

FAMILY

ULSTER COUNTY



2009
CHILD CARE
NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Mission Statement: to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care. We believe that developmentally appropriate child care provided in a center or family day care setting strengthens and enriches family life, gives children opportunities to develop their full potential and enables parents to be more efficient and productive knowing their children are well cared for.

Child Care Council of Columbia, Greene and Ulster

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A Program of

FAMILY OF WOODSTOCK INC.

A UNITED WAY AGENCY

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

Ulster County is lacking sufficient legal child care to serve the children in the community. Some communities are grossly underserved, as shown in this community needs assessment. This assessment has been completed compiling information from the Child Care Council's data base of legal child care providers, the school district's, New York State Division of Child Care and Ulster County Department of Social Services.

It is divided into 4 sections Availability, Affordability, Quality, and Community.

Availability is demonstrated using the number of children in need of child care in the individual townships compared to the number of child care slots currently available. The slots are broken down by age group, based on NYS licensing standards. Only licensed and registered child care programs are represented. Programs must be licensed or registered by NYS if they care for children under 13 years of age for more than 3 hours and more than 2 non-relative children are present.

- Registered Family Day Care Providers – Child care is done in the provider's home and the provider may care for up to 6 children (if all of the children are at least two years of age) plus 2 school age children, before and after school and school holidays and vacations. If any of the children are under two years of age the provider may care for 5 children plus 2 school age children.
- Group Family Day Care Providers - Child care is done in the provider's home with an assistant. They may care up to 12 children if all of the children are over two years of age plus 2 school age children, before and after school and school holidays and vacations. If any of the children are under two years of age the provider may care for 10 children plus 2 school age children.
- Day Care Center - A program or facility not in a residence and may care for children 6 weeks – through 12 years of age. The maximum capacity is determined by the square footage of the site and the number available adult caregivers.

When a child day care center is in operation, an adequate number of qualified staff must be on duty to insure the health and safety of the children in care. The minimum ratios of staff to children are as follows:

AGE OF CHILDREN	STAFF/CHILD RATIO	MAXIMUM GROUP SIZE
6 weeks to 18 months	1:4	8
18 months to 36 months	1:5	12
3 years	1:7	18
4 years	1:8	21
5 years	1:9	24
through 9 years	1:10	20
10—12	1:15	30

- School-age child care program – A program not in a residence and cares for 7 or more children under 13 years of age before or after school hours or when school is not in session. Only children enrolled in kindergarten or a grade higher, or children at least 6 years of age may be enrolled in a school age program.

AVAILABILITY

Demand For Child Care Services			Supply of Child Care Services & Need For Additional Services				
Ages of Children	Total # of Children	# of Children Needing Care Outside Their Home	Family Day Care Slots	Day Care Center Slots	Total Slots	% of Children Served	Additional Slots Needed
Ulster County							
0-2	5,629	3490	392	230	621	18%	2869
2-5	8,437	5231	588	1,231	1820	35%	3411
School-age	21,476	13,530	302	905	1,252	9%	12,278
Denning							
0-2	8	5	0	0	0	0%	5
2-5	11	7	0	0	0	0%	5
School-age	30	9	0	0	0	0%	19
Esopus							
0-2	458	284	12	20	31	11%	253
2-5	687	426	18	26	45	11%	381
School-age	1,647	1,038	10	30	40	4%	998

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Gardiner							
0-2	124	77	8	0	8	10%	69
2-5	186	104	12	0	12	12%	92
School-age	512	323	4	0	4	1%	319
Hardenburgh							
0-2	2	1	0	0	0	0%	1
2-5	2	1	0	0	0	0%	1
School-age	19	12	0	0	0	0%	12
Hurley							
0-2	151	94	10	12	22	23%	72
2-5	224	139	15	94	109	78%	30
School-age	627	395	10	14	24	6%	371
Kingston City/Town							
0-2	620	384	128	30	158	41%	226
2-5	931	577	192	248	440	76%	137
School-age	2,019	1,272	108	120	228	18%	1,044

