



OF STEUBEN AND SCHUYLER *a department of Pro Action*

## 2020 Schuyler County Child Care Report



Steuben and Schuyler's most trusted child care resource.

***Our Mission:***

***Child Care Aware® of Steuben and Schuyler empowers the development of high-quality environments for children, ensuring families have access to affordable and secure child care.***

***The 2020 Schuyler County Child Care Report is funded by the Office of Children and Family Services.***



<a href="#">Table of Contents</a>	2
Dear Reader	3
Introduction	4
• Schuyler County Data	
Child Care Types and Definitions	5-7
Child Care Demand	8-10
• Parent Requests	
• A Thank you to our Funders	
Child Care Supply	11-14
• Current Child Care Slots, by Type	
• Legally-exempt Providers, by Type	
• Child Care Slots Offered, by Type and Geography	
• Head Start and Universal Pre-kindergarten	
Child Care Resources	15-16
• Child Care Resource and Referral	
• Child Care Subsidy	
Child Care Quality	17-24
• Professional Development	
• NYS Training and Technical Assistance Professional Credential	
• QUALITYstarsNY	
• FDC and GFDC Provider’s Highest Level of Education	
• Infant and Toddler Services	
• Child Care Health Consultant Services	
• Children’s Nutrition Services	
➤ Eat Well Play Hard in Child Care Settings	
➤ Farm 2 Pre-school (F2P)	
➤ Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)	
Registration and Resource Development	25- 26
• Development of New Programs	
• Complaints	
• New Updates in 2020	
Summary	27
• Covid-19 One Year Reflection	
2020 Schuyler County Data Dashboard	28

**Dear Reader:**

2020 was quite a year! It has left me with the thought that the global pandemic created a child care reckoning.

Child care is a multi-faceted; essential service to support the workforce of today *and* to educate and develop children to become the workforce of tomorrow. Parents rely on child care to help them enter, re-enter, or remain in the workforce. But access to affordable, quality child care is historically too hard to come by. Now, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, families are experiencing additional challenges, and child care is nearly impossible to find.

At the same time, the majority of child care across New York State is provided by small business owners. Many of these businesses closed temporarily – and others permanently – due to health and safety concerns. For those businesses that stayed open, their operational costs have increased to keep children and staff safe. At the same time, they are dealing with a greatly reduced revenue due to capacity and enrollment limitations. Programs are trying to stay open or re-open with an unsustainable new business model.

**Parents** are trying to balance child care and work, while **employers** are trying to determine how and when their working parents can return to work (or return to onsite work).

To better understand the full impact of COVID-19 on child care, our communities will need to seek to understand all of these challenges from every angle. Factors that inhibit equitable access to child care have always been persistent and complex. They are complicated further, and illuminated by, this public health crisis. Therefore, the pandemic has led to the silver lining of opening public discourse about equitable access to child care. By understanding the diverse perspectives of those impacted – children, parents, employers and child care programs – we can begin to identify solutions.

And, finally, I retired on April 2, 2021. Serving our community's children, families, and child care programs has been the height of my career, a true honor and privilege. I don't believe that I could have chosen a higher purpose.

Farewell,



Carla Hibbard, Director

Sources:

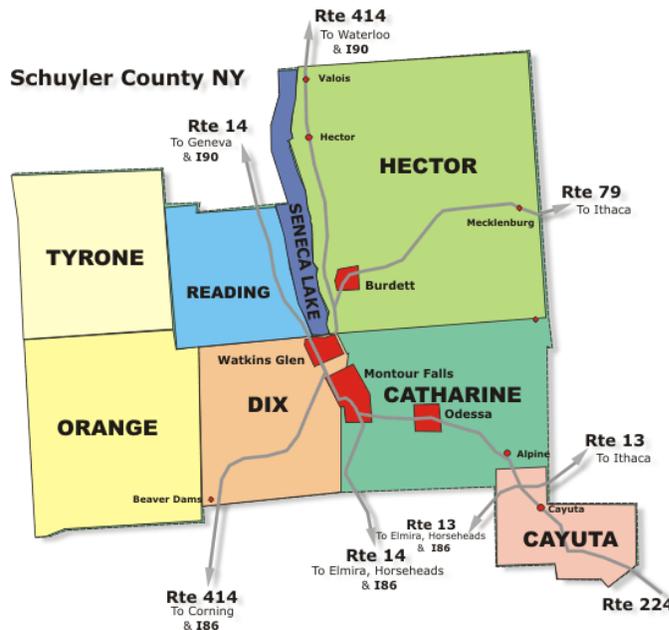
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**Introduction**

Child Care Aware® of Steuben and Schuyler is pleased to present this report detailing the state of child care in Schuyler County. Due to the constantly changing environment, provider data for this report is not a yearlong cumulative total, rather it is a snapshot from the months of September 2020. For example, data presented regarding the number of child care programs and capacity for each changes on a regular basis. This is caused, in part, by opening and closing of programs, as well as business decisions made by the owners of the programs for various reasons.

**Schuyler County Facts**



**Square Miles**

- Square miles= 342.33

**Total Population /Households**

- Total Population = 17,920
- The total number of estimated children 14 years old and younger in Schuyler County = 2,777

**Levels of Education:**

- Population 25 years and older no high school diploma = 7.1%
- Population 25 years and older high school graduate or equivalent = 33.5%
- Population 25 years and older some college, no degree = 22.2%
- Population 25 years and older associates Degree = 11.3%
- Population 25 years and older bachelor’s degree = 13.3%
- Population 25 years and older graduate degree or professional degree= 10.2%

Source: 2014 – 2019 American Community Survey 5- year estimates.

