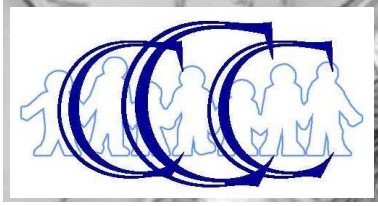
Child Care Connections

Serving Columbia, Greene & Ulster Counties



NEEDS ASSESSMENT
2018

PLANNING DAY 2017

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD 2017

COMMUNITY NIGHT OUT 2017

PYRAMID TRAINING 2016

OUR STAFF 2017

COLOR FOR A CAUSE 2018

MID-HUDSON VALLEY LEADERSHIP DAY 2017

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Samantha Held, Program Director
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Aisha Hart, Case Worker

CHILD CARE CONNECTION'S MISSION

To strengthen the community by providing education on early childhood development and the importance of quality child care, as well as offering resources and referrals to families, businesses and child care professionals.

HISTORY

Child Care Connections (CCC) is a program of Family of Woodstock Inc. The child care referral program was established in 1984 to provide child care resource and referral services under a corporate contract. 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 program. 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 (CCR&R) 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 as well as, enrolls Legally Exempt Programs in all three counties.

Since, 2015 Child Care Connections is a 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, Child Care Aware of America, & Empire State Campaign for Child Care.

They are state members of United Way, Winning Beginning, & Early Care and 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 Healthy Coalition, Ulster Head Start Health & 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, & Ulster County Department of Health.

CHILD CARE CONNECTIONS SERVICES INCLUDE:

- **SUPPORT & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE** to those interested in opening a child care program, either in a home or center.
- **RESOURCES & 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 Columbia, Greene and Ulster Counties. Child Care Connections continuously surveys consumers for the most convenient time and topics. 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 & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE** to early care and learning programs on child care regulations, effective business practices, developmentally appropriate programming, health & safety, child abuse identification & 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.
- **REGISTRATION & INSPECTIONS** of family day care (providers seeking licensing for more than 2 children and less than 6) and school age program as well as responding to complaints made against registered family day care and school age programs.
- **ENROLLMENT & 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 as well as responding to complaints made against legally exempt providers.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Family Day Care is provided in a residence for up to 8 children of mixed ages. The program must be *registered* with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, Division of Child Care Services. One provider cares for the children. The program must be inspected prior to opening and at least every two years thereafter. The first registration is for 2 years then renewed every 4 years thereafter. Each provider is required to attend 30 hours of approved training within every 2 year period.

Group Family Day Care is provided in a residence for up to 16 children of mixed ages. The program must be *licensed* by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, Division of Child Care Services. The provider and one assistant are required to care for the children at all times. The program is inspected prior to opening and every 3 months thereafter. The first license is for 2 years and then renewed every 4 years thereafter. Each provider and assistant are required to attend 30 hours of approved training every 2 years.

Day Care Centers are located in nonresidential buildings and are zoned commercial. Each age group must have its own classroom and each group has a different child/adult ratio that must be obeyed to meet *licensing* requirements. Each program is inspected prior to licensing. The first license is for 2 years and renewed every 4 years thereafter. The Director and staff must attend 30 hours of training every 2 years.

Child / Adult Ratios for Day Care Centers

6 weeks to 18 Months	1 adult/ 4 children
18 Months to 36 Months	1 adult/ 5 children
3 & 4 year olds	1 adult/ 7 children

School age programs are located in non-residential buildings and must be *registered* if they have more than 6 children under 13 years of age. Each program must maintain a child/adult ratio of no more 1:10 for children 9 years of age and younger with a maximum group size of 20 children. 1 adult to 15 children is the required ratios for children between 10 and 12 years of age, with a maximum group size of 30. All staff must receive training during the 4 year registration period, prorated by the hours the program operates. Program sites are inspected prior to being registered at least once a year thereafter.

Head Start Centers promotes school readiness for children from low income families, ages 3 to 5. Early Head Start Programs support low-income infants and toddlers. The programs focus on supporting the family by offering educational, nutritional, health, social and other services. The programs encourage parent involvement in all aspects of their children's learning.

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Nursery Schools are not a regulated form of care. They do not require regulation as long as no child is in programming for more than 3 hours per day. Often parents use nursery schools for socialization. Training and child/adult ratios are not regulated.

