



CHILD CARE CONNECTIONS
Serving Columbia, Greene and Ulster Counties

2015 Annual Report



History

Child Care Connections was established in 1984 to provide child care resource and referral services in Ulster County under contract to Work/Family Directions. Prior to that Family of Woodstock Inc. ran a family day care training project for the Ulster County Department of Social Services, as well as sponsoring a licensed child care center and after-school programming. Child Care Connections participated as a subcontractor in the first family day care training project awarded to the New York State Child Care Coordinating Council by New York State Department of Social Services. In 1988, Child Care Connections expanded services to Columbia and Greene and became a publicly funded child care resource and referral service for the tri-county area.

Since that time, Child Care Connections has been recruiting and training child care providers. They sponsor the Child and Adult Care Food Program, which helps child care providers pay for meals and snacks served to children in care. Child Care Connections registers and inspects family day care and school age child care programs in all three counties.

In 2015 Child Care Connections became Nationally Quality Assured Agency through Child Care Aware of America.



Child Care Connections is a member of the National Association for Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, National Association for the Education of Young Children, Zero to Three, Early Care and Learning Council, and Child Care Aware of America

They are state members of United Way, Winning Beginning, and Early Care & Learning Council.

They have developed new and continue professional relationships with community agencies, such as Columbia/Greene/Ulster Department of Social Services, Institute for Family Health, Ulster County Healthy Start, Infant-Toddler Resource Center, Agri-Business Child Development Centers, Ulster County Continuum of Care, Chamber of Commerce Ulster County, Community Heart Health Coalition, Ulster Head Start Health and Family Services, Bringing Agencies Together (BAT), Ulster County Emergency Preparedness, Ulster County Community Action Advisory Board, Columbia/Greene Networking, Ulster BOCES, Wawarsing Council of Agencies, Buy In Greene "BIG", Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia & Greene Counties, Family Support Program, Chamber of Commerce Greene County, Greene County Correctional facilities, Columbia County Head Start, Columbia County Local Early Intervention Community Council, Greene County Local Early Intervention Community Council, National Safety Council, Columbia County Department of Health, Greene County Department of Health, and Ulster County Department of Health.

Family of Woodstock Inc

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SERVING CHILD CARE PROGRAMS, PARENTS, BUSINESSES & THE COMMUNITY IN COLUMBIA, GREENE AND ULSTER COUNTIES



Child Care Connections provides:

- **Support and technical assistance** to those interested in opening a child care program, either in a home or center;
- **Resource and child care program referrals** to parents/guardians on the types of legal child care, what to look for and questions to ask when seeking care for a young child;
- **Parenting education classes** will be offered throughout the Columbia, Greene and Ulster Counties. Child Care Connections continuously surveys consumers for the most convenient time and topics they would like resources/training. The curriculum followed is the Nurturing Parenting Programs; a *family-centered trauma-informed* initiative designed to build nurturing parenting skills as an alternative to abusive and neglecting parenting and child-rearing practices. Family Support Program also partners with Child Care Connections offering a parent support group, incorporating education;
- **Training and technical assistance** to early care and learning programs on child care regulations, effective business practices, developmentally appropriate programming, health & safety, child abuse identification and reporting, nutrition, and quality care;
- **Advocacy** for quality child care, early learning and promoting safe care for young children;
- **Reimbursement** to those participating in the Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) for meals and snacks served to children in their family day care program;
- **Retention efforts** to regulated programs by holding a Provider Appreciation celebration in May of each year. Also always being available free of charge to help with programming and business practices through technical assistance.
- **Registration and inspections** of family child care and school age programs; providers seeking licensing for more than 2 children and less than 6 or a school age program; responding to complaints made against registered family day care and school age programs; and
- **Enrollment and inspections** of legally exempt providers caring for no more than 2 children at one time and receiving day care subsidy from the county Department of Social Services; responding to complaints made against legally exempt providers.