### Child Care Types and Definitions

#### **Registered/Licensed Programs as defined by the Social Services Law 390**

1. (c) "Child day care center" shall mean any program or facility caring for children for more than three hours per day per child in which child day care is provided by a child day care provider except those programs operating as a group family day care home as such term is defined in paragraph (d) of this subdivision, a family day care home, as such term is defined in paragraph (e) of this subdivision, and a school-age child care program, as such term is defined in paragraph (f) of this subdivision.

(d) "Group family day care home" shall mean a program caring for children for more than three hours per day per child in which child day care is provided in a family home for seven to twelve children of all ages, except for those programs operating as a family day care home, as such term is defined in paragraph (e) of this subdivision, which care for seven or eight children. A group family day care provider may provide child day care services to four additional children if such additional children are of school-age and such children receive services only before or after the period such children are ordinarily in school or during school lunch periods, or school holidays, or during those periods of the year in which school is not in session. There shall be one caregiver for every two children under two years of age in the group family home. A group family day care home must have at least one assistant to the operator present when child day care is being provided to seven or more children when none of the children are school-age, or nine or more children when at least two of the children are school-age and such children receive services only before or after the period such children are ordinarily in school or during school lunch periods, or school holidays, or during those periods of the year in which school is not in session. This assistant shall be selected by the group family day care operator and shall meet the qualifications established for such position by the regulations of the Office of Children and Family Services.

(e) "Family day care home" shall mean a program caring for children for more than three hours per day per child in which child day care is provided in a family home for three to six children. There shall be one caregiver for every two children under two years of age in the family day care home. A family day care provider may, however, care for seven or eight children at any one time if no more than six of the children are less than school-age and the school-age children receive care primarily before or after the period such children are ordinarily in school, during school lunch periods, on school holidays, or during those periods of the year in which school is not in session in accordance with the regulations of the office of children and family services and the office inspects such home to determine whether the provider can care adequately for seven or eight children.

(f) "School-age child care" shall mean a program caring for more than six school-age children who are under thirteen years of age or who are incapable of caring for themselves. Such programs shall be in operation consistent with the local school calendar. School-age child care programs shall offer care during the school year to an enrolled group of children at a permanent site before or after the period children enrolled in such program are ordinarily in school or during school lunch periods and may also provide such care on school holidays and those periods of the year in which school is not in session.

Head Start is a federally funded, comprehensive program for 3-5 year old children from income-eligible families. All services are provided at no cost to the family. All Head Start programs operate in classrooms licensed by the Office of Children and Family Services.

Pre-Kindergarten State funding is available through the New York State Department of Education for pre-kindergarten programs which are known as Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK). Children must be 4 years old and attend the UPK program located in the school district where the child resides.

### **Legally-Exempt (L.E.) Care**

Legally-Exempt Family Child Care is child care provided outside the child's own home in a residence and is not regulated but must meet all state and local health and safety requirements. This caregiver is chosen and monitored by the child's parent/guardian. This type of care includes relative care, which by Federal definition is a grandparent, great-grandparent, aunt/uncle, and sibling (if living in a separate residence), and non-relative care for up to 2 children. The maximum capacity for Legally-Exempt care is 8 children, including the provider's own children.

Legally-Exempt In-Home Child Care is child care provided in the child's own home by a caregiver who is chosen and monitored by the child's parent/guardian and is not regulated but must meet all state and local health and safety requirements. This type of care requires the child's parent/guardian to provide the caregiver with all employee benefits required by the State and Federal law and pay the caregiver at least minimum wage.

### **Legally-Exempt Group Child Care Settings**

Nursery Schools/ Pre-School Programs serve children ages 3-5 years old in a variety of settings including: public and private schools, churches, community centers and home residences. Programs meet anywhere from one to five days per week for less than three hours per session and often follow the school year calendar.

Camp Programs are day or overnight recreational programs that operate when school is not in session. Camp programs are regulated to some degree by New York State Department of Health.

The Legally-Exempt programs above are encouraged to accept child care subsidies. If serving at least one child whose care is subsidized by the county, the program must adhere to Social Services Law 415; Legally Exempt Health and Safety Requirements.

## Illegal Programs

The Social Services Law 390 states that an individual may not watch more than 2 children in the individual's home, for more than 3 consecutive hours, if the children are not related to them in the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree of consanguinity, without being registered or licensed.

In addition, if an unregistered program is operating and meets all the criteria listed below, it is considered a School-age Child Care Program (SACC) and must be registered in the State of New York with the Office of Children and Family Services. If it fails to meet even one of the criteria below, it is not a SACC program. These criteria are:

- a. The program provides care on a regular scheduled basis.
- b. The program serves an enrolled group of children.
- c. The program provides care to seven or more children under 13 years of age.
- d. The program only serves school-age children. School-age children includes: (1) those enrolled in school, including kindergarten or a higher grade; and (2) those at least six years of age. A program caring for younger children may be required to be licensed with the Office of Child and Family Services as a child day care center. (See policy 16-2: *Enrollment of Prekindergarten Child in School-Age Child Care Programs*).
- e. The program is located at a non-residence.
- f. The program operates only during non-school hours (i.e., before and/or after school, during school lunch periods, on school holidays, and/or during summer vacations).
- g. The program operates for more than one purpose.

