



Early education and care and out-of-school time care



Child Care Resource & Referral

Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (CCR&Rs) meet a need by providing the bridge between parents, providers, community leaders, and policymakers. By offering a unique blend of direct services and planning expertise, CCR&Rs help families and communities ensure that children have safe, healthy, quality care when they need it.

Helping Families Find and Pay for Child Care

CCR&Rs inform families about what good child care looks like and provide referrals to local early education and care providers. Your local CCR&R agency keeps information on all licensed and license-exempt programs including child care centers, family child care providers, preschools, and out-of school time programs.

CCR&Rs also manage the state fee assistance program that helps eligible families pay for care at early education and care or out-of-school time programs. CCR&Rs share information with all families about opportunities to reduce the cost of child care.

Supporting Families and Children

CCR&Rs use workshops, hotlines and newsletters to reach out to parents with trusted, local information. A major part of CCR&R services is educating parents about early learning and the components of quality care. This helps parents make informed choices about all aspects of care for their children.

Building the Supply of Child Care

CCR&Rs help providers learn about licensing requirements and become informed about health and safety, business practices and child development. CCR&Rs work with local and state governments and the private sector to combine resources for building and maintaining the supply of quality child care.

Documenting Child Care Needs and Trends

CCR&Rs are a community's primary source of information about child care. They use their databases to track trends, including the changing needs of families, the local supply and cost of child care.

Engaging New Partners

CCR&Rs reach out to business leaders, health care professionals, schools and others to ensure child care is available to support the economic infrastructure of local communities. CCR&Rs collaborate with other family support services to promote a vision of child care that includes health, literacy and special needs.

CCR&Rs provide educational materials to parents, providers and the community to help them engage policymakers in improving child care quality.

Improving the Quality of Child Care

CCR&Rs help improve the quality of care for all children by supporting quality rating and improvement systems. They support child care quality initiatives; training the child care workforce and helping child care providers meet licensing requirements.

The Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) is committed to supporting CCR&Rs.

Contact information for your local CCR&R is available by using the map on the back.

