

Annual Report 2020

Our Donors

We sincerely thank the 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.

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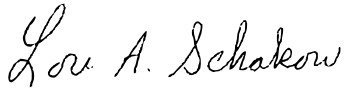


A Message From Our Executive Director

Child Care Solutions accomplished a great deal in fiscal year 2019-20. In September we publicly screened the documentary film “No Small Matter”; and released a report on “Transforming the Early Childhood Landscape in Onondaga County to Promote School Readiness” that paved the way for a Child Care Quality Improvement grant from Onondaga County to pilot bold recommendations designed to improve the quality of infant and toddler child care in 2020. A new Infant Toddler Mental Health Consultation project was also launched in 2020.

Despite the global COVID-19 pandemic, both new projects, and all other agency initiatives continued while maintaining the health and safety of our staff and the community. Our successes include providing enhanced child care information and referral services for essential workers who suddenly needed child care due to school closures. In addition, we distributed personal protective equipment and disinfecting supplies to child care programs, administered child care scholarships for essential workers, and facilitated reopening/restructuring grants for child care programs.

The pandemic highlighted the need for a strong child care system to promote economic recovery, workforce revival and children’s development. It also strengthened our commitment to strive for a high-quality child care system that is accessible and affordable for diverse children and families; and for stabilization of the child care industry through living wages for caregivers and supports to help them meet the health, safety and developmental needs of the children in their care.



Lori Schakow
Executive Director, Child Care Solutions

Notes:

- No Small Matter was funded through a “What If” grant from the Gifford Foundation in partnership with ArtRage.
- “Transforming the Early Childhood Landscape in Onondaga County to Promote School Readiness” was developed in partnership with the Early Childhood Alliance with funding from the Health Foundation of Western and Central New York.
- The Infant Toddler Mental Health Consultation project is funded by the New York State Office of Children & Family Services.

Board of Directors 2019-20

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*Term ended 12/2019

**Term started 1/2020

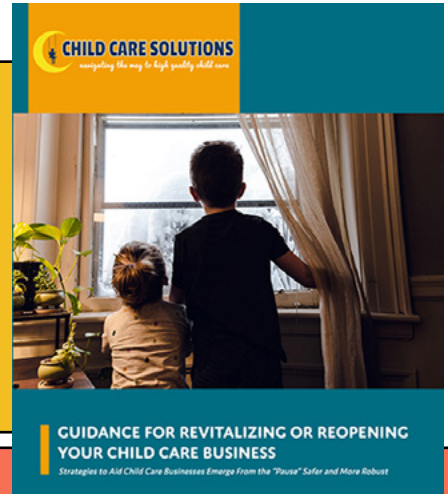
Management Team

Lori Schakow	Kristi Cusa
<i>Executive Director</i>	<i>Director of</i>
	<i>Professional Development</i>
Shannon Gillen	
<i>Director of Operations</i>	Jessica Ellis
	<i>Child Care Quality</i>
Mike Ransom	<i>Improvement Director</i>
<i>Finance Director</i>	
	Duquinah Thompson
Beth Henderson	<i>Infant Toddler Mental Health</i>
<i>Director of Registration</i>	<i>Consultation Director</i>

Highlights

Publishing

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic the staff at Child Care Solutions published a booklet titled, "Guidance for Revitalizing or Reopening Your Child Care Business." The booklet compiled guidance and recommendations from the CDC, DOH, OCFS and other reputable organizations to help child care programs adjust their businesses to keep children and caregivers healthy, and to promote confidence.



Child Care Scholarships

In addition, the agency received new funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to provide child care scholarships for **212 children** of essential workers; these scholarship payments supported **60 child care programs** through the early months of the pandemic. CARES funds and community donations were also used to purchase up to \$600 worth of personal protective equipment and disinfecting cleaning supplies for each of **372 eligible child care programs** in Cayuga and Onondaga Counties.

Press

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul joining us for a Press Conference on July 24, 2020. The press conference focused on addressing industry challenges as New York communities reopened during the COVID-19 pandemic. Both the Senator and Lt. Governor called on a need for critical support of the child care industry.



Parent Services

3,136

Our team helped 3,136 parents find the care they needed by providing customized referrals and parent consultations.

33

Thanks to generous funding from the United Way of Central New York, 33 children had access to high-quality care through the Community Child Care Scholarship program.

1,056

1,056 individuals were enrolled as legally-exempt providers, who provide care for parents receiving assistance from the county through the Child Care Subsidy Program.



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.