*To view the entire Policy Statement 16-1 What Constitutes a School-age Child Care Program, please visit the Office of Children and Family Services website: [www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/](http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/)*



**Child Care Demand****Parent Requests Per Child**

Upon reviewing the requests Child Care Aware® of Steuben and Schuyler received in the last year, here are some interesting statistics, regarding the parent referral requests per child. The NACCRRRAware (referral) database is only for regulated providers and does not include legally exempt provider requests. *Note: This data does not include consultations for subsidy. Parent seeking subsidy may not want referrals, as they may already have child care secured.*

**Referrals by Provider Type (152 Requests)**

*Numbers indicate what type of care parents are seeking for each child.*

*\*Note: Figures below reflect multiple preferences selected by parents.*

Day Care Center	44
Family Child Care	51
Group Family Child Care	50
School-age Child Care	7

**Requests by Age of Child (51 requests)**

*Numbers indicate the ages of children for whom parents are seeking care.*

Infants	17
Toddlers	5
Pre-School	10
School-age	19

**Schedule Type Requests (51 requests)**

*Numbers indicate the schedule for which parent needs care per child.*

Full-time	46
Part-time	4
Both	1

**Extra Care Requests (9 requests)**

*Numbers indicate the times for which parents need care per child.*

*\*Note: Figures below reflect multiple preferences selected by parents.*

Before School	1
After School	2
Rotating Schedule	6

**Request Preference for Medical Administration (51 requests)**

New York State Approved to Administer Medication	0
No preference	51 **

*\*\*No preference- there is a lack of providers that are New York State Approved to Administer Medication in Schuyler County. Therefore, to widen the search for available child care in their area, most parents choose "No preference".*

**Special Needs (1 request)**

*Numbers indicate what type of special needs a child may have.*

*\*Note: Figures below reflect multiple preferences selected by parents.*

Asthma	1
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**Additional Care Services (25 requests)**

*Numbers indicate the schedule for which parents need care per child.*

*\*Note: Figures below reflect multiple preferences selected by parents.*

Evening	3
Flexible Hours	11
Late Day/Afternoon	2
Part Week	7
Snow Days	1
Weekend	1

**Location of Care (46 Requests)**

*Numbers indicate the location for which parents need care per child.*

*\*Note: Figures below reflect the cities where parents are living and looking for care near home.*

*Parents living in cities outside of Schuyler County, but using our services, are not reflected below.*

Alpine	4
Beaver Dams	5
Burdett	2
Cayuta	5
Dundee	1
Hector	2
Montour Falls	6
Odessa	6
Trumansburg	2
Watkins Glen	13

Based on the parent referral requests, the information below is a summary of the data collected:

- a preference for Family Day Care setting
- a high demand for school-age and infant care
- a high need for full-time care
- a high need for rotating schedule care
- a continued demand for flexible hours
- a high demand for care in these locations: Montour Falls, Odessa, and Watkins Glen

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

**NYS Office of Children and Family Services**

**NYS Department of Health Child Adult Care Food Program**

**Schuyler County Department of Social Services**

**Child Care Supply****Current Child Care Slots by Type**

The following chart reflects the maximum capacity for regulated child care programs

**Family Day Care and Group Family Day Care**

Type of Care (Schuyler County)	# of Providers	Total Slots
Family Day Care	10	80
Group Family Day Care	5	80

Source: Child Care Facility System (CCFS) as of September 2020.

*Disclaimer: A typical Family Day Care can care for a total of 8 children depending on the ages of the children in care. Refer to page 5, Social Services Law 390 1(e) for more information on Child Care Types and definitions regarding capacity.*

*Note: While typically registered Family Day Care can care for to 8 children, there may be cases where the Office of Children and Family Services has deemed a lower capacity because of space issues.*

*Disclaimer: A typical Group Family Day Care can care for a total of 16 children, depending on the ages of the children in care. Refer to page 5, Social Services Law 390 1(d) for more information on Child Care Types and definitions regarding capacity.*

*Note: While typically licensed Group Family Day Care can care for to 16 children, there may be cases where the Office of Children and Family Services has deemed a lower capacity because of space issues.*

**Day Care Center and School-aged Child Care**

*Though Head Start programs are licensed, Head Start numbers are not included in these numbers. (Please see Head Start data on page 14.)*

Type of Care (Schuyler County)	# of Providers	Age (0-up to 2)	Age (2-up to 3)	Age (3-up to 5)	School-aged Child Care (5 – 12)	Total Slots
Day Care Center	1	11	18	18	0	47
School-aged Child Care	2	0	0	0	162	162

Source: Child Care Facility System (CCFS) as of September 2020.

**Legally-exempt Providers by Type**

Type of Legally-exempt	Providers = 13	# of children served = 39
LE Family Child Care	7	17
LE In-home	6	22
LE Group	0	0

Source: Child Care Facility System (CCFS) as of September 2020.

**Child Care Slots Offered by Type and Geography**

Below is information on the availability of child care in different regions of Schuyler County by type of care. It presents the number of slots provided in the different types of regulated care, categorized by the age of the child. The information was collected as of September 2020 and is subject to change. Child care providers of all types below have the option of enrolling any number of children into their programs as long as they do not exceed their maximum capacity. The following chart reflects regulated providers' total capacity of slots. Head Start and other Pre-Kindergarten figures are included directly following this chart.

**Family Child Care and Group Family Child Care Slots by Location**

Disclaimer: Refer to page 5 Social Service Law 390 1(e) and 1(d) for more information on child care types and definition regarding capacity.