The Message

Child Care Connections has a very clear and concise message for the public. Child Care Connections works diligently to keep the message clear, so the public is aware of its mission and goals. Child Care Connections markets their services to targeted and underserved communities to inform them of our services and reach out to new populations/key audiences. The message consists of the following talking points:

- Keeping child care programs, parents and communities connected.
- Early care and learning supports school readiness.
- Quality care makes a difference in children and families' lives.
- Youth who do not receive quality early childhood development are generally not prepared for school and future success.
- Every dollar spent on Early Care and Education in New York creates a \$1.86 return on investment that goes back into local economies creating jobs and supporting working parents.
- Child Care Connections is available to assist the community with their child care needs

The goals are specific to each target population/key audience. The current Community Needs Assessment assists our marketing and outreach activities plan to reach the targeted or underserved areas.



Child Care Connections Mission

To support the community by expanding and promoting high quality child care that meets the needs of children & their families.

QUALITY OF CARE

Parents often struggle with making the right choice of child care for their children and family. They need to weigh what is more important to them; Cost, Location, or Quality.

It is generally recognized that the quality of the care children receive in their early years has a large impact on their success in school. Poor quality of care may have a negative impact and high quality care has a notable positive impact.



Parents seeking child care need to evaluate the quality of the care being offered by the provider. When interviewing the provider for the first time, parents not only need to look at cost and location but also the programming that is being offered. Each type of care has a wide range of programming the quality of which can range from excellent to poor.

Quality Child Care is specifically the programming providing age appropriate activities that challenge growth and development of children in their care. Professionals studying early brain development, are learning that the first 1,095 days are the most critical in a child's life. More is learned during that time period than any other. The brain's wiring is being developed for all future learning. The pattern of development is established at this time and early childhood educators recognize the importance of nurturing that process with programming that stimulates the brain activity.

Some of the critical issues are:

The lack of consistent early childhood education has been cited as a reason for a significant amount of young children being ill-prepared for kindergarten. The concept that having a skilled care provider offering care for part of the week and an unskilled care provider offering care the rest of the week ignores the fact that children are gaining skills and knowledge continuously and therefore need care to be developmentally appropriate at all times.

Quality care nurtures the child and their family. It helps children develop large and small motor skills, social and emotional skills, math, science, language and reading skills. And all of this is incorporated in play. When a parent looks at a program setting, she/he should be looking for the types of toys available and the activities they see taking place. They should see positive interactions between the adults and children. The caregivers must be welcoming to parents and willing and able to explain how certain activities support children's growth and development.

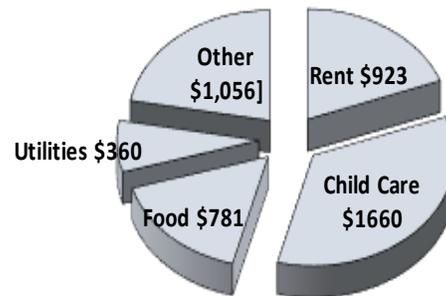
As part of the evaluation process parents can ask the provider about emergency procedures, notice the cleanliness of the site and ask about nutrition and food preparation procedures. Providers must be knowledgeable about regulations and have implemented appropriate health and safety standards.

Regulated providers are inspected at least once a year (2015), serious violations are posted on the NYS OCFS website, www.ocfs.ny.gov. Anyone can go online and see a provider's serious violations and how long it took to correct them.

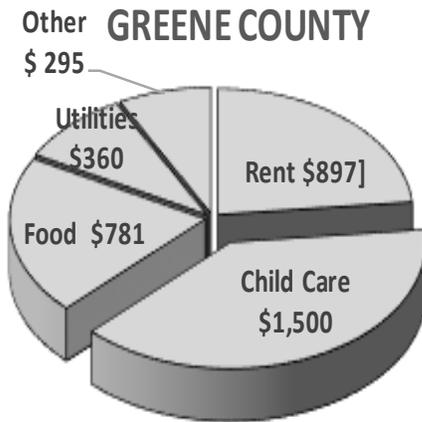
Cost of Child Care

The cost of child care ranges on average from \$110.00 to \$220.00, depending on the age of the children. Care for infants is typically more expensive. These costs have a substantial impact on parents' yearly budgets. The costs of running a household varies slightly from county to county. The charts below give a sample of costs, based upon a family of 4 with 2 children ages 4 and 1 years old. They are based on where they live rather than where they work.

