

The Child Care Connection

2009-2010 Annual Report



A program of
Catholic Charities of Delaware and Otsego Counties
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The Child Care Connection

The Child Care Connection acts as the Child Care Resource and Referral Agency (CCR&R) for Otsego County. CCR&Rs are located in counties throughout New York State and are funded by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. As the CCR&R we offer several services to both parents seeking child care and the child care community.

Our CCR&R provides information and referrals to registered and licensed programs for parents who are seeking child care. We maintain a database of providers and programs located throughout Otsego County. This database contains information on each provider and program. Providers and programs are matched with the needs the parent describes and appropriate referrals are given to the parent. Information is also available on the compli-

Child Care is a profession, and child care providers are required to demonstrate their preparation to care for children, and to enhance their early childhood skills and knowledge by taking required child care training. The Child

The Child Care Connection acts as the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) sponsoring agency for Otsego and Schoharie Counties. The CACFP is funded by the New York State Department of Health. The purpose of the CACFP is to ensure that children in day care programs throughout the state are

The Child Care Connection acts as the Registrar for Otsego County Family Day Care Programs and School Age Child Care Programs. In this role we strive to ensure that these New York State registered programs meet the minimum standards set forth in the New York State Office of Children and Family Services regulations.

The Child Care Connection is required to conduct inspections on 50% of the registered Family Day Care Programs and School Age Child Care Programs in Otsego County each year. Programs also

ance history of the provider or program, as well as more general information including information on day care subsidy, information on regulatory requirements, and referrals to other needed agencies or programs.

Our CCR&R is a resource to communities in planning to meet the needs of working families with young children. Our staff provide on-site or on-call technical assistance to child care programs, businesses and community members seeking information about child care regulations, local child care related data, and best practice in the field of early care and education. The Child Care Connection operates a loaner closet with educational and play materials free of charge for providers and programs to use with en-

Care Connection provides some of the New York State required child care provider training. We work with health care programs, schools and colleges, human service agencies, and businesses to ensure that multi-

receiving nutritious meals and snacks. Participating providers receive reimbursement for meals and snacks served to children in care.

Providers are supported and monitored through visits and trainings by The Child Care Connection staff. Pro-

receive random monitoring visits from our registration staff to check compliance with the regulations.

As the Registrar for Otsego County we are responsible for investigating any complaints on registered programs or suspected illegal programs in the county. In this role we conduct investigations which may involve Child Protective Services, as well as local police departments.

As the Registrar we receive all initial applications for individuals interested in becoming a Family Day Care Pro-

Child Care Resource and Referral

vided children, as well as a lending library. We act as the Legally-Exempt Enrollment Agency for Otsego County. We process and approve enrollment applications for those providers and programs that serve families who receive child care subsidies and are exempt from registration or licensing. In this capacity we also inspect these programs to ensure their compliance with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services Legally-Exempt Regulations. Our CCR&R also offers technical assistance to Enrolled Legally-Exempt providers and parents.

Training and Professional Development

ple and varied child care provider training is available. We provide videoconferences through a contract with SUNY Research Foundation.

Child and Adult Care Food Program

viders are given training on how to plan, purchase and serve nutritious meals and snacks to children in their care.

Funding some of the related costs of child care can help keep parent fees lower and make care more affordable.

Otsego County Registrar

vider as well as applications for School Age Child Care Programs. Applications are received by our office and reviewed for approval. Applicants are given technical assistance to properly complete the application and all new programs are inspected to ensure compliance with the regulations prior to being approved for registration.

Every four years providers are required to complete a renewal application in order to maintain their registration. The Child Care Connection reviews and approves these applications for renewal.

Report On Needs Assessment For Child Care In Otsego County

Each year Catholic Charities of Delaware & Otsego Counties' Child Care Connection completes a child care needs assessment. The purpose of this assessment is to determine the gaps that exist in Otsego County for child care and to create a plan to try to fill those gaps that exist. This assessment is completed by comparing the current supply of child care with the demand that exists in the county.

