



Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc. 2019 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.

We continued to offer the Child Development Credential (CDA) classes for Center staff and added two trainers certified to train CPR & First Aid to our child care providers.

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 County has grown economically by leaps and bounds in 2018 as expected but the child care availability and quality has not.

2019 brought new challenges and successes to the Council....

- The Board of the Council continues to work towards providing high quality care for infants and toddlers in or near our offices. Watch our website for updates in the coming year.
- Child Development Credential and Health & Safety classes were available and but not in high demand in 2019. A CDA class was started late 2019, serving 2 providers. CPR classes continue to be offered and well attended. Serving 35 providers and staff.

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

Lee A. Brown, Subsidy and Legally Exempt Coordinator

Pamela DeMarmels, Subsidy Specialist

Aimee Pittaluga, CACFP Coordinator and Technical Assistance Specialist

LeeAna Santillo, Provider Services Specialist

Susan Sennett, Registrar

Kelsey Stoddard, Services Specialist

Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc. BOARD of DIRECTORS

Bob Eddings, President

Darlene Beiling, Vice President

Nora Rausch, Secretary

Jodi Kane, Treasurer

Rachel Diness-Tourtelott

Susan Dollard

James Farrell

Tony Harvey

Kulli Kask

Mary Mancuso

Laura Quigley

April Rodriquez

Jessica Toscano

Dr. Jeffrey Weinstein

ADVOCACY

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

In 2019 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.

State

The Child Care Resource and referral Contract continues through 2023.

CHILD CARE SUPPLY & DEMAND in Sullivan County

Number of Programs by Modality

	FEB	DEC
Center	11	11
Group Family	12	16
Family	17	22
School-Age	6	5
Legally FCC	15	8
LE In-Home	13	25
LE Group	0	0

	Number of Slots	Number of Requests
Center	832	591
Group Family	176	572
Family	136	624
School-Age	501	74
Legally Exempt	45	N/A
LE In-Home	39	N/A
LE Group	0	N/A

It is important to note that we received **227 requests for infant care** (aged 6 weeks to 2 years) and although a 35% 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 832 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 176 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 136 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 501 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.

UNREGULATED 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 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 overseen by the NYS Department of Health. Due to the comprehensive background checks required there were no summer camps that accepted subsidy/enrolled as LE Group in 2019.

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 2019 we provided>

320 Child Care Referrals

Decrease of 21% from 2018

Nearly 36% were eligible for child care assistance, 20% decrease from 2018

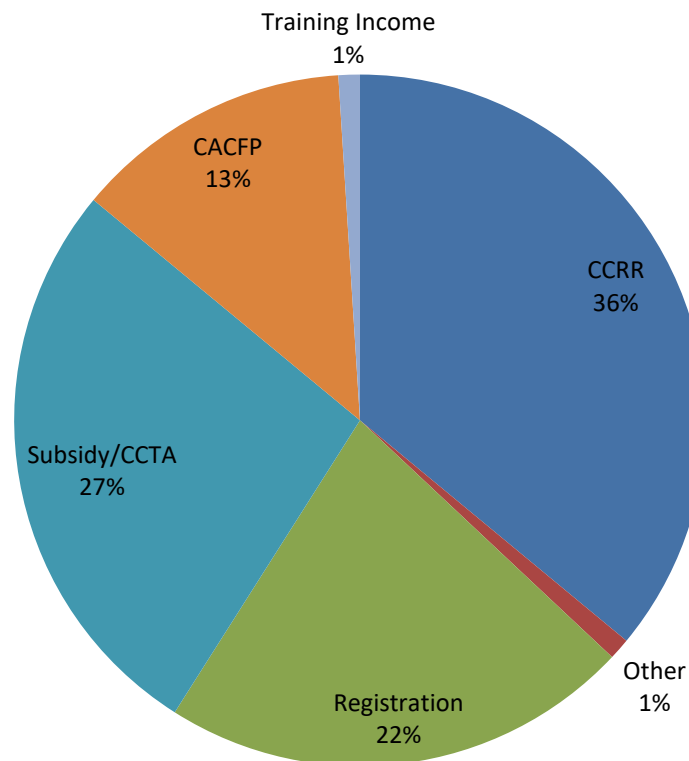
877 Technical assistance calls, a 50% increase from 2018
No In-program technical assistance hours were completed.

54 Hours of Classroom Training opportunities
53 providers served

81 Inspections of child care programs
75 regulated programs
6 legally exempt programs

21 CACFP Participants (average)

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, 2019 is \$313,865.96.

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.