



Administration for Children and Families  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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Web site: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ>



### Who Benefits From CCDF-Supported Child Care Programs

Children from birth through age 12 in vulnerable families have access, through the CCDF program, to child care settings that meet their needs, from full-day early care to afterschool care for school-age children. All children in child care benefit from CCDF quality improvement investments that help programs meet higher standards and that improve the quality of teachers.

Parents in eligible low-income families receive help paying for child care at a provider of their choice. Parents also can receive consumer education on such topics as what to look for in a quality child care provider. All parents with children in child care benefit from CCDF quality funding and from the peace of mind that comes from knowing that the CCDF program funds are being used to improve child care facilities all over the country.

Child care providers are reimbursed for serving low-income families and can draw on networks of training and TA resources to help them provide high-quality child care services. OCC is committed to building a well-educated, fairly compensated, cohesive child care workforce with jobs built on intentional training and education.

States, Territories, and Tribes administer the CCDF program and use it to leverage additional early care and education investments to serve their children and families. States, Territories, and Tribes receive TA from OCC and use our research to guide their policy and programmatic decisions.

*As a grandparent with the new responsibility of caring for a grandchild, it was wonderful to find a child care provider who is supportive, loving, caring, [and] reliable; provided developmentally appropriate activities; and calmed my fears about my abilities to care for my grandson.*

—Sherrie, Greenville, SC



### OCC Quick Facts

- Approximately 600,000 providers serve families supported by CCDF program funds.
- One-half of the families served have incomes below the poverty level, and one-quarter of the families are near poor, with incomes between 100–150 percent of the Federal poverty level.
- The CCDF program helps pay for care for infants and toddlers (30 percent of the children served), preschoolers (more than 25 percent), and school-age children (more than 40 percent).
- The CCDF program supports care in a variety of settings. Of the children served, more than 60 percent are in child care centers, approximately 30 percent are in family child care homes, and approximately 5 percent are in the child's own home.

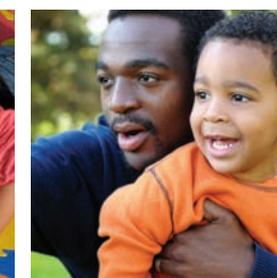
*My 3-year-old attends a family child care center. I love that I am able to let him stay in a loving environment where he learns life skills and has preschool-type activities on a daily basis. He also has had the chance to interact with other children in a way he wouldn't if not for day care. I am so grateful to my accredited provider for giving me the peace of mind I need to be able to work full time and know my child is well cared for.*

—Sarah, Topeka, KS



## Pathways and Partnerships for Child Care Excellence

### Helping Working Families Access High-Quality Child Care



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

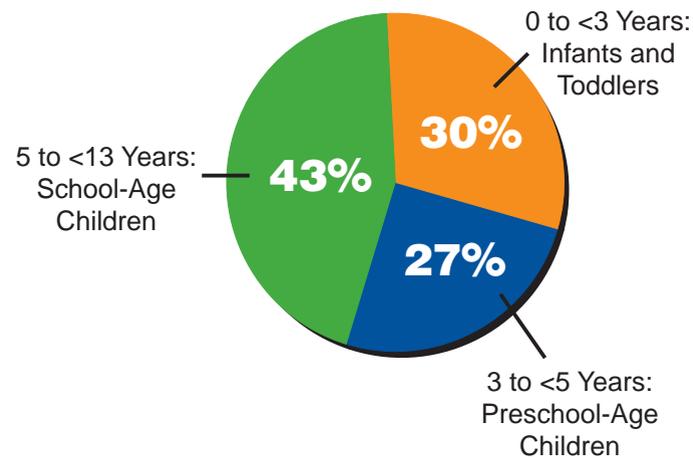


## Office of Child Care

The Office of Child Care (OCC), in the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, administers the \$5 billion Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program and works with State, Territory, and Tribal governments to provide support for children and their families in finding affordable, high-quality child care. OCC is committed to helping more children in low-income families access high-quality care.

More than 12 million American children rely on child care to support their healthy development and school success. Of these, more than 1.6 million children receive a child care subsidy from the CCDF program each month. Additionally, States, Territories, and Tribes annually spend \$1 billion to support child care quality improvement, resulting in better learning environments and more effective caregivers in child care centers and family child care homes across the country.