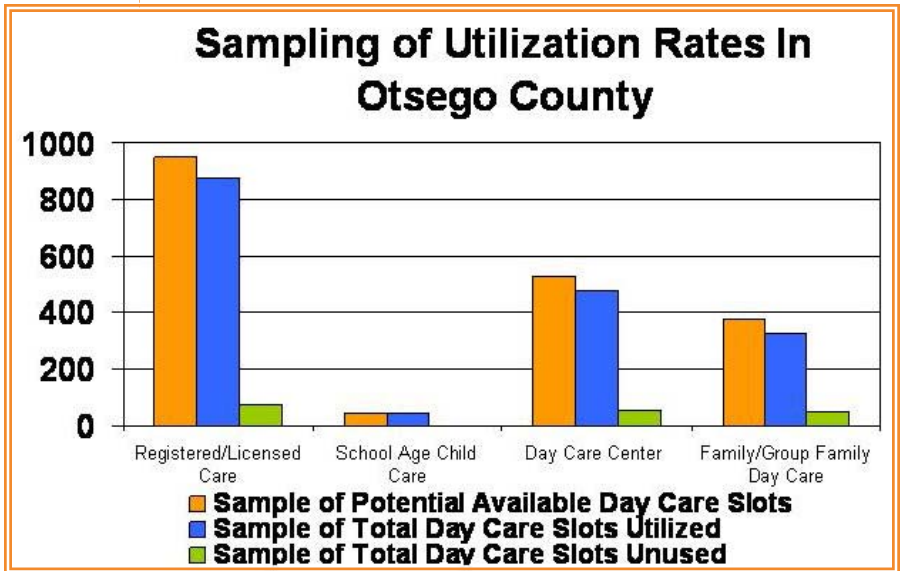
To determine the available supply of child care in Otsego County, the Child Care Connection, in the spring of 2009, sent all registered and licensed programs, including Head Starts and some legally exempt programs, such as Nursery Schools and Pre-K Programs a survey. As part of this survey, programs and providers were asked to report how many children they were registered or licensed to serve, what age

children they served and how many openings they currently had. Also added to the supply of child care are the enrolled legally-exempt programs.

To determine the demand for child care, the Child Care Connection uses the 2000 census data, along with the Kids Count 2000 labor force statistics, which states the percentage of parents who are active in the labor force.

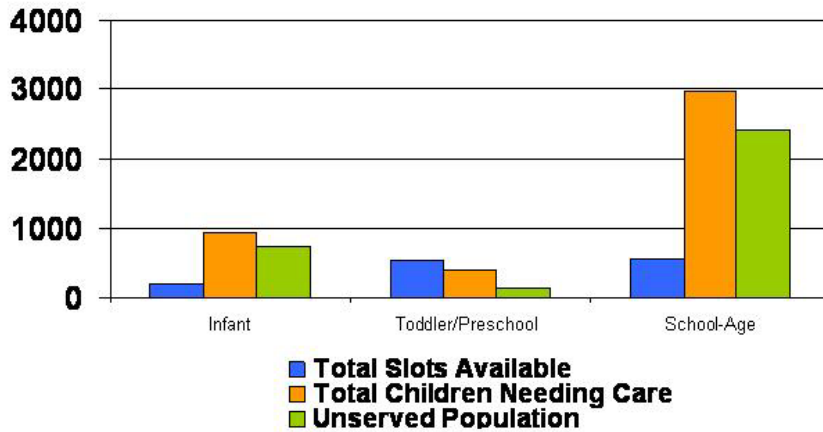
Child Care Supply

- There are 47 Registered and Licensed Day Care Programs in Otsego County. The total number of potential slots available within those is 938. According to those programs sampled, 67% of their slots are being utilized.
- There are 42 Family Day Care and Group Family Day care Programs in Otsego County. The total number of potential slots available within programs sampled is 378. According to those programs sampled, 87% of the slots are being utilized.
- There are 5 Licensed Day Care Centers in Otsego County. The total number of potential slots available within those programs sampled is 528. According to programs sampled, 90% of the slots are being utilized. *(Part day licensed Head Start programs are not included in this sample.)*
- There is 1 registered School Age Child Care Program in Otsego County. The total number of potential slots available within that program is 45. 100% of the slots are being utilized.



