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Background Brief on ...

Child Care

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Child care has become an important component in Oregon's efforts to provide services that support low-income families and their efforts to find and retain employment. In 1996, Congress enacted the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (**PRWORA**). PRWORA created two block grants: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (**TANF**) that provides states with the funding and the flexibility to design programs and choose services that best support low-income families, specifically welfare recipients, moving into the workforce, and the Child Care and Development Fund (**CCDF**) that provides low-income working families with child care assistance and helps states improve the quality of child care.

Approximately 200,000 children in Oregon (nearly a third of all children under age 13) spend an average of 30 hours each week with a paid child care provider. Thirty-four percent of working families spend more than ten percent of their household income on child care.

Child Care Facilities

There are three types of licensed child care:

Child Care Centers are facilities that are certified to care for 13 or more children and are not located in a building constructed as a single-family residence. There are approximately 1,000 licensed child care centers in Oregon, caring for approximately 70,000 children.

Certified Family Homes are located in a building constructed as a single-family residence (the provider's residence) that is certified to care for up to 16 children on a full-time basis. There are approximately 400 certified family homes throughout the state caring for approximately 3,500 children.

Registered Family Child Care Homes are located in a building constructed as a single-family residence that may care for a maximum of ten children (six full-time, four part-time) at any one time. There are approximately 3,700 registered family child care providers in Oregon, caring for approximately 40,000 children.

A license from the Child Care Division (**CCD**) is required for child care facilities that care for more than three children for more than one family, for more than four hours per day.

Child Care Resources in Oregon

Oregon's Business Community – Some Oregon employers invest in child care for their workers as a strategy to recruit and retain a quality workforce. On-site child care centers are one solution for some large businesses while other employers invest in resource and referral services to assist employees in finding quality child care, and some offer child care benefits as part of a cafeteria-style, benefit plan.

Child Care Division – The CCD is part of the Oregon Employment Department and is responsible for the regulation of child care providers and facilities in Oregon. CCD's duties include:

- Ensuring that families have access to child care information and services
- Administering federal child care funds
- Establishing licensing standards for child care facilities
- Inspecting child care facilities and investigating complaints
- Coordinating the efforts of agencies and organizations to build Oregon's child care system

Children, Adults and Families (CAF) – CAF is part of the Oregon Department of Human Services. CAF administers the Employment Related Day Care (**ERDC**) program under a contract from the CCD. The ERDC provides child care subsidies for over 12,000 low-income families monthly that impacts over 22,000 Oregon children.

Child Care Resource and Referral Network – In 1989, Oregon began building a system to provide child care resource and referral services to improve child care accessibility to all Oregon families.

Resource and referral agencies provide assistance to parents seeking child care, providers seeking clients or wanting to upgrade the quality of their services, community assessment and recruitment to meet underserved child care needs, and employers assisting employees in locating or

providing child care. The CCD contracts with the Oregon Child Care Resource and Referral Network to maintain a statewide system of services. Currently, Oregon's resource and referral system serves nearly 35,000 children and provides services to all 36 counties through 17 agencies.

Commission for Child Care – The Commission for Child Care is an 18-member body charged with advising the Governor and the Legislature on the issues, problems, and solutions critical to the development of accessible, affordable, and quality child care services. The commission holds regular public meetings and produces a biennial report to the Governor containing the concerns and issues the commission is working on.

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