



INTRODUCTION

Mission

Our mission is to provide accessible, affordable, and quality child care for Utah children.

Quality child care is a key component of Utah's economy; supporting employment and economic stability for communities and promoting the safety and health of developing children.

The Office of Child Care (OCC) addresses all stakeholder needs through a comprehensive system including subsidies, grants, quality indicators, child care resources, provider help lines, head start collaboration and after school program support. OCC develops effective partnerships with educational partners, child care providers, parents, and the community in order to provide appropriate care for Utah's children.



History

Since 1997, the Office of Child Care (OCC) has helped thousands of parents maintain employment by providing quality, affordable child care. By doing so, the OCC plays an integral role in supporting the mission of the Department of Workforce Services (DWS), which is to strengthen Utah's economy by supporting the economic stability and quality of our workforce. OCC serves 10,000 children monthly and provides information so parents can find appropriate care—with an emphasis on parental engagement, school preparation and professional development for care givers and teachers—and safe environments.

Utah's Children

- In 2012 there were **600,985 children** ages 5-17; the projected number for 2013 is **614,224**
- **32%** of Utah's population is under the age of 18 compared to **24% nationally**
- Over half of children have both parents working **outside** the home
- **40%** of children who receive child care subsidy from DWS during a school year are between **5-12 years old**
- **74%** of mothers of school age children work
- During the summer months options for child care decrease for school age children
- **49%** of all children receiving child care subsidy during the summer months are between **5-12 years old**



RECOGNITION



Quality Indicators

The CareAboutChildcare (CAC) website has been recognized on a national level by the Federal Office of Child Care for establishing quality indicators that connect parents to providers and resources. Other states have duplicated our process.

Utah has been recognized on a national and regional level by federal and state partners for being proactive in establishing internal processes that prepare our state for the new federal child care regulations.

After School Impact

Nationally, on average, it costs \$252,000 to incarcerate a juvenile

for one year and only \$1,300 to support a child in an after school program.

Utah's PROMISE program showed increasing math and language arts rates in children who received quality after school learning opportunities. 93% of parents of PROMISE indicate their children's schoolwork greatly improved as a result of participation. Teachers indicate 69% of students have improved behavior as a result of participation and 74% of students are motivated to participate. DWS' Office of Child Care has supported several proven after school models. One program, The Police Athletic League, gives at risk youth after school incentives to complete their homework and boxing training. This program requires youth to sign a no "F's" contract. All youth in the program passed each of their courses.

Since 2007, when the South Salt Lake system of afterschool programs began, youth crime between the hours of 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. is down 60%. In Moab's afterschool BEACON program, 89% of elementary children attending increased their overall school performance. Afterschool programs provide critical learning opportunities across the state in rural and urban communities.