<p>Median income for 2009 in Otsego County</p> <p>\$41,157.00/yr.</p> <p><i>(US Census Bureau)</i></p>	<p>Hourly Minimum Wage:</p> <p>\$7.25</p> <p>Hourly cost of care for an infant in a Family Day Care home:</p> <p>\$4.00</p>	<p>The cost of day care for a child in Family Day Care from six weeks to one year</p> <p>\$6,440.00.00</p> <p><i>(based on current market rates)</i></p>	<p>Annual tuition only cost for a NYS resident in a 4 year degree program at SUNY Oneonta</p> <p>\$4,970.00</p>
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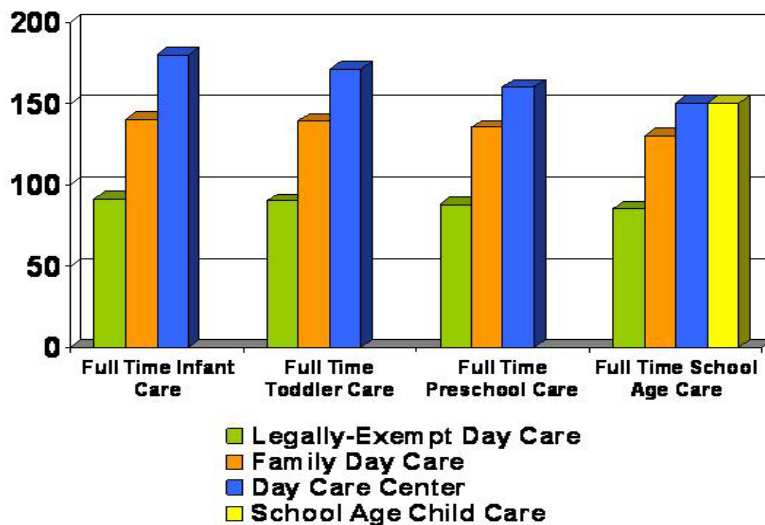
Child Care Demand In Otsego County



The Child Care Connection uses the 2000 Census data, and Kids Count 2000 labor force statistics which provides the percentage of parents who are active in the labor force and who would require care. The total registered and licensed day care programs are based on New York State Office of Children and Family Services records to determine the actual number of day care slots available.

- Total infant care slots available in Otsego County - 208
- Total number of infant/toddlers in need of care in Otsego County - 941
- Un-served population - 733
- **22%** of infants age 0-2 years will have an available slot in registered/licensed day care.
- Total toddler/preschool slots available in Otsego County - 540.
- Total number of preschoolers in need of care in Otsego County - 404
- un-served population - 136
- **66%** of children ages 2-5 years will have an available slot in registered/licensed day care.
- Total school-age slots available in Otsego County - 549.
- Total number of school-age children in need of care in Otsego County - 2,963
- Un-served population - 2,414
- **19%** of school-age children, age 6-13 years, will have an available slot in registered/licensed day care programs when school is not in session.

Average Cost of Care in Otsego County (based on 2009-2010 Market Rates)



(Preschool slots do not include part time Head Start, Pre-K, or Nursery Schools.

School Age slots do not include part time school-based

Quality Beginnings Equal Brighter Futures

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services has completed the field test for the state's child care quality rating and improvement system, QUALITYstarsNY, and is continuing to search for a viable way to fund the full implementation of the initiative. Improving the availability of quality child care for all children, especially those from low to middle-income families, is an imperative measure toward emotional development, school readiness and eventual success in life.

