

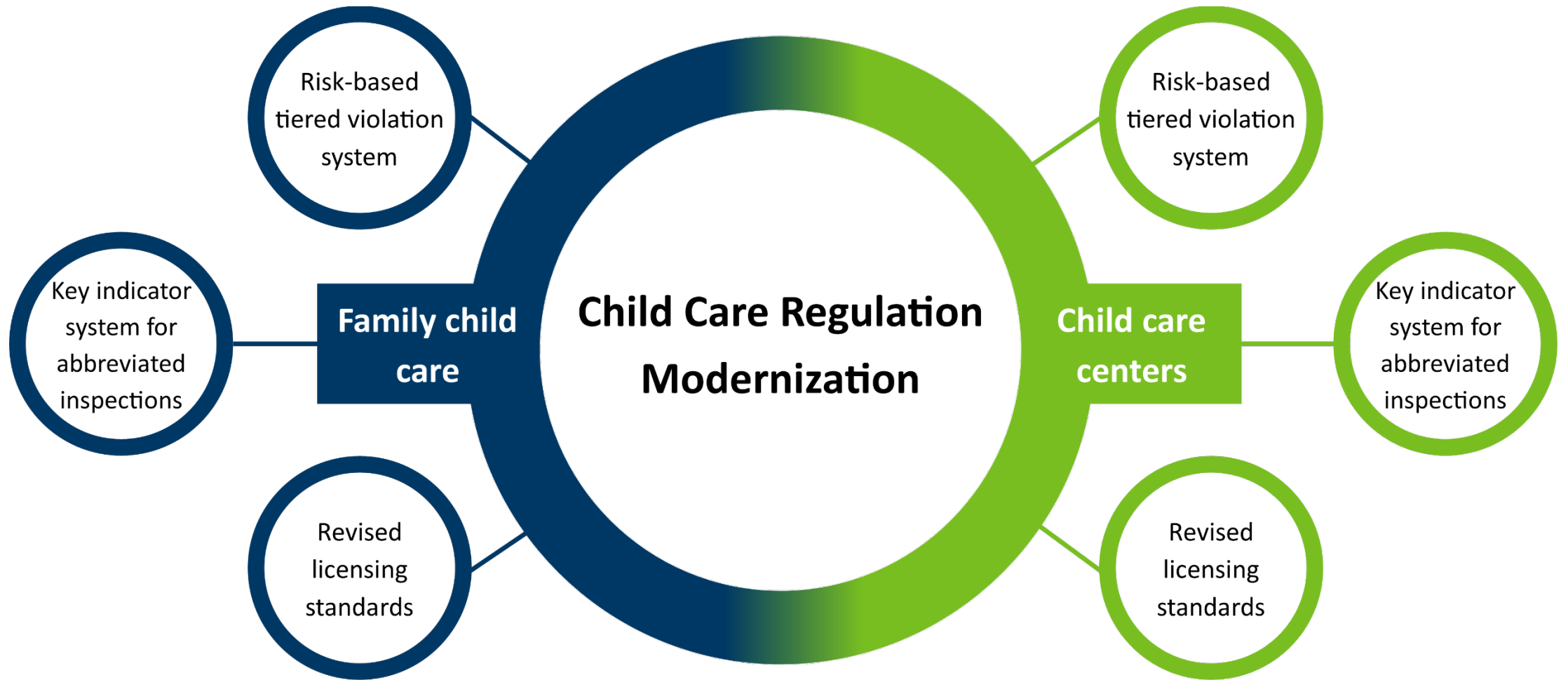


Child Care Regulation Modernization Project Update

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Project at a glance



Minnesota's child care context

- MN Rules 9502 and 9503 haven't been updated since the 1980's
 - 2007: Safe sleep practices introduced in 245A to reduce Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
 - 2017: Changes made to MN Statutes 245A to bring MN into compliance with federal Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG)
- [Large public investments](#) in child care and early childhood education initiatives in 2023 session. Many initiatives are unfolding at once for MN providers.
- Shifting industry: [Nationwide decline of Family Child Care providers](#) and shift to Center-based providers. Many factors contributing to this shift.