Tutoring and Support for Working Parents

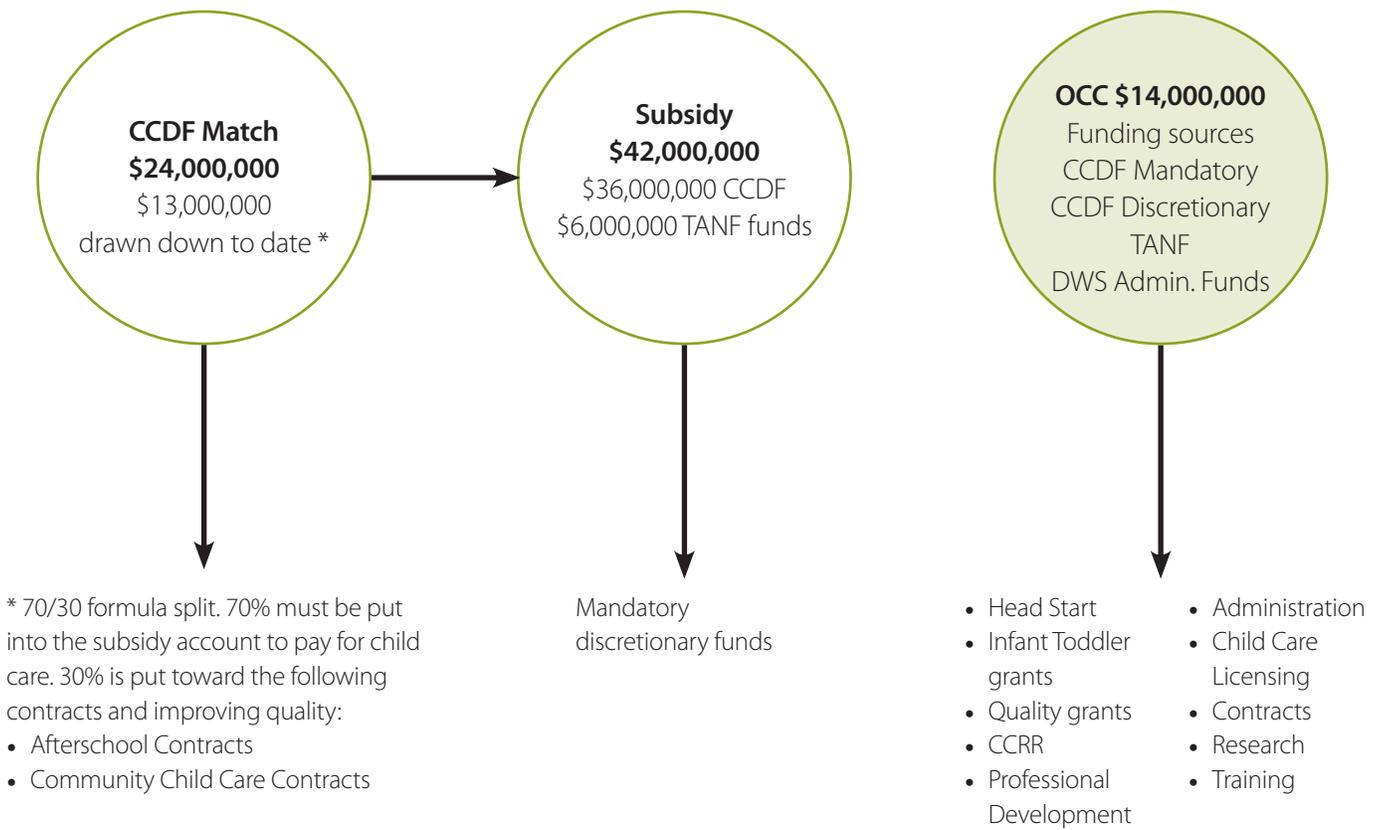
- In 2011, there were 618,188 school age youth in grades k-12 in Utah
- 28% of Utah's k-12 youth are responsible to care for themselves after school. This means, 173,093 children spend an average of 8 hours per week unsupervised after school
- 9% of Utah's K-12 (55,637) participate in after school programs
- 35% of all Utah children not in after school would be likely to participate if an after school program were available in the community, regardless of their current arrangement
- In Utah, a 2009 report indicates 55% of regular attendees of afterschool programs improved their academic performance, 57% improved their attendance, and 64% improved their behavior





FUNDING

Department of Workforce Services





INITIATIVES

Subsidy Program:

In an effort to keep families working, the child care assistance program provides funding to low-income families for child care expenses. Child care subsidy is based on 56% of state median wage, which is 164% of the poverty level and is paid on a tiered level for parent copayments. **Example:** A household size of three must earn less than \$2,668 monthly to be eligible.



Total children served:

- 11,361 statewide (9/13)

Licensing:

- 1,228 total licensed providers statewide
- 1,193 providers receive subsidy through an EBT system. This is all types of providers, licensed or license exempt.

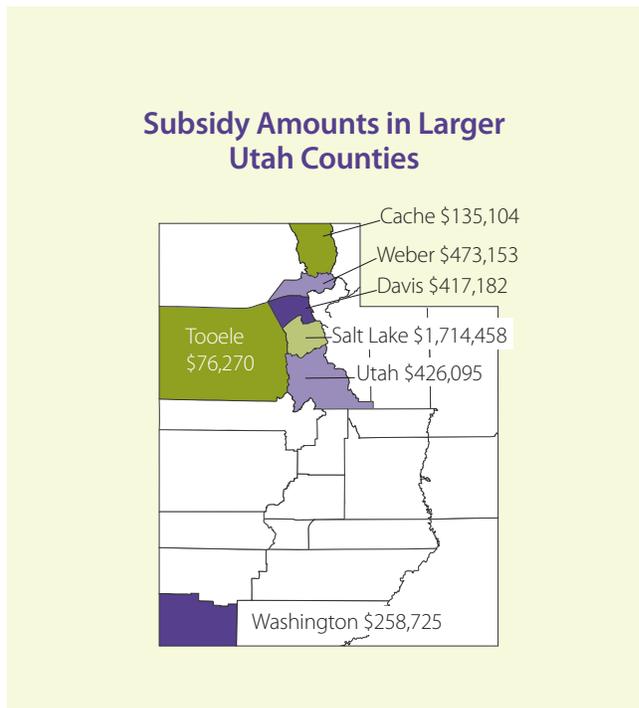
Internal Edit Accuracy:

