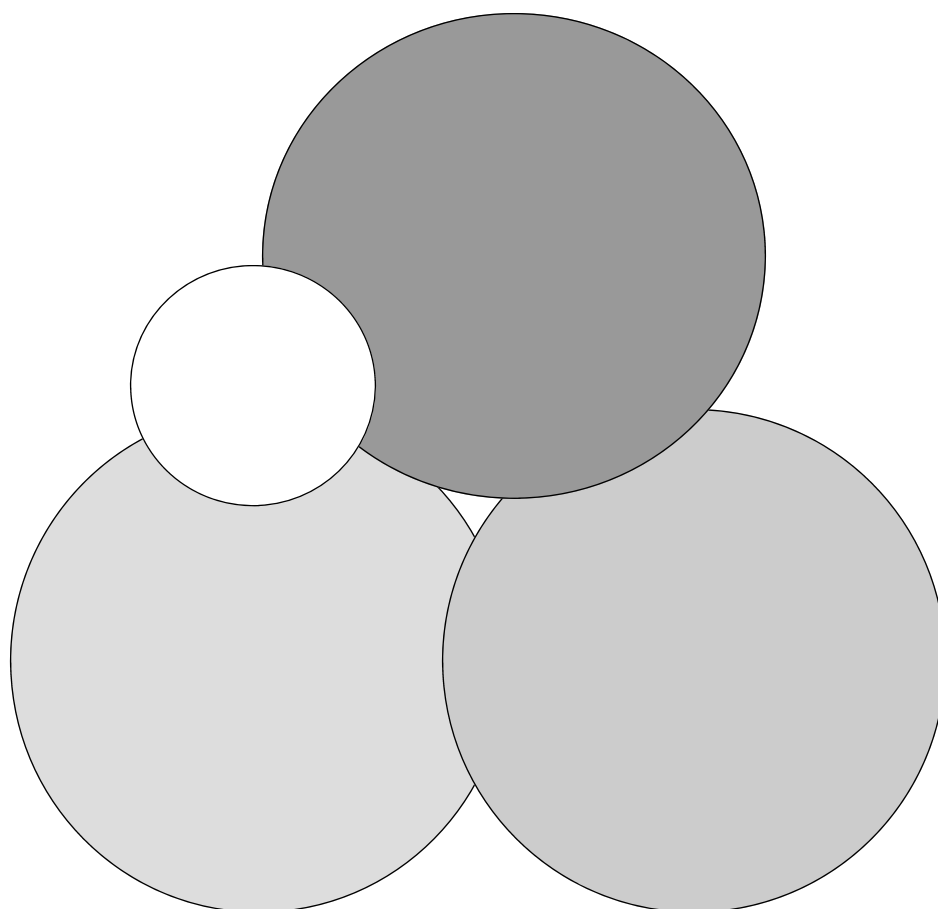


The Child Care Connection

2008-2009 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 compliance 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.

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 Care Connection provides some of the New York State required

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 receiving nutritious

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

Child Care Resource and Referral

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 enrolled children, as well as a lending library. These services are funded by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services.

We administer New York State Office of Children and Family Services' Compliance Grants to registered and licensed family and group family day care providers. These grants are used to purchase health and safety items and to bring applicant's homes into compliance with the New York State Office of Children

child care provider training. We work with health care programs, schools and colleges, human service agencies, and businesses to ensure that multiple and varied child care provider training is available. We provide videoconferences through a contract with SUNY Research

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 Child Care Connection staff. Providers are given training on how to plan, purchase and serve nutritious meals and snacks

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 also receive all initial applications for individuals interested in becoming a Family Day Care Provider as well as applications for School Age Child Care Programs. Ap-

and Family Services' regulations.

The Child Care Connection provides fingerprinting services to all individuals working in licensed or registered day care programs.

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 provides access to funding for health and safety items funded by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services.

Training and Professional Development

Foundation. We also provide American Red Cross First Aid, CPR, and babysitter's training.

Child and Adult Care Food Program

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, without asking individual child care providers to go without an income worthy of their skills and services.

Otsego County Registrar

plications 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 two 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. Most providers are inspected prior to their renewal applications being approved.

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.