Town Name	Type of Care	# of Providers	6 Weeks-12 Years
Beaver Dams	Family Day Care	1	8
	Group Family Day Care	1	16
Burdett	Family Day Care	1	8
	Group Family Day Care	1	16
Dundee	Family Day Care	1	8
	Group Family Day Care	0	0
Hector	Family Day Care	1	8
	Group Family Day Care	0	0
Montour Falls	Family Day Care	1	8
	Group Family Day Care	1	16
Odessa	Family Day Care	2	16
	Group Family Day Care	2	32

	Type of Care	# of Providers	6 Weeks-12 Years
Trumansburg	Family Day Care	3	24
	Group Family Day Care	0	0
<b>Schuyler County (Totals)</b>	Family Day Care	10	80
	Group Family Day Care	5	80

Source: Child Care Facility System (CCFS) as of as of September 2020.

The following towns do not currently have Family Day Care or Group Family Day Care:

Alpine, Catharine, Cayuta, Dix, Hector, Orange, Reading, Tyrone, and Watkins Glen.

**Day Care Centers and School-aged Child Care Slots by Location**

Disclaimer: Refer to page 5 Social Service Law 390 1(c) and 1(f) for more information on child care types and definitions regarding capacity.

Town Name	Type of Care	# of Providers	Age (0-up to 2)	Age (2-up to 3)	Age (3-up to 5)	School-aged Child Care (5-12)	Totals
Montour Falls	Day Care Center	1	11	18	18	0	47
	School-age Child Care	0	0	0	0	0	0
Odessa	Day Care Center	0	0	0	0	0	0
	School-age Child Care	1	0	0	0	44	44
Watkins Glen	Day Care Center	0	0	0	0	0	0
	School-age Child Care	1	0	0	0	118	118
<b>Schuyler County (Totals)</b>	<b>Day Care Center</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>47</b>
	<b>School-age Child Care</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>162</b>

Source: Child Care Facility System (CCFS) as of September 2020.

*The following towns do not currently have Day Care Centers or School-aged Child Care:*

*Alpine, Catharine, Cayuta, Dix, Hector, Orange, Reading, and Tyrone.*

### **Head Start and Universal Pre-kindergarten (UPK) Child Care Slots**

The total number of slots available for Schuyler Head Start and UPK in Schuyler County is 174. Head Start and Watkins Glen UPK are not fully enrolled.

The breakdown of ages served are as follows:

#### **Schuyler Head Start** (1 Head Start serves all of Schuyler County)

19 children are 3-year-olds    27 children are 4-year-olds.

#### **Schuyler County UPK** (current enrollment)

Watkins Glenn UPK, 34 children are 4-year-olds

Odessa Montour UPK, 36 children are 4-year-olds

Odessa Montour UPK, 15 children are 3-year-olds

*Note- both school districts contract with a Community Collaborator and Schuyler Head Start to serve a percentage of their UPK slots. For the 2020-2021 program year, Head Start has 33 children who are dually enrolled with UPK and Head Start. (3 and 4-year-olds in the OM school district and 4 year-olds in WG).*

*At the start of the 2020-21 program, Head Start had limited 40 children for in-person services (10 in each classroom) leaving 28 slots available for virtual services only. In September the program had 11 virtual students and 38 in-person.*

## Child Care Resources

### Child Care Resource and Referral

Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies all over America, Canada and Europe, assist parents in finding child care that meets their family's unique and complex needs. The following are key ways that referral agencies, such as Child Care Aware® of Steuben and Schuyler, help parents with their search for child care:

- By providing consumer education on a variety of child care options and informing parents about what constitutes quality care, enabling parents to make the best child care choice.
- By customizing referrals from a continually updated provider database.
- By working with community stakeholders and businesses to develop more care options to meet traditional and non-traditional demands for child care in every community.
- By providing counseling and resource materials that enable parents to raise healthy children and maintain positive child care relationships.
- By directly linking parents to child care subsidies, which helps eligible families pay for child care fees/costs when funds are available.

### Child Care Subsidy

The high cost of child care forces many families to make difficult choices. Parents bear the majority of expenditures for child care (and families with lower incomes spend a significantly larger fraction of their income on child care). To assist parents with child care costs, New York State, through the Federal Child Care Development Block Grant, offers child care subsidies to low-income families whose income is less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, those who are TANF eligible, and those transitioning from TANF to work. Counties can set the income guidelines up to 200% based on their subsidy allocation. In Schuyler County, subsidy reimbursement is paid directly to child care providers. Families with low income receiving subsidy are required to pay a portion of their child care, which is considered a parent fee. The parent fee is based on a formula using a multiplier between 10% and 35% of a parent's income above the poverty level. Schuyler County's income guidelines are at 200% and the parent fee multiplier is 15%. Subsidy payment amounts are established by the state, at a market rate, based on the age of the child, type of provider, and a statewide market survey of child care fee rates. This is performed every two years; a survey was completed in 2018 and implemented in May 2019. Schuyler County encourages child care providers to assess the actual cost of doing business and set their fees accordingly, up to the maximum allowable state market rate.

According to 20-OCFS-LCM-12 Schuyler County's subsidy allocation for 4/1/20 to 3/31/21 is \$530,074. These funds paid portions of child care for 98 children on behalf of 53 families. Subsidy reimbursement payments were paid on average to **18** regulated and **21** legally-exempt providers.

**Average Weekly Full-time Fees for Child Care in Schuyler County**

The figures below are the average weekly fees parents pay for child care in Schuyler County.

