

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**Child Care Partnership works with parents, providers, and communities to develop highly competent children through quality early childhood programming.**

**Our goal is to increase access to consistent, affordable, and quality child care services.**



# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings,

The year 2023 was a monumental one in our organizational development. We were able to launch new family resource programming in Buffalo and Pepin Counties and collaborated with school districts in those counties to provide homeless navigation services. We are excited to offer parent education seminars and events to build relationships with families and caregivers in these communities.

Although childcare continues to be challenging to find in Western Wisconsin, our dedicated staff worked diligently to offer Resource & Referral services to parents helping them find and evaluate childcare options for their families. Over this year, creative solutions were needed to meet the needs of rural families and family, friend, and neighbor care became key to lessening this barrier. We were able to refer them to our start-up services for support. Our desire for children to have experiences that help them to grow and develop strengthens our commitment to support early learning professionals with quality training and consulting on best practices. Building childcare capacity in rural communities has been the focus of our work this year offering recruitment sessions, entry-level training, and pre-licensing services to start new childcare businesses.

One of the highlights of the year was working with various communities on Dream Up Taskforce goals to assist communities in coming together to plan for supporting existing and recruiting new childcare programs to build capacity. Staff had many opportunities to educate community members and local legislators about how affordable, accessible childcare provides vital support for working families, employers, and our state economy. Local communities found our staff's ability to start mentorship programs, support local networks, offer start-up sessions, entry-level training, and pre-licensing services to start new businesses to be invaluable.

It was exciting to see our Business Child Care Advocate educate businesses and community members on family-friendly policies and facilitate participation in the Partner Up program connecting businesses with childcare programs for employees. A new awareness was built around the importance of accessible affordable childcare and attracting and retaining quality, reliable employees.

Data is a big part of our work as a Resource & Referral agency and this year CCP (Child Care Partnership) staff was integral in disseminating a statewide capacity survey, compiling, and reporting results to the Department of Children and Families and local legislators. Advocacy on the teacher shortage, closed classrooms, and other childcare desert issues continue to be forefront of our work to be sure that parents can go to work without worry knowing that their children have safe, healthy quality environments to learn, play, and thrive.

As CCP moves forward, we continue to keep the needs of young children and their families the focus of our work.

Warmest regards,



**Renee Ernsting, Director**

## Board of Directors

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# Child Care Program Snapshot

## Current Regulation Numbers by County

Total number of programs in each county & regulation type

	Child Care Center	Family Child Care	Preschool Program	School Age Program	Total
Buffalo	3	10	0	0	13
Chippewa	19	21	5	3	48
Dunn	9	11	1	0	21
Eau Claire	37	28	7	14	86
Jackson	4	12	3	0	19
Pepin	2	5	0	0	7
Pierce	7	25	2	3	37
Polk	3	15	1	9	28
St. Croix	27	22	4	4	57
Trempealeau	5	9	2	1	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>333</b>

**13 New Programs**  
**144 Slots Gained**

**15 Programs Closed**  
**331 Slots Lost**

## Child Care Rates - Weekly, Full Time Rates

All regulated child care programs by age

	0-11 months	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	6+ years
Average Rate	\$205.23	\$203.52	\$191.66	\$186.21	\$182.82	\$178.97	\$171.58
Maximum Rate	\$365.00	\$365.00	\$355.00	\$340.00	\$340.00	\$300.00	\$275.00
Minimum Rate	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$100.00	\$100.00

Group Child Care Centers by age

	0-11 months	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	6+ years
Average Rate	\$250.10	\$249.58	\$233.42	\$223.21	\$216.25	\$209.85	\$195.66
Maximum Rate	\$365.00	\$365.00	\$355.00	\$340.00	\$340.00	\$300.00	\$275.00
Minimum Rate	\$155.00	\$155.00	\$145.00	\$140.00	\$135.00	\$135.00	\$120.00

Home Based Family Child Care programs by age

	0-11 months	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	6+ years
Average Rate	\$177.84	\$175.49	\$166.27	\$163.80	\$162.53	\$160.12	\$157.05
Maximum Rate	\$300.00	\$275.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Minimum Rate	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$100.00	\$100.00

# CCR&R

Child Care Resource & Referral staff provides referrals to child care programs for families seeking child care, provides technical assistance to families, provides training & technical assistance to child care programs, and works throughout our service delivery area in the communities we serve attending meetings, work groups & advocating for early childhood professionals.

## Families & Children Served

**459 referrals to child care programs were conducted for 559 children by CCR&R**

**11,814 children served by CACFP**

**9 families supported through Behavior Help WI**



## Child Care Financial Assistance

The Child Care BRIDGE fund assists low-income families with past-due child care balances to assist with the financial stability of the family while also helping stabilize the revenue of child care programs.