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Lloyd							
0-2	316	196	24	18	42	21%	154
2-5	474	294	36	134	170	58%	124
School-age	1,242	782	16	103	119	15%	663
Marbletown							
0-2	201	125	12	17	29	23%	96
2-5	300	186	18	62	80	43%	106
School-age	871	549	10	60	70	13%	479
Marlborough							
0-2	320	198	16	38	54	27%	144
2-5	480	298	24	144	168	56%	130
School-age	1,234	777	10	58	68	9%	709
New Paltz							
0-2	220	136	16	56	72	53%	64
2-5	300	186	24	203	227	122%	-41
School-age	791	498	12	161	173	35%	325

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Olive							
0-2	152	94	10	0	10	11%	84
2-5	227	141	15	15	30	21%	111
School-age	712	449	8	0	8	2%	441
Plattekill							
0-2	456	283	18	11	29	10%	254
2-5	684	424	27	45	726	17%	352
School-age	1,645	1,036	14	6	20	2%	1,016
Rochester							
0-2	294	182	18	0	18	10%	164
2-5	441	273	27	0	27	10%	246
School-age	1,181	744	14	0	14	2%	730
Rosendale							
0-2	228	141	8	0	8	6%	133
2-5	342	212	12	0	12	6%	200
School-age	759	478	6	0	6	1%	472

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Saugerties							
0-2	667	414	48	14	62	15%	352
2-5	1,000	620	72	58	130	21%	490
School-age	2,581	1,626	36	198	234	14%	1,392
Shandaken							
0-2	116	72	8	0	8	11%	64
2-5	174	108	12	0	12	11%	96
School-age	408	257	6	0	6	2%	251
Shawangunk							
0-2	402	249	14	0	14	6%	235
2-5	603	374	21	0	21	6%	353
School-age	1,597	1,006	8	40	48	5%	958
Ulster							
0-2	420	260231	12	0	12	5%	248
2-5	630	391	18	0	18	5%	373
School-age	1,612	1,016	10	0	10	1%	1,006

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Wawarsing							
0-2	374	232	14	14	28	12%	204
2-5	561	348	21	152	173	50%	175
School-age	1,433	903	10	160	170	19%	733
Woodstock							
0-2	120	74	16	0	16	22%	58
2-5	180	112	24	50	74	66%	38
School-age	556	350	10	0	10	3%	340

AFFORDABILITY
Cost of Care

The cost of child care is often a barrier to parents who use regulated child care. Parents who are looking for child care can find a wide range in cost of care from each different modality of care and there are differences depending on the ages of the children. Infant care is almost always higher to the child/adult ratios required by licensing for center based child care. There is usually a higher rate in Family and Group Family day care because the number of children a provider may care for drops when they care for children under the age of two years of age.

Center Based Child Care (FULL-TIME CARE)

Age Groups	Lowest Weekly Cost	Highest Weekly Cost	Average Weekly Cost
Infants	\$125	\$230	\$175
Toddlers	\$125	\$180	\$153
Preschoolers	\$100	\$160	\$145
School-age (After School 15 hrs/wk)	\$45	\$120	\$75

Family Day Care

Age Groups	Lowest Weekly Cost	Highest Weekly Cost	Average Weekly Cost
0 - 2	\$113	\$185	\$158
3 - 5	\$113	\$185	\$167
School-age (After School 15 hrs/wk)	\$38	\$100	\$75

Family Income

County Median Income

The chart below estimates the percentage of income spent on full time average child care costs in households earning the median income. The child care costs for the different age groups were averaged for the analysis below. Considering that housing costs are 30% of a family's income and child care costs range from 16% to 44%, the impact on quality of life can prove to be substantial while child are young and in need of child care.

# in Household	Median Income*	% of estimated net income spent for child care for one child		% of estimated net income spent for child care for two children	
		center	fdc	center	fdc
2	\$54,900	20%	21%		
3	\$61,700	18%	18%	36%	36%
4	\$63,500	17%	18%	34%	36%

*Median income guidelines were derived from the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development.

220% of Poverty Income Standard

The chart below estimates the percentage of income spent on full time child care costs in households earning 220% of the poverty income standard. These families would not be eligible for a subsidy since the maximum eligible income is 200% of the poverty income standard.

