Perceptions of R.E.E.T.A.I.N.
Results from a 2018 evaluation of the Retaining Early Educators through Attaining Incentives Now (R.E.E.T.A.I.N.) Bonus Program

Child care programs nationwide struggle to retain qualified employees, and low wages may be one factor influencing providers’ decisions to leave the field. R.E.E.T.A.I.N., Minnesota’s workforce retention program, provides a wage bonus to highly trained child care providers. A total of 571 center-based and family child care providers completed an online survey about their experiences with and perceptions of the R.E.E.T.A.I.N. program.

92% of surveyed recipients* indicated that the R.E.E.T.A.I.N. bonus was enough to help them, even in a small way. Over half of participants used funds to purchase good or resources for their personal use (see fact sheet on how providers use R.E.E.T.A.I.N. funds).

* Providers who reported receiving one or more bonuses since 2013 (n = 301)

Did receiving a bonus influence recipients’ decision to remain in the workforce?

About half of surveyed recipients somewhat or strongly agreed that receiving a bonus influenced their decision to remain in the workforce. Responses did not differ among center-based and family child care providers.

What are the overall perceptions of R.E.E.T.A.I.N. among applicants (including those who did not receive a bonus)?

93% somewhat or strongly agreed they would recommend R.E.E.T.A.I.N. to another provider.

87% somewhat or strongly agreed the application was worth their time.

74% plan to apply to R.E.E.T.A.I.N. again.

This is one in a series of fact sheets from an evaluation of Minnesota’s R.E.E.T.A.I.N. Bonus Program. For more information, visit: https://www.childtrends.org/publications/evaluation-of-reetain