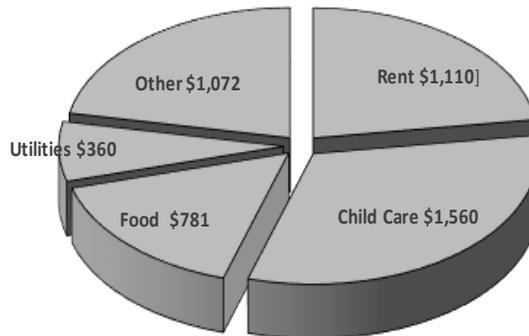
COLUMBIA COUNTY



GREENE COUNTY



ULSTER COUNTY



Sources of information: quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/36/36111.html; <http://livingwage.mit.edu/counties>; www.huduser.org/portal/datasets

CHILD CARE CONNECTIONS AND DAY CARE SUBSIDY'S

NEXT STEPS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY OF CHILD CARE

Over the last 3 years there has been no significant growth in the supply of regulated child care. The need for additional child care slots, especially for infants and toddlers is at a crises level in all 3 counties. Unfortunately no increase in slots and the combined high cost of regulated child care will continue to put a burden on working parents and employers.

The news isn't completely discouraging. In the past two years, New York State Office of Children and Families Services has revised the day care regulations, making them easier to understand, changing some of the programming requirements, limiting screen time, emphasizing meal time nutrition and providing more safe guards to keep children safe, healthy and learning.

This year, 2015 the Federal Government passed the Child Care Development Block Grant. Its roll-out will be developed in early 2016. It will hopefully increase the amount of day care subsidy for most of the counties in New York State. It will create an improved system for eligible parents utilizing day care subsidy. It will also incorporate the increased health & safety requirements for all regulated child care, including Legally Exempt child care. This money will also be used to support pre-K slots and increase the quality of care throughout the state.

At the start of 2016, Child Care Connections will be inspecting all Family Day Care and School Age Programs 4 times per year at a minimum. As well as, 100% of Legally Exempt Family Child Care homes will be inspected. The increased inspections will assist in the improvement of quality and safety of these programs.

Child Care Connections is also offering all 15 hours and 9 topics of training for all modalities of care in 2 full series. This will allow for the completion of the required 15 hours of training in the first 6 months of employment and a refresher for seasoned providers.

MOVING FORWARD



Available in the Community

The need for child care is determined by the number of children under 13 years old in any given area. Studies have shown that approximately 60% of all children will need child care before the age of 13. Charts below show the number of children needing care in each of the 3 counties and the number of regulated child care slots.

ULSTER COUNTY	CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE	CHILD CARE SLOTS
Denning	49	0
Esopus	559	88
Gardiner	611	24
Hardenburgh	22	44
Hurley	576	149
Kingston	2649	1063
Lloyd	1192	498
Marbletown	483	176
Marlborough	967	367
New Paltz	950	574
Olive	358	112
Plattekill	874	44
Rochester	772	168
Rosendale	577	16
Saugerties	1954	458
Shandaken	229	28
Shawangunk	1281	148
Ulster	1120	121
Warwarsing	1282	117
Woodstock	405	72
Ulster Total	16910	4267

COLUMBIA COUNTY	CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE	CHILD CARE SLOTS
Ancram	87	0
Austerlitz	131	0
Chatham	299	39
Claverack	456	25
Gallatin	136	0
Germantown	214	105
Ghent	404	24
Greenport/Hudson	907	633
Hillsdale	115	8
Kinderhook	827	334
Livingston	274	0
New Lebanon	185	54
Stockport	199	0
Stuyvesant	170	14
Taghkanic	87	0
Columbia Total	4553	1236

GREENE COUNTY	CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE	CHILD CARE SLOTS
Ashland	58	0
Athens	322	20
Cairo	496	140
Catskill	1115	126
Coxsackie	506	30
Durham	264	0
Greenville	283	75
Halcott	28	0
Hunter	208	38
Jewett	26	0
Lexington	38	0
New Baltimore	280	89
Prattsville	36	18
Windham	76	0
Greene Total	3736	536



Year in Review

Referral Service: Child Care Connections assists parents with their search for child care by: offering free child care referrals to programs that have open slots; informing them about the difference between regulated and non regulated child care; discussing what to look for during a child care search; and offering information about quality child care.

