



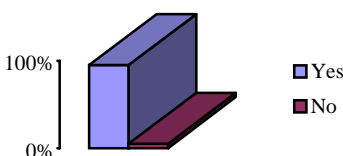
The John C. Stennis Institute of Government has been working with the Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative to examine ways in which Mississippi can best utilize the funds and available policy options to maximize services for child care.

Under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, states are encouraged to proactively seek solutions to address the needs of their constituents. In Mississippi we have a relentless need for increased availability and accessibility to child care assistance. Virtually all the adults on TANF are single mothers with young children. In order for Mississippi to successfully move these mothers into the workforce, child care is essential. The Department of Health and Human Services recognizes this, and has ruled that child care is an important area for states to address with TANF funds. In fact, in the TANF program nationally, state spending on child care is second only to direct cash assistance. States are spending more on child care out of TANF than out of the Child Care Development Fund.

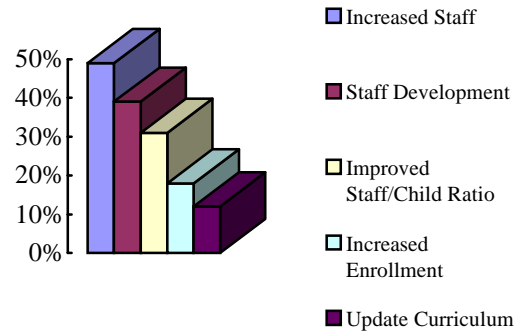
Mississippi took advantage of this option in 2000, when TANF monies were made available to child care providers through over 170 TANF Child Care Enhancement grants. This was a much needed influx of additional funds into the program. The child care enhancement funding allowed the grantees to better serve the children and working parents who so desperately need it. Unfortunately, this grant opportunity was discontinued.

The Following is a brief overview of the results of a survey of TANF Child Care Enhancement Grantees:

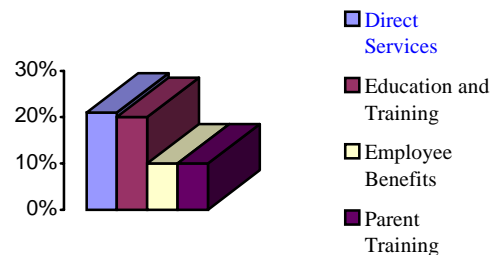
**Will the *loss* of the TANF Child Care Enhancement Funds *impact* your center?**



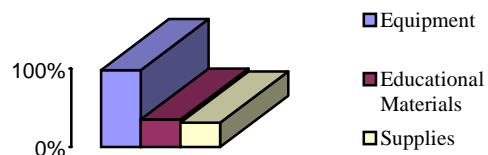
**Ways in which grantees used the TANF Child Care Enhancement Funds:**



**Grantees were able to *Increase*:**



**Grantees were able to *Purchase*:**



**What will be *cut* due to *loss* of this funding:**