Universal Pre-K is a part-day program within a school district which supports children, ages 3 and 4 to develop school readiness skills. Staff to child ratios are determined by the ages of the children served and parallel day care regulations; teacher must meet State Education teaching requirements.

Legally Exempt Family Day Care & Legally Exempt In-home providers must be *enrolled* with NYS Office of Children and Family Services. The provider completes a self-assessment application in which they answer questions about the health and safety of their care environment and past history of criminal or child abuse offenses. They may care for up to 2 non-relative children for more than 3 hours per day in the provider's home. When providing care in the parent's home, they may care for the household children and the 3 hour rule does not apply. Subsidy eligible parents who choose to use *non-licensed or registered* child care must have a legally exempt provider to receive payment for child care.

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:

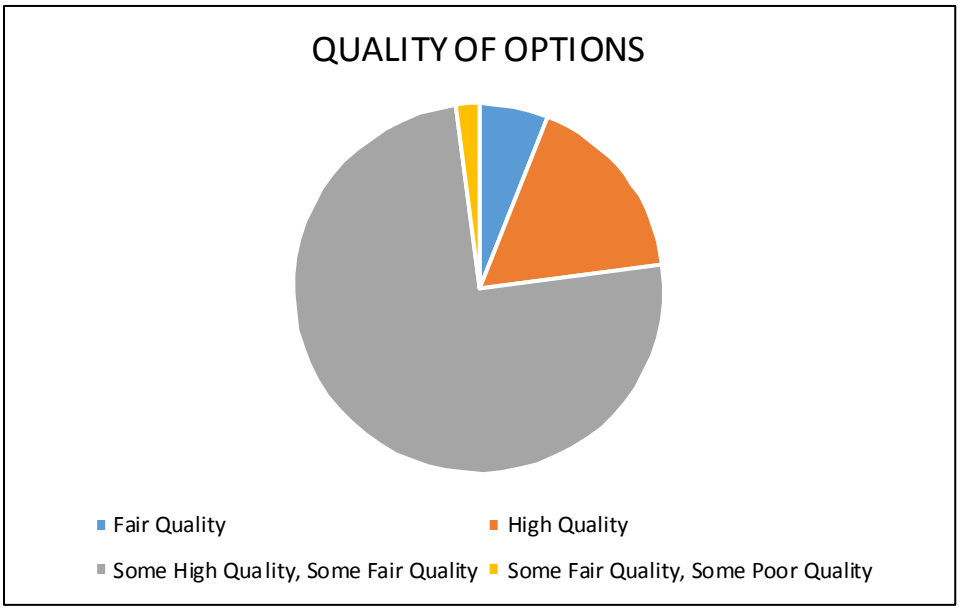
- Keeping child care programs, parents and communities connected.
- Early care and learning supports school readiness.
- Quality care makes a difference in children and their families' lives.
- Youth who do not receive quality early childhood development are generally not prepared for school and future 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.

QUALITY CHILD CARE

Parents often struggle with choosing the right child care program for their children and family. Parents need to weigh what is more important to them. Generally the most important are the cost, location, and quality of the child care program. It is generally recognized that the quality of the care children receive in their early years has a substantial impact on their success in school. While poor quality care may have a negative impact, high quality care recognizes a positive impact on young children's future success. Parents seeking child care need to evaluate the quality of the care being offered by the provider.

Quality Child Care specifically is programming which provides age appropriate activities that challenge growth and development of children which are served. Professionals studying early brain development and learning state that the first 1,095 days are the most critical in a child's growth. Early childhood educators recognize the importance of the development established during this time and nurturing that development with programming that stimulates the process.

Quality child 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 incorporated through play.



This charts shows responses from parents who were surveyed in 2017.

BALANCING CHILD CARE SUPPLY & DEMAND

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.

Over the last few years there has been a significant decrease in the supply of regulated child care. The need for additional child care slots, especially for infants and toddlers is at a crisis level in all 3 counties. Unfortunately no increase in slots and the high cost of regulated child care will continue to put a burden on working parents and employers. 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 information was obtained from: https://datausa.io/profile.

