



CHILD CARE SOLUTIONS

navigating the way to high quality child care

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2020-2021



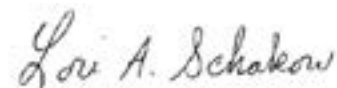
A Message From

Our Executive Director

During fiscal year 2020-2021 the COVID-19 pandemic underscored the urgent and critical need for high quality, affordable and accessible child care to bolster our community's economic recovery, workforce resurgence and children's development. It gives me great pleasure to report that Child Care Solutions and the child care providers that we support in this community remained strong despite the pandemic. We continued working diligently to promptly and efficiently provide the services that enabled parents of young children to continue working. Our service delivery methods changed to protect the health and safety of employees and the public, but we didn't pause any of our services or lay-off any employees. All of this was possible due to the dedication of our employees and Board of Directors, and the generous support of our donors!

New Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funding from the Office of Children and Family Services enabled us to administer child care scholarships for essential workers so they could remain on the job and keep our community running smoothly. The funding also enabled us to administer reopening, restructuring grants to strengthen and support our essential local child care businesses. In addition, we received funding to provide technical assistance and training to assist providers in meeting the Child Care Stabilization Grant requirements that reinforced the child care infrastructure.

The unprecedented attention that was focused on the child care system this year illustrated not only the seriousness of the child care crisis, but also how significant investment can boost the strength and resiliency of the child care system. As we prevail through yet another phase of the global pandemic, the time and circumstances are right for extraordinary federal, state, and local investments in our child care system. I look forward to significant advancement of our vision that "Every child is cared for in a high-quality, safe and nurturing environment that cultivates healthy development, early learning and joy."



Lori Schakow
Executive Director, Child Care Solutions

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 Vision:

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

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.

Kahlil Guy Adames	Onyx Knight	Health Foundation for Western & Central New York
Vicki Aldrich	Eric Larison	Shining Stars - Liverpool
Carol Ann Breier	Peggy Liuzzi	Sean O'Dell - Wegmans
Brittany Buffum	David Michel	Mr. John Carni - Syracuse Hancock International Airport
Patrick Clement	Eddie Mitchel, Jr.	Karie Ballway - Cooley Group, Inc.
Shannon Crylser	Anne Napper	Bishop Dr. H. Bernard Alex
Odalys Diaz	Joan Royle	Mr. Jeff Eysaman - Syracuse Boys and Girls Club
Mary Earl	Clifford Ryan	Mr. John Vigliotti - Peppino's Restaurant
Nancy Gabriel	Lori Schakow	
J. Christopher Hamilton	Diane Thomas	
Sarah Heater	Dr. David Thurber	
Gretchen Kinnell	Jiliat Williams	
	Daniel Zeppetello	

Board of Directors 2020-21

Joan Royle
Chair

Adam King
Vice Chair

Lauren Baker
Treasurer

Brittany Buffam
Secretary

Guy Adames
Carol Breier
Jim Burke
Mary Earl

Sahleem Forest
Nancy Gabriel
Katherine Gavett

Sally Heater
Eric Larison

Ayan Mohamed
Anne Napper
Bikash Regmi

Shannon Ryan Crysler
Chandra Smith
Brian Tomasso

Daniel Zeppetello

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
Duquinha Thompson
Director of Infant Toddler Mental Health
Jessica Ellis
Director of Child Care Quality Improvement

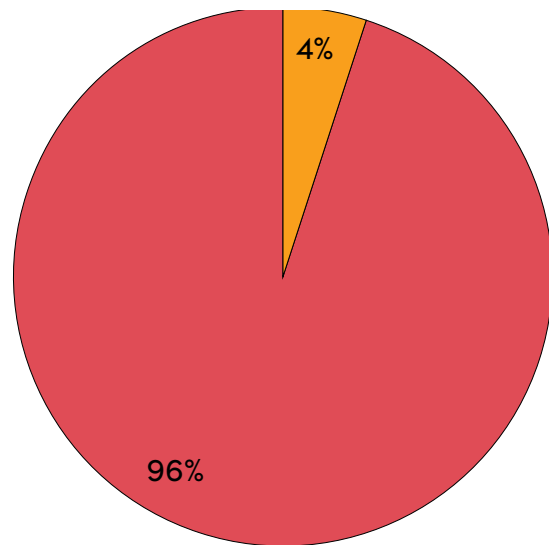
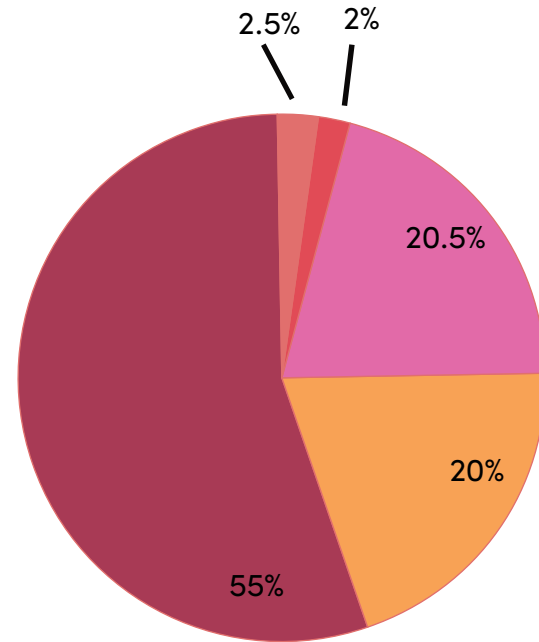
Financial Summary

