



Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc. 2012 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 2012 it is clear that infant care is the highest demand (ages 0-11 month) at over 25% of requests made. Sullivan is 8% above state average with request after-school care coming in second at just over 19% however is below state average by 5%. These numbers reflect little or no change in recent years.

A whopping 84% 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.

Our data shows the majority of parents are using legally exempt child care with family child care settings coming in second.

The average cost of regulated child care in Sullivan County is \$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. Sullivan County median household income is \$48, 303¹ putting child care costs at 16% of the household income per child further demonstrating the necessity of 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 room for our work toward increased quality. Further, many parents work second and third shifts requiring late night, overnight and/or weekend care, giving many parents in most cases, no other

¹ <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/36/36105.html>

choice but to use friend and relative legally exempt child care. In addition, Sullivan County subsidy payments do not arrive in a consistent every two week pattern, leaving many regulated providers no choice but to refuse subsidy children giving parents more reason to turn to legally-exempt child care.

Our data also shows that the services our community is using is changing. Our referral numbers have been consistently dropping in the past six or more years. In contrast, our technical assistance and intensive technical assistance numbers have increased equally as consistently. In response to this trend, we have increased our in home technical assistance projects which also supports our steps toward a higher quality child care system and QualityStarsNY.

In addition to the collecting and analyzing the above data, in 2012 we also launched our new logo and user friendly website. We are continuing to work toward a comprehensive marketing and fund development plan expected to be completed sometime in 2013. The plan will provide us guidance and a purposeful direction so that we are prepared for 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 after school care; difficulty in finding care is mostly due to lack of openings and provider/parent schedules.
- Quality: Sullivan County has no state or nationally accredited child care programs; we were not included in the QualityStars NY filed test or pilot; use of legally exempt child care is on the rise.
- 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: According to our data, 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 in a consistent pattern.
- The economic impact: nearly 19% of households are headed by a single parent; difficulty in finding child care causes parents to either call out or quit their jobs.