**20 families applied**

**14 families received assistance**

**\$12,484.48 in financial support was awarded**



# PreLicensing

PreLicensing services are for potential family child care and group child care providers who are working towards becoming licensed facilities. Staff also regularly holds outreach sessions to share information to individuals interested in entering the child care workforce.

**50 potential providers received support**

**39 family child care      11 group child care centers**

**238 hours of onsite or virtual consultation**

**11 programs became regulated**

**4 programs supported to retain 272 slots**

# Pepin County Certification

CCP providers certification services for individuals who are interested in providing care for children in their own home in Pepin County. Certified providers can care for up to 3 children under the age of 7 who are not related (to the provider) with a maximum group size of 6.

**12 monthly, virtual info sessions**

**1 in-person Brunch n' Learn**

**Supported 4 individuals in exploring opening a family child care program**



# DWD Quest - 1:1 Consulting

In collaboration with the Western Dairyland Women's Business Center, CCP staff received funding through the State of Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development and the Wisconsin Community Action Program Association, Inc (WISCAP) to provide one-on-one customized, business technical assistance with childcare entrepreneurs to start or expand their child care business.

**13 individuals received 18+ hours of support**

**18 new slots were created for children in childcare**

# Technical Assistance

Additional training, consultation & work is provided based on funding available and through one-on-one support we were able to assist:

**257 Families**

**170 Potential Child Care Programs**

**798 Child care professionals**

**282 community members**



## Directors Cohort

**13 directors & administrators  
continue to meet monthly to learn and  
network**

## 4k Environment Ratings

Staff completed Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS) observations, scoring, and reviews for 4K classrooms in the School District of the Menomonie Area.

**5 classrooms**

**46 hours of coaching & consultation**

# Behavior Help Wisconsin

Behavior Help Wisconsin provides consultation to child care programs & works with the family to prevent expulsion by reducing challenging behaviors in Chippewa, Dunn & St. Croix County.



**9 children supported**

**4 child care teachers**

**115+ hours of coaching & consultation**

# United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley



United Way of the  
Greater Chippewa Valley  
Community Partner

Funding from the United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley provides support to families and child care to reduce or prevent child expulsion and provide much-needed resources to improve the social and emotional health of children to ensure school readiness.

**10 children were supported at 6 child care programs who received 132 hours of onsite consultation**

**\$6,512 in financial support to ensure families were not expelled due to a past-due balance**

**121 families received monthly food boxes & resources to support food security & ensure children are ready to learn**

## Training & Professional Development

Training is offered annually to all child care programs and staff with topics including Abusive Head Trauma Prevention, Safe Sleep, Pyramid Model (social-emotional development), Child Nutrition, Gardening & Farm to ECE, Infant Feeding, Mind in the Making, Strengthening Families and Mandated Reporter.

**16 training events**

**118 hours**

**336 participants**

To ensure staff stay current on industry trends to best support children, families and child care programs, CCP staff attended a variety of professional development opportunities in 2023 including:

**NAEYC Professional Learning Institute**

**Child Care Aware of America Symposium**

**National Child Nutrition Conference**



# Child & Adult Care Food Program

The CACFP is a federally funded program sponsored by the USDA. Licensed or certified family child care providers who participate are eligible to receive financial reimbursement for serving nutritious snacks & meals to enrolled children.

**140 family child care programs**

**11,814 children**

**438,212 meals & snacks reimbursed**



**406**

**Home Visits  
Onsite or Virtual**

**272+**

**Hours of  
Consulting**

**\$809,648.69**

**Reimbursed to  
Programs**

## Family Resource Center (FRC)

In 2023, Child Care Partnership launched family support services for Buffalo and Pepin County.

### Family Resource Center Infrastructure Grant

CCP received a grant from the WI Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Board to create a uniform structure and standards that support the provision of effective, quality primary prevention services to families and children (birth to five years) and promote the well-being of children and families while reducing child abuse and neglect.

Staff has received over 100 hours of professional development to offer parent education courses - such as Triple P (Positive Parenting Program)!

Play groups in Buffalo & Pepin Counties will start in spring 2024!

### FRC Resource Navigator Homelessness Grant

CCP's Family Resource Navigator worked with the school districts in Mondovi, Durand, and Cochrane-Fountain City to support children and their families that are experiencing homelessness and connect them to community resources and support. Additionally, families have been provided concrete supports - such as clothing, food and household items.



# Partner Up!



Partner Up's Cohort 3 kicked off in spring 2023, accepting applications from new businesses wanting to participate, as well as currently awarded businesses looking to renew.