The charts below shows the amount of regulated child care available at the beginning of 2018.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

635 SQUARE MILES

POPULATION OF 61,860

COLUMBIA COUNTY		
TYPE OF CARE	PROGRAMS	SLOTS
DAY CARE CENTER	13	509
SCHOOL AGE CHILD CARE	9	813
FAMILY DAY CARE	12	96
GROUP FAMILY DAY CARE	13	202

GREENE COUNTY

647 SQUARE MILES

POPULATION OF 48,069

GREENE COUNTY		
TYPE OF CARE	PROGRAMS	SLOTS
DAY CARE CENTER	9	359
SCHOOL AGE CHILD CARE	9	332
FAMILY DAY CARE	13	104
GROUP FAMILY DAY CARE	6	96

ULSTER COUNTY

1,124 SQUARE MILES

POPULATION OF 179,225

ULSTER COUNTY		
TYPE OF CARE	PROGRAMS	SLOTS
DAY CARE CENTER	43	2183
SCHOOL AGE CHILD CARE	17	913
FAMILY DAY CARE	69	551
GROUP FAMILY DAY CARE	37	590

BALANCING CHILD CARE SUPPYLY & DEMAND (CONTINUED)
COLUMBIA COUNTY

COLUMBIA COUNTY (Township)	CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE (Birth-15YRS)	REGULATED CHILD CARE SLOTS
ANCRAM	228	0
AUSTERLITZ	214	0
CANAAN	269	0
CHATHAM	639	84
CLAVERACK	746	18
CLERMONT	337	16
COPAKE	473	18
GALLATIN	233	0
GERMANTOWN	278	93
GHENT	615	30
HILLSDALE	207	0
HUDSON	2860	794
KINDERHOOK	1375	339
LIVINGSTON	505	0
NEW LEBANON	3284	53
STOCKPORT	431	76
STUYVESANT	345	16
TAGHKANIC	135	0

This information was obtained from: https://factfinder.census.gov.

COLUMBIA COUNTY (Number of children in each age group)	
UNDER 5 YEAR OLD	**3,029**
UNDER 1 YEAR OLD	543
1 YEARS OLD	595
2 YEARS OLD	611
3 YEARS OLD	650
4 YEARS OLD	630
5 TO 9 YEARS OLD	**3,363**
5 YEARS OLD	642
6 YEARS OLD	684
7 YEARS OLD	635
8 YEARS OLD	683
9 YEARS OLD	719
10 TO 15 YEARS OLD	**4,547**
10 YEARS OLD	737
11 YEARS OLD	707
12 YEARS OLD	720
13 YEARS OLD	740
14 YEARS OLD	797
15 YEARS OLD	846

BALANCING CHILD CARE SUPPLY & DEMAND (CONTINUED)
GREENE COUNTY

GREENE COUNTY (Township)	CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE (Birth-15YRS)	REGULATED CHILD CARE SLOTS
ASHLAND	29	0
ATHENS	642	78
CAIRO	1028	197
CATSKILL	1944	319
COXSACKIE	1156	90
DURHAM	413	0
GREENVILLE	678	128
HALCOTT	25	0
HUNTER	395	37
JEWETT	104	0
LEXINGTON	89	0
NEW BALTIMORE	559	8
PRATTSVILLE	124	0
WINDHAM	247	0

This information was obtained from: https://factfinder.census.gov.

GREENE COUNTY (Number of children in each age group)	
UNDER 5 YEAR OLD	**2,306**
UNDER 1 YEAR OLD	471
1 YEARS OLD	438
2 YEARS OLD	436
3 YEARS OLD	493
4 YEARS OLD	468
5 TO 9 YEARS OLD	**2,403**
5 YEARS OLD	457
6 YEARS OLD	469
7 YEARS OLD	490
8 YEARS OLD	487
9 YEARS OLD	500
10 TO 15 YEARS OLD	**3,433**
10 YEARS OLD	545
11 YEARS OLD	553
12 YEARS OLD	540
13 YEARS OLD	577
14 YEARS OLD	616
15 YEARS OLD	602

