



Child Care Council  
of Dutchess and Putnam, Inc.

Connecting Communities and Children



# 2024 Annual Report



[www.childcaredutchess.org](http://www.childcaredutchess.org)



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Poughkeepsie NY, 12601

# Continuing to Fulfill Our Mission in 2024

In 2024 the Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam, Inc. (CCCDP) continued to successfully fulfill its mission by promoting affordable and quality child care, providing families support and information, and through strengthening the early childhood education workforce. We are proud of the work we do and look forward to reaching even greater heights in 2025.

CCCDP hosted 13 network meetings for home-based early childhood educators and school-age programs (SACC). The Family Day Care Network meetings included topics such as Summer Safety Tips and Activities, The Importance of Play, Stress Reduction, Child Safety: Prepare and Prevent, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES), Safe Spaces: Resources for Child Safety, FAMS (Facility Application and Management System) Review, Child Care Program Sustainability Planning, Art in Motion: Embracing the Process, and OCFS Policies. The SACC Network covered Fire Safety: What Your Regulated Program Needs to Know and Managing Challenging Behaviors: Cultivating Positive Whole Program Mindfulness.

CCCDP advocates for early childhood educators (ECE) and families. In 2024 CCCDP hosted Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino so that she could meet with home-based ECEs\* to learn about their challenges, barriers, and successes. Additionally, Council staff and an ECE\* attended Advocacy Day in Albany. They participated in a rally and met with aides of Senator Rolison and Assembly members Barrett and Levenberg.

We supported families and ECEs\* through grant assistance. With a grant from the Dyson Foundation in 2024, the Child Care Council paid \$43,686 in child care tuition scholarships for twelve children from nine families. CCCDP also assisted over 200 programs navigate the Workforce Retention grants they received from the Office of Children and Families. This grant enabled these programs to pay bonuses to staff and to recruit additional members of the child care workforce through out Dutchess and Putnam Counties.

In May, CCCDP held its Annual Champions of Child Care at the Villa Borghese. This event was attended by 281 ECEs and their supporters. This event is held to honor the outstanding home-based, center based, and school-age programs and individuals in both counties.

CCCDP's Board of Directors worked collaboratively with council staff to write and approve its 2025 – 2028 Strategic Plan. Additionally, The Child Care Council completed a successful application for renewal of its Standards of Excellence certification from the Early Care and Learning Council. The organization is now poised to continue to serve the children, ECEs\* , and families in Dutchess and Putnam Counties.

Jeanne Wagner  
Executive Director



\*ECE- Early Childhood Educators

## 2024 Staff

**Jeanne Wagner- Executive Director**

**Karen Walsh- Assistant Director**

**Nancy Owen- Council Clerk**

**Lorraine Scuccimarra- CACFP Coordinator**

**Dawn Haecker- Assistant Child Care Assistance Coordinator**

**Carol Hand- Day Care Registrar**

**Darla Fulmer- Professional Development Coordinator**

**Megan Weber- Health Care Consultant**

**Adeline Arvidson- Legally Exempt and Referral Specialist**

**Kathleen Murphy- Director of Business Services**

**Cyndie Hackett- Infant/Toddler Mental Health Consultant**

**Rebecca Shaffer- Director of Registration Services**

**Wendy Cooper- Director of Professional Development**

**Nicole O'Leary- Child Care Assistance Coordinator**

**Tiffinie Helweg- Infant/Toddler Specialist**

**Lori Wall- Day Care Registrar**

**Brianna Vigliotti- Day Care Registrar**

**Kim Ciardullo- Day Care Registrar and Legally Exempt Specialist**

**Deborah Taffe- Bookkeeper**

**Sarah Rokitowski- Director of Marketing and Outreach**

**Mara Goulette- Day Care Registrar**

**Crystal Cooper- Legally Exempt and Referral Specialist**



# Child Care Referral Services

The Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam, Inc.'s free referral service offers assistance in many areas pertaining to numerous aspects of early childhood education, including but not limited to, program referrals, summer recreation information, nursery schools, pre-k programs, cost and child care assistance information.