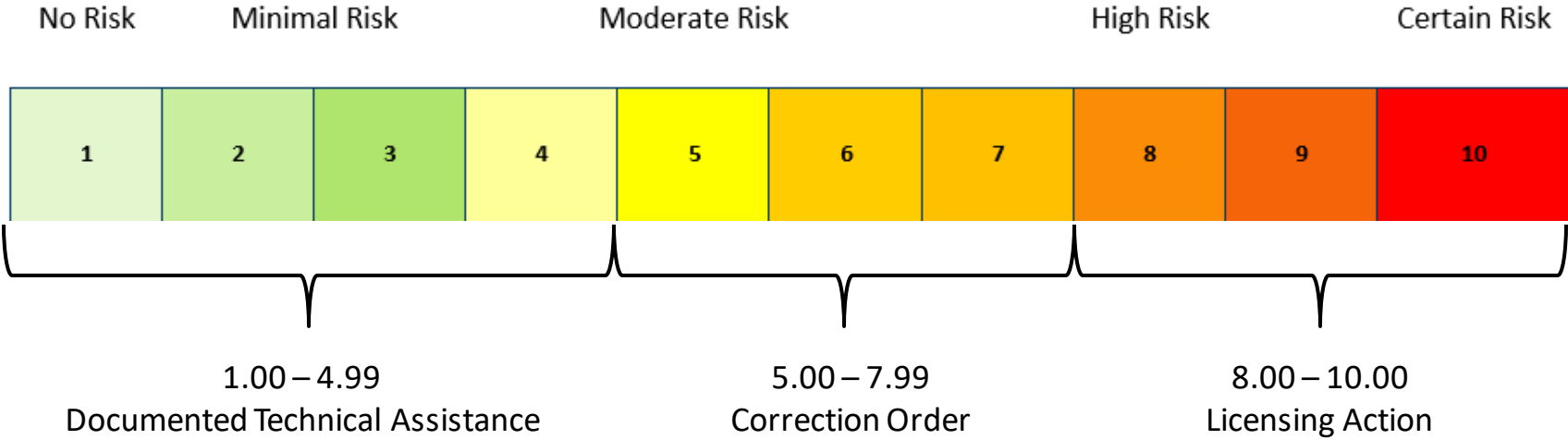


Weighted risk system

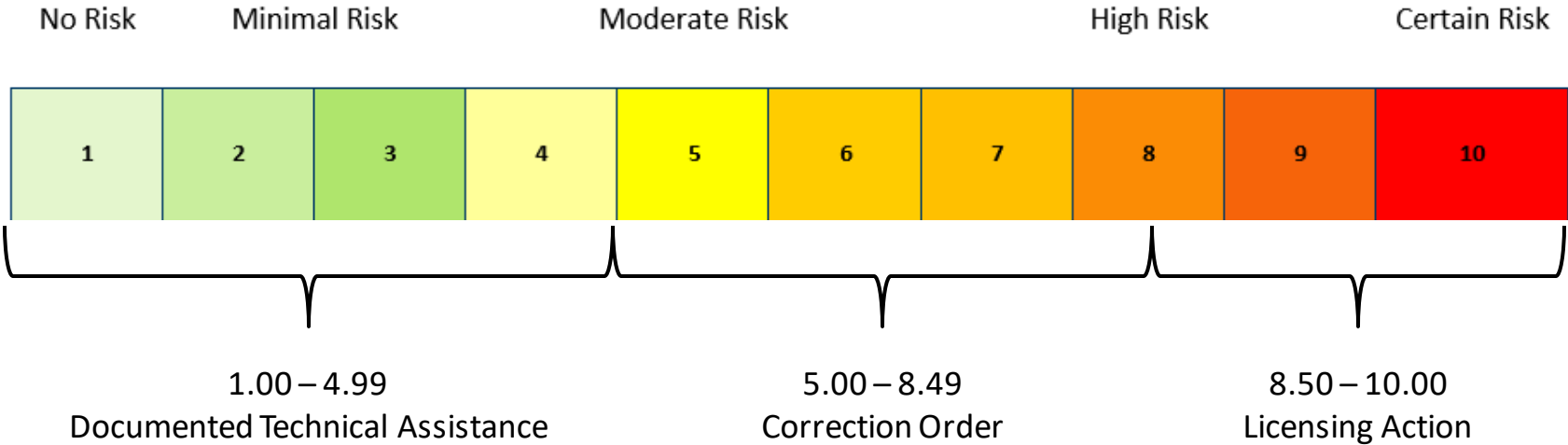
Note: The weighted risk system will not be implemented until after the Provider and Agency Hubs are fully operational for child care centers and family child care.