- 6 months 86.2% (FY 2012-13)
- 12 months 87.4% (FY 2012-13)

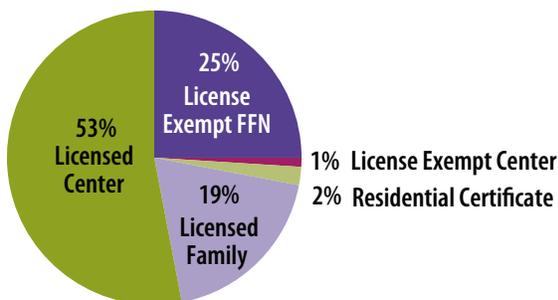
Working individuals receiving child care:

(over the past year)

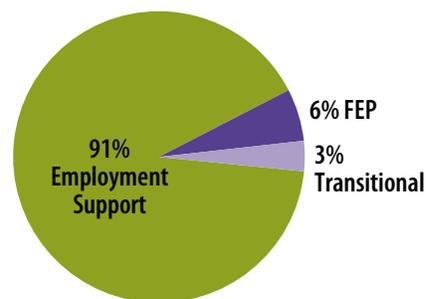
- 96% of OCC child care cases supporting employment
- Over 7,000 parents utilize monthly child care benefits to support their employment



Percent of Children Served Statewide by Provider Type



Percent of Total Children Served Statewide





Care About Child Care (CAC): An agency, a program and a website that helps working parents locate quality child care and obtain information and resources. The agencies also provide technical assistance, low-cost training, child care connections and other resources to caregivers. The website allows providers to highlight their strengths and parents can select a provider based on their individual needs. The CAC Quality Indicators can be found below and on the site:

- Family involvement
- Outdoor environment
- Indoor environment
- Administration
- Health & Safety
- The Program
- Professional Development

These indicators were developed using research-based standards that define quality child care settings. Licensed centers and licensed family/home providers that meet licensing standards may participate. Providers choose from criteria listed under the quality indicators to apply for and display on their individualized CAC profile page. A caregiver's professional development qualifications are available for parents to view, along with a program description and photos that providers submit.

Website information (September 2013)

- Total visits 8,006
- Total unique visitors 3,649
- Total pages viewed 5,796
- Referrals 3,025
- 2,845 open referral – did not log in (represents 1,665 unique referrals)



FAMILY INVOLVEMENT



OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT



INDOOR ENVIRONMENT



ADMINISTRATION



HEALTH & SAFETY



THE PROGRAM



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Quality Grant System: Provides funding for materials to improve quality. Grants include: Baby Steps, Quality Environment, and ASPIRE.

Grant Awards
\$2,000,000





CCDF Match Program: The CCDF match program allows the State to draw down federal funds to support quality child care programs and improvements. The funds can be utilized for professional development, program and community outreach, quality identification, program improvement, technical assistance and staffing that support quality child care and after school programs.

CCDF Match
\$13,000,000
federal draw down
funds

After School Program: This provides assistance to programs serving children during out of school time.

OCC provides oversight, guidance, and technical assistance for programs through the grant system. Support is provided to all programs through a joint collaboration between OCC and the Afterschool Utah Association 21st Century. All funded programs participate 100% in the Utah Afterschool Quality Tool (i.e., be safe).

OCC administers afterschool program grants focused on quality improvement, prevention education, enrichment and academic support centered on positive social and emotional growth for children and youth ages 5-17.

Over 100 sites
receiving grants

Head Start: A collaboration with OCC that connects parents to programs that will accommodate families.

Pre-K Services
for low-income
families

Head Start State Collaboration Office:

We facilitate partnerships between Head Start agencies and other state entities to provide services for low-income children and their families. These partnerships are intended to:

- Assist in building early childhood systems;
- Provide access to comprehensive services and support for all low-income children;
- Encourage widespread collaboration between Head Start and other appropriate programs, services, and initiatives;





- Augment Head Start’s capacity to be a partner in state initiatives on behalf of children and their families; and
- Facilitate the involvement of Head Start in state policies, plans, processes, and decisions affecting target populations and other low-income families.

Professional Development:

The Child Care Professional Development Institute oversees the training registry that creates and stores transcripts and processes annual Professional Development Awards.

1,147 Awards
\$1,078,279





ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Subsidy Payment Review

The Office of Child Care (OCC) has not received general funds since 2009. The department has relied solely on CCDF and TANF funds to support families and providers with child care assistance. The current subsidy rate for Utah is at the 43rd percentile with a desired rate of the 75th. The Office of Childcare is reviewing the rates and proposing an increase to meet the appropriate amounts. In order to achieve the rate of 75th it will require support from the state general funds to draw down additional federal funds. Failure to draw down our entire allotted amount will result in other states acquiring our funds to support their programs.

