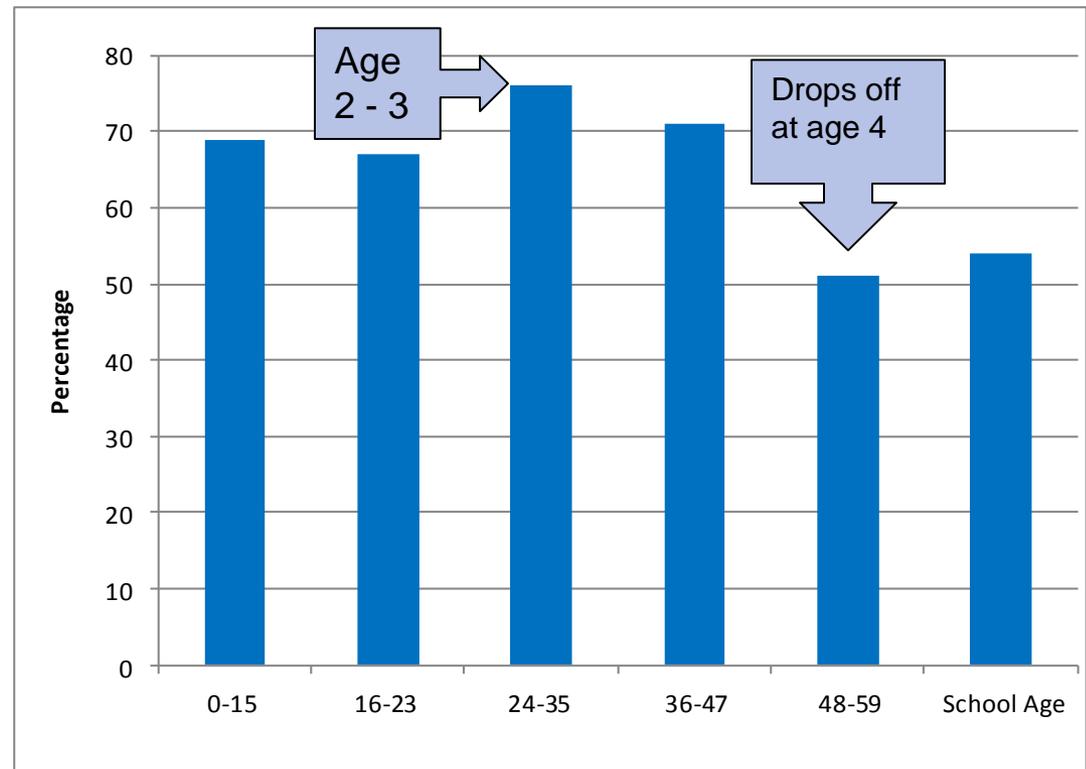
- Hours Open: Average 12 hours a day (range was 9 – 24 hours a day)
- 58 % had one or more assistants
- 44% also provide care for their own children or grandchildren



# Who Do Providers Serve?

Age of children served, in months

*Mostly infants, toddlers, and preschoolers*



# Who Are the Raters?



- 18 trained, 12 conducted ratings
- 100% early childhood specialists
- 67% BS/BA or higher in relevant field
- 100% had some kind of prior rating experience
- 58% over 20+ years experience in field



# Rating Procedures

- Raters each observed between 2 – 9 providers
- Observation visits: 5 hours average (range: 3.5 to 6 hours)
- Total time for raters (n=21 logs): 10.6 hours (range: 8 – 14 hours)
- 75 Summary Reports sent to providers

# Who Are the Mentors?



Twenty mentors (one also LC)

- *100% early childhood specialists*
- *69% BS/BA or higher in relevant field*
- *69% had prior mentoring experience*

(Based on survey of 80% of mentors (n=16))



