

Minnesota Child Care Resource
& Referral Network
2009-2010 Annual Report

Child Care (Re)Builds Minnesota



TODAY...

An estimated 76 percent of our state's families will use child care while they work.

Over 13,700 child care businesses will welcome Minnesota's kids.



WE ALL DECIDE

if there is enough high-quality child care to allow our state's families to get to work.



WE ALL DECIDE

if our child care professionals are supported and highly trained in their efforts to prepare the next generation of Minnesota's teachers, farmers, thinkers and leaders.



Child care has long kept Minnesota’s economy moving and must now provide the foundation for our state’s economic recovery. Working parents and those hoping to return to work and school depend on child care each day. Moreover, children who attend high-quality child care programs are more likely to do well in school and finish high school. This is because early interactions with loving, responsive caregivers shape how the brain is built.

In 2010:

- Child care problems prevented 12 percent of parents from taking or keeping a job.
- Families earning low incomes devoted 29 percent of their income to child care costs.
- Nearly a third (29 percent) of families reported using “whatever child care arrangement they could get” in order to work. This is up from 21 percent in 1999. Families earning low incomes are more likely to describe their child care arrangement this way (35 percent).

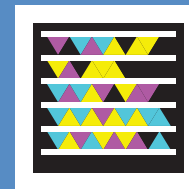
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Strong child care is vital to our state’s economic health.
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For a complete list of data sources, see page 8.

“Child care is really about trust.
Trust that my child will be well cared for and that
I’ll be free to work and do my part to
keep my family’s books
in order. This is true of all parents I know
and, when you look at it that way,
**this is not just the story of my family
weathering tough times, it’s about Minnesota
weathering tough times.”**

– Emily Cooper, attorney and mother of Erik, 18 months.

To see an interview with Emily and footage of Erik’s child care experiences, please visit www.mnchildcare.org or flash your internet-ready phone here. Get the free mobile app at <http://gettag.mobi>.



Supporting Strong Child Care, Supporting Minnesota

Minnesota families invest in child care. Child care is the one area of the educational system in which we expect parents to foot the whole bill. Despite the low wages child care professionals typically earn, child care bills add up to more than many parents can pay. This is because young children need one-on-one attention from caregivers to have safe and productive days.

2010 Yearly Costs of Child Care

	Urban	Greater Minnesota	Statewide Average
Infant, child care center	\$14,463	\$9,325	\$12,892
4-year-old, child care center	\$10,810	\$7,696	\$9,884
Infant, family child care program	\$8,292	\$6,415	\$7,364
4-year-old, family child care program	\$7,331	\$5,884	\$6,616

Child care professionals are feeling the effects of the down economy. Minnesota has seen a net loss of 317 child care programs across the state this year. Each closure represents the loss of a job, an experienced educator and the stability of close relationships that help children learn.

In Minnesota, 76 percent of families use child care. When families cannot find or afford dependable child care their bottom line suffers as does the productivity of the state. In 2010, 29 percent of families surveyed were not able to find child care in their preferred area; 13 percent were not able to find quality child care; and 25 percent encountered problems paying for child care.

Research has shown that children’s brains develop fastest during the early years and that interplay with consistent, loving caregivers is needed to ensure this growth takes place. In our state, over 350,000 children under age 6 need child care while their parents work. If we are to improve our children’s readiness for school and life, we must address the availability, affordability and quality of child care.

Minnesota’s K-12 school system spends an estimated \$113 million annually on children who enter kindergarten unprepared.

"I never expected child care to be the biggest issue our family would face. I need child care to work but have not been able to find a good place for my son in our price range. Honestly, I am distracted at work and often miss work because I am worried about my son."

— Jon Patterson, retail worker and father of José, age 4

CCR&R helps families identify quality child care and make informed choices

In 2010 Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R):

- Helped 26,937 parents seeking child care referrals and information on quality care.
- Served 722 parents searching for child care information in Hmong, Spanish or Somali.
- Counseled 3,561 parents facing layoffs or financial hardships and looking for child care referrals and information on quality care.
- Supported 754 Army National Guard and Army Reserve children through free and reduced cost child care.

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Of parents who have used CCR&R services, 89 percent report that they have gained important information on the value of quality child care.

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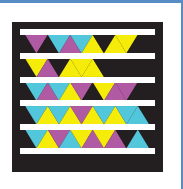
Ideas to change Minnesota

This year CCR&R launched a new Quality Child Care Checklist. These six simple ideas can change our state by empowering parents' decision-making and informing our community-wide discussion on child care.

QUALITY CHILD CARE LOOKS LIKE...

- 1) Providers talk with children often and at their own level.
- 2) Parents and child care providers communicate daily about the children's well-being.
- 3) Child care providers are knowledgeable and have been trained to care for children.
- 4) Children are cared for in small groups and receive the attention they need from adults.
- 5) The child care space is clean and the care provider has a plan in place to keep children safe and healthy.
- 6) A variety of activities are planned throughout the day that are interesting and involve each child.

