



CHILD CARE SOLUTIONS

navigating the way to high quality child care

Annual Report 2019



A Message From

Our Executive Director



Fiscal year 2018–2019 was an exciting year for Child Care Solutions and the child care system in our community. Multiple national, state and local media reports brought widespread attention to the deepening decline in access to high-quality, affordable child care. **Child care is finally being recognized as vital to a community's infrastructure.**

Child Care supports early childhood development and school readiness; enables parents to participate in the workforce; and contributes to economic development as we seek to attract new industry to our community. Unfortunately, businesses are experiencing difficulty recruiting and retaining employees due to the lack of child care in our community.

As more people from various industries and organizations joined the conversation about the child care crisis, there was **real momentum toward solutions.** For example, our new partnerships with PEACE, Inc. and Partners In Learning with funding through the Alliance for Economic Inclusion provide support for opening new home-based child care businesses, and for increasing the skills and education of center-based child care providers. M&T Bank, and the Jon Ben Snow foundation both provided grants to improve the quality of care in legally exempt child care settings. In addition, the report *Transforming the Child Care and Early Education System in Onondaga County for Improved School Readiness* funded by the Health Foundation of Western and Central New York recommended strategies that can make a significant impact in the system.

This renewed attention, along with future changes to the NYS child care regulations, create optimism that **the year ahead will bring true reform** through improved policies and increased investment in the child care and early education system.

Lori A. Schakow

Lori Schakow
Executive Director, Child Care Solutions

Our Mission:

Building excellence in early care and learning systems while advancing equal access for all children in our community. We accomplish this through education, advocacy and support for families and early childhood professionals.

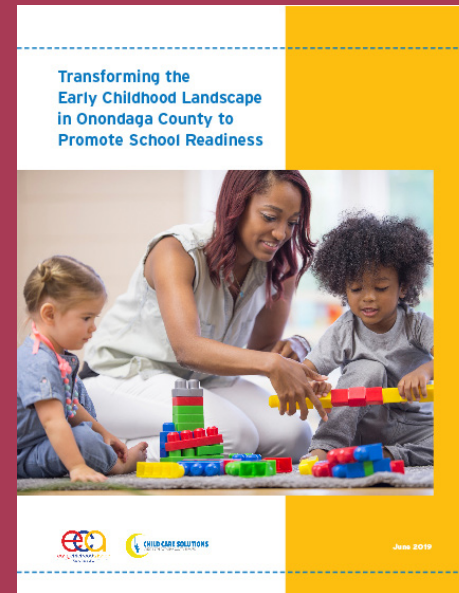
Our Vision:

Every child is cared for in a high quality, safe and nurturing environment that cultivates healthy development, early learning and joy.

Highlights

New Partnerships

In November 2018 CCS began new partnerships with PEACE, Inc. and Partners In Learning thanks to funding through the Alliance for Economic Inclusion. Our staff provided support for opening new home-based child care businesses, and for increasing the skills and education of center-based child care providers. The first ten months of the program resulted in **6 new Family Day Care programs opening**, which will give **48 children** the chance to enroll in care.



Advocating for Change

Thanks to funding from the Health Foundation of Western and Central New York, Child Care Solutions collaborated with the Early Childhood Alliance of Onondaga County to invite Grace Reef of Early Learning Policy Group, LLP, who is a national consultant on early childhood policy, to work with our community to identify policy solutions for our struggling child care infrastructure.

Her work resulted in the report, *Transforming the Early Childhood Landscape in Onondaga County to Promote School Readiness*. This report combines research on early childhood development and best practice approaches to recommend 10 strategies to transform the child care landscape for Onondaga County's youngest children to ensure that "all our children are healthy and thriving and are successful in school and life."

Parent Services

Parents need access to high-quality, affordable, safe child care in order to go to work. The experts on our Parent Services team help parents understand what high quality child care looks like, find and evaluate child care options that meet their needs, and explore financial resources.

3,907
parents

Our team helped **3,907 parents** find the care they needed by providing customized referrals and parent consultations.

Thanks to generous funding from the United Way of Central New York, **40 children** had access to high-quality care through the Community Child Care Scholarship program.

40
children

1,637
legally-exempt providers

1,637 individuals were enrolled as legally-exempt providers, who provide care for parents receiving assistance from the county through the Child Care Subsidy Program.

“I was so happy and satisfied with how helpful your services were, that I shared your [website] link with a few friends, and even shared it on social media!
Parent Services Client
December 2018
”
[CCS staff member] was great; she went above and beyond!
Parent Services Client
January 2019



Professional Development

High-quality training is essential to protecting children's health and safety as well as promoting their growth and development. Each year our Professional Development staff works with thousands of local child care providers to not only meet NYS training requirements, but to improve the quality of their programs and expand developmentally appropriate practice.

4,231

completion certificates

4,231 completion certificates were earned by providers who attended our training workshops, certification courses, and conferences.

Attendance at both our CPR/First Aid and Health & Safety courses increased compared to the previous year. 176 providers attended the CPR/First Aid course, a 16% increase, and 60 providers completed the Health & Safety course, a 36% increase.

+ 36%

increase in attendance

60

early childhood educators

60 early childhood educators took a step towards advancing their careers by enrolling in our popular Child Development Associate (CDA) course.

Our two professional development conferences, *The Path to Success in Early Childhood Education* and the *Growing Together Conference* gave the 114 providers who attended the rare opportunity to share ideas, troubleshoot issues, and connect with other providers in CNY.

114

conference attendees

In 2018 New York State tripled its investment in the **Infant Toddler Network** across the state. As a result, our IT Specialists provided **908 technical assistance sessions and 196 hours of training** to those caring for infants and toddlers, helping caregivers understand and nurture the development of children during these critical years.

