



Mississippi has resources available to more fully realize the programmatic goals of the Child Care Development Block Grant and the monies transferred from TANF into child care funding, but these resources are being severely underutilized and in some cases being wasted through badly structured delivery systems.

The Stennis Institute recently completed an analysis of survey data obtained by the Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative. Some specific areas of need related to child care in Mississippi that the study identified are:

- ◆ *There are numerous management problems with the implementation and operation of the child care assistance program.*
- ◆ *Barriers within the administration of the designated agents prevent recipients' participation in childcare program assistance that is provided for them through federal funds.*

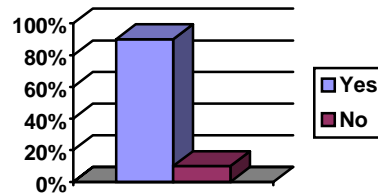
We have the opportunity to streamline the delivery system and maximize programmatic goals available to us through the CCDBG and TANF funding.

Affordable and accessible child care is a substantive component of facilitating job placement and retention. It is essential that we perform an expenditure effectiveness analysis to guarantee that all monies spent on these vital programs are done so in the most effective manner.

In summary, it is no secret that dollars are scarce from state revenue sources. Thus, it is even more imperative that everything possible is done to maximize the probability that dollars from federal sources reach those they are intended to serve.

Some of the specific survey data results relating to the profound management problems are as follows:

Do you experience problems with the certificate program?



If so, please identify where the problems are most difficult:

- 60%** - Delays getting the applications processed
- 57%** - Delays in decisions during the rollover process
- 49%** - Late Notification when a certificate is terminated
- 41%** - Reimbursement rates aren't high enough
- 36%** - Delays in Reimbursement payments
- 31%** - Problems getting applications for parents
- 69%** - (Other) Descriptive responses – *Almost exclusively problems with certificate granting agents*

Number of Responding Child Care Providers who had Waiting List for Children to Enroll – 90%

Average Number of Children on Waiting List Per Child Care Provider – 24

Average Length of Time a Parent Has to Wait to See if a Child Care Certificate Application is Approved or Denied - 13 Weeks

When did you find out how many child care certificates will be renewed?

