



Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc. 2023 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. 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 created to expand services to and in the child care community. The Council 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 resources 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 most of the past thirty years.

In 2011 the Council expanded their partnership with the Sullivan County Division to Health and Human Services and the Department of Social to include direct support to families in need of child care assistance. This includes technical and payment support for child care providers as well. And in 2020, due to COVID 19 Pandemic the Council began facilitating disbursement and receiving CARES funding, Essential Workers Scholarships and Stabilization Funds.

In 2022, due to the fallout from the COVID-19 Pandemic our partnership with the NYS Office of Children and Family Services expanded to better support our child care workforce and address the child care deserts in Sullivan County. A child care desert is three or more children under the age of five per available child care slot in local day care centers, family day care, or group family day care programs.

Desert areas are defined by US Census tracts. The Stabilization Contract allows us the opportunity to offer business support and training to new and existing child care providers and programs. Desert Contract provides in-depth support to people opening new child care programs and meeting the expectations of their own grant desert grant awards.

In 2023 the Office of Children and Family Services expanded their outreach and facilitated an additional grant with the focus on staff retention and expansion in the child care field. And as anticipated, they have rolled all pop-up grants into the Child Care Resource and Referral RFP that was issued in December 2023 with an award date of April 2024 and start date of July 1,2024.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

In the spirit of our Mission, our long-term goal is to provide parents and the child care work force with the information and tools necessary for our children's success. Parents need to work to help stabilize their families. Child care plays a large part in stabilizing families financially as well as contributing to their quality of life.

If nothing else, the COVID-19 Pandemic brought to the fore front the role that child care plays in business and economic development of a community.

Child care providers have been recognized and received some unprecedented funding to help stabilize their businesses. Parents have seen significant changes in the subsidy system, now known as CCAP (Child Care Assistance Program), to help them pay for child care but as always so much more is needed to "fix" the broken child care system. Some of our 2023 accomplishments are

- Significant positive changes in our staffing allow us to provide our community – employers, parents and providers - support, technical assistance, referrals, training and business support throughout 2023. Staff are in the office working traditional hours, but continue to be available as needed, including evening and weekends.
- The Council now houses three NYS T-TAP credentialed trainers allowing us to secure funding from other sources for training when appropriate. We offer Child Development Credential (CDA) classes for Center staff and in home providers, CPR/FA, Health and Safety for center staff, school age program staff and group/family providers, CORE Business workshops and we hosted a Child Care Business Symposium offering seven different business related topics to the child care provers in Sullivan County.
- Provided 153.5 hours of professional development to our providers both virtually and in person to 151 early childhood professionals.

- In 2023 the Council provided required training and support to 1 school aged programs, 1 group family provider and 2 family providers yielding only 24 additional child care seats. Infant and toddler seats remain in the highest demand and is our focus to increase these seats in 2024.

Yours in Child Care,

Donna Willi
Executive Director

Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc. STAFF

Donna Willi, Executive Director

Adrianna Baggatta, Subsidy Specialist

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Samantha Drezek, LE Coordinator, Infant Toddler Specialist & Mental Health Consultant

Courtney Hanback, Recruitment and Referral Specialist

Darlene Kehrley, Business Retention Specialist

Aimee Pittaluga, CACFP Coordinator and Technical Assistance Specialist

Susan Sennett, Registrar

Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc. BOARD of DIRECTORS

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CHILD CARE SUPPLY & DEMAND in Sullivan County

Number of Programs by Modality

	DEC 2022	DEC 2023
Center	17	17
Group Family	9	10
Family	19	17
School-Age	8	8
Legally FCC	8	13
LE In-Home	15	15
LE Group	0	0

*Note: Four of the thirteen DCC although are licensed, do not provide childcare for working parents but are federally funded to provide other services.

	Number of Slots	Number of Requests
Center	1074	31
Group Family	160	21
Family	136	31
School-Age	894	7
Legally Exempt	23	N/A
LE In-Home	28	N/A
LE Group	6	N/A

The Council received 337 **requests for infant & toddler care** (aged 6 weeks to 36 months) with more than half unable to find care citing no openings as the reason. Almost a 33% increase over last year.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Day Care Center: 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 though

we do provide in program technical assistance and provider professional development to the director and staff.

Group Family Child Care: 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: 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: Most school-age programs in Sullivan County are in public school buildings. 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 the following modalities of care provide additional choices for parents receiving child care subsidies.

Legally Exempt Family 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. Legally exempt child care has increased required background checks and inspection requirements depending on the relationship between the provider and the child. This type of care is sometimes the only option for families due to the hours required by many of our workers in Sullivan County.