<b>Modality</b>	<b>Ages: 6 weeks- 23 mos.</b>	<b>Ages: 24-35 mos.</b>	<b>Ages: 3-4 yrs.</b>	<b>Ages: 5-12 yrs.</b>
Family Day Care	\$160.83	\$153.33	\$153.33	\$153.33
Group Family Day Care	\$173.75	\$170.00	\$166.25	\$76.67
Child Day Care Center	\$212.00	\$200.00	\$190.00	N/A
School-age Child Care	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$60.00

**Child Care Program Quality:**

“The development of social emotional competence during the early childhood years is an important foundation for children’s later success. The National Academy of Sciences reported that 60% of children enter school with the cognitive skills needed to be successful, but only 40% have the social-emotional skills needed to succeed in kindergarten. Research has clearly shown that children’s emotional and behavioral adjustment is important for their chances of early school success, yet the emphasis on cognitive and academic preparedness often overshadows the importance of children’s social-emotional development” (Raver, 2002).

At Child Care Aware® of Steuben and Schuyler, we consistently focus on providing professional development opportunities that focus on the whole child. We expose child care programs to the tools and education to meet the diverse needs of each child while preparing them to be on track for school.

**Professional Development**

All registered and licensed child care programs are required to meet and remain in compliance with the New York State Child Day Care Regulations that requires providers to take 30 hours of training every two years and receive training in the following nine topic areas:

1. Principles of child development
2. Nutrition and health needs of infants and children
3. Child day care program development
4. Safety and security procedures
5. Business record and maintenance management
6. Child abuse and maltreatment identification and prevention
7. Statutes and regulations pertaining to child day care
8. Statutes and regulations pertaining to child abuse and maltreatment
9. Education and information on the identification, diagnosis and prevention of shaken baby syndrome/abusive head trauma (SACC programs are excluded from this training)

Schuyler County providers reported participation in the following quality initiative support services in 2020:

<b>9</b>	Child Development Associate coursework assistance/participation
<b>35</b>	Onsite intensive technical assistance reported implementation of new knowledge gained
<b>112</b>	Professional development plan assistance
<b>15</b>	Professional development opportunities conducted
<b>77</b>	Participants at professional development opportunities
<b>35</b>	Quality improvement plan development
<b>2</b>	Achieved/Renewed the Child Development Associate Certificate

**New York State Training and Technical Assistance Professional Credential (TTAP)**

The New York State Training and Technical Assistance Professional Credential provides a standard to assure the quality of Early Learning Trainers. Additionally, it represents a level of professional achievement for trainers. The title of “trainer” is the field-accepted term used to indicate a person who educates, instructs, coaches, and/or mentors other adults in knowledge and quality practices for professional development.

The T-TAP Credential formally recognizes the value and specialized knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for those who provide community-based training to early care and education programs and providers. The trainer’s education, experience and competencies are categorized by four knowledge base areas including: knowledge of content, instructional design and development, presentation skills, and professionalism. These are reviewed and verified by New York Association for the Education of Young Children(NYAEYC). If an individual meets all criteria, the credential is awarded and requires ongoing professional development to meet the renewal requirement. In 2020, Child Care Aware® of Steuben and Schuyler had 3 credentialed trainers and 5 verified trainers on staff. For more information on the credentialing process, visit <http://nyaeyc.org/ttap-credential/> or The Aspire Registry, New York State’s Registry for early childhood and school-age professionals at <https://nyworksforchildren.org/professional-growth/pd-providers/>.

NYAEYC added a coaching credential to the designations one can achieve in the field of Early Care and Learning. This designation is for individuals who provide coaching, which is defined as a relationship based process led by an expert with specialized adult learning knowledge and skills, who often serves in a different professional role than the recipient(s). CCAoSS had 2 credentialed coaches in 2020 that served as additional resources for quality programming (<http://nyaeyc.org/coach/>).

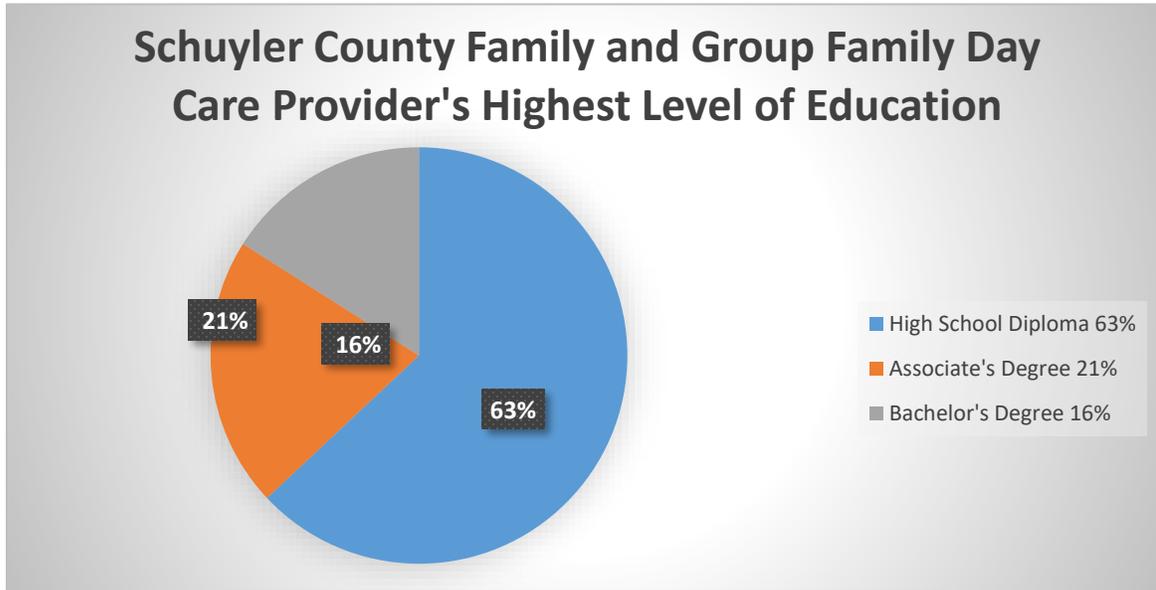
In addition to the above professional credentials, Early Care and Learning Council provided a Train the Trainer opportunity on Adverse Childhood Experiences that provided 3 CCAoSS staff with a solid research based curriculum to use when providing this topic for professional development.

