



Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc. 2016 Annual Report

Our Mission: To link the parents of Sullivan County to safe, enriching, quality child care by strengthening professional providers through education and resources.

Values statement: We are committed to promoting quality child care for Sullivan County through educational opportunities, professionalism, commitment, excellence and respect.



COUNCIL HISTORY

In the early 1980's Cornell Cooperative Extension's Human Ecology Department had interested staff that provided a number of workshops regarding child care issues. As a result of these workshops a number of interested community members began to meet on a regular basis to discuss local child care concerns.

The group's main concern began to focus on the lack of adequate childcare in Sullivan County. At the time, there were two center based programs, one of which was Head Start, one nursery school, one family day care program and many unregulated home providers.

Head Start and Cornell Cooperative Extension applied for and received a grant to provide training to family child care providers.

In the late 1980's the Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc. was formed. The Council then applied for a grant to continue to provide training services to Sullivan County child care providers. As things evolved it was discovered that parents were in need of a mechanism to provide appropriate child care referrals.

In 1990 the Council hired its first executive director and in 1992 the Council was awarded its first contract to provide child care resource and referral services (CCRR) to the children and families of Sullivan County.

Subsequently the Council has been facilitating the CACFP (Child and Adult Care Food Program), providing registration and legally exempt services for much of the past twenty years.

In 2011 the Council expanded their partnership with the Sullivan County Department of Health & Family Services to include direct support to families in need of child care assistance. This includes technical and payment support for child care providers as well.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

The long term goal of the Council and our services is to provide parents and the child care work force with the information and tools necessary for our children's success. Early care and education can be provided in many settings but very simply regardless of where a child spends their first five years it is imperative that that place provides high quality care and developmentally appropriate learning. We have been shouting our message for many years but have made so little progress in ensuring all children have high quality affordable early care and education in Sullivan County. Our State and County are facing many changes in the coming years and if we want to provide our children with a sustainable education we need to work harder.

In 2016 the Sullivan County Child Care Council began laying the ground work to face this issue head on.

- We wrote and received a grant to renovate vacant space in our office building. The facility will be used to provide a high quality hands on and visual training model to parents and child care professionals. The space will also provide high quality care to four infants and toddlers. The setting will pursue NAEYC Accreditation.
- Beginning in February 2017, we are offering 120 hours of classroom professional development, technical assistance and other supports necessary for our child are workforce to obtain their Child Development Credential.

If you find yourself contemplating the importance of child care remember:

- 700 neural connections per second are made in the first 3 years and
- 85% of brain architecture is completed in the first 4 years of life

Yours in **Quality**,
Donna Willi, Executive Director

Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc. STAFF

Donna Willi, Executive Director

Michelle Albrecht, Administrative Assistant

Lee A. Brown, Subsidy and Legally Exempt Coordinator

Pamela DeMarmels, Subsidy Specialist

Aimee Pittaluga, CACFP Coordinator and Technical Assistance Specialist

Theresa Murdock-Marin, Registration Coordinator

Kelsey Stoddard, Services Specialist

Allison Wall-Carty, Parent Counselor

Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc. BOARD of DIRECTORS

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ADVOCACY

The Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc. supports Child Care Aware of America and the Winning Beginning NY advocacy efforts each year.

In 2016 the Council continued to educate, support and promote parent choice of using regulated child care.

National

The reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (the origination of CCRR funding) comes with many challenges across the United States. Many states are not prepared or equipped to implement the required changes. The changes include but are not limited to, expanding the fingerprint background checks to include the federal data base for all providers, including legally exempt; expanding subsidy payments to include a minimum of absences; a one year authorization period for child care subsidy approval and a benefit extension requirement for families who become ineligible due to increased income. These changes began implementation in 2016 and will continue through 2017.

State

The reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant will cost New York an estimated 93 million dollars just to implement the fingerprinting requirements. These requirements currently come with no additional federal monies leaving other quality initiatives and programs at risk of losing their funding, specifically Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCRR). The CCRR State Association, Early Care and Learning Council, is working diligently with our network to identify the best ways to navigate the impending implementation of these new requirements. The Child Care Resource and referral Contract currently held with the NYS Office of Children and Family Services will end September 30, 2017. A new RFP for these services is expected to be released in August of 2017. The decisions being made by NYS agencies in the coming months may have a significant impact on the future of the Council.

CHILD CARE SUPPLY & DEMAND in Sullivan County

Number of Programs by Modality

	JAN	DEC
Center	12	12
Group Family	17	14
Family	26	28
School-Age	7	8
Legally Exempt	23	15
LE In-Home	24	13
LE Group	2	2

	Number of Slots	Number of Requests
Center	890	818
Group Family	231	759
Family	180	791
School-Age	605	293
Legally Exempt	30	N/A
LE In-Home	26	N/A
LE Group	100	N/A

It is important to note that we received **350 requests for infant care** (aged 6 weeks to 2 years) and although a 7% decrease from last year there is still a shortage of infant slots in Sullivan County. It is because of this many parents turn to legally-exempt or unregulated child care.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Day Care Center: program numbers above represent an approximate total of 890 child care slots for children aged 6 weeks to 12 years in a day care center setting. Day care center settings are required to provide separate age appropriate settings for the different age groups served. Adult/child ratio varies with age. The Council does not provide regulatory oversight in this setting although we do provide in program technical assistance and provider professional development to the director and staff.