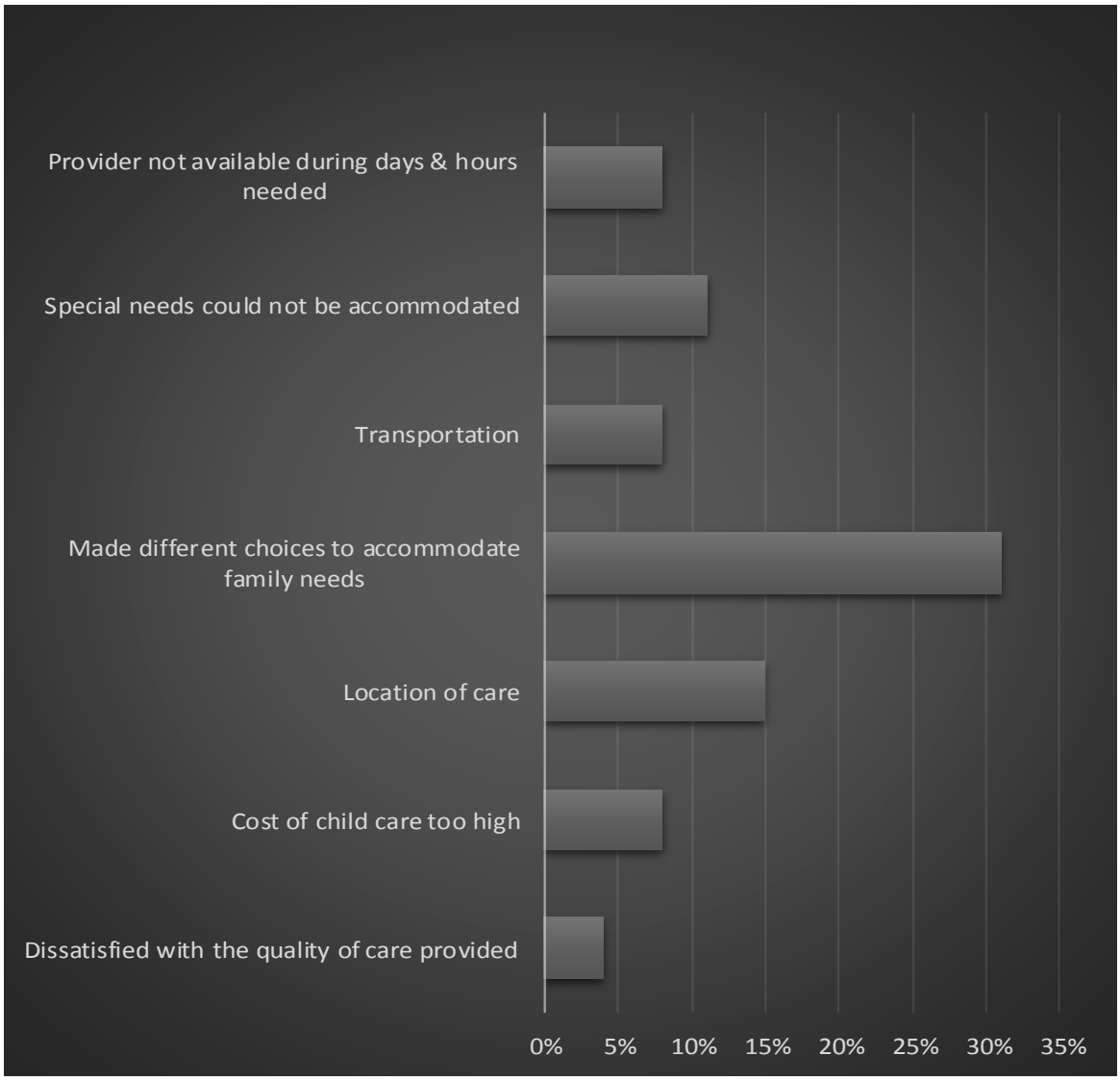
BALANCING CHILD CARE SUPPLY & DEMAND (CONTINUED)
ULSTER COUNTY

ULSTER COUNTY (Township)	CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE (Birth-15YRS)	REGULATED CHILD CARE SLOTS
DENNING	82	0
ESOPUS	1529	117
GARDINER	1019	36
HARDENBURGH	26	0
HURLEY	960	177
KINGSTON	5954	881
LLOYD	1991	472
MARBLETOWN	806	99
MARLBORO	1612	317
NEW PALTZ	1584	512
OLIVE	598	31
PLATTEKILL	2058	0
ROCHESTER	1287	64
ROSENDALE	962	0
SAUGERTIES	3258	598
SHANDAKEN	383	63
SHAWANGUNK	2135	140
ULSTER	1868	361
WAWARSING	2167	156
WOODSTOCK	675	132

This information was obtained from: https://factfinder.census.gov.