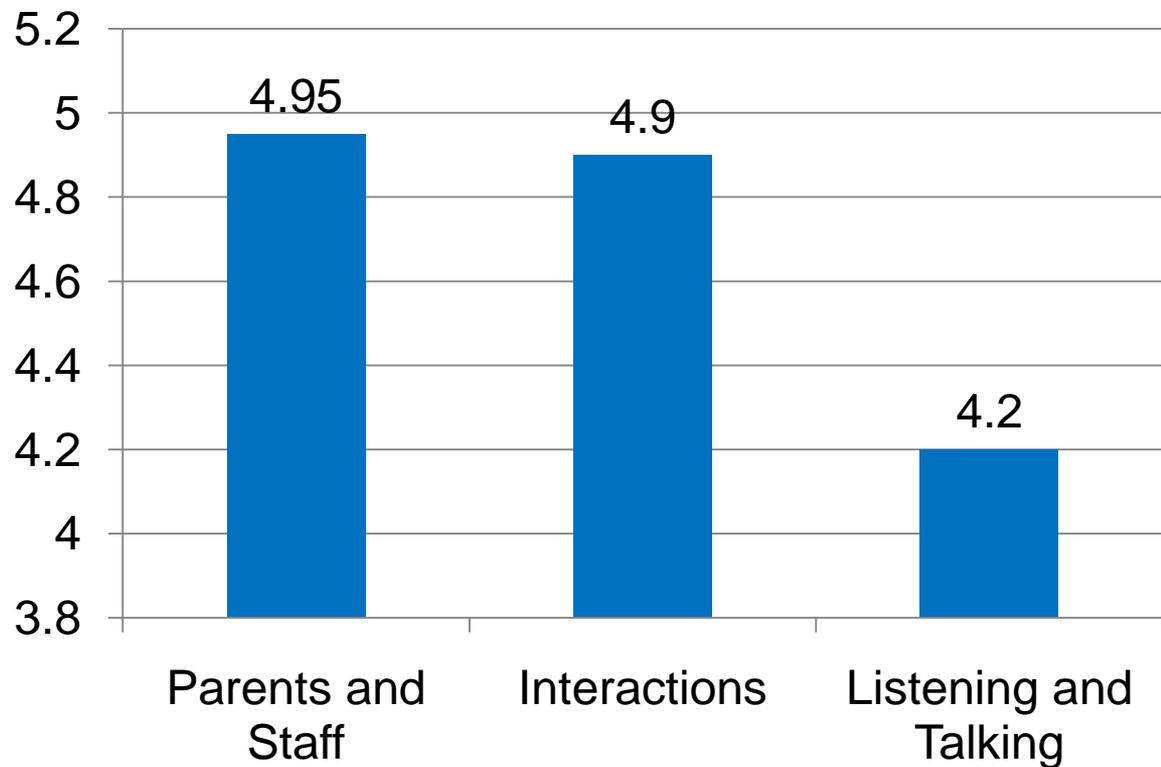
# What has been accomplished:

- ✓ *75 family child care home providers received detailed feedback on their business*
- ✓ *74 providers developed QIPs to improve their business*
- ✓ *74 providers received up to 30 hours of personalized mentoring*
- ✓ *74 providers received up to \$1,000 worth of materials and supplies targeted to specific QIP goals*