Child Care Connections served 570 families in 2015, 366 in Ulster County, 71 in Greene County and 133 in Columbia County. Of those families 358 were below 200% of the federal poverty guideline. During the year 847 children, ages 0-13 years were served.



Registration and Inspections: Child Care Connections is funded by all three counties to carry out registrar/inspector duties. Registrars process family day care and school age child care programs new and renewal applications required by New York State to provide child care. In the three counties, 12 family day care providers became registered, 6 school age programs, and XX Legally Exempt enrolled providers opened in 2015.



Registered family day care and school-age programs are inspected regularly checking programmatic, health and safety issues. In 2015, 251 inspections were conducted of family day care homes and violations were found in 76 of those programs. 40 inspections were conducted of school age child care programs and violations were found in 14 of those programs. 37 inspections were conducted for Legally Exempt Enrolled providers. When violations are found, programs are given a time period and technical assistance to make the necessary corrections. The program is then revisited to ensure compliance with the regulations.

The chart below shows type of care and its supply of child care in the three counties as of December 31, 2015.

Type of Care	Columbia	Greene	Ulster
	<i>Programs</i>	<i>Programs</i>	<i>Programs</i>
Day Care Centers	14	7	43
School age Programs	8	4	15
Family Day Care	14	15	70
Group Family Day Care	14	5	41
Legally Exempt Enrolled Homes	64	30	228

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP): Child Care Connections sponsors CACFP for Legally Exempt Family Child Care, Family Day Care and Group Family Day Care providers in Columbia, Greene and Ulster counties. Providers are reimbursed for meals and snacks served to the children in their programs. They are paid at a tiered rate based on financial income of the provider, family enrolled or census tract. Tier I is paid at a higher rate for low income providers or those serving low income families. Tier II is a low pay rate for higher income providers not serving low income families. Providers may claim two meals and one snack or two snacks and one meal for each child served. Payment is based on the food must meeting the USDA guidelines of good nutrition, including the required food groups for each meal/snack, menu reviews and completion of required paperwork within the program..

In 2015, Child Care Connections paid out approximately \$439,109 to an average of 75 child care providers who served nutritious meals and snacks to children in care.



Meals	Tier I	Tier II
Breakfast	\$1.32	\$0.48
Lunch/Dinner	\$2.48	\$1.50
Snack	\$0.74	\$0.20

Training, Intensive Technical Assistance, Coaching & Basic Technical Assistance:

Child Care Connections provides training and technical assistance to the child care providers in Columbia, Greene and Ulster Counties. Child care providers must receive at least 30 hours of training every 2 years to remain in compliance of NYS Day Care Regulations. In 2015, 61 training hours were presented to ≈380 providers from family day care, center, group family day care and school age child care programs.

Intensive Technical Assistance Projects and Coaching Visits are provided on site. Providers who are having difficulty or are interested in improving the quality of care they provide may request technical assistance on site. In 2015, Child Care Connections provided 91 hours of intensive technical assistance projects or coaching visits to various child care programs. In addition 705 basic technical assistance contacts were offered to child care providers by phone, email or in person on varying topics.



Child Care Subsidy (Columbia County):

Columbia County Child Care Subsidy helps eligible families needing financial assistance with child care fees. Applications, determining eligibility; providing technical assistance for eligible families and child care providers; maintains contracts for regulated child care providers and oversees subsidy billing and payments.