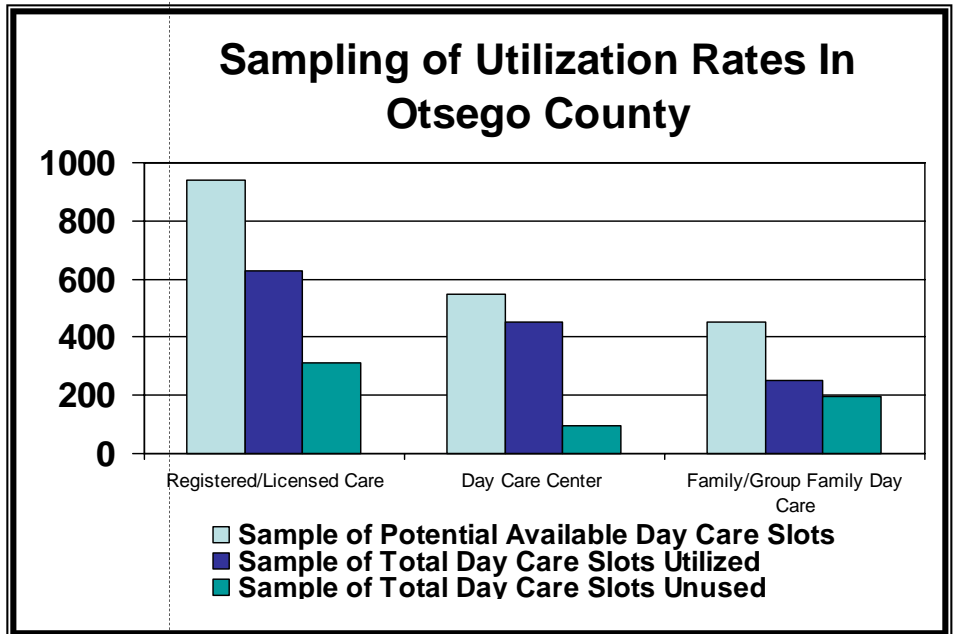
To determine the available supply of child care in Otsego County, the Child Care Connection, in the spring of 2009, sent all registered and licensed programs, including Head Starts and some legally exempt programs, such as Nursery Schools and Pre-K Programs a survey. As part of this survey, programs 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 52 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 47 Family Day Care and Group Family Day care Programs in Otsego County. The total number of potential slots available within programs sampled is 450. According to those programs sampled, 56% 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 547. According to programs sampled, 83% of the slots are being utilized. *(Part day licensed Head Start programs are not included in this sample.)*



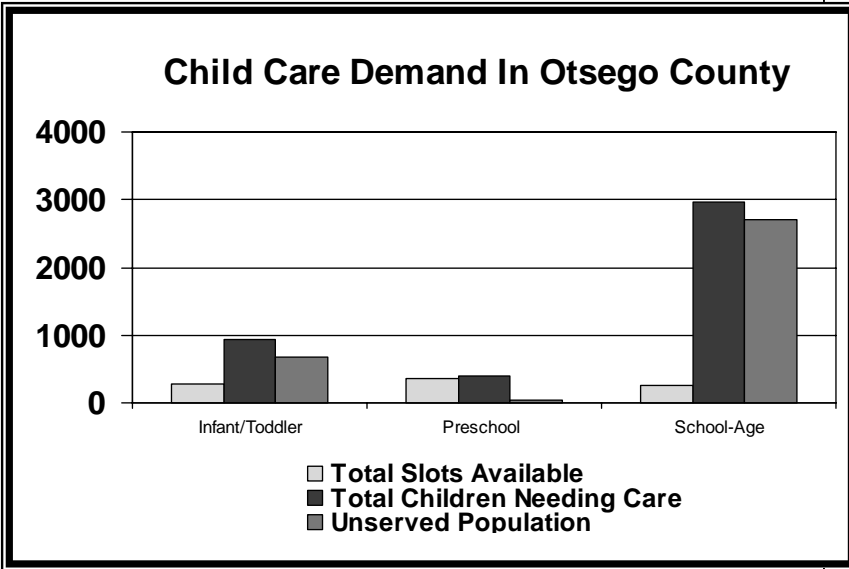
Median income for 2008 in Otsego County
\$35,594.00/yr.
(Bureau of Labor)

The cost of day care for a child in Family Day Care from 6 weeks through 5 years
\$27,734.00
(based on current market rates)

Tuition only cost for a NYS resident in a 4 year degree program at SUNY Oneonta
\$19,888.00
(SUNY)

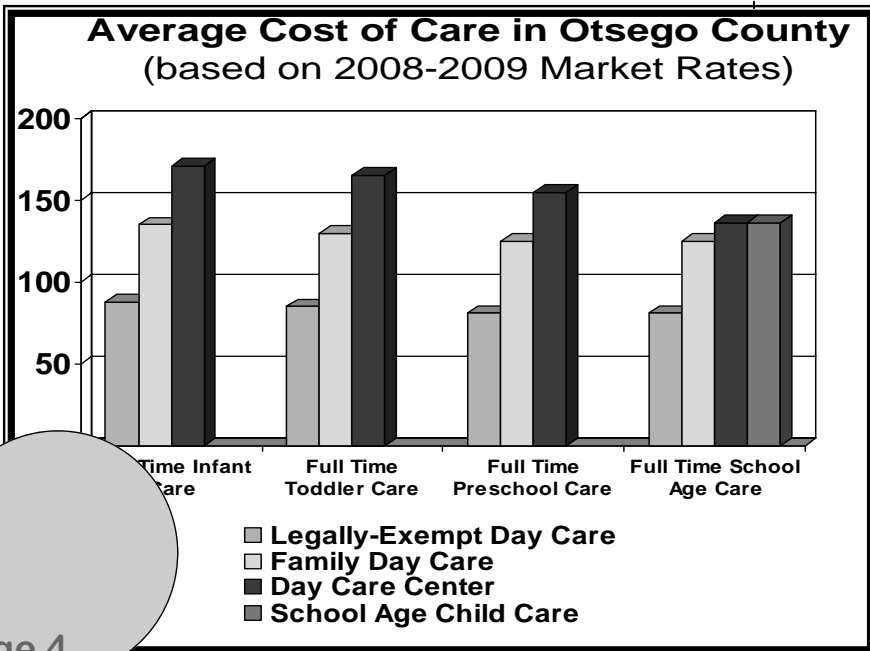
Fair Market Rent for a two bedroom apartment in Otsego County in 2010
\$759.00/mo.
(Department of Housing & Urban Development)

