



Why you should "Care About Child Care"

On a given day, there are approximately 33,000 Utah children being cared for in regulated child care settings.

From early childhood through adolescence, children who enjoy high-quality care and supervision have been found to be better prepared for school in terms of cognitive skills, health, and behavior.

Children in high-quality child care demonstrate greater mathematical ability, greater thinking and attention skills, and display fewer behavioral problems than children in lower-quality care. These differences hold true for children from a range of backgrounds, with particularly significant effects for children at risk.

(Peisner-Feinberg, et.al., 1999)

Economic Impact

The child care industry in Utah employs more than 8,000 workers. Annual gross receipts for the industry are about \$250 million. The availability of regulated child care increases the gross earnings of Utah's labor force by about \$480 million per year and this generates approximately \$24 million per year in state income taxes.

It is useful to understand how Utah's child care industry compares to other industries.

Key facts:

- Out of 435 employment sectors in Utah, child care ranks 46th in total employment.
- Child care ranked 126th out of 435 sectors in Utah in terms of annual gross receipts.
- Wage levels in the industry are very low. Child care ranked 433rd out of the 435 sectors.

(State of Utah, Office of Child Care,
2005 Economic Impact of Child Care in Utah)

"We all have the duty to call attention to the science and seriousness of early childhood cognitive development – because the years between birth and age five are the foundation upon which successful lives are built."

Laura Bush, White House Summit on Early Childhood Cognitive Development, July 26, 2001.

Child care enables parents to work

According to the Economic Impact of Child Care in Utah report, when Utah parents were asked their primary reason for using child care, 57% reported so they could work.

Research has shown that the single most predictive indicator of child outcomes is the economic stability of the family. Family income consistently predicts children's academic and cognitive performance, even when other family characteristics are taken into account.

Research also shows that children do best when their families achieve increased employment and income, when they live in low-conflict households with the love and support of both parents, and when they spend time in high-quality child care and after-school activities.

Summary

Why should we care about child care? Because our future depends on the cognitive and social emotional preparedness of our children and youth. The child care industry is a major contributor to Utah's economy. Child care services provide the critical support that families need to be economically self-sufficient and divert families from other financial supportive services. Quality child care not only impacts the quality of life for Utah children and families, but for our society as well.



