



Annual Report to the State Legislature
The Status of Child Care in Connecticut
State Fiscal Year 2010-2011



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Roderick L. Bremby
Commissioner





RODERICK L. BREMBY
Commissioner

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To: The Honorable Governor Dannel P. Malloy
Members, The State of Connecticut General Assembly
From: Roderick L. Bremby
Commissioner, Department of Social Services
Re: Annual Report on the Status of Child Care in Connecticut

I am pleased to present the annual report of child care activities of the Department of Social Services for the state fiscal year 2010-2011.

The report, *The Status of Child Care in Connecticut*, details and itemizes the allocation of state and federal funds for child care programs.

Following are some of the accomplishments that occurred:

- An annual average of 30,000 children received subsidized child care services in Connecticut.
- A monthly average of 21,353 children and their families received financial assistance to pay for child care from the Care 4 Kids program.
- 10,392 preschool children participated in the School Readiness Program, and another 5,800 children, ages 1-12, enrolled monthly in the State-supported Child Care Center Program. Family Resource Centers (FRC's) served 7,718 children.
- In SFY 2011, the Chats-A-Course Scholarship Assistance Program distributed \$1,644,318 in scholarships to 1626 early childhood professionals. Its \$START Education Bonus awarded \$53,500 to 273 individuals completing the Training Program in Child Development (TPCD).
- The Accreditation Facilitation Project (AFP) supported 325 sites engaged in the NAEYC Accreditation process. AFP also supported 60 pre-school programs serving 3, 4 or 5 year-olds with identified disabilities.

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Children in Subsidized Child Care ¹

Annual Data ²

State and Federal Program		Infants and Toddlers	Pre-Schoolers	School-Age Children	Totals
Federal Early Head Start ³		978	n/a	n/a	978
Federal Head Start ³		n/a	7,402	n/a	7,402
DSS Supported Child Care Centers		1,248	2,850	492	4,590
SDE-DSS School Readiness		n/a	10,392	n/a	10,392
DSS Care 4 Kids		7,085	8,188	6,079	21,353
	DSS School-Age Program ⁴	n/a	n/a	2700	2,700
	SDE Extended-Day Program Grant ⁵	n/a	n/a	6,880	6,880
Before and After School Child Care Programs	21st Century Program Grant ⁶	n/a	n/a	12,682	12,682
	Family Resource Centers (FRC's) ⁷	n/a	n/a	7,718	7,718
Totals		9,311	20,644	36,551	73,717

1 - The data presented in this table represents the number of Connecticut children participating in various programs receiving state and/or federal subsidies. Data may not be unduplicated. For example, a child who receives Care 4 Kids assistance may be the same child served by Head Start, DSS and SDE funded programs. Child care providers access various revenues from state and federal sources and are encouraged to develop funding partnerships to support the various services provided at their facilities.

2 - Unless otherwise noted, all data is for the state fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, and program services were available statewide during the reporting period.

3 - Federally funded enrollment for federal fiscal year 2010-2011.

4 - Available in Bridgeport, Danbury, East Lyme, Greenwich, Groton, Hartford, Meriden, Middletown, New Haven, Norwich, Plainfield, Stamford, Stonington, Trumbull, and West Haven.

5 - Available in the following priority school districts: Ansonia, Bloomfield, Bridgeport, Bristol, Danbury, East Hartford, Hartford, Meriden, New Britain, New Haven, New London, Norwalk, Stamford, Waterbury, and Windham.

6 - Available in Bridgeport, Bristol, Danbury, East Hartford, Enfield, Groton, Hartford, Manchester, Meriden, New Britain, New Haven, New London, Norwalk, Norwich, Stamford, Waterbury, and Windham.

7 - For towns with FRCs, check <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde>

Child Care Utilization

Care 4 Kids Child Care Assistance Program

As lead agency for child care services, DSS continued administration of a range of programs and activities, in collaboration with partner agencies and providers.

The Care 4 Kids program, operated with the United Way of Connecticut, provided subsidies for the care of approximately 30,000 children. About 12,000 families received an average of \$602 in child care benefits each month. For more information on Care 4 Kids, visit www.ctcare4kids.com

Care 4 Kids supports parents who are working or in approved education or training activities. In SFY 10-11, more than half (60%) of all payments went to families that did not receive Temporary Family Assistance (TFA); families transitioning off TFA received 30% while active TFA families received 10%.

