ABOUT THE OFFICE OF CHILD CARE (OCC)
Child care is a topic of importance to families, child care providers and policy makers. Availability of affordable, quality child care is directly linked to economic and social benefits for Utah: parents can work, employers can fill jobs, the tax base can grow and our children’s needs for nurturing, supervision, socialization and intellectual stimulation can be met.

Each of the OCC program objectives integrate aspects of these common goals:
- Help our children in child care grow up safe, healthy and confident;
- Ensure our children in child care are engaged in developmentally appropriate activities;
- Ensure our children in child care enter school ready to learn and succeed;
- Inform communities of their child care resources;
- Support families in becoming self-reliant and contributing to their community and state economy; and
- Optimize all available funding sources.

WHY WE DO IT
- Utah has the highest birthrate in the country and the youngest population.
- Utah has the highest ratio of any state for children to total population (26% of total population is aged 14 and under).
- In Utah, 161,000 children under the age of six need child care because both parents (or the only parent in the home) work.
- 61% of Utah women work outside the home.
- There are roughly 65,000 single parent families in Utah, which accounts for 19% of all families with children.
- Access to child care allows parents to work – and that stimulates the economy while reducing the burden on social services.
- Quality care is crucial. Longitudinal studies indicate that children in high quality care do better in school and stay out of trouble.

DEFINING QUALITY CHILD CARE
Quality care promotes the optimal growth and development of children. Aspects of quality care include:
- Warm, sensitive and responsive interactions between a well-trained caregiver and a child or youth
- Stable, consistent relationships with a limited number of caregivers
- Safe and supportive physical environments
- Quality nutrition
- Stimulating activities which support learning through play
- Protecting children’s health and safety through licensing regulation or other approved equivalent health and safety standards

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### AFFORDABILITY

Affordability relates to the ability of Utah parents to pay for the child care services they need. Parents who cannot afford to pay for child care are forced to choose from three unsatisfactory options: leaving their young children at home with a sibling, leaving their children home alone, or not working at all.

### SUBSIDY

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- Every month, there are about 13,189 children served statewide by the child care subsidy program.
- 62% of those children are 5 years old and younger.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age of Child</th>
<th>Median Cost Range for Licensed Providers</th>
<th>Median Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infants – Under Age 2</td>
<td>$430 - $506</td>
<td>$462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool – Age 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>$480 - $545</td>
<td>$530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool – Age 4 &amp; 5 (not in Kindergarten)</td>
<td>$387 - $452</td>
<td>$423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten – Age 5 until 1st grade</td>
<td>$365 - $430</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age – Grades 1-6</td>
<td>$344 - $387</td>
<td>$380</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### GRANTS

Grants originating from OCC help fund the quality and creation of programs or child care spaces to existing child care and afterschool facilities. F709 data follows:

- **Infant/Toddler Care**
  The Baby Steps Grant supported 87 child care centers:
  - Support provided to 773 infant/toddler classrooms.
  - 70% of child care centers raised the quality of care provided.

#### Elementary Age Programs
- Provided funding for 70 afterschool and 11 summer programs, serving over 11,000 youth.
- Programs served over 400 youth with special needs.
- Two staff in each program received at least 20 hours of professional development in the year.

#### Teen Programs
- Provided funding for 16 programs, serving over 1,100 teens everyday.
- The top 4 prevention components addressed by teen programs were Healthy Body/Lifestyles, Healthy Interpersonal Relationships, Prevention of Tobacco/Alcohol/Drug Abuse, and Career Exploration.