Accomplishments / Funding

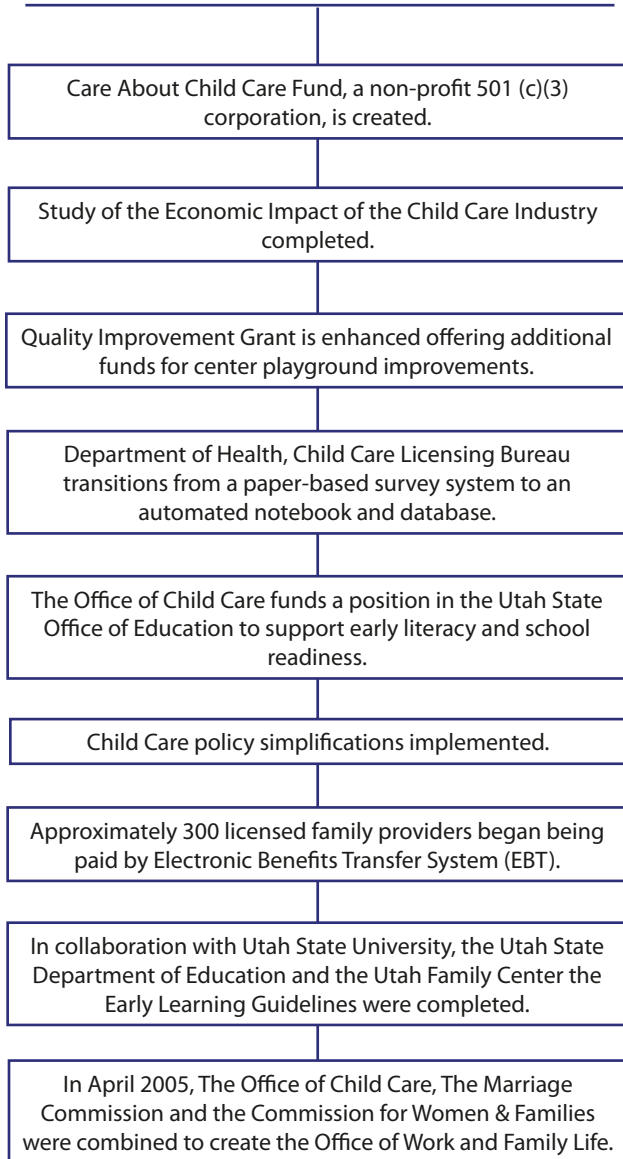


Accomplishments

The vision of the Office of Child Care is: *“Quality, affordable child care is available to every child in Utah who needs it.”*

Since 2000, the Office of Child Care has maintained an aggressive work plan designed to build local child care infrastructure, increase child care capacity where needed, support the child care workforce and improve the quality of child care programs.

Here are some of our FY 05 accomplishments:

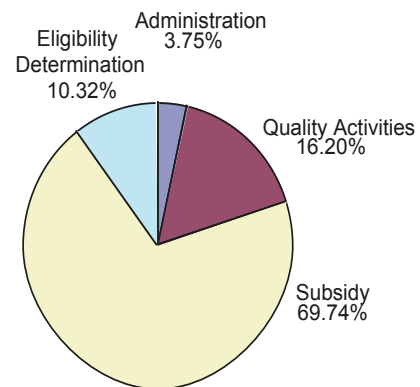


Funding

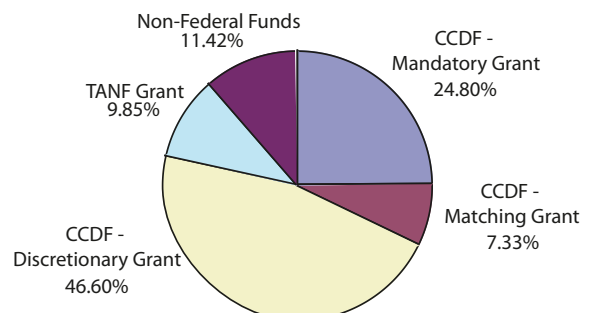
The Federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) funds most of the activities of the office. The purpose of the CCDF is to increase the availability, affordability and quality of child care services. The CCDF grant allows each State maximum flexibility to develop child care program and policies that best suit the needs of children and parents in the State. The goals and purposes of the CCDF are:

- Provide low-income families with the financial resources to find and afford quality child care for their children;
- Enhance the quality and increase the supply of child care for all families, including those who receive no direct assistance under the CCDF;
- Provide parents with a broad range of options in addressing their child care needs;
- Strengthen the role of the family;
- Improve the quality of coordination among child care programs and early childhood development programs; and
- Increase the availability of early childhood development and before and after school care services.

Preliminary SFY 2005 Child Care Program Expenditures



Preliminary SFY 2005 CC Program Sources of Funding



Subsidy



Payment-to-Parent Assisted Child Care

The Payment-to-Parent Assisted Child Care program provides funding for child care to parents who are employed or employed and attending school or training. The program serves single-parent families or two-parent families when neither parent can provide care for the children because of working schedules. Parents must meet the minimum work requirements to be considered eligible. Other eligibility requirements such as income limits may apply.

FY05 Child Care Subsidy Case Data

- Number of families/children FY05
 - Avg. families: 5,907
 - Avg. children: 12,113
- Average number of children per family
 - Two children
- Average amount of child care grant per family
 - \$272 per month

Timeliness and Accuracies

Case timeliness and accuracy are key priorities for the Office of Child Care and have been the focus of policy review for the past four years. In FY05, significant child care policy simplifications were implemented. For example, parents selecting licensed family child care are now able to pay their provider through the Electronic Benefit Transfer system.

Resources

The Office of Child Care also introduced a new web-based parent education presentation. This presentation helps parents understand the child care subsidy system-what is required of them, how to work with DWS and what local resources are available for them in their search for quality child care. To view the presentation go to: http://jobs.utah.gov/occ/flashSlide/splash_page.swf

Provider Help-Line

The Provider Help-Line supports child care providers who serve parents receiving assistance through the Payment-to-Parent Assisted Child Care Program.