Weighted risk system – The break down

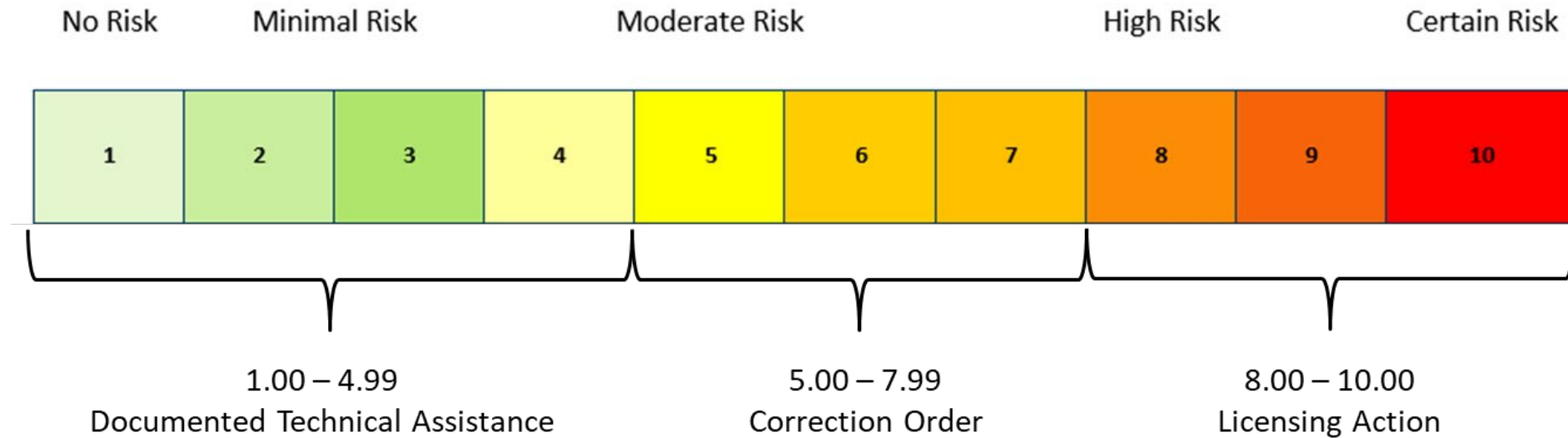
Family Child Care



Child Care Center



Weighted scale – Family child care



Lowest Weight:

9502.0335, subpart 1.A The applicant submitted an application on the department form in the county where the applicant resides.

Weight: 1.91

Highest Weight:

9502.0335, Subpart 2.D Caregivers, occupants, or people present when children are in the home may not abuse prescription drugs, use controlled substances, or drink alcohol when children are present in the home.

Weight: 9.52



Abbreviated inspections

Note: Abbreviated inspections will not be implemented until after the Provider and Agency Hubs are fully operational for child care centers and family child care.

Abbreviated inspections

- Abbreviated inspections will allow shortened annual inspections for providers who meet the eligibility criteria
- Abbreviated inspections will include:

Key Indicators

A subset of standards which statistically predict compliance

Example:

9502.0435, subp. 15 (a) Water Temperature must be 120 degrees or lower

High-Risk Rules

Determined through stakeholder input

Example:

9502.0335, Subpart 2.D can't abuse drugs or other substances

Random Rules

5 random rules that do not fall within the other two categories

Example:

9502.0445, subpart 3 Well-balanced meals and snacks are offered daily.