Group Family Child Care: program numbers above represent an approximate total of 231 child care slots for children aged 6 weeks to 12 years in a family child care setting. These programs typically care for six to eight children and generally have one staff person in addition to the owner/on-site provider. The Council does not provide regulatory oversight in this setting although we do provide CACFP oversight and in program technical assistance and provider professional development.

Family Child Care: program numbers above represent an approximate total of 180 child care slots for children aged 6 weeks to 12 years in a family child care setting. These programs typically care for six to eight children and generally do not have staff other than the owner/on-site provider. The Council provides regulatory oversight, CACFP oversight, in program technical assistance and provider professional development to this modality of care.

School Age Child Care: program numbers above represent an approximate total of 605 child care slots for children in Kindergarten to age 12 years. The majority of these programs are located in public school buildings. The majority of school-age programs in Sullivan County are in public school buildings. One new school aged program opened in 2016. The Council provides regulatory oversight, in program technical assistance and provider professional development to this modality of care.

UNREGUATED CHILD CARE - New York State believes these modalities of care provide additional choices for parents receiving child care subsidies.

Legally Exempt Child Care (friend/neighbors or relative care): simply means, legally exempt from New York State day care regulations as a result of either the

relationship between the provider and child, the length of time the child/ren are being cared for and/or the number of children being cared for at any one moment. This type of care is provided outside of the child's home and allows for very minimal oversight. However, upon full implementation, the reauthorization of the CCDBG will require legally exempt child care providers to have full background checks, receive on-going professional development and increased program inspections.

Legally Exempt In-Home Child Care (friend/neighbors or relative care): simply means, legally exempt from New York State day care regulations as a result of either the relationship between the provider and child, the length of time the child/ren are being cared for and/or the number of children being cared for at any one moment. This type of care is provided in the child's home and allows even less oversight than Legally Exempt Child Care. However, the Council holds an a contract with our Local District of Social Services to provide compliance and safety inspections of this modality of care.

Legally Exempt Group Child Care: is also legally exempt from New York State day care regulations but is required to meet the standards of a state agency other than the Division of Child Care Services. For example, a summer camp may fall into this category and is oversee by the NYS Department of Health. Sullivan County had three summer camps accept subsidy children in 2016. We plan to improve this number for the 2017 summer season.

Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK): is a federal publically funded initiative facilitated in NYS through NYC Department of Education. The program serves four year olds with the intention of ensuring the students are prepared for Kindergarten. Of the eight public schools in Sullivan County, six of them house some sort of UPK program with the majority of the students attending full day or six hours per day. Total funding varies by district. The UPK initiative also engages/includes community based organizations such as Sullivan County Head Start and Easter Seals, Project Excel.

The philosophy of UPK is to ensure all children are prepared for the rigorous learning expected upon entering Kindergarten. However, because full day Pre-K is only six hours and a parent's average work day often extends past nine hours it becomes difficult for working parents to get their children to and/or from school

leaving many parents choosing traditional child care settings instead of a UPK program.

OUR SERVICES

We have been providing child care related services to families, child care professionals and employers across Sullivan County, New York since 1984.

In 2016 we provided>

487 Child Care Referrals

Decrease of 8% from 2015

Nearly 75% were eligible for child care assistance

Less than 10% actually apply and/or receive child care assistance

425 Technical assistance calls

24 In-program technical assistance hours (decreased from 40 in 2015)

3 Classroom Training opportunities

11 providers served

157 Inspections of child care programs

137 regulated programs

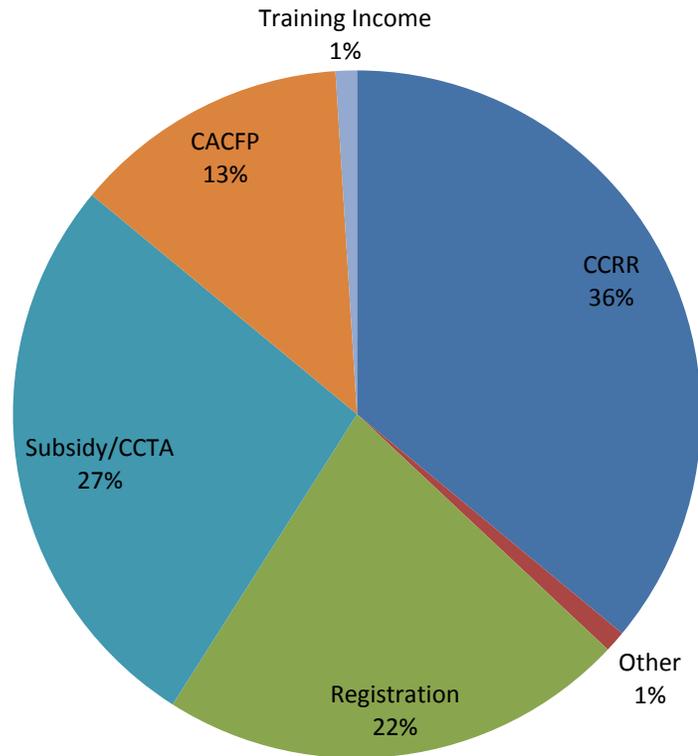
20 legally exempt programs

38 CACFP Participants (average)

106 Monitor Visits and

41,510 Breakfasts; 32,633 Lunches; 4,937 Suppers; 52, 921 Snacks

Sullivan County Child Care Council Funding



Thank you to our donors and the support of our child care professionals, community leaders and other stakeholders.

Approximate unrestricted reserves as of December 31, 2016 is \$256,516.58.

*Final 2016 figures have not yet been audited for the year 2016.

See Attachments A & B for current program locations.

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