

2010 Legislative Talking Points



**Office of Work & Family Life/
Office of Child Care
Department of Workforce Services**
1385 South State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84115
(801) 468-0049
jobs.utah.gov/occ

Contact your legislator:
www.leg.utah.gov/documents/find.htm

Our Vision:

Quality, affordable child care is available to every child in Utah who needs it.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities by calling (801) 526-9240. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may call Relay Utah by dialing 711. Spanish Relay Utah: 1-888-346-3162.

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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.

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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.

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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.

Utah Full-Time Monthly Child Care Costs

Age of Child	Median Cost Range for Licensed Providers	Median Cost
Infants – Under Age 2	\$430 - \$606	\$462
Preschool – Age 2 & 3	\$400 - \$495	\$430
Preschool – Age 4 & 5 (not in Kindergarten)	\$387 - \$452	\$423
Kindergarten – Age 5 until 1st grade	\$365 - \$430	\$400
School Age – Grades 1-6	\$344 - \$387	\$380

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SUBSIDY

The federal government provides Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) block grant money to Utah income-eligible parents. This “subsidy” pays for a portion of those parents’ child care costs.

- 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

The Career Ladder and Training and Longevity Supplement programs support child care providers by teaching best practices and rewarding them with wage supplements.

For FY09:

- 61,557 hours of child care provider training received
- 807 Career Ladder Awards, including the 8,000th since awards started
- 374 Endorsements
- 759 Training and Longevity Awards, including the 4,000th since awards started
- \$792,925.00 of incentives received by child care providers

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GRANTS

Grants originating from OCC help fund the quality and creation of programs or child care spaces to existing child care and afterschool facilities. FY09 data follows:

Infant/Toddler Care

The Baby Steps Grant supported 87 child care centers:

- Support provided to 173 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 38 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

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PARTNERSHIPS

In FY09, Voices for Utah Children conducted two studies to map how much money was being spent on afterschool and children’s programs.

The Afterschool Program Funding Report found:

- There are 114,000 school-aged children in Utah that are responsible for caring for themselves after school
- 29,737 children were served by an afterschool program
- The amount spent on afterschool in Utah was \$10,985,289, with 55% of that funding coming from federal sources
- To provide adequate provisions for afterschool programs, an additional \$21 million is needed

The Children’s Budget examined how much money the state of Utah invests in children, from birth to age 18.

- Federal funding for children’s programs, excluding education, account for 70% of the total funds spent
- 80% of combined state and federal spending for children’s programs benefited children 6 and older
- Only 12% of state funding for children’s programs benefited children age 5 and younger

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