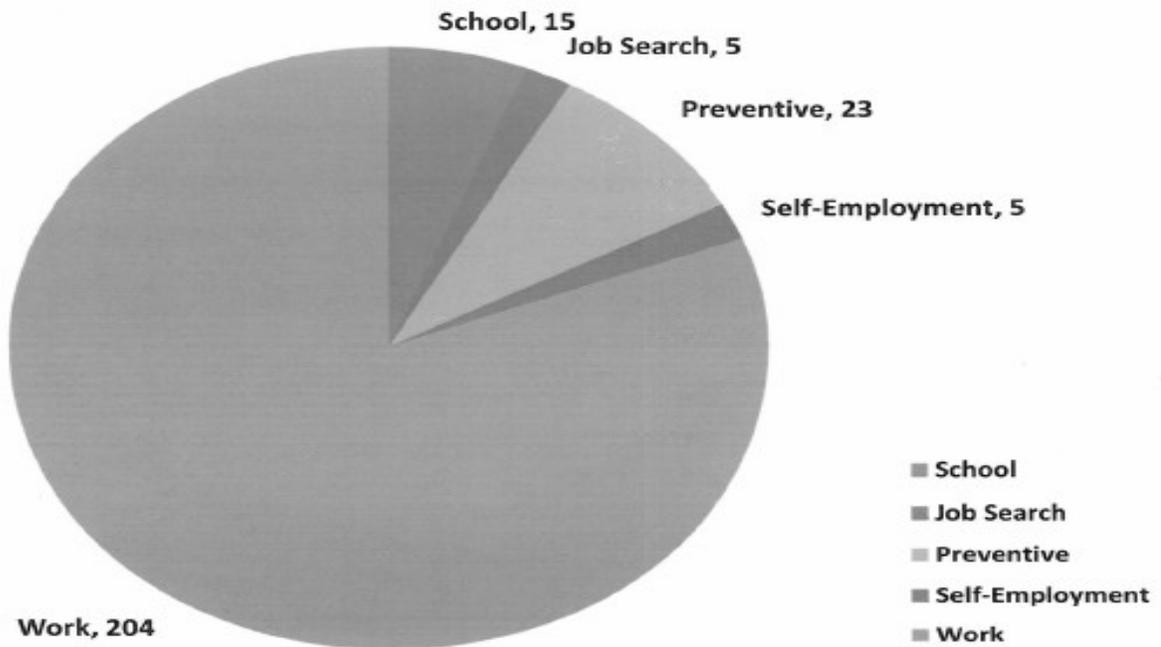


Families in Columbia County with income level under 200% of the federal poverty level. 79% of the approved families fall in the low income 200% category, while 19% percent are more financially distressed and received Temporary Assistance from the Department of Social Services. 2% are families caring for children in non-parental, foster care or preventative care.

In 2015, the Subsidy Unit provided childcare subsidies to an average of 252 eligible families per month, including 382 children on average, assisting families to work, attend school, attend training, perform job search, pursue self employment and/or attend drug treatment. Aside from work, families received assistance per month in order to participate in the following approved activities:

The chart below reflects the number of families served in each eligible category:

2015 Childcare Breakdown



Infant Toddler Specialist:

Infant Toddler Specialists will increase awareness and practice of best practices for infants and toddlers, as defined by the Ten Components of Quality Care for Infants and Toddlers (“the Ten Components”). The recipients of the infant Toddler Specialist’s expertise may include day care center directors; supervisors and classroom staff of child care centers with infant toddler programs; group family and family child care providers; CCRN staff/registrars; OCFS licensers and supervisory staff; parents of infants and toddlers; and members of community agencies that serve infants and toddlers and their families.

Training – Year Summary:

2 trainings, 4 hours was provided to infant-toddler caregivers and capacity-building staff:

- ✦ 12 participants were center-based caregivers
- ✦ 2 participants were home-based providers

Some Topics included:

- ✦ Play is the Way
- ✦ The Value of Play

ITA Activity (1) ITERS/FCCERS projects - year summary:

- ✦ 2 ERS projects (initial score, TA visits, post score) were completed in DCC

In addition, 1 ERS Projects that began in 2014-2015 are continuing to receive intensive technical assistance to meet the goals outlined on their Quality Improvement Plan. Post assessment scores will be available in 2016.

ITA Activity (2) Non-scale TA - year summary:

- ◆ Non-scale TA was provided in 6 center-based classrooms (DCC)

Basic TA - year summary:

- ◆ 190 units of Basic TA were provided to providers, center directors, licensers, supervisors, licensers, registrars, parents, and those at community meetings.

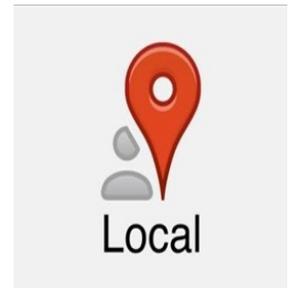


Local Employers and Our Communities:

Child Care Connections provides referral services to all employers and their staff. Annual outreach is made to approximately 100 employers in the service delivery areas. With a focus on the underserved targeted areas, Child Care Connections offers a free presentation for employees and on site referral options.