ULSTER COUNTY (Number of children in each age group)	
UNDER 5 YEAR OLD	**8,996**
UNDER 1 YEAR OLD	1,630
1 YEARS OLD	1,745
2 YEARS OLD	1,879
3 YEARS OLD	1,859
4 YEARS OLD	1,883
5 TO 9 YEARS OLD	**9,749**
5 YEARS OLD	1,872
6 YEARS OLD	1,999
7 YEARS OLD	1,915
8 YEARS OLD	1,966
9 YEARS OLD	1,997
10 TO 15 YEARS OLD	**13,064**
10 YEARS OLD	2,071
11 YEARS OLD	2,066
12 YEARS OLD	2,136
13 YEARS OLD	2,171
14 YEARS OLD	2,234
15 YEARS OLD	2,386

PROBLEMS FINDING CARE

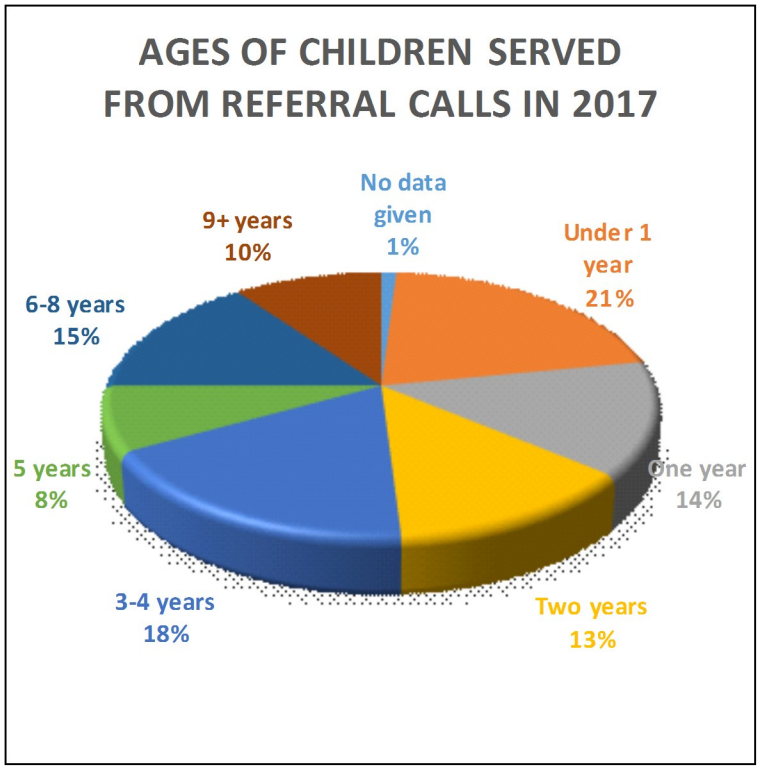


Parents are surveyed concerning their child care experiences. This chart shows the responses gathered from 2017.

REFERRALS

Parent referral and consumer education managers provided child care referrals to 497 families in 2017. Families were given referrals to legal child care providers who most closely met their needs.

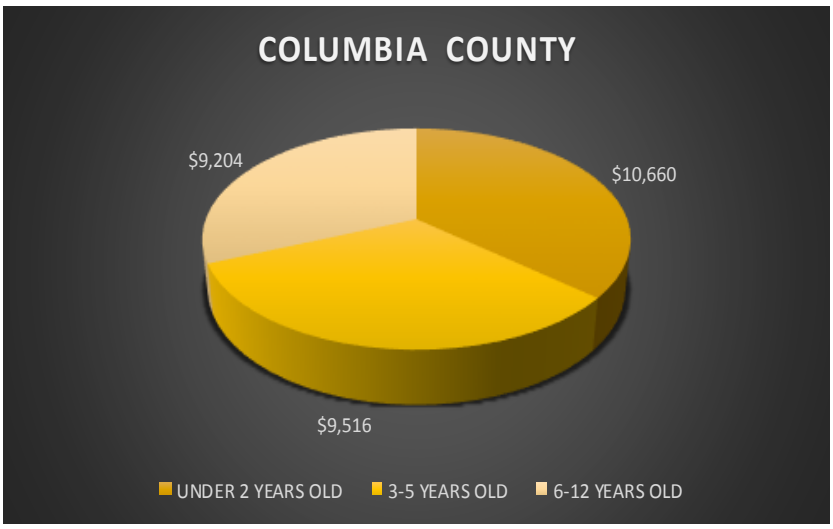
	NUMBER OF FAMILIES SERVED	NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED	NUMBER OF PROGRAM REFERRALS GIVEN	FAMILIES SERVED 200% ABOVE POVERTY RATE	FAMILIES SERVED 200 BELOW POVERTY RATE
COLUMBIA	95	129	1000	36	59
GREENE	66	95	632	24	42
USLTER	336	455	4477	143	193
TOTAL	497	679	6109	203	294