In FY05, the Provider Help-Line Calls Received

- Total of 5,831 calls from providers
- Average of 486 calls per month
- Average of 22 calls per business day

Typically calls are received to answer general questions about the eligibility process and provide specific information to the designated provider about a child care case.



Quality



Training and Professional Development

The Career Ladder Program

This program recognizes and rewards child care providers for completing training in child development and child care. Research repeatedly demonstrates that the quality of care children receive is directly tied to their caregiver's level of training.

Total # of Awards Issued: 1,402

Total \$ Amount Issued: \$437,800

The Training & Longevity Supplement Program

This program recognizes and rewards providers for a combination of their years of continuous licensed experience and their Career Ladder level. The goal of this program is to increase the quality of care children receive by reducing caregiver staff turnover.

Total # of Awards Issued: 526

Total \$ Amount Issued: \$252,200

CDA & CCP Scholarships

The Office of Child Care offers scholarships to child care providers to cover the application fee to receive their CDA or CCP Credential. The CDA and CCP are both nationally recognized training credentials for early childhood practitioners.

Total # of Scholarships Issued: 16

Total \$ Amount Issued: \$4,025

The Baby Steps Project

The financial difficulties of providing infant/toddler care leave centers with few resources to address quality. This project provides centers with on going funding to subsidize the day-to-day costs of providing infant/toddler care and to increase quality. Participating centers commit to:

- Completing a self-assessment and setting annual quality improvement goals;
- Having the director and at least one caregiver in each room complete 40 hours of specialized infant/toddler training;
- Spending a portion of the grant on purchasing equipment and materials needed to meet their annual quality improvement goals.

In the second year:

- Sixty-five centers, approximately 50% of the eligible centers, participated.
- To date, over 300 center directors and caregivers have participated in the Infant/Toddler Endorsement classes.
- Classroom observations document substantial improvements in quality.

Infant/Toddler Programs FY05

Program	Cost	Number of Centers Served	Number of Children Served
Baby Steps	\$ 312,000	65	800

Infant/Toddler Outdoor Play Area Grants

A second round of Infant/Toddler Outdoor Play Area Grants were released in the summer of 2004. The first priority for these grants was to create safer and healthier outdoor environments. Centers were also able to use the funds to make their outdoor areas more comfortable and easy to use, to provide opportunities for infants and toddlers to experience the natural world, and to offer safe gross motor activities.

Infant/Toddler Programs FY05

Program	Cost	Number of Centers Served	Number of Children Served
Outdoor Play Area Grants	\$ 88,000	15	220



Quality



School-Age Programs

The Youth Connections Program offers grants to private and public program providers, which operate school-age programs throughout Utah during the school year and summer months. Programs receiving these grants match the funding 100 percent in cash or in-kind. OCC offers support to develop awareness and understanding of quality before-and after-school programs. Current programs are in the second year of a three-year grant program.

Total awarded: \$899,947
(\$450,000 state, \$449,947 federal)

Grants	42
- Private for-profit	31%
- Private non-profit	48%
- Public	21%
- Urban	75%
- Rural	25%
Total youth enrolled	5,258
Children with special needs	26
Average daily attendance	36

After-School Network

A New Initiative is to support the emerging Utah AfterSchool Network so that the network may:

- 1) Foster statewide, regional and local afterschool partnerships.
- 2) Secure resources needed to sustain new and existing after-school programs.
- 3) Ensure after-school programs are of high quality.

Provider Association Support Grants

These grants support the work of six state professional provider organizations:

- AfterSchool Utah! Association (AUA)
- Professional Family Child Care Association (UPCCA)
- Utah Association for Adult and Continuing Community Education (UAACCE)
- Utah Association for the Education of Young Children (UAEYC)
- Utah Private Child Care Association (UPCCA)

Early childhood and school-age care providers attending association workshops and conferences and receiving association newsletters = 1,063 providers.

