



Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc. 2013 Annual Report

State of Child Care

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.

Dear Community Members and Colleagues,

The Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc. is a local child care resource and referral agency serving Sullivan County since 1984. We are committed to promoting high quality affordable child care for all Sullivan County families.

One of the ways the Council does this is to provide an annual report of the state of child care in our County. This report includes but is not limited to: the number of children and families served, types of care requested and the most requested age groups.

Information for our annual report is collected by various means such as the Early Care and Learning Council data dashboard, NACCRRAware reports, child care facility system reports, provider and/or community surveys and evaluations, Sullivan County statistics and US Census Bureau.

Copies of these reports are posted on our website and available to new businesses and parents entering the area as well as local, county and state policy makers.

In comparing some of the key indicators in 2013 it is clear that infant care is the highest demand (ages 0-11 month) at over 35% of requests made, a 10% increase over last year! Requests for after school care has decreased in the past year; showing approximately a 10% decrease in after school requests this year and a few percentage points less than state average. We attribute this decrease directly to the success of the Town of Wallkill Boys & Girls Club programs in Sullivan County.

76% of our referrals are to low income parents. Parents are either on public assistance and/or are relying on the child care subsidy system to pay for their child care.

In 2013, there was a small but promising reduction in requests for legally-exempt child care and an increase in requests for family child care (family and group) programs putting this modality of regulated care in the lead for type of programs requested! A very positive sign in concert with our goal of promoting regulated child care and Quality StarsNY.

The average cost of regulated child care in Sullivan County remains at \$150.00 per week or \$7,800 per year for each child in full time care and although full time care is defined as 30 hours or more per five day period, it is important to note that a full time average week is often 50 hours or more. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average weekly wage in Sullivan County is \$733.00¹ putting child care costs at 20% of the weekly income reinforcing the necessity for child care subsidy support for Sullivan County families.

To compound the child care dilemma, regulated child care provider's averages \$3.00/hour per child in care offering little or no benefits such as paid time off or health insurance. Additionally, Sullivan County does not have any providers holding any type of accreditation, leaving much

¹ <http://www.bls.gov>

room for our work toward increased quality. Additionally, Sullivan County subsidy payments do not arrive in a consistent every two week pattern, leaving many regulated providers refusing to accept subsidized families. The Council works very hard at maintaining a relationship with our regulated providers trying to ensure they do not stop providing care to one of the most vulnerable groups of our children and families; the working poor.

Our data also continues to show our referral numbers dropping; this year they have dropped almost 40% from last year. In contrast, our technical assistance and intensive technical assistance numbers have increased equally as consistently. In response to this trend, we continue to offer in home technical assistance projects which also support our steps toward a higher quality child care system and QualityStarsNY.

In addition to the collecting and analyzing the above data, in 2013 we completed and began implementing a comprehensive marketing and communications plan for the Council. In 2014, we will complete and begin implementation of a multi- year fund development plan to include an expansion of services to our community. We anticipate using this plan to ensure our self sustainability in the coming years.

We welcome comments and input so that we can continue to offer useful data to our stakeholders and partners in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Donna Willi
Executive Director

Key Facts

- Supply and Demand: shortage of infant care and rising; difficulty in finding care is due to lack of openings; provider/parent schedules and cost.
- Quality: Sullivan County has no state or nationally accredited child care programs.
- Cost: The average weekly cost of fulltime child care is \$150.00 per child with little or no reduction for a second child.
- Wages & benefits: The average hourly wage is \$3.00/hour per child cared for in a family care setting. Average full time enrollment is 4.5 children. Providers do not receive their subsidy payments timely or consistently.
- The economic impact: nearly 48% of referral households are headed by a single parent, an increase from 2012. Difficulty in finding child care causes parents to either call out or quit their jobs.
- Referrals are decreasing but of the referrals made, the trend is regulated child care verses legally-exempt/friends & family.
- After school demand is decreasing.