



Seeds to Success Modified Field Test Webinar

June 10, 2010

Key Takeaways

- The Seeds to Success modified field test program in East Yakima and White Center was studied during the period of June through December 2010.
- Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. conducted the study using an evaluation method called a randomized controlled study. In this type of study, participants are randomly selected to either receive services or not receive services. At the end of the study, researchers can confidently say that any change in the group that received services can be said to have happened because of those services. In our program, both groups had access to professional development opportunities. However, one of the groups also had access to intensive coaching and quality improvement grants.
- Participants in both groups played key roles in helping us accomplish the goals of the study. Because of the participants, we are able to confidently share the results of the study to benefit children and families throughout the state and the country.
- Through the study, we learned that coaching and quality improvement grants helped increase the observed quality of the child care program.
- Through the study, we also saw a large number of participants in the group that received coaching and quality improvement grants pursue professional development opportunities.
- As expected, possibly due to the short time period and because education attainment is a long-term process, we did not see any significant change by participants in the professional development and training area of the Seeds to Success quality standards.
- As demonstration communities, East Yakima and White Center were successful in helping the state learn about what works in *Seeds to Success*. It is now time to bring the learning to the rest of the state as well as to try and learn if different levels of the services can also bring about measurable change.
- There will be changes in the program design for year two of the modified field test. In an effort to design a program that the state will be able to financially support statewide in the future, we have decreased the levels of some of the supports in the demonstration communities. Some of those funds have been redistributed to support efforts in the other sites that are also participating in the Modified Field Test – Clark, Kitsap, and Spokane counties.
- Details are being finalized but we expect that following services may be reduced:
 - The number of coaching hours per participant
 - The number of eligible participants per child care business
 - The amount of quality improvement grants

If you have any questions about the program or the study, please contact your site coordinators – [CCR, Rb5 - please add your contact information.]