Over 3,000 benefited from a provider appreciation activity in FY05.

Amount awarded: \$13,500

National Accreditation Grant Support Program

Funding is available to child care centers, family and school-age child care providers to obtain national accreditation, with support from state provider associations.

New Providers involved:	13
Total Providers involved:	57
Total grants:	\$11,600

National Administrator Credential Program

Supports training for child care administrators and directors.

Awards: New	65
Awards: Renewals	40
Total:	\$6,300



Quality



Child Care Resource & Referral

Utah's six Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (CCR&R) are contracted by the Office of Child Care to provide community-based child care information and referral services throughout the state. Services include:

- For Families:** Free child care referrals and information about choosing quality care.
- For Providers:** Start-up support, free referral listings, low cost training, and on-site technical assistance.
- For Communities:** Useful data about child care supply and demand, and collaboration with other agencies or groups working to support children and families.

Contract Funds Distributed to CCR&Rs in FY05: \$2,930,525

Quality Improvement Grants

The Office of Child Care funds Quality Improvement Grants for center and family child care providers. Programs wishing to apply for a grant have an on-site observation conducted by a Quality Improvement Consultant from their local CCR&R, and write a quality improvement plan based on recommendations from their Consultant. Grants are awarded through a competitive bid process.

Total # of Grants Awarded: 107
Total \$ Amount Awarded: \$309,603

Start-Up and Expansion Grants

Total awarded: \$45,249
Programs 7

The Office of Child Care offers grants to child care providers to increase the availability of care. Grants are distributed through a competitive bid process.

Based on a statewide needs assessment completed by OCC in 2002 the need for care was for infants, school-age children, and care for children of all ages during non-traditional working hours. The Start-Up/Expansion Grant Program was initiated with grants to 12 center and five family programs providing service for all three areas of need. Seven programs succeeded in opening or expanding services and expect to continue into the future; one program serves infant, early childhood and school-age children during non-traditional hours with an average daily attendance of 95, one serves early childhood and school-age children and five programs focus on school-age children with an average daily attendance of 169. Four programs were private for-profit and three were public non-profit facilities adding an estimated 264 additional slots to care for children.

This was the third and final year of this program.





Family, Friend, and Neighbor Child Care Study

CCDF regulations require that parents receiving child care subsidies are given a broad range of child care options to meet their individual needs. These include center-based care, licensed family child care, and care provided by relatives. In FY05, about 41% of children receiving a child care subsidy through DWS were in care provided by relatives. This year, the Office of Child Care will be studying family, friend, and neighbor care. Demographic

information will be gathered on these providers to find out more about this population of caregivers and the demand for license exempt care. The research will aid in making future policy decisions surrounding how DWS can support relative providers in meeting minimal health and safety requirements and how best to support relative providers in their desires to provide quality child care.

Research study of the supply and demand of out-of-school time programs in Utah.

OCC received technical support from the Child Care Bureau, the Finance Project and the Afterschool Investments Project to develop a request for proposal to complete a study of the supply and demand of out-of-school time programs in Utah that will be released in FY06.

The Office of Child Care needs assessments for 2003, 2004, and 2005 reflect a lack of spaces for school age child care in all but two counties in the state of Utah; Daggett and Rich, as determined by the six Utah Child Care Resource and Referral agencies slot and vacancy data.

Utah recognizes the need for after school programs. A poll of frequent Utah voters conducted by Children's Campaign of Utah, an affiliate of Utah Children, in 2000 revealed 86 percent of those polled agreed that too many children do not have a safe place to go afterschool.

Moreover, the most recent community assessment conducted for the United Way of Greater Salt Lake (2004) identified "inadequate child supervision – specifically, a lack of affordable afterschool programs" as the third core issue facing our communities.

Utah has the highest birthrate in the country, the youngest population in the country, and a higher than average ratio of school-age children to adults – 483 school age-children for every 1000 adults. In a study by Utah Foundation, significant growth in Utah's school age population is evident and is projected to increase 24 percent by 2014 and 39 percent by 2030. (Utah Foundation, 2004)

Results of the study will be used to inform decisions made by OCC for future after-school program work.



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