Studies have shown that differences in "language and other skills" are evident when comparing children from homes of different economic levels. The deficits of children who come from lower income homes are able to be seen as early as the age of three years old. These deficits continue and the gaps widen significantly by the time the children enter third grade. (1)

Quality child care settings can help level out those gaps by offering the rich experiences and exposure to important linguistic experiences such as reading, music, and the interactions between children and adults as well as other children. Quality child care settings benefit the children by "teaching" and modeling for parents as well. Teachers are able to share "information and strategies for supporting learning and development at home." (1)

The availability of child care subsidy and regulatory changes to program standards to ensure the availability of quality child care settings to children from low to middle income families is imperative to closing the gaps that exist between children from low income households and their upper income counterparts. (1)

According to research done by the FPG Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, investments in high quality child care pay taxpayers at a rate of 1 to 4, meaning that for every \$1 invested in high quality early childhood programming, there will be \$4 worth of benefits returned. Some of the projected benefits are: (2)

- Higher "lifetime earnings" for the children who were involved in an early childhood program, their mothers and later for the children's children.
- School districts save money on special education and remedial services because children from low to middle income families who were part of a high quality program are less likely to need these services than children from the same economic background who were not part of these programs.
- Some of the other benefits include the children being less likely to smoke, more likely to go on to higher education and "delay parenting." (2)

From this research it can be seen that while cuts to the Child Care and Development Block Grant may give us access to immediate funds, these cuts will cost us up to four times as much in the end and will have a ripple effect on generations to come if we are to believe the research. Therefore added investment in quality early childhood programming now will overcompensate in the near future.

In addition to government programs however, members of our businesses and community groups must become involved and invested to ensure that their future leadership and workforce gets the start that will benefit everyone. Business leaders from Corning, JP Morgan Chase and Delta Airlines have come together to make the video "It's Our Business" created by Winning Beginning NY, the statewide coalition for early childhood education. In the video the business leaders speak to the fact that they could recognize the importance of early childhood programming for children and for parents and they speak of the cost of not investing for businesses. This video can be viewed from the Winning Beginning NY website. For more information about The Child Care Connection, please visit our website at www.ChildCareConnectionNY.com.

- *USABLE KNOWLEDGE EASY AS ABC: QUALITY CHILD CARE MATTERS FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES: Harvard Graduate School of Education Dean Kathleen McCartney By Maria Fusaro, doctoral student in Human Development and Psychology at HGSE. Copyright © 2009 The President and Fellows of Harvard College*
- *BABIES TODAY.COM NEWS ARCHIVES: HIGH QUALITY DAYCARE OFFERS LIFETIME OF BENEFITS 12/10/2002*

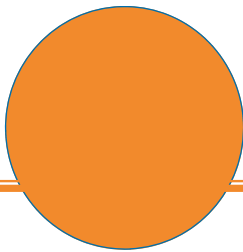
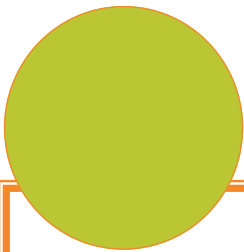
Regarding Funding

- New York State Office of Children and Family Services
- Professional Development Program, Rockefeller College, University at Albany, State University of New York
- New York State Department of Health Child and Adult Care Food Program
- Community Foundation for South Central New York



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176 Main Street
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Vision

All families in Otsego County, who are in need of child care, will have access to quality child care options.

Mission

The Child Care Connection provides high quality services that support a continuous system of care from birth through age thirteen. We provide all parents in need of child care with access to quality child care options. Through education, we empower parents to become their child's advocate. Early Childhood programs receive education and resources to achieve and maintain quality services. Businesses, legislators, and community groups are provided with information and resources to inform public policy.

