



Ohio Child Care
Resource & Referral
Association

Summary of Key Services

The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA) and the Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) network is a proven high functioning public-private partnership. There are seven private non-profit CCR&R agencies serving as regional hubs providing professional development and technical assistance to child care, early learning and afterschool local programs as well as support to providers, parents, and communities in Ohio's 88 counties. OCCRRA coordinates and ensures consistency among the seven CCR&R agencies and is responsible for managing a number of statewide quality initiatives. OCCRRA and the CCR&R have built a sophisticated network of infant and toddler, preschool, school-age, and Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) child development specialists who develop and share programs, products, and services system-wide when and where applicable. These shared services include curriculum, training, and assessment, marketing, and outreach to early care, learning and afterschool programs and professionals throughout the state.

A few of statewide examples of the OCCRRA and CCR&R network delivery system include:

- Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) – Ohio's quality rating and improvement system for licensed child care programs currently awards 1, 2, or 3 stars to programs that voluntarily meet and maintain standards that go beyond minimum licensing requirements. The standards are based on national research linked to improved child outcomes and school readiness. OCCRRA and the CCR&R network in partnership with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services are the professional development and technical assistance delivery system providing consumer education.
- Quality Achievement Awards (QAA) – Programs that achieve a Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) star-rating receive financial incentives. Awards are based on the size of the program and the star level (1, 2, or 3 stars). The awards are weighted to support programs serving low-income children based upon the research that indicates low-income children have the most to gain from high quality early childhood programs. OCCRRA manages the QAA process including sites visits to programs to verify appropriate expenditures of funding.
- Ohio Professional Registry – OCCRRA develops and manages this professional profile registry and training system for early childhood and afterschool professionals with input from the Ohio Departments of Developmental Disabilities, Education, Health, Mental Health, CCR&Rs, and private instructors. Professionals are able to search for and register for opportunities offered throughout the state. Once the training is complete, the professional's profile and career pathway levels are automatically updated.

2760 Airport Dr., Suite 160
Columbus, OH 43219
614-396-5959 • 877-547-6978
614-396-5960 Fax • occrra.org



Ohio Child Care
Resource & Referral
Association

- T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® OHIO – Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.) is a compensation and retention program for child care professionals. OCCRRA administers scholarships aimed at supporting attainment of credentials or college credits in early childhood education. Participating child care centers commit to provide higher pay each year to their employees that earn credentials or college credit toward early childhood education degrees; in return the employees commit to work for the center while in school and for a period of time afterward.
- Healthy Child Care Ohio (HCCO) – Through a request for proposal process, OCCRRA was awarded funding from the Ohio Department of Health to manage a network of nurses and one dietitian to provide health, safety and nutrition training and consultation to center and family child care homes. Subcontractors are primarily children’s hospitals and health departments. OCCRRA maintains a partnership with the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics in this work.
- Ohio Healthy Programs – Through a request for proposal process, OCCRRA was awarded funding under the Wellness & Obesity Prevention Grant from the Ohio Department of Health. Child care program staff and directors attend a series of training sessions on promoting healthy practices and policies in child care programs. Programs receive materials to use with children and parents. Once complete, programs may apply online through the Registry for designation as a Healthy Program, and submit documentation of their program policies.
- Ohio Afterschool Network (OAN) – OCCRRA serves as grantee and provides the staffing for this network of over 1,000 stakeholders that support high-quality services for school-age children during out-of-school time. Stakeholders include public and private schools, community-based programs, parents, foundations, educators, public safety officials, public and private funders and advocates.

2760 Airport Dr., Suite 160
Columbus, OH 43219
614-396-5959 • 877-547-6978
614-396-5960 Fax • ocrra.org