DSS State Supported Child Care Centers

Section 8-210 (b) of the Connecticut General Statutes allowed the Department of Social Services to contract with child day care centers for state financial assistance in developing and operating programs for children disadvantaged by reasons of economic, environmental or social conditions. DSS purchases child care spaces in child development centers in the 19 priority school districts¹, 37 severe-need school communities², and 9 other towns³.

Funding to state-supported Child Development Centers (CDCs) in the amount of \$31.5 million benefited an average of 4,590 children per month.

¹ Ansonia, Bloomfield, Bridgeport, Bristol, Danbury, East Hartford, Hartford, Meriden, Middletown, New Britain, New Haven, New London, Norwalk, Norwich, Putnam, Stamford, Waterbury, West Haven, and Windham.

² Andover, Ashford, Beacon Falls, Branford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Colchester, Coventry, Derby, East Haven, Eastford, Enfield, Greenwich, Griswold, Groton, Hamden, Hampton, Killingly, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Manchester, Milford, Naugatuck, North Canaan, Plainfield, Plainville, Plymouth, Scotland, Seymour, Shelton, Sprague, Stafford, Stratford, Thomaston, Thompson, Torrington, Vernon, Voluntown, West Hartford, Winchester and Windsor.

³ Guilford, New Canaan, Newington, New Milford, Newtown, Plainville, Southington, Wallingford, and Watertown.

Child Care Utilization

School Readiness (SR) Program

Established by state law in 1997, the School Readiness (SR) Initiative of the State Department of Education (SDE) and the Department of Social Services (DSS) continues to expand and enhance access to preschool child day care programs in 65 Connecticut communities. In SFY 10-11, the initiative served 10,392 children 3 and 4 years of age in 19 priority school districts or communities and 46 competitive school readiness districts. The initiative's goal is to provide children with a high quality and appropriate preschool experience that includes collaboration with community services, parent involvement, education and outreach, referrals for health services, family literacy, transition planning for kindergarten, annual program evaluation, and professional development for staff.

Head Start and Early Head Start Programs

In federal fiscal year 2011, 7,402 children were served in Head Start programs for 3 and 4 year-olds in 49 Connecticut towns.¹

- The capacity through traditional Head Start, federal-only funding was 6,031 children.
- The capacity through state-only funding was 406 children.
- In addition, approximately 600 children in federal only funded programs were served in combined federal and state wrap around spaces that allowed these programs to provide full day/full year services.
- Total funding for Head Start was \$63.6 million, which includes \$55 million in federal Head Start, \$4.3 million in Early Head Start Expansion and other ARRA funds and \$4.3 in state Head Start funds.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Early Head Start program provides year-round comprehensive child and family development services to low-income families with children pre-natal to 3 years of age. Eight Early Head Start grantees in Connecticut provided services to 978 children and 95 pregnant women in fiscal year 2010-2011.

¹ Ansonia, Bloomfield, Bridgeport, Bristol, Brooklyn, Clinton, Danbury, Darien, Derby, East Hartford, Enfield, Greenwich, Griswold, Groton, Hartford, Killingly, Litchfield, Manchester, Meriden, Middletown, Milford, Monroe, Montville, New Britain, New Haven, New London, New Milford, Naugatuck, Norwalk, Norwich, Oxford, Plainfield, Putnam, Seymour, Shelton, Stafford, Stamford, Stonington, Stratford, Torrington, Trumbull, Vernon, Wallingford, Waterbury, Waterford, West Haven, Windham, Windsor, and Winsted

Child Care Utilization

School-Age Child Care and After School Programs

After-school services are formal or informal custodial care, procured by families with private providers, for school-age children during after-school hours, on holidays and during school vacation time.

After-school programs include before and after-school care, vacation, and summer programs that assume responsibility for participants' safety. They extend educational support, among other services, to children and families in programs operating under state approval or licensing authority. Subsidized after-school programs report program or utilization data to the state.

In SFY 10-11, SDE provided slightly over \$20 million to almost 300 after-school programs, reaching over 33,000 children and approximately 20% of the state's K-12 population.