To watch a video showing three Minnesota families who put our Quality Checklist to the test please visit, www.mnchildcare.org or flash your internet-ready phone here. Get the free mobile app at <http://gettag.mobi>.



"You want to be sure that the people caring for your children love children and have lots of training in the field."

– Anna Williamson, *Shining Stars Home Learning Center*

Supporting Child Care Professionals, Supporting Minnesota

CCR&R is an important partner in building child care quality.

In 2010:

- CCR&R sponsored or cosponsored 2,237 classes and conferences for 35,480 child care professionals.
- CCR&R grants totaling \$1.4 million helped 2,200 child care providers improve their programs and keep their businesses viable.
- CCR&R delivered:
 - 65 new T.E.A.C.H. scholarships to child care providers pursuing an advanced degree or credential in the field
 - 86 R.E.E.T.A.I.N. bonuses to well-educated child care providers committed to staying in the field
 - 129 online training classes through Eager-to-Learn
 - 72 grants and/or coaching sessions for child care professionals pursuing their Child Development Associate Credential
 - 94 Parent Aware ratings.



"My families depend on me to care for and nurture their children. In my mind, there's no more important work I could be doing. It can be difficult and isolating work and that's why I am thankful for the CCR&R.

I received a scholarship to go back to school; a grant to purchase new, safer play equipment; and the education to understand what infants need, what preschoolers need and what the school agers in my care need."

–Theresa Jackson, *child care provider*

Parent Aware is a rating tool for selecting quality child care and early education.

Over the last three years, CCR&R has led the way in introducing **Parent Aware** in several Minnesota communities. To date, 422 child care programs have volunteered to be rated. Over 30,000 visitors have accessed star ratings and quality information online and 11,000 parents have searched for star-rated child care programs.

Children attending highly-rated Parent Aware programs are ready for school. Children in Parent Aware-rated programs made significant gains in literacy and social skills.

Parents support a quality rating and improvement system like Parent Aware. As many as 88 percent of parents say they would find it helpful if their community had a child care quality rating system that would give them information they could use for selecting the highest quality care.

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CCR&R is an important partner in building child care quality.
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“Professionals never stop learning, and we are some of the most valuable professionals in the community. After all, what’s more important than our children?”

– *Phyllis Porter, child care center director*

To watch the stories of two Parent Aware-rated child care providers, visit www.mnchildcare.org and click on Parent Aware video.

Building Quality: Making Good Things Better

In 2010, CCR&R launched Building Quality: Making Good Things Better to give child care providers the latest education and tools needed to offer the best possible care. Last year, 200 child care providers received in-depth coaching, training and grant dollars. Many more child care providers across the state used the Building Quality checklist to compare their own practices to current best practices and create a plan for improvement.

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To add your story to our Child Care Builds Minnesota conversation, please visit us on Face Book.
<http://www.facebook.com/mnchildcare/>
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Statement of Financial Position

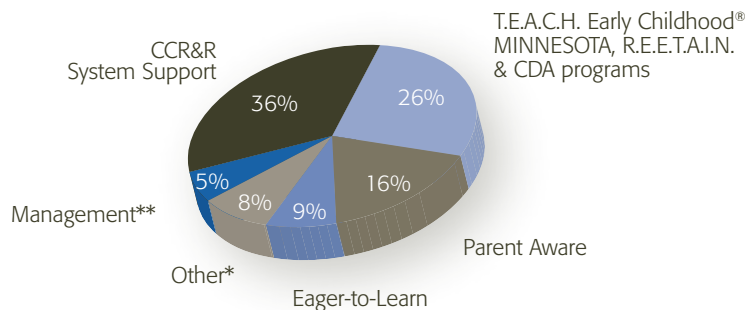
September 30, 2010 (With Comparative Totals for 2009)

	2010	2009
ASSETS		
Cash	\$1,582,042	\$1,203,571
Certificates of deposit	-	310,317
Grants receivable	592,558	697,263
Contributions receivable	7,500	7,500
Prepaid expenses	15,964	16,775
Total current assets	<u>2,198,064</u>	<u>2,235,426</u>
Equipment	55,275	67,548
Less accumulated depreciation	(44,812)	(50,686)
Net equipment	<u>10,463</u>	<u>16,862</u>
Total assets	<u>\$2,208,527</u>	<u>\$2,252,288</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Accounts payable	\$ 47,213	\$ 28,821
R.E.E.T.A.I.N. scholarships payable	169,627	195,500
Accrued expenses	83,334	74,335
Refundable advances	<u>1,380,820</u>	<u>1,361,378</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>1,680,994</u>	<u>1,660,034</u>
Net assets:		
Unrestricted net assets	465,957	412,811
Temporarily restricted net assets	<u>61,576</u>	<u>179,443</u>
Total net assets	<u>527,533</u>	<u>592,254</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$2,208,527</u>	<u>\$2,252,288</u>

Network Expenditures by Program Area 2009-2010



*Other includes statewide projects and Army Respite Care funds.

