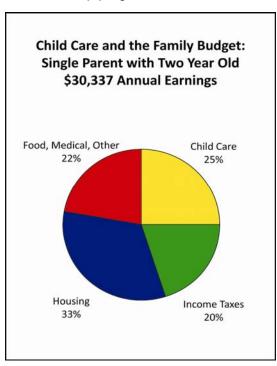
## Child Care in North Carolina

## Did you know that...

- approximately **496,280** children under six in the state live in families where their sole parent or both parents are working? The need for child care is critical to the economic viability of these families.
- the state received and spent \$384,957,040 (not including Smart Start funding) to help parents pay for child care in fiscal year 2009-10? In December 2010, the state served 84,494 different children with child care subsidy and had 45,657 eligible children on the waiting list for subsidy.
- North Carolina has 8,376 licensed child care businesses? Of these, 4,935 are centers and 3,441 are
  family child care homes. These businesses employ 46,390 people directly, and also contribute to the
  economy through purchases of goods and services provided by other businesses in their
  communities and state.
- there are 182,695 birth to five year old and 71,776 school-age children currently enrolled in these child care programs.
- 6,513 child care businesses in North Carolina have voluntarily met the standards to earn a 2-5 star rating? Of all the licensed programs in the county, 55% of centers and 31% of homes have a 4 or 5 star rating.
- among birth to five year old children enrolled in centers in North Carolina, **62%** are in 4 or 5 star licensed centers. Among birth to five year old children enrolled in homes in North Carolina, **34%** are in 4-5 star licensed homes.
- **4,776** teachers, directors and family child care providers living in North Carolina participated in the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project in fiscal year 2009-2010 with **1,827** child care businesses supporting their employees returning to school through this scholarship program?
- using federal guidelines for setting subsidy payment rates and data from a 2007 market rate study, the 4star center market rate for two year olds in North Carolina is \$639 per month?
- most families in North Carolina cannot afford the full cost of child care? Low-income families and families with more than one child have to pay a high percentage of their income for care. A single mother with one child earning \$30,336 or less per year can receive child care subsidy as funds are available. If funds are unavailable or if this parent's earnings exceed the income eligibility limit, a parent would pay 25% of her gross income (see chart) for child care offered at the county rate. Little is left in the family's budget for food, medical, clothing, travel or other basic living expenses. Due to the high cost of child care, parents such often make difficult choices. Some may be forced to seek TANF. Others may seek cheaper, often inadequate child care or leave their children unattended.



www.childcareservices.org

919.967.3272

© 2011 Child Care Services Association. Figures derived using the most recent available data from Child Care Services Association, Internal Revenue Service, N.C. Budget and Tax Center, N.C. Division of Child Development, N.C. Division of Social Services, N.C. State Data Center and U.S. Census Bureau, and the Department of Public Instruction.