In addition to the above narratives please review the footnotes at the bottom of this page which correspond to the data chart which reports numbers of children served in the three programs:

- SDE Extended-Day Program Grant: 6,880 children; 67 sites 21st Century Program Grant: 12,682 children; 95 sites,
- State After School Program: 5800 children, 59 sites, and
- Family Resource Centers (FRC's): 7718 children; 62 sites

¹ Available in the following priority school districts: Ansonia, Bridgeport, Danbury, East Hartford, Hartford, Meriden, New Britain, New Haven, New London, Norwalk, Norwich, Stamford, Waterbury, and Windham.

² Available in Ansonia, Bridgeport, Danbury, East Hartford, Enfield, Groton, Hartford, Meriden, Middletown, New Britain, New Haven, New London, Norwalk, Norwich, Stamford, Waterbury, West Hartford and Windham.

³ For towns with FRCs, check <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde>



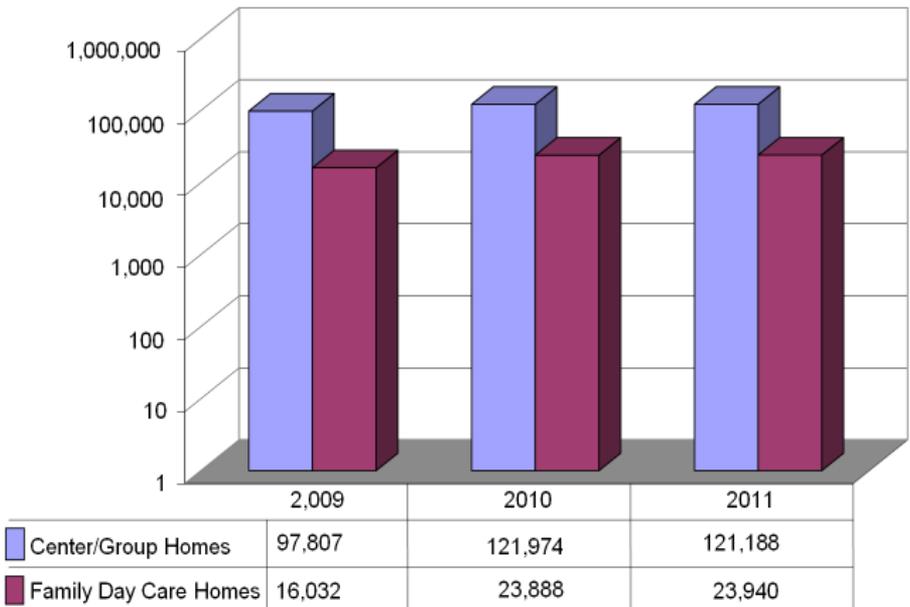
Child Care Supply and Demand

Child Care Supply: Centers, Group Homes, and Family Day Care Homes

The total number of child care programs licensed by the Department of Public Health (DPH) decreased slightly from 4,268 to 4,241 for the period July 2010 thru June 2011. More specifically, the total family day care homes increased from approximately 2,689 to 2,693 while the total number of child day care centers/group day care homes decreased from approximately 1,579 to 1,548.

Likewise, during this same time period, the total number of licensed spaces in child care center programs decreased from 121,974 to 121,188. More specifically, the capacity of licensed family day care homes increased from 23,888 to 23,940, while the capacity of licensed child day care centers/group day care homes decreased from 98,086 to 97,248.