OCC Renovations

OCC has taken initial steps to gather feedback regarding potential changes. Town hall meetings were held throughout the state for both parents and providers. The feedback was gathered and additional meetings are scheduled to review items that will improve the child care system.

Renovations will include:

- Policy and eligibility simplification
- Subsidy rate increase
- New payment to provider system
- Simplified grant process

- New quality identification process connected to Care About Child Care
- New guidelines for FFN providers
- Streamlined provider assistance processes
- Additional outreach meetings

Funding Goals

- Identify qualified funds in the community and state general funds that can be used to draw down Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) federal match dollars
- Increase access to out-of-school time/ afterschool programs in rural areas by competitively releasing and distributing funds according to youth population 5-12 years old.
- Generate local awareness and support for out-of-school/afterschool programming by promoting partnerships
- Increase subsidy rates for licensed providers
- Increase connection to quality programs for children receiving subsidy





Thank you

DWS **Child Care** **helped me get ahead.**

*I*n 1988 I had to leave my home due to domestic violence. My children were ages 6 and 8 at the time. I applied for assistance with DWS and was assigned an employment counselor. She helped me obtain full-time employment through an on-the-job training program. But before I could go to work, I needed child care for my children. DWS provided this for me. My children were cared for at Copperview Community Center for about four years. They provided transportation to and from school and then I picked them up after work.

During the summer, DWS helped pay for my children to stay at the center full time. The teachers were wonderful and my children made lots of new friends. They loved going there. Their father was incarcerated and unable to help with child care or the costs incurred. If DWS had not provided child care assistance, I would not have completed the on-the-job training, which subsequently turned into a full-time permanent job that lasted three years until the business closed down.

I returned to DWS to apply for unemployment and met with another employment counselor. I decided it was time to return to school to earn an associate degree. Once again, I needed child care in order to attend college and work two part-time jobs at the college. Thanks to DWS my children were able to return to Copperview Community Center until my daughter turned 13 years old. Today my children are both attending college full time. I have a wonderful full-time career and take two classes each semester to complete a bachelor's degree. I am so grateful for the child care assistance and safety DWS helped provide for my children while they were young and unable to stay home alone. I was able to maintain employment and attend school without



worrying about them because they were well taken care of at the center. DWS offers a hand up to single parents or married couples by offering child care assistance to those who cannot afford it. It only becomes a hand out when parents learn to rely on the assistance as a way of life, rather than as a way to get ahead.

—A Satisfied Customer

DWS offers a hand up to single parents or married couples by offering child care assistance to those who cannot afford it. It only becomes a hand out when parents learn to rely on the assistance as a way of life, rather than as a way to get ahead.



DEFINITIONS

Subsidy:

The subsidy program supports working parents by supplying funding for child care expenses. The amount of subsidy for the parent is determined based on several factors including the age of the child, household size and income, required number of hours worked, need for child care, and citizenship. The subsidy funding covers all or a portion of the costs associated with child care on behalf of the parent. The subsidy program is currently paid directly to the parent but is under review for a change to the payment process. Subsidy is currently funded through CCDF and TANF funds.

Care About Child Care: See the CAC one pager

Additional information: The Office of Child Care funds six Child Care Resource and Referral offices throughout the state. The staff provides support and resources to both the providers and the parents. Support could include: training, materials, referrals, licensing, class room planning and curriculum.

Child Care Professional Development Institute:

The Office of Child Care supports a professional development process to provide education and training for providers. The staff supporting this program is located at USU and part of the CCR&R office in Logan. The training classes allow providers to enhance their education and learn new skills that will increase the quality in their programs. The CCPDI provides cash incentive awards as a provider completes designated levels of training.

Child Care and Development Fund:

The purpose of the CCDF is to increase the availability, affordability, and quality child care services by providing federal funding to States, Territories, Indian Tribes, and tribal organizations in order to

- Provide low-income families with financial resources to find and afford quality child care
- Enhance the quality and increase the supply of child care for all families, including those not directly assisted through CCDF
- Strengthen the role of the family
- Provide a broad range of child care options
- Improve coordination between child care programs and early childhood development programs
- Increase availability of early childhood development and before-and-after school care services

Grants:

The Office of Child Care administers several grants for differing types of providers. The grant process has limited funds through the Department of Workforce Services and is based on improving quality for programs in need.