In 2020, child care providers invested in their professional development by utilizing the SUNY Early Childhood Education and Training Program (ECETP) Educational Incentive Program (EIP) and CSEA/VOICE to assist with their associated cost of enrollment and attendance. Both of these programs require trainers to be credentialed, verified, or employed by an approved training agency that has an active agreement with their organization. Due to COVID-19, virtual instruction by a credentialed trainer was approved to satisfy training requirements and the above funding sources continued to provide financial assistance to participants.

**QUALITYstarsNY**

*QUALITYstarsNY(QSNY)* is New York State’s 5 star quality rating improvement system for child care programs. Currently, this is a voluntary program designed to provide supports to programs to help them achieve a 5 star rating, as well as communicate quality options to the families exploring enriching environments. QSNY has been rolled out in various areas of NYS. In 2017, Schuyler County child care programs were provided the opportunity to participate in the quality rating improvement system. Through recruitment efforts by the local QSNY Quality Improvement Specialist and Child Care

Aware® of Steuben and Schuyler, 7 Schuyler County child care programs/classrooms were recruited and/or continued to be active participants in 2020. If you would like to learn more about QSNY, visit their webpage at <http://qualitystarsny.org/> or contact CCAoSS at 607-776-2125 ext. 7107.



**Infant and Toddler Services**

Child Care Aware® of Steuben and Schuyler, is a member of the Office of Children and Family Services Region II Infant and Toddler Network. The network provides support services to child care programs based on the Ten Components of Quality Infant Toddler Care through Florida State University, WestEd’s Program for Infant and Toddler Care (PITC), Pyramid Model and Child Care Aware® of Steuben and Schuyler’s *Early Literacy Connection*© curriculum.

In 2020, NYS rolled out the Infant and Toddler Mental Health Consultant Project. CCCAoS hired an ITMHC in September of 2020 to begin providing services for programs in our area. Consultants engaged in a variety of training experience to ensure they had professional tools to assist programs in providing an environment that supports positive mental health strategies for all children present.

Schuyler County providers reported participation in infant and toddler specialized training in 2020.

5 Attendees	Participated in Specialized Training in the following topic areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interacting with infants and toddlers during a pandemic (Can I play with you?)</li> <li>• Baby Doll Circle Time</li> <li>• Observations and assessments</li> </ul>
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**Additional Resources:**

Office of Children and Family Services: [www.ocfs.ny.gov](http://www.ocfs.ny.gov)

Professional Development Program: [www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu](http://www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu)

Corning Community College: [www.corning-cc.edu](http://www.corning-cc.edu)

Empire State College: [www.esc.edu](http://www.esc.edu)

Head Start/Early Head Start/Universal Pre-K: <http://proactioninc.org/resilient-children-and-families/>

Early Intervention/Special Children's Services: <https://www.steubencony.org/pages.asp?PGID=45/>

Zero to Three: <http://nyztt.org>

Early Care and Learning Council: <http://www.earlycareandlearning.org/>

Region II Infant and Toddler Technical Assistance Center: <https://childcarecouncil.com/professional-development/infanttoddler/>

Early Childhood Trainer Credential: [www.nyaeyc.org](http://www.nyaeyc.org)

Program for Infant and Toddler Care (PITC): [www.pitc.org](http://www.pitc.org)

Council for Professional Recognition: [www.cdacouncil.org](http://www.cdacouncil.org)

### Child Care Health Consultant Services

Child Care Aware® of Steuben and Schuyler employs a part-time Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC) that is a NYS Registered Professional Nurse. The CCHC's basic function is to prevent harm and promote optimal health in child care programs, in compliance with all NYS child care regulations. The health consultant works with child caregivers to identify, implement, and evaluate strategies to achieve high quality childcare. In addition, the health care consultant establishes basic health and safety operational guidelines and plans for the child care program and provider; and serves in a liaison capacity to other health professionals and community organizations.

### Health Care Services include:

- Medication Administration Training (MAT). The MAT course is a skill-based training to teach providers how to administer medications safely in their programs. The course is 8 hours long (with a skills demonstration) and gives an overview of medication effects and ways to give medication safely for both over-the-counter and prescription medications. Providers are taught how to handle, store and safely dispose of medications. Instruction also includes how to obtain proper consent and what the requirements are for preparation and administration of medications. Emergency care and special situations like asthma, seizures and severe allergic reactions are also covered in the course.
- Assist programs in complying with regulations pertaining to child health and the administration of medications.
- Regulatory requirements necessary for the administration of inhalers, nebulizers and emergency epinephrine auto-injectors (Epi-pens) by non-MAT approved providers.
- Trainings on the care and medications of children with specific health needs, such as seizure care, asthma, diabetes, g-tubes, etc.
- Ensure a system for communication among the child care provider, parent, and primary health care provider and consult when health issues arise.
- Perform on-site assessments of the child care environment and/or program operations.
- Assist child care providers in developing general policy statements and an annual plan for the child care program (e.g., management of infectious diseases, fevers, and use of medications, and exclusion policies).