Total Licensed Capacity



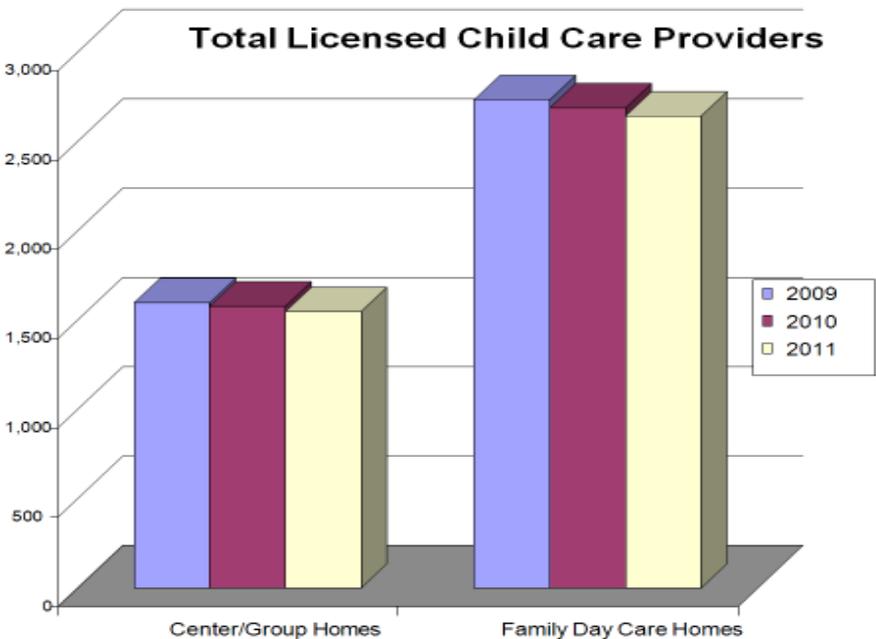
Child Care Supply and Demand

Child Care Demand:

Total Licensed Child Care Providers

2-1-1 Child Care received 32,008 total service requests from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011, a decrease of 1.2 % from 37,095 in the previous year. Requests from parents (25,303) account for 28.07% of total requests in SFY 11, 2.8% less than in SFY 10 when they were 29,925; there was a decrease of 9.0% in requests from providers in SFY 11 (from 3,320 in SFY 10 to 2,929 in SFY 11) but represented almost 9% of total service requests.

Parent service requests to *2-1-1 Child Care* for child care information and referral are one significant indicator of demand for child care services in the state. A call may include requests for more than one child, thus *2-1-1 Child Care* counts each request separately. While most parent inquiries are for licensed paid child care, some parent calls are about license-exempt family, friends, and neighbors (FFN) child care.

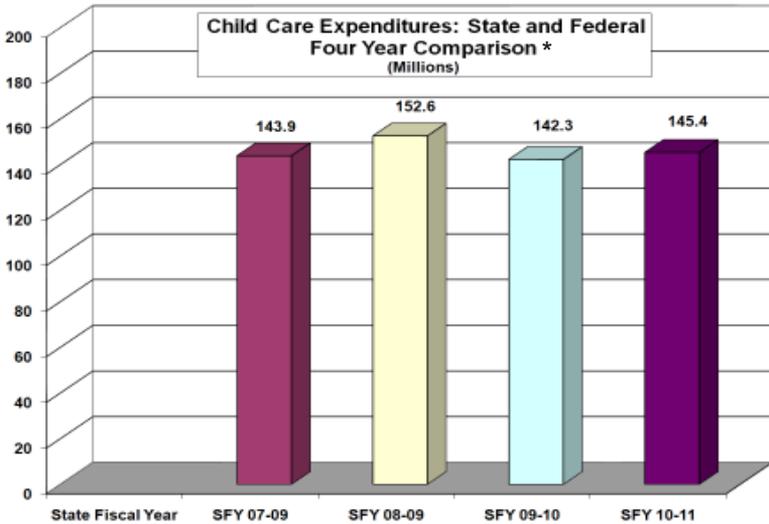
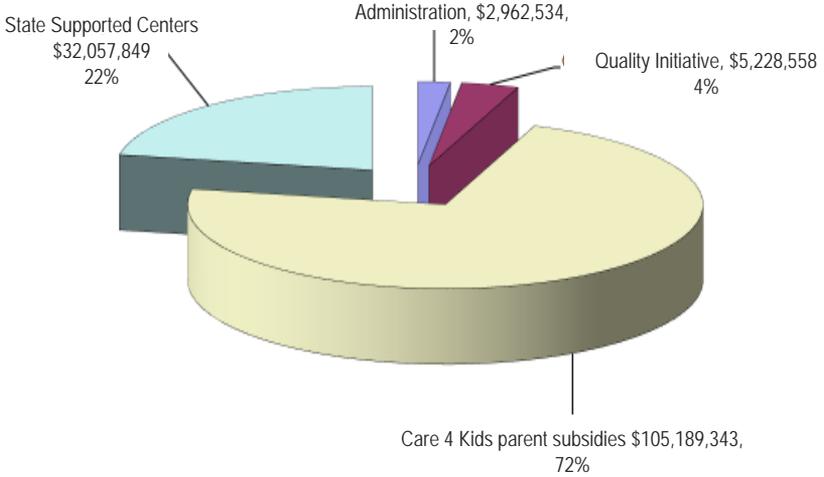