In 2015, child care referral calls were mainly from those searching for employment, self employed, or attending educational/training classes. Wal-Mart used our services 8 times and Columbia Memorial Hospital used our services 6 times, while we also served approximately 100 local businesses.

Adirondack Trailways	Dunkin Donuts	Nothing But the Tooth
ADM & Cumberland Farms	Dutchess County Community Action	Orthopedic Associates of Dutchess County
AFPI INC	Family Dollar	Pet Smart
Albany Medical Center	Family of Woodstock	Philmont Hearth
Anytime Home Care	First Niagara Bank	Planet Fitness
Bard College	Flanders	Polaris Management Partners
Barnwell	Fruition Chocolate	Salvation Army
Berkshire Bank	Gateway	Schain and Company, CPAs
Black Thorn Resort	George & Sons	Shaker Heritage Society
Bob's Resuaruant	Greenport Rescue Squad	Shop Rite
Bridgeback	Griffins	St Catherines
Burger King	Hampton Inn	Swiss Chalet
Cabanero Construction	Hannaford	Taconic Farms
Cario Durham Schools	Hawthorne Valley Association	Tectonic Engineering
Catholic Charities of Columbia/Greene	Hillcrest Educational Centers	The Pines Nursing Home
Catskill/Windham Police Department	HITS of Saugerties	Trauma Center
Cavalier Management	Home Depot	Tri Valley Central School District
Chase Bank	Inflight Inc	UGARC
Chatham Dental	Institute For Family Health	Ulster Savings
Clermont Historical Park	Job Shop	United Airlines
Department of Social Services	Kingston City School District	US Marine Corps
Columbia County Sheriffs Office	Lady Rooter	USPS
Columbia Memoria Hospital	Macy's	Walmart
Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County	Mason	Whittier
Cracker Barrel	McDonalds	Wingate
CSX	MKMG	Wonderbar Bistro
Dentserve	Mobile Life Support Services	World Learning
Devereaux	Mt. Greylock Care Facility	Yonder Farms
Domino's Pizza	Niekamp Tool, Inc.	
Drs. Engel & Lindgren Family Medicine	Northern Empire	



Public Policy:

