



Ohio Child Care
Resource & Referral
Association

History of OCCRRA

Child care resource and referral (CCR&R) services in Ohio began in Cincinnati and Columbus in 1972 followed shortly by Cleveland and Dayton. Additional communities developed services beginning in 1987 through 1993.

During the 1980s, the growing number of local CCR&R agencies met on an informal basis while at the same time a national network was emerging. In 1989 Articles of Incorporation were filed for the Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). In 1990, a formal structure was developed for the network office and by-laws were adopted. Nonprofit status was granted in 1992. OCCRRA's first executive director was hired in 2002.

As a result of the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant, Ohio legislation was enacted that required the development of a plan to ensure CCR&R services in every county and procedures for establishing a statewide nonprofit technical assistance service for CCR&R agencies. In 1992, the state hired Mid-America Consulting to develop a plan for a statewide system of CCR&R services. Twelve service delivery areas were recommended with a funding level of \$5 million to support core services. Statewide coverage began in 1993, with funding set at \$2.5 million, half the recommended amount.

The statewide nonprofit technical assistance services as identified in Ohio law were not directly funded. OCCRRA member agencies, however, have invested an annual assessment to maintain the network office support of member agencies. Additional programs have been acquired by OCCRRA that provide complimentary services and support the statewide system.

OCCRRA serves as a "coordinating hub", a term created by the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRRA) to indicate a network office that provides support for local CCR&R agencies but is not the state's grantee for core services.

The child care resource and referral system in Ohio is currently comprised of seven community-based organizations, serving 12 state-designated service delivery areas, and the OCCRRA office. Five of the community based organizations are standalone nonprofit organizations; three are part of larger community organizations.

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