Parents supply information such as hours of care needed, location, school district, etc. to the Referral Specialist. Since referrals are not recommendations, the Referral Specialist encourages the parents to visit the programs and meet with the early childhood educator(s) before choosing a program and enrolling their child(ren).

Highlighted areas in the charts show where the requests for care are higher than the vacancies available.

## Putnam County

Town	Total Slots Available	Vacancies	Request for Care Calls	Request for Care Online
Brewster	1011	94	10	9
Carmel	218	29	22	25
Cold Spring	145	31	2	2
Garrison	16	0	3	0
Holmes	160	7	1	3
Mahopac	999	104	6	15
Patterson	232	36	0	4
Putnam Valley	310	81	7	4



# Dutchess County

Town	Total Slots Available	Vacancies	Request for Care Calls	Request for Care Online
Amenia	83	10	3	1
Annandale- on Hudson	46	0	0	0
Beacon	760	143	7	14
Dover Plains	48	4	2	2
Fishkill	501	202	19	14
Glenham	24	13	0	0
Holmes	160	7	1	3
Hopewell Junction	870	12	16	26
Hyde Park	336	38	30	49
Lagrange	16	0	0	1
Lagrangeville	293	33	7	16
Millbrook	100	17	2	15
Millerton	29	5	0	0
Pawling	142	35	3	3
Pine Plains	0	0	5	18
Pleasant Valley	90	7	15	11
Poughkeepsie (12601)	1396	186	113	112
Poughkeepsie (12603)	1177	248	44	93
Poughquag	72	30	2	23
Red Hook	168	15	3	15
Rhinebeck	207	47	5	12
Salt Point	32	8	1	9
Staatsburg	24	2	6	15
Stanfordville	48	5	2	14
Stormville	64	19	3	13
Tivoli	0	0	3	2
Verbank	16	5	1	0
Wappingers Falls	856	114	42	84
Wingdale	257	26	3	5

## Success Story:

When calling to follow up with a family in Hopewell Junction, the mom stated that she was very grateful for our referral service. From our referrals, she was able to find a family day care program for her 4-year-old son that met her and her son's needs perfectly. She said that there are some days that her son does not even want to leave the program to go home because he has so much fun while he is there and has made such a strong connection with his program.

# Day Care Registration Services

The Child Care Council oversees the registration of Family Day Care (FDC) and School Age Child Care (SACC) Programs. FDC and SACC Registrars perform inspections and provide support to these programs. They provide technical assistance to programs and parents who may have questions or concerns and assist early childhood educators (ECE) with the registration and renewal process. Additionally, they work with the Director of Professional Development to arrange the best technical assistance ECEs\* may need to improve their programs.

Regulated Programs as of 12/31/2024	Dutchess	Putnam
Family Day Care (FDC)	49	10
School-Age Child Care (SACC)	37	8
Group Family Day Care (GFDC)	63	15
Day Care Center (DCC)	71	27

Inspections Performed	FDC	SACC
Dutchess	208	165
Putnam	47	36

Complaints Investigated	FDC	SACC
Dutchess	7	3
Putnam	2	1

## Success Stories

In 2024 The Child Care Council invested in ECE\* recruitment for Dutchess and Putnam Counties. Dutchess County saw an increase in requested applications and interest for Family Day Care and School Age Child Care programs. This interest led to 11 new programs being registered in Dutchess County. Seven Family Day Care Homes and 4 School Age Child Care Programs were registered between June and October of 2024.