Child Care Expenditures

DSS Child Care Expenditure for SFY 2010-2011: State and Federal

(Expenditure Categories Shown as a Percentage of Child Care Budget)

Source: DSS Division of Fiscal Management and Analysis



*SFY '10 and '11 include 13.7M in one time only federal child care funds through the American Recovery and reinvestment Act (ARRA)

Child Care Quality and Collaborative Initiatives

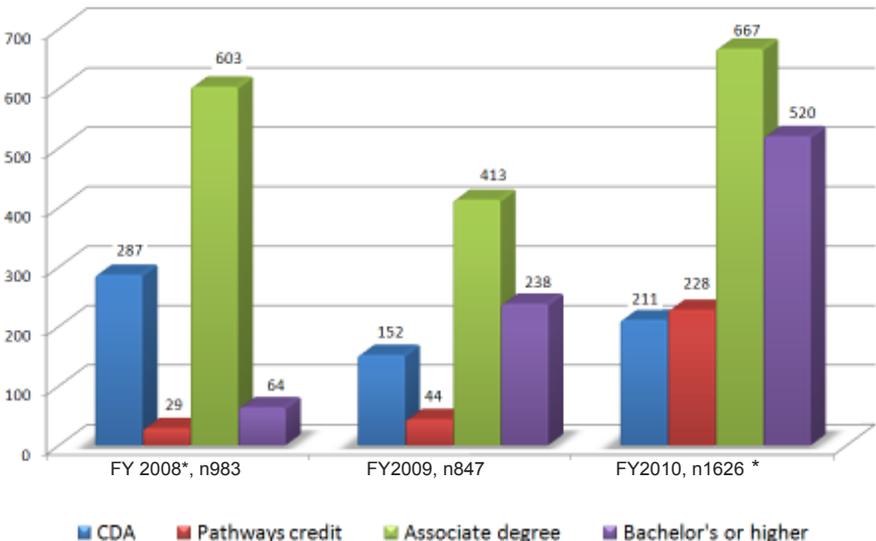
Connecticut Charts-A-Course (CCAC)

The Departments of Social Services and Higher Education support CCAC, the state's professional development and program improvement system. In SFY 2011, CCAC's Scholarship Assistance Program distributed \$1,644,318 in scholarships to 1626 early childhood professionals. Its \$TART Education Bonus awarded \$53,500 to 273 individuals who advanced on the CCAC career ladder through training and the acquisition of the Child Development Associate credential by completing the Training Program in Child Development (TPCD).

CCAC manages the Early Childhood Professional Registry, a web-enabled data system that collects information on the demographics, education and qualifications of early care and education professionals. It currently has over 10,000 enrolled and is mandated for all staff who work in publically funded programs.

The Accreditation Facilitation Project (AFP) supported 325 sites engaged in the NAEYC Accreditation process: 212 achieved accreditation or re-accreditation in the new NAEYC system; 73 are sites continuing in the process. In addition, through IDEA funding from the Department of Education, AFP also supported 60 pre-school programs serving 3, 4 or 5 year-olds with identified disabilities. In addition, Program Administrator coursework was delivered to 1023 individuals. The table below provides a 3 year summary of the number of scholarships provided to individuals to help them attain certain credentials.

Scholarship Distribution



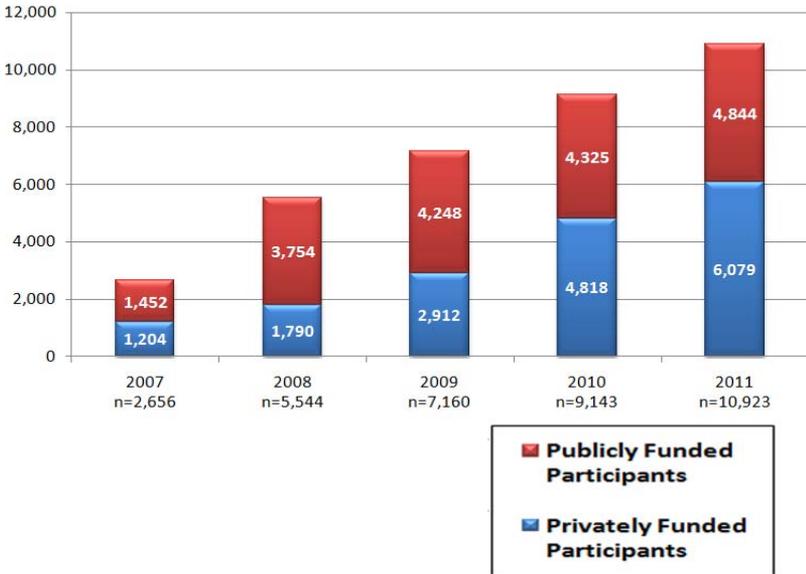
*The increase in SFY 2010 was due in part to one time only federal funds provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