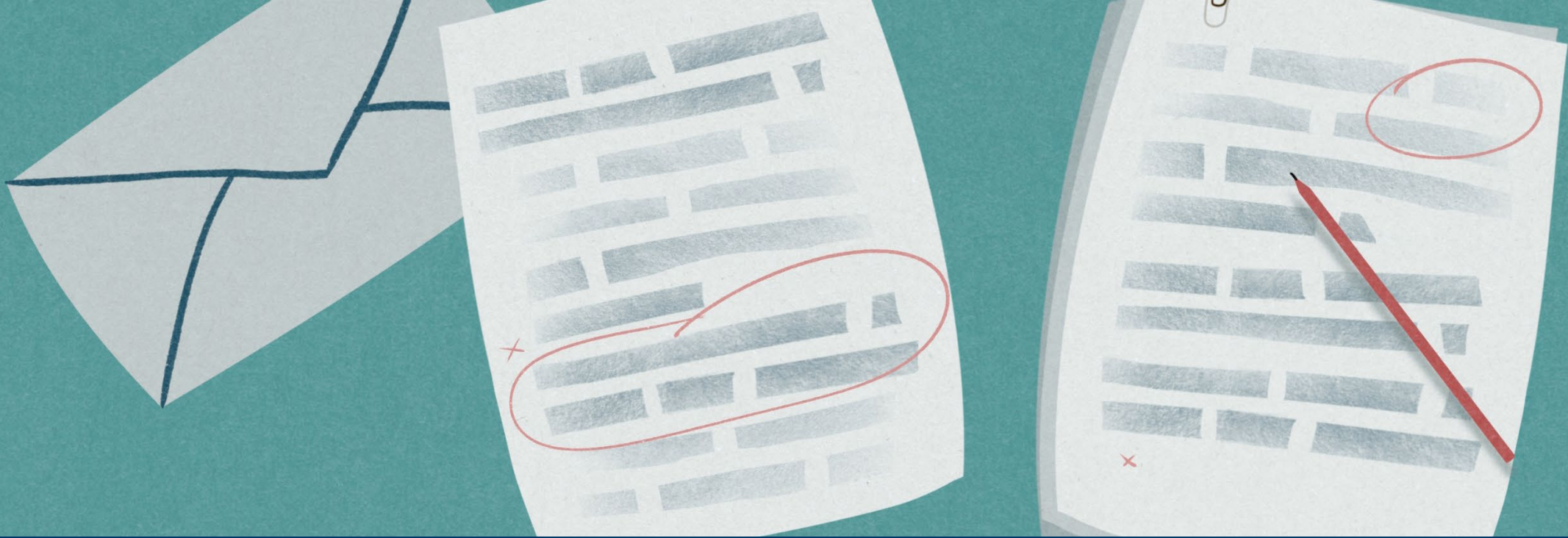
Eligibility for abbreviated inspections

- Providers must meet eligibility criteria to qualify for an abbreviated inspection
- Minnesota held info sessions and administered a survey in fall 2022 to inform eligibility criteria.
- **Our goal** - to use data to set eligibility criteria which ensures:
 1. Only providers with a record of compliance performance are eligible; and
 2. A large share of providers would benefit from participating in abbreviated inspections

Eligibility criteria (years not finalized)

The following factors are considered when determining whether a program qualifies for an abbreviated inspection:

- Number of years licensed and operating
- Prior licensing actions
- Prior Key Indicator noncompliance
- Prior High-Risk Rule noncompliance
- Prior substantiated maltreatment finding



Revised licensing standards

Revised licensing standards

- FCC Task Force recommendation: “Modernize and update licensing standards for Family Child Care in Rule 2 and statutes.”
- In 2021, the Minnesota Legislature directed DHS to work with the National Association for Regulatory Administration (NARA) to develop revised licensing standards which:
 - “are grounded in national regulatory best practices” and
 - “must protect the health and safety of children and be child-centered, family-friendly, and fair to providers.”

- The first step in preparing draft revised licensing standards involved NARA reviewing:
 - National best practices,
 - Existing Minnesota policies,
 - Accreditation standards, and
 - Licensing standards from other states.



Engagement on initial draft

- State Fire Marshal
- MN Departments of Health and Education
- Children's Cabinet
- DHS Child Development Services Unit
- Center for Inclusive Child Care
- Focus group with providers on children with disabilities
- Focus group with CCC providers on equipment and supplies
- Meeting with providers on outdoor nature programs
- FCC Licensors
- Empowering Kids
- DHS Disability Services Division and MORE!



Public Draft 1

- **April 10, 2024**, an online information session regarding the revised draft standards was held in the evening.
- **April 11, 2024**, an online information session regarding the revised draft licensing standards was held in the afternoon.
- **April 22, 2024**, Public Draft 1 of the Child Care standards were announced through the project listserv and published on the project website.