**Dutchess  
County**

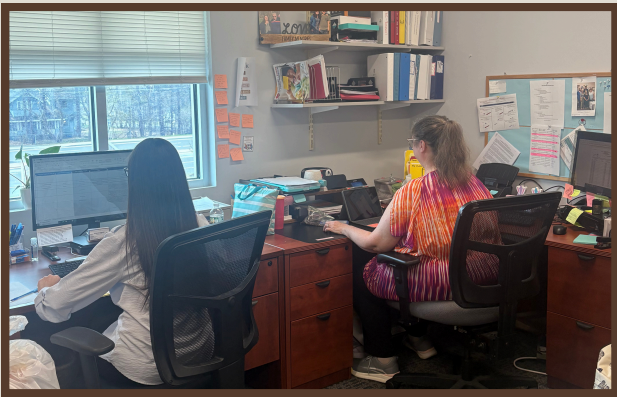
**Putnam  
County**

The Putnam office, which was in Carmel, was a bit of a challenge. In June of 2024, the Child Care Council secured new office space for our Putnam location. Located in Mahopac NY, this location is more centrally located to ECEs\* and has been working out well.

\*ECE- Early Childhood Educators

# Dutchess County Council Cluster and the Putnam County Family Day Care Network

The Dutchess County Council Cluster and the Putnam County Family Day Care Network provide home-based early childhood educators (ECE) training and the opportunity to come together to discuss issues in child care.



	Dutchess	Putnam
Number of Meetings	3	10
Number of Members	16	19
Total Amount of Grants	NA	\$3539.20

On September 25, 2024, Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino visited the Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam, Inc. and held a Childcare Roundtable at our Council Cluster meeting. Serino and home-based ECEs\* discussed the critical challenges facing programs in Dutchess County, solutions to improve accessibility and quality of childcare services that are vital for families and the local economy.

Dutchess  
County

Putnam  
County

In an effort to support early childhood educators in managing stress, we conducted a training in February of 2024 that focused on practical stress-reduction techniques. This training covered mindfulness exercises, time management techniques, and simple self-care practices that could easily be incorporated into a busy day. The response from the ECEs\* was overwhelmingly positive. Many daycare programs shared that they felt more equipped to handle the daily challenges of their work with a renewed sense of calm and balance. Some reported feeling immediate relief after trying the guided breathing exercises. This feedback reinforces the importance of equipping caregivers with the tools they need to manage stress, ultimately benefiting both the ECEs\* and the children that they care for.

\*ECE- Early Childhood Educators

# Professional Development

	Dutchess	Putnam	Orange
At Program Location	9	2	2
Number of Attendees	109	21	47
At the Child Care Council	41	NA	NA
Number of Attendees	379	NA	NA

Registered/licensed early childhood educators (ECE) are required to complete thirty (30) hours of training every two years. The thirty (30) hours of training must address the following topics: principles of childhood development, focusing on the developmental age groups for which they provide care; nutrition and health needs of children; child day care program development; safety and security procedures; business record maintenance and management; child abuse and maltreatment identification and prevention; statutes and regulations pertaining to child day care; statutes and regulations pertaining to child abuse and maltreatment; the education and information on the identification, diagnosis, and prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). The Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam provides training in these areas at our office or at the program location.

The Professional Development Department has achieved success through the effectiveness of its technical assistance and trainings. We have provided technical assistance to programs in areas such as safety, supervision, and managing challenging behaviors. Programs have shared with enthusiasm the positive changes they've noticed, implementing strategies discussed during observations or training sessions. This highlights the importance of our ongoing research and commitment to keeping our training relevant and up to date, ensuring it continues to benefit the programs we support.

## Child Care Business Services

In 2024, the CCCDP was selected to co-lead the area's economic region in the statewide Business Navigator Toolkit initiative. The CCCDP collaborated with the Early Care and Learning Council and other Child Care Resource Centers (CCRC) throughout the state to bring to fruition a print and digital guide to help employers to assist their employees with their child care needs. The Toolkit will be launched in our area in early 2025.

The Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam, Inc. offers the skills and tools needed by ECEs\* to help build and maintain a sustainable program. These services include technical assistance, business training, a mobile business center and a business lending library.

We also are available to support businesses in the community with their child care needs. The Council can help employers with their employee child care needs through our Referral Specialist and can work with employers who wish to open a child care program onsite. In 2024, the Council assisted programs with managing grants provided by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. The Workforce Retention Additional Grant assisted 215 programs in Dutchess and Putnam Counties to support their workforce and assisted with their recruitment needs.

	Number of Funded Providers
Family Day Care	42
Group Family Day Care	61
Day Care Centers	80
School-Age Child Care	32
Total Grant Funds Received	\$5,114,461.00

\*ECE- Early Childhood Educators



# 2024 Infant/Toddler Services

## **The Infant/Toddler Mental Health Consultant**

works in partnership with educators to strengthen children's social emotional development while addressing challenging behaviors early on before intervention is needed.

## **The Infant/Toddler Specialist**

assists educators in maintaining quality environments, learning materials for infants and toddlers, early childhood development, and teacher and administrative standards in programs.

The chart below shows the number of visits and children served in 2024.

The Infant/Toddler Specialist worked with a Day Care Center's director and staff. It was a rewarding experience as everyone had taken in the intensive technical assistance and applied it to their infant and toddler classrooms. As a result, a notable difference in behavior management and age-appropriate classroom activity is now occurring.

	Dutchess	Putnam
Home Based Child Care	25	0
Day Care Center Classrooms	53	32
Number of Children Served		
Home Based Child Care	76	0
Day Care Center	341	110

The Council's Infant/Toddler Specialist was pleased to be able to endorse a Group Family Day Care early childhood educators in Caring Spaces (environments that are designed to support children's learning and development; they are also intended to make children feel safe, secure, and welcome) which allowed the program to have appropriate space and materials for its new infant program.

# Health Care Consultant

The Health Care Consultant on staff at the Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam Counties, helps early childhood programs by:

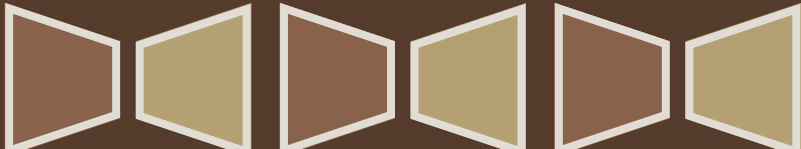
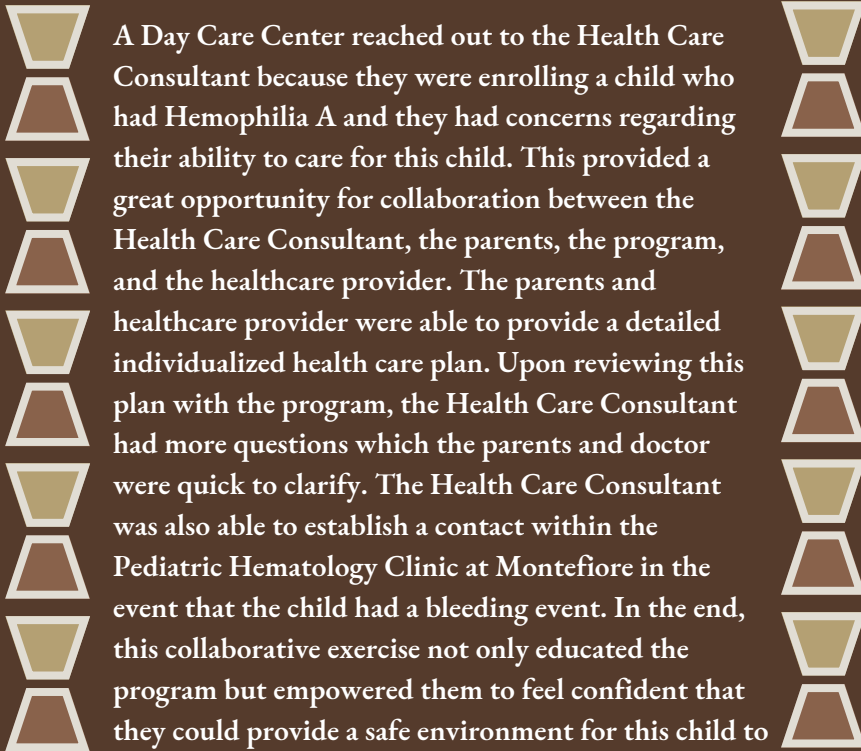
- Answering questions about common child care health issues.
- Assisting with the development of health care policies and in the writing of health care plans.
- Reviewing current health care plans.
- Helping caregivers accommodate children with special needs and complete Individualized Health Care Plans.
- Offering Medication Administration Training (MAT).
- Tailoring both telephone and on-site consultations to individual needs.
- Supporting all modalities of child care in their efforts to provide a safe and healthy environment for the children they serve.