Child Care Quality and Collaborative Initiatives

The table below reports the number of early childhood personnel who have enrolled in the Early Childhood Professional Registry.

The Early Childhood Registry is an information system that collects data in the demographic, educational and qualification of the individuals who work in the early care and education field. The information below shows that the enrollment of 10,923 in the Registry has increased to 53% of the total early care and education workforce in Connecticut which is estimated to be 20,691.

**Registry Rate of Penetration of
Early Childhood Workforce (20,691 Estimate)**



Quality Enhancement (QE) Grants

During SFY 10-11 DSS made \$1.14 million available to the 19 priority school districts to improve the quality of existing early care and education programs. School Readiness Councils (SRCs) used funds to support teacher professional development; direct services to children and families; consultation services (including classroom assessment and evaluation) to licensed providers; staff training; and support to centers seeking NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) re-accreditation.

Services geared to kith & kin (K&K) care providers (also known as family, friends, and neighbors or FFN) included: home visits; mentoring; collaboration with museums and local libraries with staff who modeled teaching practices; children's health screenings; literacy and/or health care events at housing projects.

Child Care Quality and Collaborative Initiatives

Child and Adult Care Food Program For Kith and Kin Project

Since 2006, DSS in collaboration with the Department of Education (SDE), the state agency administering the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program-CACFP for the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has been operating this project. It allows Kith & Kin (also referred to as Family, Friend and Neighbors or FFN) providers enrolled in the Care 4 Kids (C4K) program to claim reimbursement for food provided to children in their care. The project's purpose is to ensure that the nutritional needs of low-income children are met. Under DSS and SDE supervision, CACFP-sponsoring agencies verify C4K enrollment for participating K&K providers. They are also responsible for program monitoring, training, support and technical assistance to K&K caregivers on child nutrition, health and food safety, and child development topics. During SFY 10-11 an average of 74 providers and 217 children were enrolled for an average yearly 147, 964 meals claimed.

The project has expanded to include 11 towns in Connecticut. Those towns are: Bridgeport, East Hartford, Hamden, Hartford, Manchester, Meriden, New Britain, New Haven, New London, Waterbury, and West Haven.

Child Care Facilities Loan Fund

The **Connecticut Health and Education Facilities Authority (CHEFA)** continues to operate the **Child Care Facilities Loan Fund (CCFLF)** components that began in 1997. DSS designated CHEFA to manage this financing opportunity for child care facility expansion and renovation. CHEFA collaborates with DSS, several banking institutions including Peoples' Bank (the lead bank providing loan origination and servicing) and the Connecticut Community Investment Corporation to administer the three CCFLF program components:

- The **Tax Exempt Loan** component consists of 29 facilities representing 26 child care providers. It is financed through the issuance of \$76.6 million in bonds and \$20.8 million in equity and grants to fund project costs of approximately \$93.9 million. Financed projects provide approximately 5,100 child care slots.
- The **Guaranteed Loan Fund** component, as of June 30, 2011, supported 16 projects with loans totaling \$15.4 million that built or renovated 1,596 child care spaces. Each loan is backed by an average 39% loan guarantee and a 3% interest rate subsidy by CHEFA.
- The **Small Direct Revolving Loan Fund** component supported 57 loans, ranging from \$8,000 to \$25,000, for disbursements totaling \$1.2 million through June 30, 2011.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

New child care quality funds (\$13,685,624) were made available to Connecticut for federal fiscal years 2009, 2010, and 2011 to support investments to improve the quality of child care and support the health and well-being of children.