Engagement on Public Draft 1

- Since the draft standards were published in April, the following public feedback opportunities were available:
 - **June 2024:** Six focus groups with county licensors held.
 - **June – July 2024:** DHS staff participated in over 23 listening sessions (over 950 participants and over 2,498 individual ideas of feedback collected)
 - **June 10, 2024 — July 31, 2024:** Online survey available to anyone to give feedback on the draft standards with over 1,600 unique respondents.
 - **June — July 2024:** 329 FCC providers and 220 CCC providers were invited to participate in 1:1 interview with Wilder Research. 7 FCC providers and 13 CCC providers participated.



Feedback on Public Draft 1

- Key themes report
 - Listening sessions
 - DHS context
 - Key themes of feedback – including direct quotations
 - Summary
 - Interviews and survey takeaways
 - FCC licensor focus groups



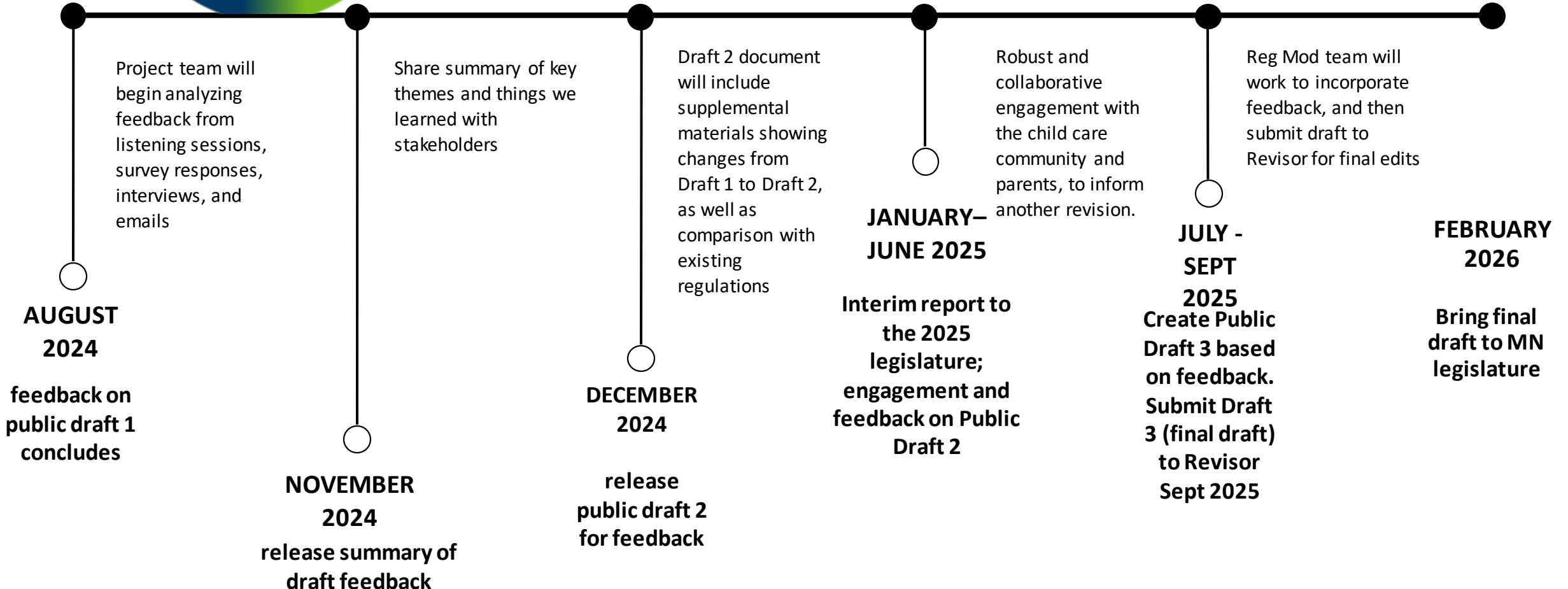
Public Draft 2

- **Before 2025:** Public Draft 2 expected to be published with supplemental materials
- **January – June 2025:** Public engagement
- **July 2025 – January 2026:** DHS will analyze feedback and create a final draft
- **February 2026:** Final draft is anticipated to be shared with the Minnesota Legislature





Child Care Revised Licensing Standards Timeline



Thank You!

Email the project team: CCRegModernization.DHS@state.mn.us

Project website: [Child Care Regulation Modernization / Minnesota Department of Human Services \(mn.gov\)](https://www.mn.gov/child-care-regulation-modernization)

Questions?