Registration

Our Registration team ensures child care providers not only meet the minimum health and safety standards but works closely with providers, going above and beyond to help create the high quality programs all children deserve.

2,436

Our staff provided 2,436 sessions of technical assistance: working one on one with providers to improve the quality of their programs.

504

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

New programs opened = 19 (17 Family Day Care Homes and 2 School Age Child Care programs) adding space to care for 170 more children.

170

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 OCFS training requirements, but to improve the quality of their programs and expand developmentally appropriate practice.

2,632 training **certificates** were earned by caregivers who successfully completed professional development course.

2,632

43 early childhood educators successfully completed the Child Development Associate **(CDA)** course

43

98 providers successfully earned **First Aid/CPR** certification and 67 providers successfully completed **Health & Safety Training**

**98
+
67**

146 Child Care Programs had their **health care plans** approved by our Registered Nurse

146

Child Care providers participated in 460.75 hours of Intensive Technical Assistance, working **one-on one** with our staff to improve the quality of their programs.

460.75

Provider Services

Our 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.

1066

Because their providers participate in CACFP, each day an average of 1,066 children had access to nutritious meals and snacks meeting USDA nutritional standards.

174

Through CACFP, 174 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.

684,435

Last year providers participating in CACFP served a total of 684,435 meals and snacks, helping the children in their care establish healthy eating habits for life.

New Programs

Child Care Quality Improvement

A pilot project designed to improve the quality of infant and toddler care through implementation of an evidence-based curriculum to fidelity; by reducing staff turnover through pay parity; and by increasing early literacy activities in legally-exempt child care.

39
child care staff were trained and coached in the use of Creative Curriculum to fidelity.

150
infants and toddlers were exposed to new curriculum and resources.

96
Infants & toddlers in legally-exempt child care were exposed to increased frequency of talking, reading, and singing through early literacy coaching.

92% of
legally exempt caregivers reported reading to the children in their care daily after the intervention.

Infant Toddler Mental Health Consultation

A service designed to equip caregivers with strategies and supports to strengthen children's social, emotional, and behavioral health development – early and before intervention is needed. The Infant & Toddler Mental Health Consultants partner with child care providers to problem-solve and enhance their skills to support the social, emotional, and behavioral health and development the infants and toddlers in their care. The project launched in April 2020 with recruiting, hiring, on-boarding and intensive on-the-job training for the new Consultants to begin providing services in September 2020.



Financial Summary

Fiscal Year 2019- 2020, complete financial summary is available on our website.

Our Funding Sources

Total Revenue: \$4,484,637. A 21% increase from 2018-2019

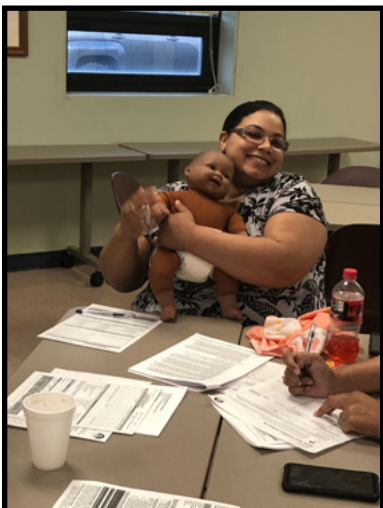


- Department of Health Program Grants
\$1,179,000
- Office of Children & Family Services
\$2,113,004
- Onondaga County Program Grants
\$919,622
- United Way
\$55,195
- Contributions & Discretionary Income
\$217,816

Our Operating Expenses

Total Expenses: \$3,948,567

- Programming & Services
\$3,725,289
- Administrative
\$202,312
- Special Events
\$20,966





CHILD CARE SOLUTIONS

navigating the way to high quality child care

Our Mission:

Building **excellence** in the early care and learning system 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 Values:

Child Care Solutions' values guide the way in which we carry out our mission.

- We are committed to racially equitable, high quality services that respond directly to community needs including equity in access to child care, equity in quality and affordability of child care, and equity in compensation for child care providers.
- We are committed to providing services that are accessible, and linguistically and culturally appropriate to the communities we serve.
 - We are committed to activities, positions and goals that positively impact children's lives.
- We are responsive, professional and caring in our interactions with parents, providers and each other.
- We appreciate the diversity of our community's families and providers and respect their knowledge, experiences and choices.
- We are innovative, resourceful, and willing to tackle difficult issues.

Our Vision:

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



6724 Thompson Road, Syracuse
63 Genesee Street, Auburn
(315) 446-1220

www.childcaresolutionscny.org