- Help child care providers obtain, understand, and use information about the health status of individual children and staff.
- Educate child care providers about child development, mental and physical health, safety, nutrition, and oral health issues.
- Link staff, families, and children with community health resources.
- Educate and collaborate with licensing staff and policy makers to improve regulations, inspections, resources, and policies that promote safe and healthy child care.
- Phone and/or email consultation for all programs on matters related to health, wellness and child care for the provider/program.
- Informal and/or formal training on topics like immunizations and infection control.
- Resource for other CCHC's (and their programs) who may or may not be employed by a CCR&R in order to help promote safety and wellness in the child care setting.

In 2020, the Child Care Health Consultant provided the following services:

- 3 initial Health Care Plan Consultation for child care programs
- 4 personal on-site visits to providers for services in education, compliance and/or support

Total Number of MAT approved providers in 2020:

- 2 Group Family Day Care Programs
- 2 Headstart Programs

***Additional Resources:***

*Child Care Aware® of Steuben and Schuyler Website: [www.proactioninc.org/cca](http://www.proactioninc.org/cca)*

*WebMD: [www.webmd.com](http://www.webmd.com)*

*Healthy Child Care America: [www.healthychildcare.org](http://www.healthychildcare.org)*

*Schuyler County Public Health: <https://schuylercounty.us/166/Public-Health>*

*Mayo Clinic: [www.mayoclinic.com](http://www.mayoclinic.com)*

*NYS Department of Health: [www.health.ny.gov](http://www.health.ny.gov)*

*National Resource Center for Health & Safety in Child Care: [nrckids.org](http://nrckids.org)*

*NYS Office of Children and Family Services: [ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/default.asp](http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/default.asp)*

**Children's Nutrition Services**

**Eat Well Play Hard in Child Care Settings**

Child Care Aware® of Steuben and Schuyler was awarded the Eat Well Play Hard in Child Care Settings grant for an eighth year. Through this grant, a Registered Dietitian addresses the challenge of childhood obesity in the counties of Steuben, Schuyler, Allegany, Chemung, Tompkins, Yates, Seneca and Ontario. Refer to the graph below for the specific statistical analysis for childhood obesity rates in the counties served. The childhood obesity rates of the eight counties served under this project as of the 2017-2019 data reports were:

<b>County</b>	<b>Percentage of Overweight or Obese Elementary Students</b> (reported to the NYS Health Connector)
<b>Allegany</b>	<b>13.2</b>
<b>Ontario</b>	<b>14.4</b>
<b>Tompkins</b>	<b>15.7</b>
<b>Schuyler</b>	<b>21.9</b>
<b>Steuben</b>	<b>17.8</b>
<b>Chemung</b>	<b>18.7</b>
<b>Seneca</b>	<b>19.9</b>
<b>Yates</b>	<b>15.9</b>
<b>Averages</b>	
<b>NY State average (excluding NYC)</b>	<b>16.2</b>
<b>8-county average</b>	<b>17.18</b>

Source: <https://nyshc.health.ny.gov/web/nyapd/student-weight-data-explorer>

Eat Well Play Hard was developed to help prevent childhood obesity and reduce long-term risks for chronic disease through the promotion of targeted dietary practices and increased physical activity. Poor nutrition and inadequate physical activity are the main causes of obesity, which is an epidemic in the United States. Being active builds healthy muscles, strengthens bones and helps maintain a healthy weight. It also reduces the risk of diabetes, heart attack and high blood pressure.

Lesson plans to reinforce the Eat Well Play Hard objectives include the following:

- Increase developmentally appropriate physical activity
- Decrease exposure to television and recreational screen time
- Increase consumption of vegetables and fruits
- Increase consumption of low-fat or fat-free milk for children over age 2
- Increase the initiation and duration of exclusive breastfeeding

Typically, the EWPH program would service 10 programs a year. Due to the pandemic the EWPH RD was prohibited from entering child care programs. Time was spent developing virtual curriculum that met the criteria set up by the grantor. Resources were posted on social media for participating programs and the new RD focused on mandatory training and learning the processes of recruitment and implementation.

This program is a 16-week center-wide intervention that includes lessons for children, parents and staff, as well as environmental changes that support healthy lifestyle practices. Objectives of the EWPH Champion program include:

- Adding nutrition and physical activity lessons as a part of a child's daily routine

- Nutrition, physical activity, reduced screen time, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and cost saving education messages are communicated to parents
- Child care center menus increase the number of times fresh fruit and vegetables and low fat dairy are offered at snack time
- Child care centers create nutrition and physical activity policies and communicate policies to parents/families
- Encouraging family style dining

### **Farm to Preschool (F2P)**

Child Care Aware® of Steuben and Schuyler completed its third year of the Farm to Preschool Program. This program connected preschool children, their parents and caregivers with local farmers and their fresh produce. The program is designed to address the obstacles and barriers that are related to poor nutrition and allow access to locally grown fresh produce. The Farm to Preschool Coordinator addresses these obstacles by engaging children, parents and staff in seed-to-table education, food demonstrations, and the establishment of farm stands.