Legally Exempt In-Home Child Care (friend/neighbors or relative care): This type of care is similar to LE Family Care but the child/ren are cared for in their own homes and depending on the relationship of the provider to the child may have less requirements and restrictions than other types of child care. The majority of the legally exempt care in Sullivan County is provided in the child's home.

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. Sullivan County had one provider in this category in 2023.

Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK): is a federal publicly funded initiative serving 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 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. Additionally, most UPK programs do not receive enough funding to accommodate all eligible children in their districts. It is for these reasons; many parents choose traditional child care settings instead of a UPK program. Further, the UPK program has added to the financial stress of regulated child care programs.

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 2023 we provided>

389 Child Care Referrals – slight increase mostly seen in the online referrals.

694 Technical assistance calls – a slight decrease due to the increase in field work

61 In-program technical assistance hours – nearly double from 2022

192.5 Hours of Classroom Training opportunities for **151** participants

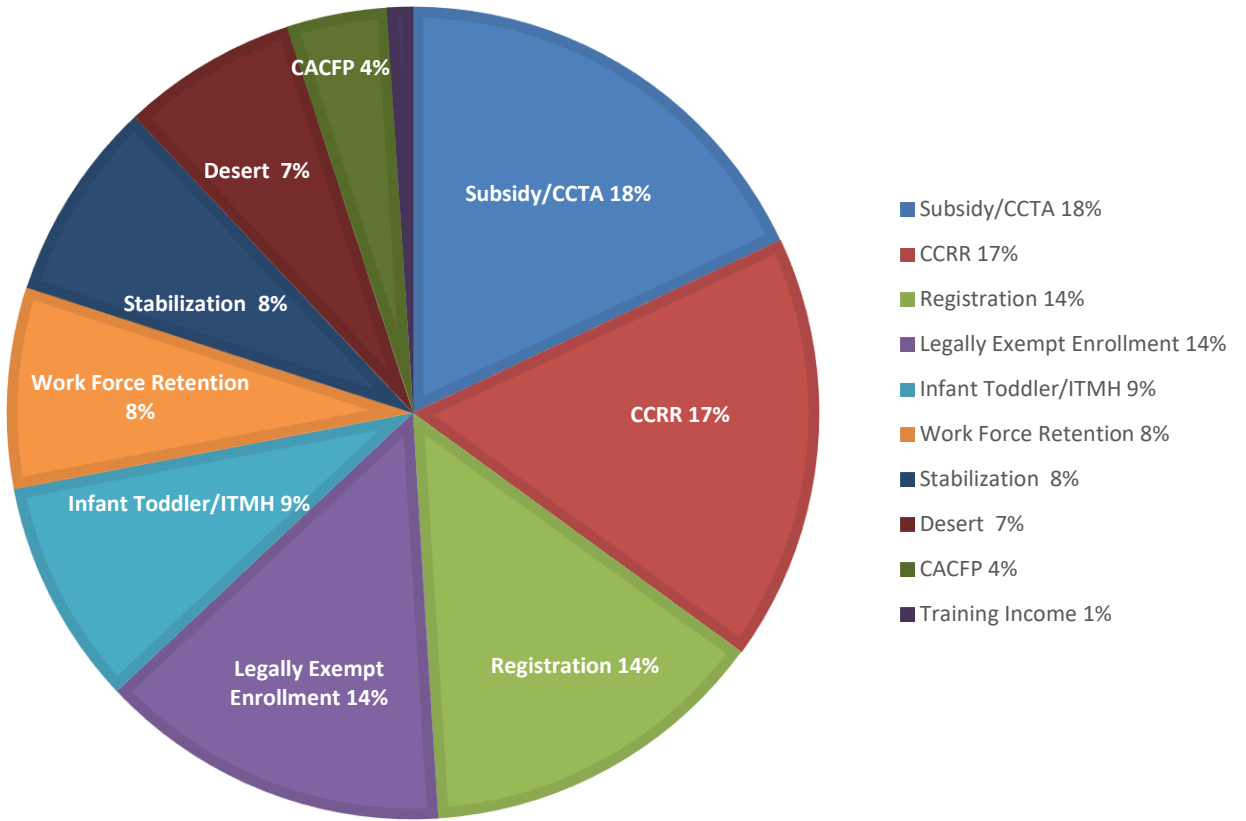
Inspections of child care programs

111 regulated programs, 30% more than in 2022

0 legally exempt programs

17 CACFP Participants, 25% decrease due to removal of the Additional Standard

SULLIVAN COUNTY CHILD CARE COUNCIL FUNDING



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

Un audited unrestricted reserves as of December 31, 2023, is [\\$515,613](#)

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