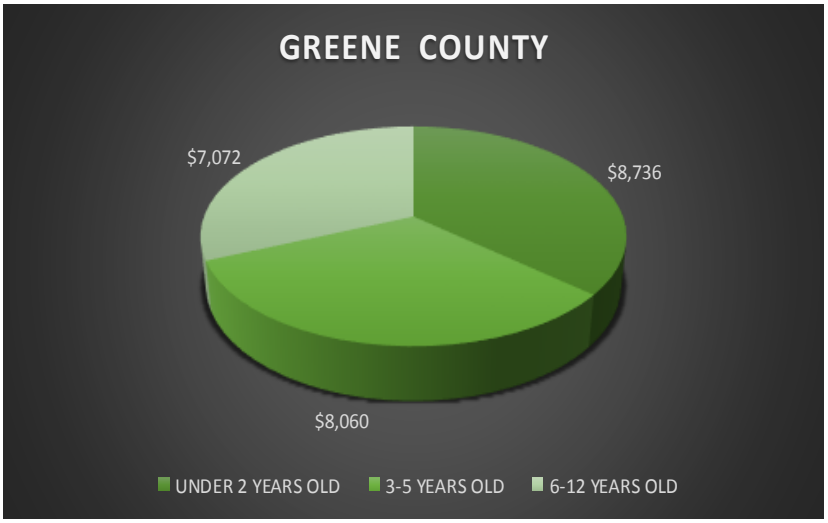


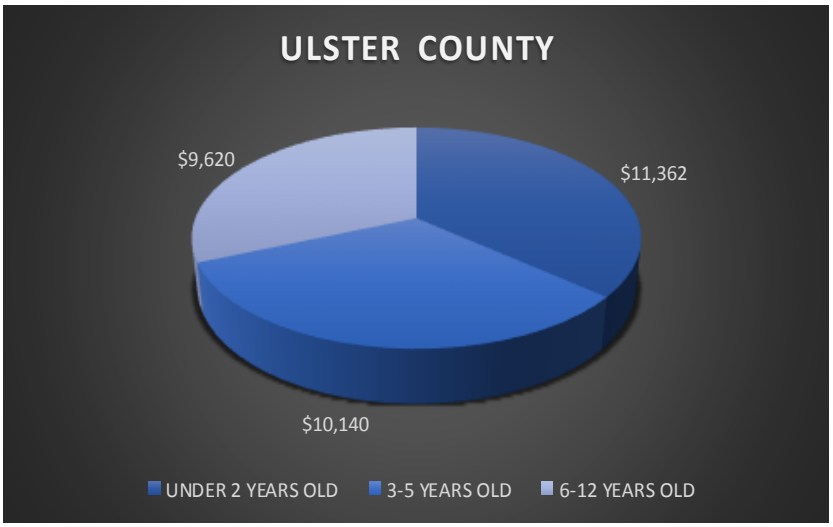
COST OF CHILD CARE

With the ongoing increase of minimum wage the availability and stability of child care programs are in jeopardy. Child care programs are required to increase wages of all employees, payroll expenses has to come from somewhere. Unfortunately, the increase of expenses will most likely be passed on to the families with an increase in the cost of care.

Child care programs can not decrease staff, as they are required by NYS OCFS to have a specific teacher/ child ratio. The programs cannot decrease the materials they offer the children, as the quality programs offer what is developmentally appropriate for children to prepare them for school and a lifetime of success. The programs cannot decrease benefits offered to staff as generally child care programs do not offer significant health insurance benefits, vacation or sick time.







According to a report released by U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, the cost of child care in New York is rising by $730 per year. County-by-county estimates show that costs are rising across age levels in every corner of the state. Now, families across New York are paying approximately $10,400 per year for an infant, $9,100 per year for a toddler and $8,300 per year for a school aged child.