The chart below shows the number of MAT approved ECE\*

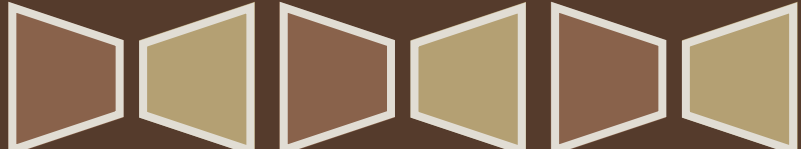
	Dutchess	Putnam
Family Day Care	5	1
Group Family Day Care	7	3
Day Care Center	26	15
School Age Child Care	1	3
Day Care Center Non-MAT*	13	2

\*ECE- Early Childhood Educators

(\*NYS regulations now require Day Care Centers that care for infants and toddlers to have a Health Care Consultant of record).

A Day Care Center reached out to the Health Care Consultant because they were enrolling a child who had Hemophilia A and they had concerns regarding their ability to care for this child. This provided a great opportunity for collaboration between the Health Care Consultant, the parents, the program, and the healthcare provider. The parents and healthcare provider were able to provide a detailed individualized health care plan. Upon reviewing this plan with the program, the Health Care Consultant had more questions which the parents and doctor were quick to clarify. The Health Care Consultant was also able to establish a contact within the Pediatric Hematology Clinic at Montefiore in the event that the child had a bleeding event. In the end, this collaborative exercise not only educated the program but empowered them to feel confident that they could provide a safe environment for this child to embark on his pre-school journey.

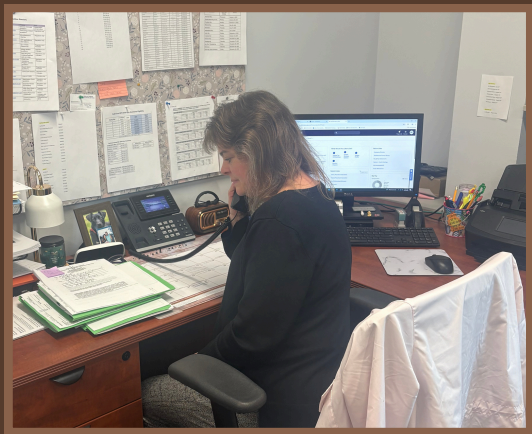


# Legally Exempt

An enrolled Legally Exempt provider is an unlicensed, informal child care provider who cares for up to 2 unrelated children and receives payment from the Department of Social Services. Parents must be eligible to receive child care assistance, and the provider must meet certain criteria.



	Dutchess	Putnam
Number of Enrolled Providers	123	7
Number of Children Served	229	13
Inspections Performed	27	2



The Child Care Council performs inspections of Legally Exempt Providers.