# Relative Strengths

Average  
FCCERS-R  
Score, by  
Subscale

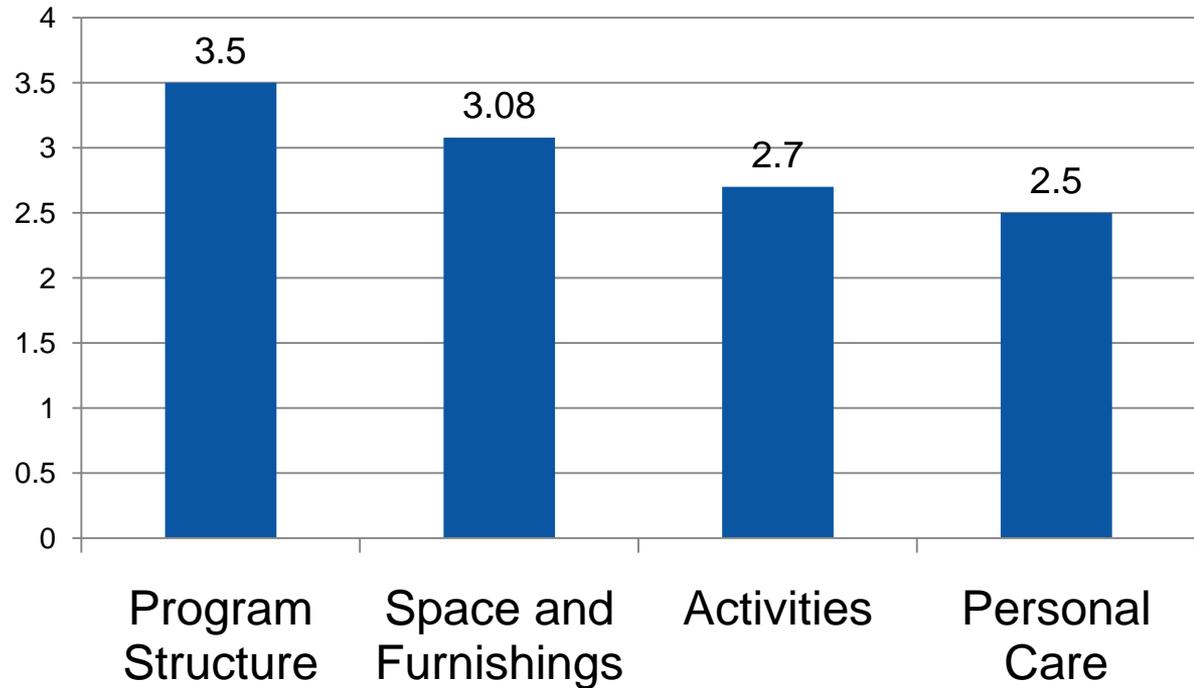
*N= 75*



# Relative Weaknesses

Average  
FCCERS-R  
Score, by  
Subscale

*N= 75*



A wide-angle photograph of the Virginia Tech campus, showing the iconic Campanile tower in the center, surrounded by trees with autumn foliage and other campus buildings under a blue sky with light clouds.

# Challenges Occurred

- ✓ *12 providers dropped out*
- ✓ *30% of original raters could not rate*
- ✓ *Scheduling observation visits complicated*

