

Child Care Keeps Missouri Working

The Missouri Child Care Economic Impact Report
July 2005

Child Care Resource and Referral, A Project of Council of Churches of the Ozarks

Serving the following counties in southwest and south central Missouri: Barry, Barton, Cedar, Christian, Crawford, Dade, Dent, Douglas, Greene, Howell, Jasper, Lawrence, McDonald, Newton, Oregon, Ozark, Phelps, Polk, Pulaski, St. Clair, Shannon, Stone, Taney, Texas, Vernon, Washington, Webster, and Wright.

Workforce impact: There are 5,116 people working in the regulated child care industry in this region of Missouri. In addition, the availability of regulated child care enables over 18,345 family members to get, keep and be productive at their jobs knowing that their children are in safe, reliable care. Regulated child care in this region of Missouri has the capacity to serve 21% of the children age birth to nine.

THE REGULATED CHILD CARE INDUSTRY IN SOUTHWEST/SOUTH CENTRAL MISSOURI	Licensed Programs Family child care homes, group homes, child care centers	License-Exempt Programs Church-run programs and nursery schools	Totals
Programs	722	96	818
Workforce			
Administrators	609	133	742
Teachers/Caregivers	2,881	836	3,717
Support Staff	540	117	657
Workforce Totals	4,030	1,086	5,116
Children			
Capacity of Regulated Child Care	20,555	6,963	27,518
Children birth to age 9			133,630
Revenues and Expenditures			
Gross Revenue Generated	\$66,421,809	\$12,708,450	\$79,130,259
Utilities Purchased	\$1,694,395	\$328,790	\$2,023,185
Consumables Purchased	\$7,067,183	\$908,094	\$7,975,277
Payroll	\$35,330,354	\$7,491,744	\$42,822,098

Workforce, revenues and expenditures are as of December 2004. Numbers of children birth to age 9 are from 2000 Census.

Average teacher/caregiver wages: According to recent survey data, child care workers in this region earn an average of \$4.47 per hour in family child care and \$7.18 per hour in child care centers. Of child care workers surveyed, 16% of those employed in child care centers receive health insurance benefits and 44% of those who operate family child care programs purchase health insurance with their child care income.

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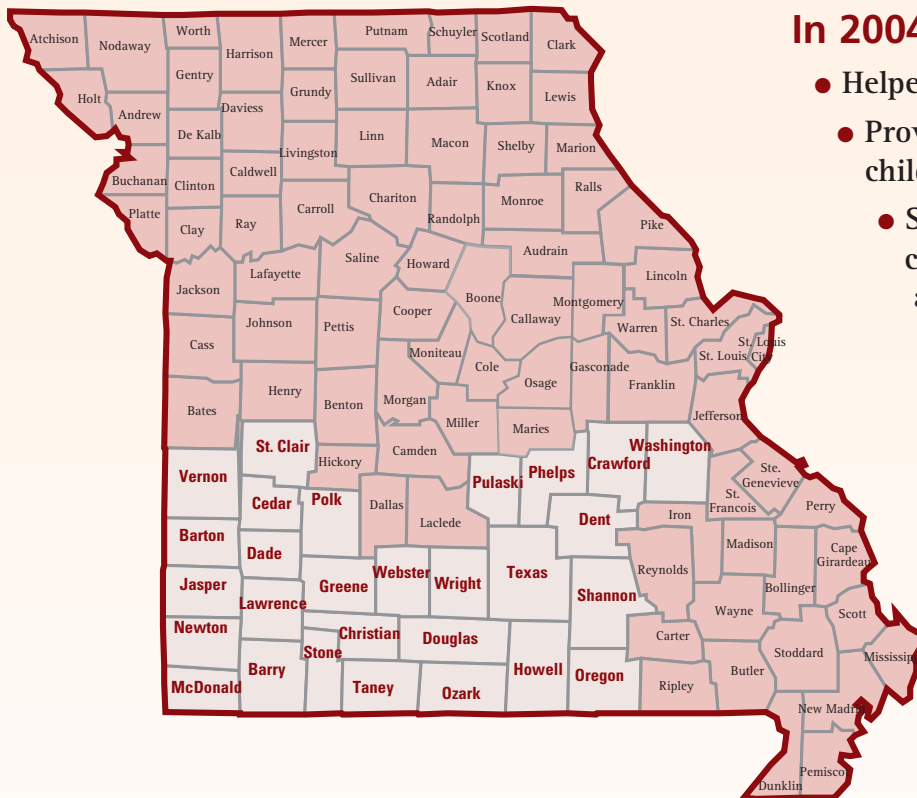
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Cost of care: The fees charged to parents for child care vary widely in Missouri depending on location, age of child, and type of care. Fees charged range from about \$1 per hour in rural areas to about \$2 per hour in urban areas. The average fee charged in family child care programs is \$1.33 per hour and the average fee charged in child care centers is \$1.88 per hour.

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR), a project of the Council of Churches of the Ozarks, assists parents in their search for quality child care by providing child care information and referrals based upon specific needs. CCRR also offers an Enhanced Inclusion Referral Service to help the families of children with special needs locate accessible child care and to support child care providers who care for those children. CCRR is the System Point of Entry for First Steps, Missouri's early intervention program, in 14 counties.

Technical assistance is provided to child care programs, parents, employers, and community organizations and agencies through various means including: telephone consultation, statistical information, child care needs assessment data, on-site technical assistance, group training opportunities, and newsletters.

CCRR began operation in 1994 and serves 28 counties in south central and southwest Missouri including McDonald, Barry, Stone, Taney, Christian, and Webster all of which are expected to continue their rapid population growth for the foreseeable future.



In 2004, CCRR:

- Helped 3,605 families find child care
- Provided technical assistance to 677 child care teachers and business owners
- Supplied information on early childhood education to 136 employers and community leaders

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Sources: "Child Care Keeps Missouri Working: The Missouri Child Care Economic Impact Report", conducted by the Center for Economic and Business Research at Southeast Missouri State University in September - December, 2004.; "A Statewide Study on Wages and Benefits in the Early Childhood Workforce" by Supriya Pandey, Master's Degree Project, University of Missouri-Columbia, unpublished data, December 2004; the Missouri Child Care Resource and Referral Network; and Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED), University of Missouri Extension, U.S. Bureau of Census, 2000.