Illegal child care had been declining for many years, but with the cost of care rising there is concern that families will have no choice than to place their children in illegal child care so they can work.

Children will not be prepared for school due to the lack of education, poor development & unsafe places.

COUNTY	AVERAGE INCREASE IN CHILD CARE
COLUMBIA	$963.00
GREENE	$544.67
ULSTER	$866.67

This information was obtain from: https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/ChildCare.pdf.

YEARLY COST OF LIVING

(BASED ON 2 ADULTS • 2 CHILDREN)

COLUMBIA COUNTY	
INCOME	$59,916
HOUSING	$11,400
FOOD	$10,203
MEDICAL	$6,450
CHILD CARE	$23,072
TRANSPORTATION	$9,398
UTILITIES	$6,059

LIVING WAGE • $19.29

MINIMUM WAGE • $10.40

GREENE COUNTY	
INCOME	$51,013
HOUSING	$11,172
FOOD	$10,203
MEDICAL	$6,450
CHILD CARE	$23,072
TRANSPORTATION	$9,398
UTILITIES	$6,059

LIVING WAGE • $19.23

MINIMUM WAGE • $10.40

ULSTER COUNTY	
INCOME	$60,393
HOUSING	$13,692
FOOD	$10,203
MEDICAL	$6,450
CHILD CARE	$23,072
TRANSPORTATION	$9,398
UTILITIES	$6,059

LIVING WAGE • $19.92

MINIMUM WAGE • $10.40

The living wage shown is the hourly rate that an ***individual*** *must earn to support their family. The state minimum wage is the same for all individuals, regardless of how many dependents they may have.*

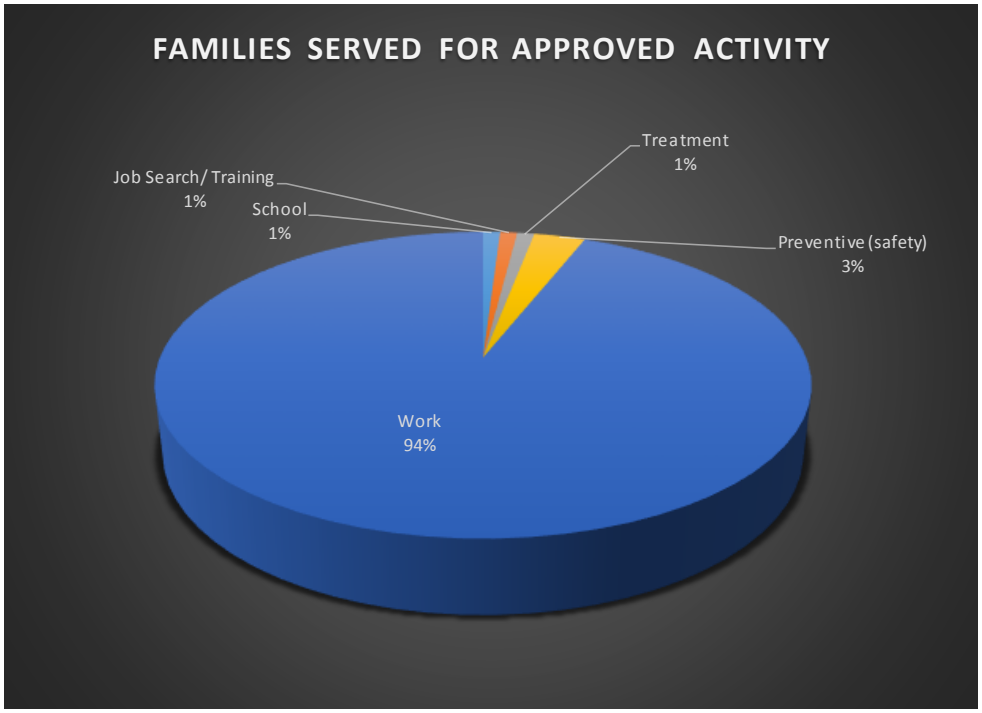
This information was obtained from: https://datausa.io.

CHILD CARE SUBSIDY

County Social Services Child Care Subsidy departments help eligible families needing financial assistance with child care fees. They must be income eligible and meet the guidelines for an approved activity (ie: work, school, certification, preventive, temporary assistance). The income guideline is up to 200% of the poverty rate.