The Child Care Council had a provider that needed extra help with the enrollment process. She would call and stop by the office to get help with the paperwork and background check. It took her longer to finish the process than most, but in the end, she completed the process and was able to become enrolled. She called the Council office to say how grateful she was for the extra help and patience to get her enrolled. To this day, she will still call the Council and say I need advice, and I know you will be the one to help me. The Council staff created a very safe place for her to ask for help and become a Legally Exempt Child Care Provider who is now successfully taking care of children in her home.



# Child Care Scholarships

The Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam provides scholarships to qualifying families to help pay for child care through a grant from the Dyson Foundation.

With NYS increase in Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), the Council was still able to approve 75% of the parent applications for the Dyson Scholarship in 2024. There was only 1 family that applied and was denied the Dyson Scholarship because they were over the income guidelines and 1 family that was denied because they were eligible for CCAP.

	Dutchess
Number of Families	9
Number of Children	10
Number of Providers	7
Total Scholarships	\$45,147.68

## Child Care Assistance Program

In both Dutchess and Putnam Counties, a parent may qualify for child care assistance to help pay for child care. In Dutchess County, the Department of Community and Family Services and in Putnam County, the Department of Social Services handles the Child Care Assistance Program. In Putnam County, the Child Care Council determines eligibility for child care assistance. In 2024, Putnam and Dutchess Counties eligibility levels to qualify for child care assistance increased to 85% of the State Median Income. This translates to a family of three earning up to \$91,250.63.



# Child and Adult Care Food Program

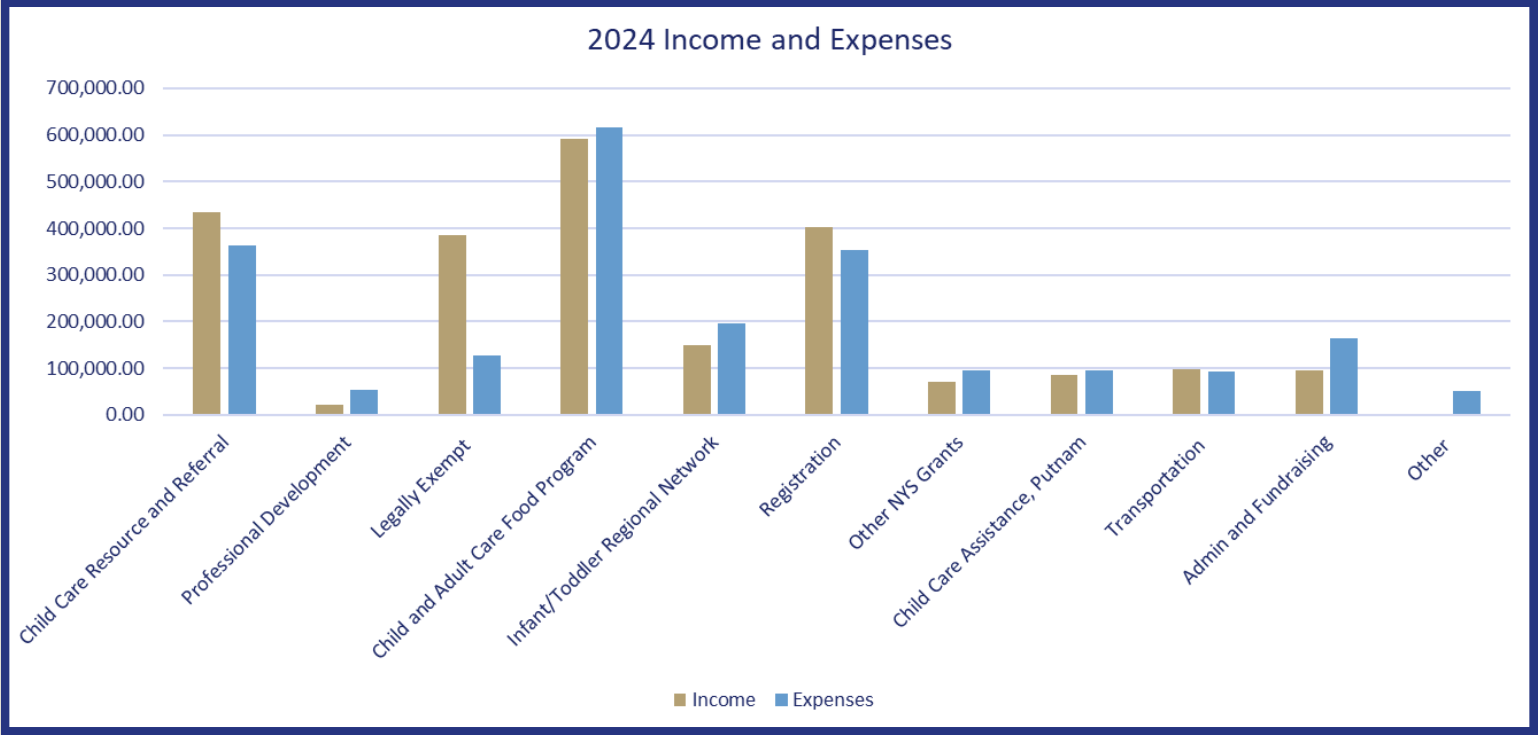
The Child Care Council coordinates the Child and Adult Food Program (CACFP) in Dutchess and Putnam Counties. This program provides reimbursement for nutritious meals and snacks served to children while in care. These meals must meet the nutritional standards set by the United States Department of Agriculture. Through CACFP, nationally more than 4.5 million children and adults receive nutritious meals and snacks each day as part of the care they receive.