### Average Monthly Percentages of Children in Care by Age Group (FY 2009)



*The most important part of [the CCDF program] is that I have been able to grow constantly as a person and as a professional in the family child care field. Every year my life has been enriched by meeting other providers and [by] developing a network of support.*

—L. Martinez, Ventura, CA

*I think it is definitely helping the little guy ... There are families that are just on the borderline and can't get any other help, and they are able to meet that income limit. It is so nice to be able to help the parents when they need it.*

—Karen Stump, Executive Director  
Holly Street Daycare, Nashville, TN

## Promoting Quality Child Care

States and Territories are required to spend at least 4 percent of their CCDF allocation on quality activities. In addition, the CCDF program also includes targeted funds for quality enhancement, initiatives to improve the quality of care for infants and toddlers, initiatives to improve school-age care, and child care resource and referral services. States, Territories, and Tribes use CCDF program dollars to fund a variety of innovative efforts to improve the quality of care, such as provider staff training, grants and loans to providers, health and safety improvements, the monitoring of licensing requirements, and other initiatives.

In recent years, OCC has focused on building a CCDF program that focuses on improvements in health and safety in child care programs, quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS) and other quality improvement efforts that set standards of excellence for child care providers, strong professional development and workforce initiatives, and a subsidy system that balances the importance of program integrity with child care access for vulnerable families.



Visit our Web site at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ> for updates and additional data.

If you are looking for child care, visit <http://www.childcareaware.org>.



## Strengthening Child Care Programs

States, Territories, and Tribes have pioneered new pathways to excellence to help home- and center-based providers move toward continuous quality improvement. At OCC, we are building on those innovations and are supporting the replication of best practices. States are using CCDF program funds to build an infrastructure for child care quality that spans a wide variety of child care, Head Start, prekindergarten, and afterschool programs.

### Ensuring the Health and Safety of Children

Health and safety is the foundation of quality in child care. Every State must operate a child care licensing system. OCC is working with States, Territories, and Tribes to strengthen standards to ensure children's health, safety, and well-being while helping child care providers meet those standards.

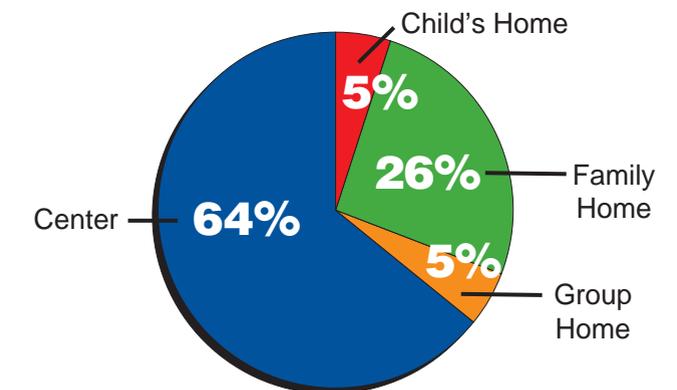
### Building Quality Rating and Improvement Systems

QRIS initiatives and other quality improvement efforts set standards of excellence for child care providers, provide a pathway to help programs continually improve to meet the higher standards, provide financial and technical assistance (TA) support for child care programs, and serve as a bridge to bring together all State-level early childhood programs under one vision of care and education.

### Building Strong Professional Development and Supportive Workforce Initiatives

Responsive, well-qualified caregivers are a very important factor in children's development and learning. OCC is helping States, Territories, and Tribes build professional development systems and workforce initiatives to encourage child care professionals to pursue better training and higher education opportunities. OCC provides professional development system toolkits for early childhood and afterschool professionals and anticipates publishing a technical assistance planning tool to guide TA activities in the States and Territories.

### Average Monthly Percentages of Children Served by Types of Care (FY 2009)



Note: Approximately 1 percent of the cases were invalid or not reported.

*Our day care has taught our 3-year-old daughter manners, patience, kindness, and compassion, which are values [that] we want our children to grow up with and [that] [we] teach her at home as well ... Our provider is contributing to the wonderful physical as well as emotional growth of our child.*

—Melissa, Brookhaven, NY