Average monthly grocery bill
\$514.00/mo.
(Economic Policy Institute)



- Total infant/toddler care slots available in Otsego County - 270.
- Total number of infant/toddlers in need of care in Otsego County - 941
- Un-served population - 671
- **29%** of infants/toddlers age 0-2 years will have an available slot in registered/licensed day care.
- Total preschool slots available in Otsego County - 367.
- Total number of preschoolers in need of care in Otsego County - 404
- un-served population - 37
- **91%** of children ages 3-5 years will have an available slot in registered/licensed day care.
- Total school-age slots available in Otsego County - 259.
- Total number of school-age children in need of care in Otsego County - 2,963
- Un-served population - 2,704
- **9%** 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.

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.



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

School Age slots do not include part time school-based programs.)

**Did you know that
Catholic Charities of Delaware & Otsego Counties'
Child Care Connection...**

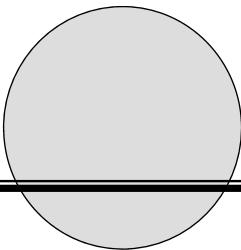
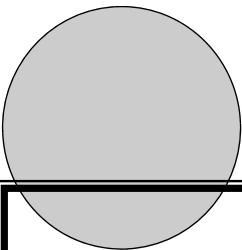
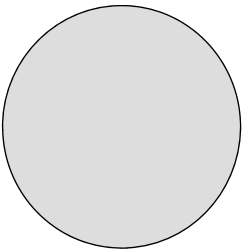
- Received 211 requests for referrals and/or information regarding available child care from parents.
- Provided 367 units of technical assistance and 104 hours of intensive technical assistance to registered or licensed child care programs.
- Mailed approximately 250 newsletters four times, containing regulatory information for Child Care Providers, relevant articles and updates for the child care community and a list of available trainings.
- Provided 7 newly registered Family Day Care Providers with a New York State Office of Children and Family Services Start-up Grant.
- Provided 6 registered and licensed Family and Group Family Day Care Providers with an Emergency Retention Grant.
- Provided 10 units of intensive technical assistance to Enrolled Legally-Exempt Providers in conjunction with 10 10 Legally-Exempt Quality Support Grants.
- Provided 177 units of technical assistance to Enrolled Legally-Exempt Providers.
- Fingerprinted 153 professionals working for licensed or registered programs.
- Registered 3 new Family Day Care Providers.
- Inspected 27 Family Day Care homes and School Age Child Care Programs.
- Completed 12 visits to Family Day Care homes and School Age Child Care Programs to monitor regulatory compliance.
- Investigated 13 complaints on Family Day Care Programs and suspected illegal Family Day Care Programs.
- Renewed 15 Family Day Care Providers.
- Enrolled 62 Legally-Exempt providers.
- Inspected 23 Enrolled Legally-Exempt homes.
- Provided 30 workshops for 296 child care professionals.
- Certified 18 individuals in American Red Cross CPR.
- Certified 20 individuals, ages 11-14 years, in American Red Cross Babysitter's Training.
- Completed approximately 101 Child and Adult Care Food Program monitoring visits.
- Made reimbursements in the amount of \$103,419.00 to Child and Adult Care Food Program participating Family, Group Family and Enrolled Legally-Exempt Day Care Providers.
- Made Health Care Consultancy available to 18 Registered, Licensed and Enrolled Legally-Exempt Providers through a contract with Otsego County Public Health Nursing.

Regarding Funding

- *New York State Office of Children and Family Services*
- *Otsego County Department of Social Services*
- *SUNY Research Foundation*
- *New York State Department of Health Child and Adult Care Food Program*
- *Kiwanis Priority One Funding*
- *Special solicitations of foundations or service organizations*



Child Care Connection
A Program of Catholic Charities of
Delaware and Otsego Counties
176 Main Street
Oneonta, New York 13820



Mission & Vision

Catholic Charities of Delaware and Otsego Counties, an agency of the Diocese of Albany, provides quality essential human services to assist individuals and families to achieve personal and social growth.

Catholic Charities of Delaware and Otsego Counties values the oneness of all people and welcomes the richness of race, color, religion, age, capacity and economic status. We work with individuals, families and communities to help meet their needs, address their issues, eliminate barriers and build a just and compassionate society.



The Child Care Connection strives to provide all parents in need of child care with access to quality child care options, support child care providers in achieving and maintaining quality child care services and to provide community education about early childhood issues and programming.