Insufficient day care subsidies has caused providers to have open slots and in some instances, caused low income parents to turn down or leave employment.

Families in Columbia, Greene, and Ulster counties with income level under 200% of the federal poverty level may be eligible for the program.



Columbia County DSS 2017

FAMILY SIZE	200% POVERTY LEVEL
1	$24,120.00
2	$32,480.00
3	$40,840.00
4	$49,200.00
5	$57,560.00

June 1, 2017– May 31, 2018

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Child Care Connections staff have increased their **inspections** and contact with all Family Day Care and School Age Child Care programs from once annual to four times per year offering more technical assistance and support for quality programming.

Child Care **Referral** services provided child care referrals to 497 families, 336 in Ulster County, 66 in Greene County, and 95 in Columbia County. Of those 497 families 294 were below the 200% of the federal poverty guidelines. During the year 679 children, ages 0-13 years were served. Families were also given specific information and resources based on their needs.

Child Care Connections **supports** all forms of child care to improve the quality of care provided to children in all 3 counties. The program offers providers the following supports: phone and e-mail basic technical support, group training workshops, one on one consultations, on-site training, and intensive technical assistance.

	BASIC TECHNICAL SUPPORT	PROVIDERS TRAINED	DAY CARE CENTER ON-SITE TRAINING	INTENSIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	TRAINING HOURS
COLUMBIA	395	75	0	12.5	14
GREENE	331	12	0	77.5	2
ULSTER	616	180	5	144	117
TOTAL	1342	267	5	234	133

Child Care connections sponsors **CACFP** (Child & Adult Care Food Program) for Legally Exempt Family Child Care, Family Day Care and Group Family Day Care providers in Columbia, Greene and Ulster Counties. CCC distributed $352,535.28 in reimbursement to child care providers participating in the food program to keep child care costs low, while ensuring nutritious meals were served. In 2017, 167 monitoring visits took place to observe meal service, review required documentation and offer nutritional and health information.

Columbia County Day Care Subsidy provided child care subsides to an average of 139 eligible families per month, including 213 children on average. The subsidies were distributed to assist families that work, attend school, attend training, perform job searches, purse self-employment and/or attend drug treatment. There has been an increase in Spanish speaking families, now that there is a full time staff that is fluent in Spanish. When requested, staff go into the community to assist families with completing the cumbersome application. In 2017, $829,538.33 was distributed to families residing in Columbia County to make payment to their child care program.

CHILD CARE SUMMARY

The conclusion of this Needs Assessment is there is **NOT ENOUGH**: not enough child care slots; not enough quality child care; not enough child care subsidy; and not enough funding to support a declining early child care workforce. The governments are trying to rapidly fill the gaps with funding that attempts to address specific issues but does not address the real need, which is providing services for all children between birth and 5 years of age to prepare them to enter school. It should be noted that our society acknowledges its responsibility to educate all of our children once they reach the age of Kindergarten but has not fully accepted that responsibility for younger children, as conclusion which is dictated by our increasing knowledge of the importance of the early years of child development.

As a result of changing economic conditions and changes in societal norms, parents are forced to work and therefore there is no one at home to promote this critical child development education. Therefore quality child care becomes more critical. All children need to receive a strong foundation to develop social, emotional, early reading readiness, eye-hand coordination, large motor, small motor, sand self-help skills. The children who enter school strong and ready, achieve greater success.

Family of Woodstock, Inc. (Family) is a multi-program human service agency providing service throughout Ulster County. Founded in 1970, Family's principle focuses on:

CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICES.

Family runs one of the oldest continuously operating 24 hours a day emergency switch-boards in the country, which is county-wide and toll free; and walk-in center 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 the homeless families; the Washbourne House, a 17-bed domestic violence shelter for women and their children; and MidWay, two supervised transitional living residences forup to six homeless adolescents each and when necessary their children.

CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

Child Care Connections serving families, child care providers and the community in Columbia, Greene and Ulster Counties; and Child Care Subsidy Administration of the Department of Social Services of Columbia County.

CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

To such discreet population 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.

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 21 PROGRAMS, OF WHICH CHILD CARE CONNECTIONS SERVING COLUMBIA, GREENE & ULSTER COUNTIES IS JUST ONE.