DSS spent \$9.7M in state fiscal year 2009 to support the C4K program. In SFY 2010 and 2011, DSS funded a variety of quality enhancement and infant-toddler projects after considering input from a variety of sources, such as the public hearings held in 2009 on the federal child care plan and findings from the Yale study on child care that was released in November 2009. Given that these were one-time dollars, DSS focused on one-time efforts that contributed significant value to the Connecticut child care system. During federal fiscal years 2010 and 2011, the funds provided the following services:

- dissemination of the Infant/Toddler Early Learning Guidelines to CT caregivers by the statewide Accreditation Facilitation Program (AFP), the All Our Kin, Inc family day care providers association and the CT Association for the Education of Young Children (CAEYC), which targeted child care centers and Early Head Start organizations that serve infants and toddlers
- completed final requirements to develop a direct deposit and electronic transfer capability for the caregivers enrolled in the Care 4 Kids program. We expect to launch direct deposit in the Spring of 2012
- completed a statewide Emergency Preparedness report by Save the Children, Inc. for early care providers in collaboration with the United Way of CT's 211-Child Care project, DPH, the CT Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS), and the organizations on the DEMHS Child Safety and Crisis Response Committee
- provided supplemental training, scholarship assistance and accreditation support services through the Connecticut Charts a Course project to Connecticut caregivers to obtain credentials and degrees in early care and education
- provided funds to the DPH to enhance their child care regulatory functions targeted to electronic monitoring and compliance systems
- provided grants for materials and equipment necessary for playground safety enhancements to a variety of child care centers
- purchased new cribs for a variety of child care centers to help meet new federal safety guidelines
- worked with the Head Start Collaboration Office, Yale School of Nursing, CT Health and Development Institute, and the CT Association of Infant Mental Health to develop materials and products to support interdisciplinary consultation services, medication administration curricula development, and the development and implementation of the Competency Guidelines for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship Focused Practice Promoting Infant Mental Health Training for infant-toddler providers

Directory of Related Child Care Services

Department of Social Services (DSS)
1-800-811-6141
<http://www.dss.state.ct.us/ccare/index.htm>

Child Care Licensing
Department of Public Health (DPH)
1-800-282-6063
<http://www.dph.state.ct.us/Licensure/licensure>

**Bureau of Early Childhood Education/
State Department of Education (SDE)**
1-860-713-6744
<http://www.state.ct.us/sde/deps/readiness/index>

State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education
State Department of Education (SDE)
1-860-713-6528
<http://www.ecpolicycouncil.org>

2-1-1 Child Care
United Way of Connecticut
1-800-505-1000
www.childcareinfo.org
Care 4 Kids

United Way of Connecticut
1-888-214-5437
<http://www.ctcare4kids.com/>

Accreditation Facilitation Project (AFP)
Connecticut Charts-A-Course (CCAC)
1-800-832-7784
1-203-407-6648
<http://www.ctcharts-a-course.org>

Scholarship Assistance Program & Career Advisement
Connecticut Charts-A-Course (CCAC)
1-800-832-7784
1-203-407-6646
<http://www.ctcharts-a-course.org>

Child Care Registry
Connecticut Charts-A-Course (CCAC)
1-800-832-7784
<http://www.chdi.org>

Directory of Related Child Care Services

Child Care Facilities Loan Fund (CCFLF)
Connecticut Health and Education Facilities Authority-CHEFA
1-800-750-1862
860-520-4700
<http://www.chefa.com>

Child Care Tax Credits
Department of Revenue Services (DRS (forms
(Information)
1-860-297-5698
1-860-297-4932
<http://ct.gov/drs>

HUSKY Plan (Health Care for Uninsured Kids and Youth)/
Department of Social Services (DSS)
1-877-Connecticut-HUSKY
(1-877-284-8759)
<http://www.huskyhealth.com>

Child Support Information Hotline
Department of Social Services (DSS)
1-800-228-5437
<http://www.dss.state.ct.us/csdc/csdc.htm>

Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline
Department of Children and Families (DCF)
1-800-842-2288





The Department of Social Services is an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer and offers its programs regardless of race, color, national origin, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, religion, age, sex, or marital status.

The Department of Social Services is responsible for the establishment of child care policies that support the mission of DSS as well as federal and state goals and objectives. The implementation of these policies is embodied in a coherent and coordinated system of program operations and service delivery for child care customers and providers.

For information regarding this report, please call:

The Child Care Team at 1-800-811-6141 (press 6)

This publication is available, upon request, in alternative formats.

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