Fiscal Year 2020- 2021, complete financial summary is available on our website.

Our Funding Sources

Total Revenue: \$5,816,215

- Department of Health Program Grants**
\$1,214,161
- Office of Children & Family Services**
\$3,194,863
- Onondaga County Program Grants**
\$1,185,730
- United Way**
\$81,097
- Contributions & Discretionary Income**
\$140,634



Our Operating Expenses

Total Expenses: \$5,171,788

- Programming & Services**
\$4,970,153
- Administrative**
\$201,635

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.

2,042

Our team helped **2,042 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**, **31 children** had access to high-quality care through the Community Child Care Scholarship program.

31

743

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

173 children from 119 families received 3,648 scholarship payments **totaling \$545,688**. These scholarships enabled the parents to maintain employment and helped sustain **57 child care providers** through the pandemic.

173



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 meet NYS training requirements and to improve the quality of their developmentally appropriate practices.

2,271 providers successfully completed trainings to increase skills and improve the quality of their programs.

2,271

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

26

129 providers completed the CPR/First Aid course, a **34% increase** from the previous year.

+34%

Our Professional Development team provided **228 workshops, certification courses, and conferences.**

228

123 providers completed the MAT workshop.

123

In August 2021, **28 providers** were awarded \$1,240,800 in stabilization grants. Note: applications for these grants continued until 11/31/2021.

28

69 child care providers received financial aid with payments totaling **\$605,602** in CARES Reopening/Restructuring grants to assist them through the COVID-19.

69

New York State tripled its investment in the Infant Toddler Network across the state. As a result, our IT Specialists provided **1459 technical assistance sessions and 345 hours of training** to those caring for infants and toddlers, helping caregivers understand and nurture the development of children during these critical years. They worked one on one with providers to improve the quality of their programs.

Child Care Quality Improvement

In 2021, the Child Care Quality Improvement (CCQI) Pilot Project continued to focus on stabilizing and improving infant and toddler care in 10 childcare programs throughout Onondaga County. Providers were supported with in-person coaching to implement the provided evidence-based curriculum, while navigating numerous challenges throughout the pandemic.

32

32 child care providers completed training in the Creative Curriculum suite of materials and received ongoing, in-person coaching and technical assistance.

83

83 infants and toddlers benefitted from consistent curriculum and resource implementation in their programs.

59

59 infants and toddlers in legally-exempt child care programs were exposed to increased early literacy activities through the use of Talk, Read, Sing bags and materials.

Infant and Toddler Mental Health

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 of the infants and toddlers in their care.

100

100 child care providers received up to 6 months of ITMH Consultation to equip them with strategies and support to strengthen children's social, emotional, and behavioral health development - early and before intervention as needed.

Registration

Our Registration team ensures child care programs meet the minimum health and safety standards and works closely with providers to help create the high-quality programs all children deserve.



The team registered **47 new programs** which have space to care for **263 children**, adding more options for families in Onondaga County.



Registrars conducted **246 program inspections** and investigated **43 complaints** to help ensure the health and safety of children in day care programs.

Provider Services

Our Provider Services team sponsors the federally-funded **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)**, and enrolls, monitors and educates providers participating in CACFP. We offer providers the tools and support needed to instill healthy habits in young children; serving as a foundation for healthy choices in life.



Each month **2,339 children** had access to nutritious meals and snacks meeting USDA nutritional standards due to CACFP participation.



22 new providers participated in CACFP providing **123 additional children** with quality food and nutritious meals and snacks.



Providers participating in CACFP served a total of **923,554 meals and snacks**, helping the children in their care establish healthy eating habits for life.



41 EWPH workshops (Eat Well Play Hard) were offered that helped **139 participants** understand and improve the nutrition and physical activity behaviors for their children.