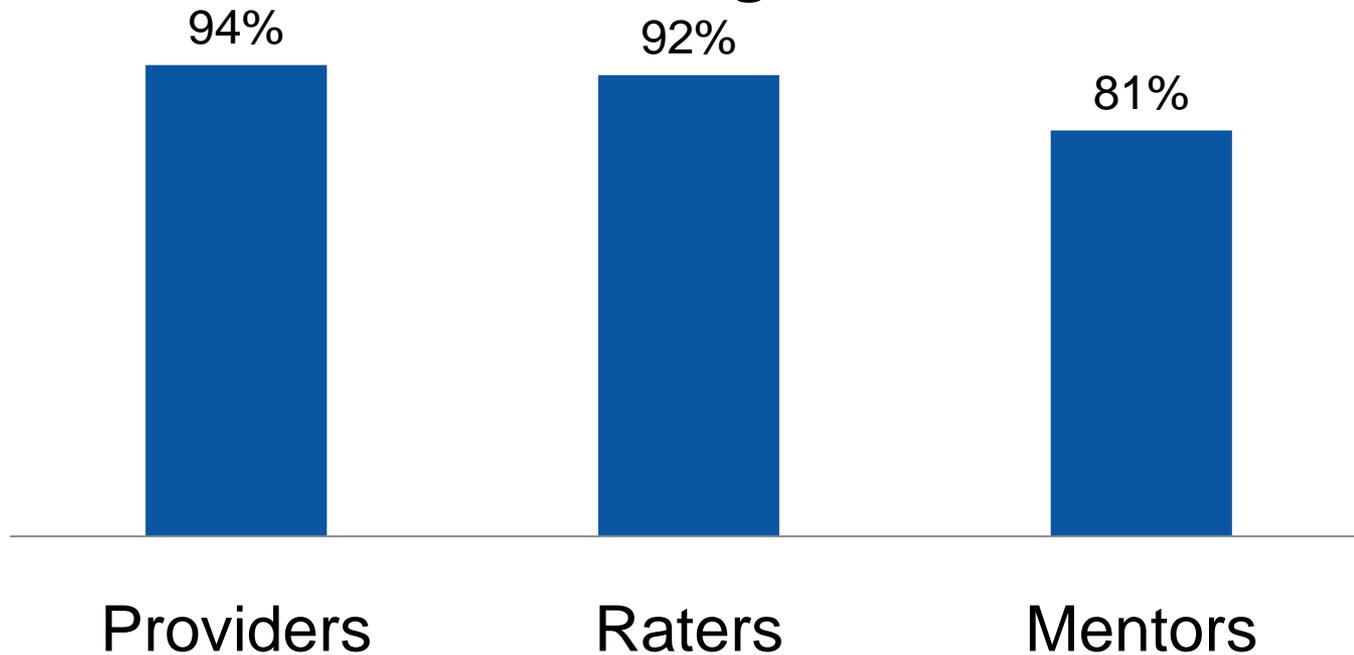


# Challenges

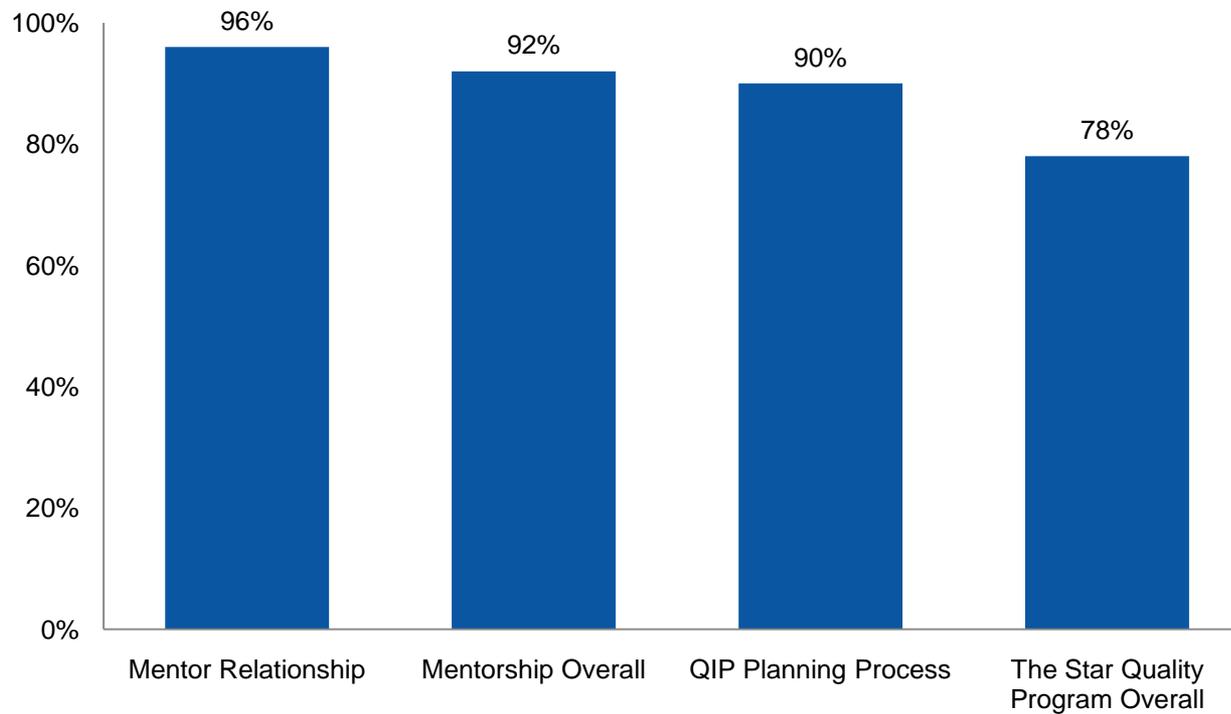
- ✓ *Language and cultural differences*
- ✓ *Many providers were initially unhappy with Summary Reports*
- ✓ *QIP development process varied significantly*

# Stakeholder Satisfaction

**Who would continue in the  
VSQI Program?**



# Provider Satisfaction





# VECF Staff

*“ VECF staff was very helpful and offered a lot of guidance.”*

*“ Morgan was a great resource.”*

*“ Betty was great about getting back when I had a question; she did a good job turning around summary reports quickly and she assisted with revising reports but never changed the intent of the content.”*



# Providers

- " *"it was impressive that we have providers who want to operate business as professionally as possible."* (Rater)
- " *"All of these providers are go getters-they want to improve."* (Mentor )
- " *"I worked with a provider who is very flexible; I was so impressed- ..... she is so on top of things."* (Mentor)
- " *"on quality side, 1/2 of young children come to Kindergarten from HCC care so if we want kids to be ready we really need to support HCC providers."* (Rater)



## Provider Comments

- " [I] liked how it allowed [me] to have more structure and the changes that [I] made changed the behavior of the children in a good way. It helped a lot."*
- " It's been good for [my] knowledge and [my] children have benefitted from all the new items and technology."*
- " [My] mentor was very professional and she really helped ...open [my] eyes to new things and new ways to do things."*
- " If the program continues it would be helpful to have the mentor continue to come and work with [us]. This is a process and continued support would be beneficial."*

# Conclusions

- ✓ Data from the implementation study will help make service delivery as smooth as possible within budget constraints
- ✓ Critical role in the state early childhood system



# Conclusions

- ✓ Family child care home providers often support the development of entire families
  - ✓ *“Most of those in [my] care came to [me] at 6 weeks of age and they are still there.”*
  - ✓ *“[I] enjoy watching children grow from babies onward through school and on to college.”*





# Keep Up the Good Work!





Thank you and Questions!