**Management includes: management, administration and fundraising costs.

2009-2010 Donors/Funding Sources

Beverly Foundation
 Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation
 The McKnight Foundation
 Minnesota Department of Human Services
 The National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies
 The Ronald Fingerhut Family Foundation
 The Sheltering Arms Foundation
 United Way of Olmsted County
 WCA Foundation
 The Qwest Foundation
 The St. Paul Woman's Club

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

For the Year Ended September 30, 2010 (With Comparative Totals for 2009)

	2010			2009
	Unrestricted	Temporarily restricted	Total	
Support and revenue:				
Government contracts	\$2,300,692	\$ -	\$2,300,692	\$2,525,668
Contributions	103,405	30,000	133,405	57,000
Program income	88,451	-	88,451	91,124
Investment income	11,475	-	11,475	15,507
Miscellaneous	5,612	-	5,612	157
Net assets released from restrictions upon satisfaction of program restrictions	<u>147,867</u>	<u>(147,867)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total support and revenue	<u>2,657,502</u>	<u>(117,867)</u>	<u>2,539,635</u>	<u>2,689,456</u>
Expenses:				
Program services	2,471,087	-	2,471,087	2,676,242
Management and general	121,065	-	121,065	142,801
Fundraising	<u>12,204</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,204</u>	<u>8,429</u>
Total expenses	<u>2,604,356</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,604,356</u>	<u>2,827,472</u>
Change in net assets	53,146	(117,867)	(64,721)	(138,016)
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>412,811</u>	<u>179,443</u>	<u>592,254</u>	<u>730,270</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 465,957</u>	<u>\$ 61,576</u>	<u>\$ 527,533</u>	<u>\$ 592,254</u>

(A full copy of our audited financial statement is available upon request.)

Child Care Professionals, by the Numbers

Minnesota child care professionals earn an average of \$9.73 per hour. Based on the average number of hours worked, these professionals earn approximately \$19,264 per year.

Minnesota is home to over 2,000 center-based child care programs and 11,400 family child care programs.

In 2010, 945 child care providers advertised bilingual or multilingual care through the CCR&R caregiver database. It is critical that these child care professionals receive training and support in their home languages. CCR&R offered 101 training sessions in languages other than English and fielded 1,608 hotline calls from child care professionals seeking support and information in Hmong, Somali or Spanish.

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CHILD CARE supporting today's workforce...

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Sources:

American Federation of Teachers. *State Ranking of Child Care Worker Hourly Wages*. 2009

National Institute for Early Education Research. *Meta-Analysis of the Effects of Early Education Interventions on Cognitive and Social Development*. 2008

Minnesota Child Care Resource & Referral Network. Data Tracking Program; NACCRRAware

Wilder Research. *Child Care use in Minnesota: 2009 Statewide Household Child Care Survey*. 2009.

CCR&R is an essential community partner and information source.

- In 2010, 5,717 Family, Friend and Neighbor caregivers received education on caring for children through their local Child Care Resource & Referral agency. Family, Friend and Neighbor caregivers, or informal, unlicensed caregivers provide care for 70 percent of Minnesota children whose families use child care. Around 20 percent of families use family, friend or neighbor care exclusively while others use this type of care occasionally, before or after school or in the evenings.
- CCR&R staffers created and sustained critical community relationships with over 300 partners across the state. Our goal is to partner with other organizations in need of child care/early learning information and to ensure that Minnesota communities address child care issues.

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...creating tomorrow's prosperity.

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Wilder Research. *Child Care Resource and Referral: Results of Referral Outcomes Follow-up Surveys, July 2009 through June 2010*. 2010.

Wilder Research. *Child Care Workforce in Minnesota: 2006 Statewide Study of Demographics, Training and Professional Development*. 2007.

Wilder Research. *Family, Friend and Neighbor Caregivers: Results of the Minnesota Statewide Household Child Care Survey*. 2006.

Wilder Research. *The Cost Burden to Minnesota K-12 When Children Are Unprepared for Kindergarten*. 2008.

“Minnesota’s greatest need is to improve early childhood learning. If we do this, less money will be spent for remedial education and more children will graduate from high school on time, enroll in post secondary education, be employed and be able to help pay taxes.”

– **former Governor Al Quie**

“The path to success in college and career for our youth begins before they enter preschool. Providing early learning opportunities and ensuring access to quality child care is an essential part of laying a strong foundation for the future. Today’s youth are tomorrow’s leaders, and we must do our part as a community to ensure our students are given the support and resources necessary to compete in a 21st century workforce.”

– **St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman**

“If not for the excellent care my children received when they were small, I would not be where I am today. When it comes to child care the stakes could not be higher. Our child care system supports workers of every stripe and the professionals working in child care prepare our future leaders for school. Ensuring Minnesota’s child care system is healthy and innovative is the first step in building a strong economy this year, next year, in 20 years and beyond. What a sound investment!”

– **State Representative Nora Slawik**

Child Care Resource & Referral

helps families find child care and understand their care options,
supports child care providers through grants and education and
informs the community on the importance of child care.

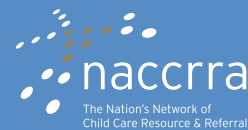
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