908

technical assistance sessions

196

training hours



Registration

Our Registration team not only ensures child care providers are meeting health and safety standards, they work closely with providers, going above and beyond to help create the high quality programs all children deserve.

1,088

technical assistance sessions

Our staff provided 1,088 sessions of technical assistance, working one on one with providers to improve the quality of their programs.

504

inspections

90

complaints

To help ensure the health and safety of children in children care programs, our Registration Team staff conducted 504 program inspections and investigated 90 complaints.

60

new programs with space to care for

340

children

Opened 36 new programs which have space to care for 340 children, adding more options for families in Onondaga County.

Provider Services

The Provider Services team oversees the federally-funded **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)**, and enrolls, monitors and educates providers participating in CACFP. We work to empower providers with the tools and support needed to instill healthy habits in young children that serve as a foundation for healthy choices in life.

196

providers

Through CACFP, 196 providers received training on topics like record keeping, financial management, food guidelines, menu planning and more, assuring that the program is being used effectively and efficiently.

2,197

children

Because their providers participate in CACFP, each month an average of 2,197 children had access to nutritious meals and snacks meeting USDA nutritional standards.

867,486

meals & snacks

Last year providers participating in CACFP served a total of 867,486 meals and snacks, helping the children in their care establish healthy eating habits for life.








Financial Summary

Fiscal Year 2018- 2019, complete financial summary is available on our website.

Our Funding Sources

Total Revenue: \$3,563,031

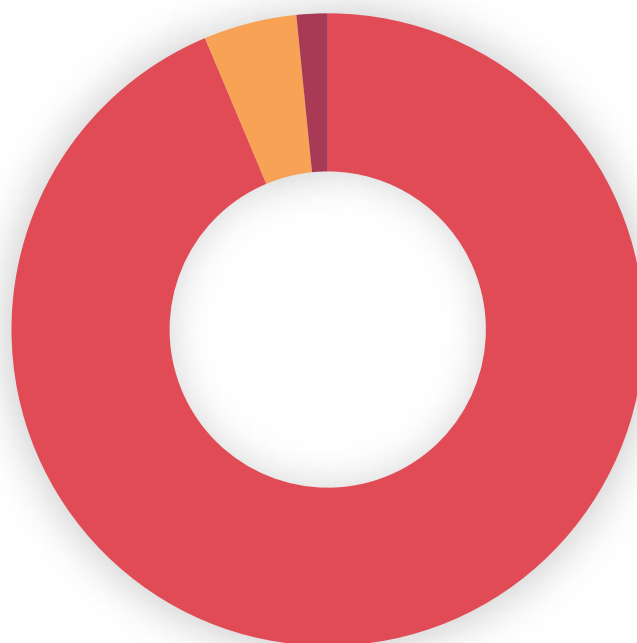
-  **Department of Health Program Grants**
\$1,400,967
-  **Office of Children & Family Services**
\$1,094,912
-  **Onondaga County Program Grants**
\$644,519
-  **United Way**
\$91,783
-  **Contributions & Discretionary Income**
\$330,850



Our Operating Expenses

Total Expenses: \$3,263,644

-  **Programming & Services**
\$3,094,061
-  **Administrative**
\$157,269
-  **Special Events**
\$12,314



Management Team

- Lori Schakow
Executive Director
- Shannon Gillen
Director of Operations
- Mike Ransom
Finance Director
- Beth Henderson
Director of Registration
- Kristi Cusa
Director of Professional Development
- Jessica Salisbury
Marketing Coordinator



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Our Donors

We sincerely thank following individuals and organizations who so generously help us achieve our mission through financial contributions. Your invaluable support provides the resources needed to carry out our work and make our vision a reality.

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Kahlil Guy Adames | Lazara Gomez | Lois Schaffer |
| Carol Breier | Rebecca Heberle | Lori Schakow |
| Loralee Buchta | John Herman Estate | Linda Russell Shepherd |
| Brittany Buffum | Gretchen & Chris Kinnell | Kerry Tarolli |
| James Burke | Peggy Liuzzi | Melek Yavuz |
| Allison Comes | Annie Napper | United Way of Gr. St. Louis |
| Odalys Diaz | Elizabeth Naughton | Rose & Dan Zeppetello |
| Charlese Davis | Network for Good | |
| Mary Earl | Patrick Clement Fund | |
| Shannon Gillen | Stella Penizotto | |

Board of Directors 2018 & 2019

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Rebecca (Becky) Heberle
<i>Co-Chair, 2018 & 2019</i> | Guy Adames, 2018 & 2019 |
| Joan Royle
<i>Co-Chair, 2018 & 2019</i> | Carol Breier, 2019 |
| Adam King
<i>Vice Chair, 2018 & 2019</i> | Mackenzie Brooks, 2018 |
| Lauren Baker
<i>Treasurer, 2018 & 2019</i> | Brittany Buffum, 2019 |
| Kerry Tarolli
<i>Secretary, 2018 & 2019</i> | Jim Burke, 2019 |
| | Mary Earl, 2018 |
| | Katherine Gavett, 2018 & 2019 |
| | Catherine Green Harris, 2018 & 2019 |
| | Sally Heater, 2019 |
| | Crystal Horne, 2018 |
| | Eric Larison, 2018 |
| | Denise Milde, 2018 |
| | Fatuma Mohamud, 2019 |
| | Anne Napper, 2018 & 2019 |
| | Elizabeth Naughton, 2018 & 2019 |
| | Daniel Zeppetello, 2018 & 2019 |



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Child Care Solutions Staff Retreat, 2019



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