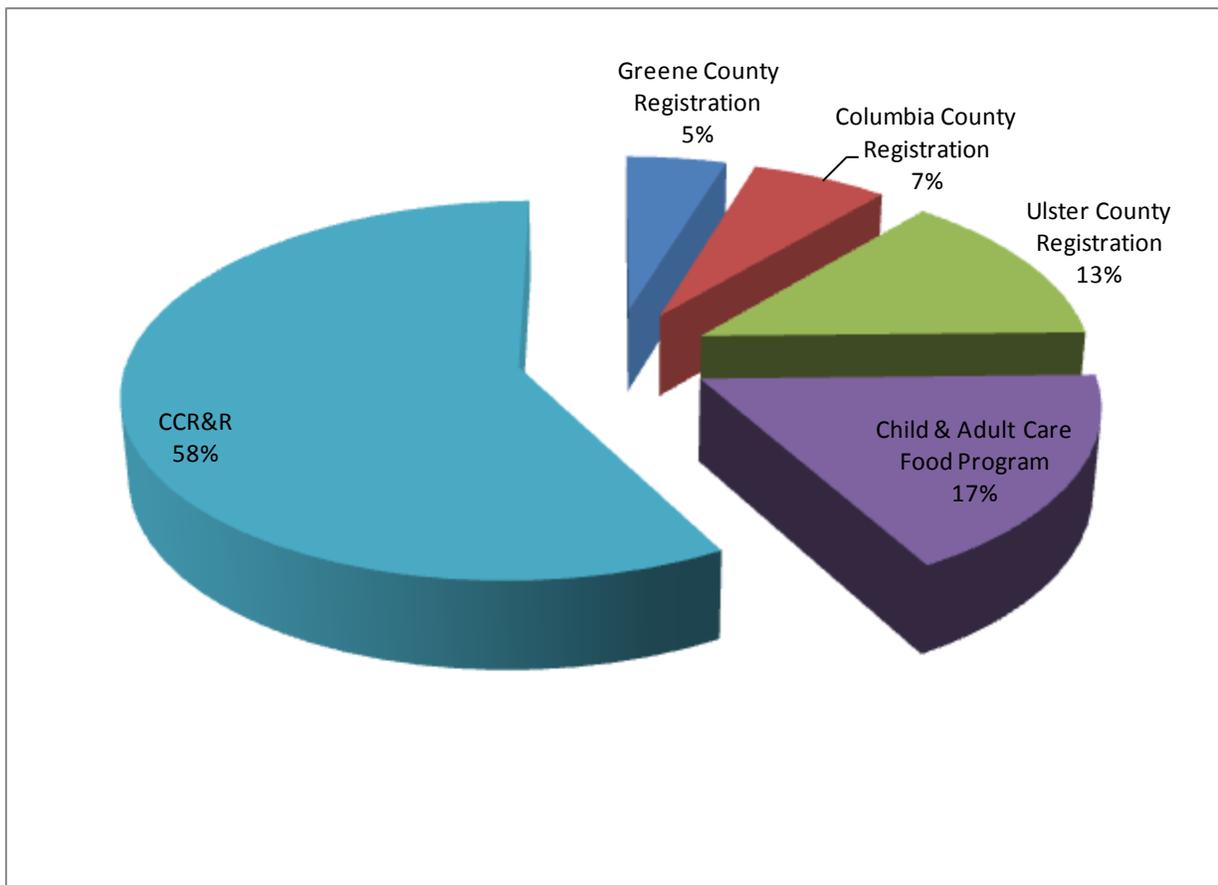
Child Care Connections provides information and educates prospective child care providers and constituents on the issues facing families, children, and child care in our communities. They are informed of legislation and directed when appropriate to visit the websites of the Child Care Aware of America, Winning Beginnings NY, the Early Care and Learning Council or other groups having further information about the current issues. It is the goal that local, state and federal representatives make informed decisions in support for children and families.

Throughout the year there are specific goals that are targeted by updating the Family of Woodstock, Inc. website public policy pages, distributing the most current Community Needs Assessment and Annual Report to the stakeholders, writing editorials, while annually surveying parents, businesses, communities and stakeholders to assist in the development of the next years goals and strategic plan.



Funding: Child Care Connections' budget also administers pass-through dollars to family day care providers on the Child and Adult Care Food Program. In 2015 Child Care Connections paid out approximately \$439,109 for meals and snacks served to children in Legally Exempt, Group and Family Day Care programs, which is not included in this chart.

Child Care Connections 2015 Program Budget



Family of Woodstock, Inc. (Family) is a multi-program human service agency providing services throughout Ulster County. Founded in 1970, Family's principle focuses are **crisis intervention services** - Family runs one of the oldest continuously operating 24-hour-a-day emergency switchboards in the country, which is county-wide and toll free; and walk-in centers in Woodstock, New Paltz, Ellenville and Kingston - **emergency shelters** - Family House, a 14-bed runaway and homeless youth facility; the Darmstadt Shelter for the Homeless, a 19-bed shelter for men and women, primarily in recovery; the Family Inn, a 27-bed shelter for homeless families; the Washbourne House, a 17-bed domestic violence shelter, for women and their children; and MidWay, two supervised transitional living residences for up to six homeless adolescents each, and, when necessary, their children - **child care programs** - Child Care Connections serving families, child care providers and community in Ulster, Columbia and Greene Counties; and Child Care Subsidy Administration for the Department of Social Services of Columbia County - **case management services** - to such discreet populations as adult and adolescent substance abusers, individuals involved with the criminal justice system, homeless individuals and families, victims of domestic violence, as well as the general public - **and food programs** - extensive food pantries at the walk-in centers in Woodstock, New Paltz and Ellenville and at the domestic violence shelter and distribution of donated produce and food from local farmers to the county's food pantries and feeding programs.

**Family of Woodstock Inc. sponsors 17 programs,
of which Child Care Connections
serving Columbia, Greene & Ulster Counties is just one.**