# in Household	220% of Poverty Income Standard	% of estimated net income spent for child care for one child		% of estimated net income spent for child care for two children	
		center	fdc	center	fdc
2	\$30,802	35%	36%		
3	\$38,632	27%	29%	54%	78%
4	\$45,000	18%	19%	36%	38%

QUALITY

The quality of the child care provided is critical to the well-being of children. Research has shown that the physical, social/emotional and intellectual growth and development of a young child is most directly effected by the competence of the caregiver. It has been clearly demonstrated that children attending early care and learning programs where the caregiver received training in early childhood development and education behaved more positively and made the greatest gains on standardized tests of learning. One such study showed that the teaching environment was more predictive of children's achievement than the child's social class background.

There are many avenues of training teachers and caregivers of young children can pursue to improve the quality of care that they provide. They are required by child care regulations to have a minimum of thirty hours of training every two years. Regulations dictate the topics that must be covered in the 30 hours of training.

In Ulster County, the Child Development Associate Credential is available through Ulster Co. BOCES. Ulster County Community College is offering coursework toward a Associates Degree in early childhood that could transfer to a nursery through sixth grade teaching certification/Bachelor's Degree program. There are also workshops and conferences available through the Child Care Council of Ulster, a program of Family of Woodstock Inc. , Mid-Hudson Association for the Education of Young Children, Mid-Hudson Infant-Toddler Coalition, Cornell Cooperative Extension and the NYS Office of Children and Family Services Video conferences.

When cost of training is a barrier to providers receiving the required number of hours; there are scholarship funds available through the New York State Educational Incentive Program for child care providers on a sliding fee based on household income and have an emphasis on providers who are pursuing degree or credential bearing programs.

Meeting the minimum training requirements set by regulations (30 hours, every 2 years) does not insure that high quality care is being provided to children. Seeking to achieve a higher standard, such as those set by professional accreditation for centers and family day care homes requires resources that many programs do not have. There are models for fostering the growth of accredited programs and improving the quality of child care that have been developed by the American Business Collaborative, such as accreditation support groups, mentoring programs and provider resource rooms. New York State has an enhanced subsidy rate for those programs who have achieved accreditation.

The community needs to support the professional development of the people caring for young children and work together to maximize the use of existing training resources and look for ways to implement additional quality enhancing programs.

COMMUNITY

Ulster County Department of Social Services

The Dept. of Social Services is meeting subsidy needs for approximately 750 children each month. There is a general need for subsidized child care throughout the county with the greatest volume of families located in the greater Kingston area. A lack of transportation is a barrier for many families when trying to make child care arrangements in the rural areas of the county. There is also a need for additional infant and toddler slots to meet the needs of subsidized families.

There has been significant growth in the number of families who are choosing informal child care arrangements. A legally exempt child care provider may be paid to do child care for parents who receive day care subsidies. If they do child care in their own home and not in the child's home, the provider may care up to 2 children at one time. There are currently 201 approved Legally Exempt child care providers caring for children receiving subsidies. A quality enhancement initiative which is offered through the Child Care Council of Ulster provides technical assistance, materials and training to the informal providers.

There is subsidy funding available to assist low-income working families with the cost of child care. Eligible families are those earning less than 200% of the poverty level and are employed.

200% of Poverty Income Standards Program Year June 1, 2009 - May 31, 2010

Family Size	Monthly Income	Annual Income
2	\$2,428	\$29,140
3	\$3,052	\$36,620
4	\$3,675	\$44,100
5	\$4,298	\$51,580
6	\$4,922	\$59,060

Employers

Employers can help parents who need child care by offering flexible spending accounts as a benefit. Employees direct a part of their pay into a special, tax-free account that they can then use to reimburse themselves for out of pocket expenses for health care, transportations or dependent care services. Parents are then able to save money by paying for child care with pretax dollars.

Child Care Council of Columbia, Greene and Ulster

The Council is a program of Family of Woodstock Inc. serving both parents and the early care and learning community. Providers are assisted through the regulatory process by offering technical assistance and support. The Council sponsors the Child and Adult food Program for family and group family day care providers in Ulster County.

Parents seeking child care call the Council for referrals to legal child care, information and support to help them locate a child care arrangement that best meets their needs.