

From: Holcombe, Rebecca [Rebecca.Holcombe@vermont.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 9:20 PM
To: Murphy, Reeva; Schatz, Ken
CC: Talbott, Bill; Pepper, James; James, Brad; Fowler, Amy
Subject: Re: Need update on how many programs CDD has cleared.

Reeva,

So to be sure I understand what you are saying:

1. 58 out of 234 programs are confirmed as cleared (e.g. about 25% of all pre qualified providers are confirmed as cleared as of Dec. 7).
2. You have had communication with 76 programs in all (33% of all programs).
3. Of the 78 programs you called, 76% of them were cleared.
4. CDD has cleared 1654 fingerprint supported background checks since this process began in mid august. If I recall, you were expecting to clear 3000? Or, you sent out that many forms?

As was indicated in a memo shared with you and on which you and Ken offered comment through Leslie on Nov. 10, the secondary data collection (our second census count, initiated to compensate for the fingerprint delay at CDD) was initiated on Monday, November 14. It will be finalized on January 13 for the purpose of setting the tax rate.

A low count due to delayed fingerprinting is most likely to have the greatest impact on tax rates in some of our small, rural, higher poverty districts.

This is a high stakes, highly scrutinized process, as it drives tax rates.

R

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From: Murphy, Reeva
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 8:37:55 PM
To: Holcombe, Rebecca; Schatz, Ken
Cc: Talbott, Bill; Pepper, James; James, Brad; Fowler, Amy
Subject: RE: Need update on how many programs CDD has cleared.

As of 12/7/16 CDD has fully cleared 1654 individuals working in prequalified PreK programs.

We are proactively reaching out to private prequalified programs to check their current status.

56 of 234 private prequalified programs responded to a short survey. The survey included a question where programs could request help from CDD to fully clear all staff and resolve payment issues. We called every program that responded.

43 of programs who responded to the survey confirmed that all staff have passed fingerprint supported background checks but 10 of those reported they are still having trouble with payment from at least one SU.

We have called 76 programs in all and confirmed an additional 15 programs where all staff are fully cleared bringing the total of confirmed fully cleared programs to 58. 17 of 18 of the

programs who are not yet fully cleared are waiting for results for one or two staff and we are problem solving or expediting each of these.

Additional clearances are processed daily. We are keeping up with clearing all results we received from VCIC. VCIC is moving results through. Most of the delayed clearances we have encountered result from specific problems – unclear fingerprints, problems with identity (misspelled names can derail the process), fingerprints submitted with no record check forms, etc. We have been working each of those through to solution as we encounter them and finding ways to improve and expedite the process as we do this.

We are continuing to work down the list to confirm that programs that did not respond to the survey to request help are all set with fingerprint supported background checks. Many programs we spoke to reported being cleared by a combination of Superintendents and CDD.

We are clearing newly hired individuals in prequalified programs as they are hired – we are not experiencing delays in clearing new staff . That's part of the ongoing process of keeping fully cleared programs current.

When is the date of the second census?

If you can let us know the Superintendent that is concerned we can reach out to check on what programs he/she is working with and confirm clearances. We are keeping a spreadsheet on status of all programs that is updated daily. If a Superintendent identifies a program they are concerned about we will reach out to see if there are problems we can clear up. As we work through the list we are resolving a number of communication issues and/or hold ups caused by individuals or programs not following the process.

When a program changes ownership, legal responsibility for the program changes. The program has to reapply for PreK approval – we usually work with programs to expedite a new license, STARS status and PreK approval (if they qualify). New owners must show that they will continue to meet all PreK standards and sign off on assurances. I would assume new owners would have to sign a new agreement with districts as well. Licensure, STARS status and PreK approval do not transfer automatically when a program is sold.

I think Molly mentioned that the second census is scheduled for mid-February. Given what we are learning as we reach out to individual programs, I think that is actually a doable date for clearance of all private prequalified programs with universal PreK supported children enrolled in this school year.

From: Holcombe, Rebecca

Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 1:35 PM

To: Schatz, Ken <Ken.Schatz@vermont.gov>; Murphy, Reeva <Reeva.Murphy@vermont.gov>

Cc: Talbott, Bill <Bill.Talbott@vermont.gov>; Pepper, James <James.Pepper@vermont.gov>; James, Brad <Brad.James@vermont.gov>; Fowler, Amy <Amy.Fowler@vermont.gov>

Subject: Need update on how many programs CDD has cleared.

Ken and Reeva,

I just heard from a superintendent who says that he is concerned our second census count will be inaccurate because none of the private providers have yet cleared, some of them have new employees since September and one has changed ownership so is starting over.

We have not had any updates from CDD on how many programs have been cleared. We have been operating on the assumption, based on assurances, that programs would clear in time for the second census. If, based on CDD's count of how many programs have not cleared, this is NOT likely, we need to know ASAP so that we can move quickly to protect districts.

Rebecca

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