**13 business awarded and renewed**

**9 new businesses awarded**

**99 child care slots supported**

**43 of child care businesses receiving True Cost of Care**

# Dream Up!

Dream-Up Grants were awarded to 4 different communities in the Western Region. Staff at CCP worked closely with each team to provide information on current child care trends, strategies to disperse funds, and ways in which to involve other community programs. Two of the core groups have created Child Care Task Forces and are continuously working on strategies to strengthen the child care workforce in the Western Region. **\$21,750.00** was given directly to child care programs in the Chippewa Valley that could be used for employee wages, bonuses, or improvements to the center.

## **St. Croix Valley:**

CCP supported 4 mentors who worked with 8 potential home based family child care providers guiding them through the process of opening their program and navigating the childcare system. This work was vital in supporting the creation of 16 slots!

## **Chippewa Valley:**

CCP spoke at 4 community events, supported a local networking group and collaborated on providing existing programs with retention stipends and social-emotional kits. CCP actively participates in meetings with the task force providing information and insight on child care.

## **Jackson County:**

CCP actively participates in meetings with the Jackson County Child Care Network and provides information and insight on child care in the County. CCP promoted their Art Gala which was a fundraising event to build financial support for child care programs & teachers in Jackson County.

## **Osseo-Fairchild:**

CCP staff supported the lead in recruiting members for the cohort & gaining community attention. Staff assisted in the search for a fiscal agency and the Cohort was able to utilize funds to improve their programs, provide staff bonuses and pay increases, and assist with the start-up of a family child care program, which added 8 child care slots to the area.

# Advocacy Efforts

This year was full of opportunities to advocate for the early childhood field and for children and families in Wisconsin.

Events & opportunities included:

- Governors & Joint Finance Listening Sessions
- Advocacy Day in Madison at the Capitol
- Listening Sessions with local Legislators
- Advocacy Day in Washington, DC
- Community Conversations throughout the Chippewa Valley

CCP is a strong voice on child care issues in western Wisconsin. All families should have access to high-quality and affordable child care. With that in mind, CCP staff work to strengthen local task forces, elevate the voices of families, and build information-sharing relationships with key state leaders. In 2023, we worked to develop policy recommendations around new draft bills affecting the child care workforce. These bills work to increase the supply of child care, improve the quality of child care service delivery, and strengthen the early childhood education workforce. We value the relationships CCP staff have built with state leaders!

Data plays a vital role when advocating. Combining numbers and child care stories can lead to positive outcomes. In the fall of 2023, CCP staff initiated a statewide capacity survey. The goal was to better understand Wisconsin's child care climate from a statewide perspective. The data was collected from regulated group centers in Wisconsin. The results from the survey were compiled to create an infographic that was shared widely. **Survey results from the statewide survey and our local report are included at the end of this report.**

Impacts of this advocacy included:

- Expanded funding for Child Care Resource & Referral agencies to continue to provide local support to families, child care programs and communities
- Expansion of funding for Family Resource Centers across Wisconsin as well as funding for Triple P training across the State



# Child Care Partnership Staff Directory



## Renee Ernsting

Director

renee.ernsting@wdeoc.org  
715-836-7511 ext 1180  
Cell 715-492-7433



## Becca Elbert

Assistant Director

becca.elbert@wdeoc.org  
715-836-7511 ext. 1188



## Laura Lash

Program Coordinator

laura.lash@wdeoc.org  
Cell 715-495-5030



## Sara Thurston

Manager & Nutrition Specialist

sara.thurston@wdeoc.org  
Cell 715-450-0826



## Jill Johnson

Nutrition Specialist

jill.johnson@wdeoc.org  
Cell 715-450-0872



## Amelia Wenzel

Early Childhood Specialist

amelia.wenzel@wdeoc.org  
Cell 715-492-7967



## Tracy Fleck

Program Specialist

tracy.fleck@wdeoc.org  
Cell 715-492-7170



## Seth Abrahamson

Business Child Care Advocate

seth.abrahamson@wdeoc.org  
Cell 715-492-7967



## Mandy Claveau

Family Resource Navigator

miranda.claveau@wdeoc.org  
Cell 715-492-6655



## Laura Stelzner

Early Childhood Specialist

laura.stelzner@wdeoc.org



## Alaleh Wilhelm

Program Coordinator/  
ECERS Observer

alaleh.wilhelm@wdeoc.org



Child Care Partnership is a program of the Western Dairyland Community Action Agency and is funded by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families through the Supporting Families Together Association (SFTA), USDA and the WI Dept of Public Instruction, and other local, state & federal funding sources. CCP services are available to the entire community; there are no income guidelines.

Serving Buffalo, Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, St. Croix and Trempealeau Counties and the Ho-Chunk Nation. Our Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) additionally serves Barron, Burnett, Clark, La Crosse, Monroe, Rusk, Sawyer, Washburn and Vernon Counties and the Ho-Chunk Nation.