



Ohio Child Care
Resource & Referral
Association

Summary of OCCRRA / CCR&Rs

OCCRRA and the network of CCR&R agencies are the “go-to” resource for the implementation of quality early care and learning and afterschool support systems for providers (centers and family child care), parents, and communities.

Core services as defined in Section 5104.01 of the Ohio Revised Code include:

- *Maintenance of a uniform data base of all child care providers in the community.*
Database includes information about the cost of care, hours of service, ages of children enrolled and other information such as accreditation and quality rating.
- *Provision of individualized consumer education to families seeking child care.*
Specialists provide information about what to look for and questions to ask as parents visit and interview potential child care providers.
- *Provision of timely referrals of available child care providers to families seeking child care.*
Parents can access a listing of child care providers that meet their specifications via a web-based search feature, or through telephone consultation. Referrals and consumer education materials are e-mailed or mailed to parents.
- *Recruitment of child care providers.*
CCR&R agencies work to recruit both family care providers and center-based providers. They conduct trainings on how to start a child care business and information on how to acquire a license and business considerations prior to investments of both time and money by potential operators. This information helps determine their capacity to meet the requirements of a child care business and an understanding of the market viability.
- *Assistance in the development, conduct, and dissemination of training for child care providers and provision of technical assistance to current and potential child care providers, employers, and the community.*
CCR&R agencies are the primary source of training and technical assistance for improving the quality of programs as well as individual professional skills. In 2009 nearly 70,000 participants attended over 5,000 training sessions offered by CCR&R agencies.

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- *Collection and analysis of data on the supply of and demand for child care in the community.*
By supplying information from their database of providers, plus census data and parent information, CCR&R agencies contribute to an annual supply and demand report produced by OCCRA. This report includes county, regional and statewide information.
- *Technical assistance concerning locally, state, and federally funded child care and early childhood education programs.*
CCR&R agencies along with OCCRA participate in local, state and national early childhood organizations and monitor state and federal child care and early education funding and policy.
- *Stimulation of employer involvement in making child care more affordable, more available, safe, and of higher quality for their employees and for the community.*
CCR&R agencies work to engage local employers in understanding the role that quality child care plays in supporting a stable parent workforce by decreasing absenteeism, reducing turnover and enhancing recruitment of employees.
- *Provision of written educational materials to caretaker parents and informational resources to child care providers.*
CCR&R agencies make written materials available to parents and child care providers through publications, on-line resources and lending libraries. Additionally, CCR&R agencies participate in numerous community events and programs where they distribute informational materials.
- *Coordination of services among child care resource and referral service organizations to assist in developing and maintaining a statewide system of child care resource and referral services if required by the department of job and family services.*
Through a “train the trainer” model, high quality training is available statewide. Additionally, coordinated training and standards for staff throughout the network promotes consistency of service delivery and reduces professional development costs.
- *Cooperation with the county department of job and family services in encouraging the establishment of parent cooperative child care centers and parent cooperative type A family day-care homes.*
CCR&R agencies cooperate with CDJFS in numerous ways. Often CDJFS contract with CCR&R agencies to provide specialized services to the county’s certified family child care providers. In some cases a portion of the county’s responsibilities in the certification process have been contracted to the CCR&R agency reducing the burden and cost on county staffing while utilizing the child development expertise of CCR&R staff.

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