- **ASPIRE:** The ASPIRE grant was developed to provide funding to programs that are able to provide a 10% match with dedicated non-federal funds in order to enhance an existing program or develop a new program. The grant is a competitive process and is awarded on a 3 year cycle. ASPIRE Kids funding supports programs operating in public or private for-profit organizations; public or private not-for-profit organizations; public and private



schools; faith-based organizations; state departments and agencies; and units of local governments serving elementary-age children throughout the State of Utah. The process will be revamped at the next release date.

- **Quality Environment Grant:** The quality environment grant was established to provide funding to licensed providers to enhance the quality of their facilities through additional materials and equipment, participation in training, and the setting of quality improvement goals. The grant award can be up to \$30,000 per recipient based on need.
- **Baby Steps/ Next Steps/ 2 year old Grant:** This grant is a three-prong approach to supporting providers in increasing quality for infants and toddlers based on validated research. The cost associated with this age group is enormous and the grant process provides resources that may not be accessed without the funding. The Baby Steps Project was launched in 2003 to support centers providing infant care and help them raise the level of the quality of infant care they provided. Next Steps is available to support centers in increasing or maintaining the quality they have achieved and assist them with the high cost of providing infant care. The maximum amount of time a program can participate in Next Steps is two years. The grant can assist providers with purchasing materials, furniture, equipment, and reimburse for approved training programs. A grantee that participates in the entire grant program for six years could receive approximately \$30,000–60,000.

After school programs:

- **High School Youth Support Grant (TANF Funded):** High School age afterschool grants are awarded through a competitive RFG process to organizations offering programs to teens during out of school time. Funding is available to support High School Graduation, preparation for post-secondary education, career readiness, healthy relationships and prevention. Programs select two of the following prevention components to focus their program around: Addiction Prevention, Civic Engagement, Financial Literacy, Physical Activity & Nutrition, Self-Concept & Emotional Intelligence, and Violence & Gang Prevention.
- **Safe Passages 2012 & 2013 (TANF Funded):** Middle/Junior/High School afterschool grants are awarded through a competitive RFG process to organizations offering programs to teens during out of school time. The teen programs focus on prevention/education. Programs select three of the following prevention/education components to focus their program around: Pregnancy & STI Prevention, Violence & Gang Prevention, Addiction Prevention, Civic Engagement, Financial Literacy, Education & Career Readiness, Self- Concept & Emotional Intelligence, Positive Interpersonal Relationships, and Physical Activity & Nutrition.

CCDF Match Partnerships:

Local public entities identify Qualified Expenditures for out-of-school time/afterschool programs serving elementary-age children. Expenditures are used to draw down additional Federal funding for out-of-school time/afterschool programs. Participating sites are required to: collaborate with other public/private entities, incorporate parental/family involvement; support academic achievement; offer enrichment/recreation opportunities; provide appropriate training for staff and volunteers; and adhere to specific quality, safety, data, and reporting expectations as designated by OCC-DWS. The Federal funds obtained through the draw down process allow 70% to be used for the subsidy program and 30% to support local programs and increase quality.

- **Kindergarten Match Partnerships** is a project created to increase the quality and access of out-of-school time/ afterschool programming. Kindergarten Match Partnerships generate local awareness and support, promote partnerships, encourage collaboration between other out-of school time/afterschool programs in the community, and allow for creation and expansion of out-of-school time programs for elementary-age children (ages 5-12) throughout the State of Utah.



- CCDF Match Partnerships is a project created to increase the quality and access of out-of-school time/after-school programming. CCDF Match Partnerships generate local awareness and support, promote partnerships, encourage collaboration between other out-of school time/afterschool programs in the community, and allow for creation and expansion of out-of-school time programs for elementary-age children (ages 5-12) throughout the State of Utah.

“Children attending high quality school-age programs are more likely to succeed in school and have stronger social and inter-personal skills. In short, high quality early education is a linchpin to creating an educational system that is internationally competitive and vital to the country’s workforce development, economic security, and global competitiveness” (<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/05/20/2013-11673/child-care-and-development-fund-ccdf-program#h-33>).

Provider Help Lines:

The Office of Child Care provides a support help line for providers who are having issues with payment or need specialized assistance for their customers.

Head Start Collaboration:

The Head Start Collaboration Office is housed within OCC and is funded with a federal grant. The goal of the Collaboration Director is to ensure state planning includes the research-based Child Development Early Learning Framework and supports State level efforts to ensure professionals caring for and teaching children are highly qualified. The strong focus on young children from low income families and creating initiatives that will remove them from poverty makes an ideal partnership between Head Start and OCC. The Head Start programs are located throughout the state. The programs work to ensure children and families are ready to be successful in school and throughout life.