“The food program through the CACFP has been a vital component to my childcare program. Serving nutritious meals to the children has been a tremendous help to the parents. They are assured of their kids having good quality, nutritionally balanced meals and snacks. I’ve been a parent of little children and understand the pressure of making sure the kids have good food on a daily basis and supplying that for them is one less thing they need to worry about. Prior to the program the children would bring their own food from home and it would not be good every day, you could see it was just thrown together. My parents say it’s one less thing they have to worry about and I am happy to do it for them. Having the children all eat the same meal is very helpful as well. So this program is great for everyone!”

Kim Taps, Group Family Day Care Provider in Putnam County

<b>Total Meals &amp; Snacks Served</b>	<b>327,076</b>
<b>Number of Providers Participated</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Average Number of Children Served Each Month</b>	<b>679.75</b>

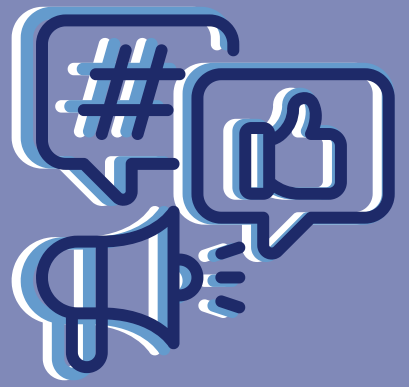
# Income and Expenses



	Revenue	Expenses
Child Care Resource and Referral	\$435,545.24	\$364,435.85
Professional Development	\$21,197.61	\$52,693.38
Legally Exempt	\$385,050.00	\$126,823.67
Child and Adult Care Food Program	\$590,724.67	\$617,212.48
Infant/Toddler Regional Network	\$150,367.70	\$196,165.86
Registration	\$402,429.64	\$354,573.13
Other NYS Grants	\$71,691.85	\$96,313.97
Child Care Assistance, Putnam	\$85,727.00	\$96,384.25
Transportation	\$98,279.76	\$94,108.48
Admin and Fundraising	\$94,506.52	\$163,602.56
Other	\$1,000.00	\$52,328.90
TOTAL:	\$2,336,519.99	\$ 2,214,642.53

At the time of printing, 2024 audit was not yet completed.

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