At the height of the planning phase for F2P, the pandemic brought program restrictions that did not allow for non-essential visitors. In addition, some qualifying programs were shut down during this phase. Historically, Phase One of the F2P program was implemented during the months of January through June. The F2P Coordinator works in classroom settings and delivers a curriculum that teaches children about different fruits and vegetables, how to make different recipes using those fruits and vegetables, and how to grow them. This phase includes an introduction to classroom container gardens that the children actively plant and harvest. The curriculum activities engage the child care program staff with facilitating behavior change related to increased consumption of fruits and vegetables. Due to the pandemic, F2P services were very limited. Farm Markets were not allowed on site and the F2P coordinator was not allowed to conduct lessons onsite. The coordinator spent time converting the lessons to a virtual format and was able to provide a learning experience to one participating program. Within that program, the following individuals participated:

- 39 children
- 11 Staff

The second phase of the F2P occurs during the months of June through September. Phase Two includes the establishment of the farm stands at the participating centers. The establishment of the farm stands is intentional in order to make the accessibility convenient for the families. In addition, this gives the children a chance to interact with the farmer and meet the individual who grew the produce they sample. The farmer typically provides fresh produce at a lower price to families who do not have the time to buy, or could not afford to buy at the store. The farmers accept multiple methods of payments for the produce, such as: cash, credit/debit, EBT, Fresh Connect checks, FMNP checks, Senior FMNP checks and WIC fruit and vegetable checks. Due to restrictions, no farm markets were conducted in 2020.

**Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)**

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federally funded program that provides child care providers a meal reimbursement for healthy meals and snacks served to children. Since CACFP participants' nutritional needs are supported on a daily basis, the program plays a vital role in improving the quality of child care and making it more affordable for families. Participation is open to all licensed and registered child care programs, as well as enrolled legally-exempt FCC programs who provide child care in their home. In 2020, there were 6 participating programs, 6 were regulated child care, and 0 were legally exempt programs. These programs provided CACFP approved meals and snacks to 108 children in Schuyler County. Child care centers and school-age child care (SACC) programs are sponsored directly through the NYS Department of Health.

***Additional Resources:***

*NYS DOH Nutrition Website: [www.health.ny.gov/prevention/nutrition/](http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/nutrition/)*

*NYS DOH Eat Well Play Hard Website: [www.health.ny.gov/prevention/nutrition/cacfp/ewphccs.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/nutrition/cacfp/ewphccs.htm)*

## **Registration and Resource Development**

### **Development of New Programs**

The Registration and Resource Development Department is responsible for building the supply of child care providers in Schuyler County. When someone expresses the desire to become a registered family day care provider or to open a school-age child care program, technical support is offered to assist in this process. Once a program is registered, continued support is given. Inspections are conducted to assist providers in maintaining compliance with the New York State Child Day Care Regulations.

In addition, we act as a consultant for persons wanting to develop centers and group family day care homes that are licensed by the Office of Children & Family Services through the Rochester Regional Office.

### **Complaints**

The Registration Department is also responsible for complaints on registered programs. When a complaint is made, a Registrar investigates the program to determine if they are in conformity with the regulations. If the program is considered out of compliance, we assist them in making the necessary changes to bring their program back into compliance. If you have concerns about family day care or school-age programs call: (607) 776 -2126 and your call will be transferred to the Manager of Resource and Development.

If you have concerns about licensed programs (Group Family Day Care or Centers) New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) maintains a toll-free complaint line regarding day care programs in NYS. Call (800) 732-5207, normal business hours: M – F, 8:30am – 5:00pm, and a staff person will take the information. The Office is required to investigate any possible violation of child care regulations.

If you think a program is operating without the proper license or registration certificate, this is also basis for making a complaint. Please call (607) 776-2126 and your call will be transferred to the Manager of Resource and Development.

### **Updates in 2020**

Beginning in March 2020, all inspections were ceased due to the COVID-19 virus. Inspections for renewals, initials, complaints, and monitors were approved on a case-by-case basis. In 2020, all regulated programs were to begin receiving unannounced monitor inspections. The pandemic resulted in a delay of moving forward with this new change in mandatory inspections. As of September 2020, regulators were to begin conducting renewal inspections at the rate of 1 inspection per week with the approval of the Regional Office. Initial inspections were next on the list of approvals. Due to continual restrictions with visits, the new requirement for annual unannounced and the continuation of 50% inspections were not approved to continue as of December 2020. In response to COVID-19 on March 5, 2020, OCFS released one of the first of many “Dear Provider” letters stating that there had been confirmed cases of the virus in New York State. While the risk remained low, the situation was changing rapidly. This letter contained important reminders and

safety practices to consider regarding the operation of child care programs. In addition, it shared information on the OCFS Health Care Plan (HCP) and how it contained valuable information regarding infection control practices.

On March 11, 2020 another “Dear Provider” letter was released sharing information on what to do when a parent was quarantined, and what questions to use for screening visitors, staff, and children. It followed up with reminding providers that if their child care program was closing for issues related to COVID-19, they were required by OCFS regulation to immediately notify their regional office, registration office or enrollment agency. They were also required to notify their regional office, registration office or enrollment agency if a child in their program had been quarantined. Child Care programs were required to post a sign that is visible to all visitors that displays the COVID screening questions.

In a “Dear Provider” letter released on March 17, 2020, it stated to providers that with all the changing information, it can be difficult to manage the influx of information they hear from many sources. They advised that child care programs were NOT being ordered to close. In fact, quite the opposite was true. Governor Cuomo and his administration considered child care to be an essential function critical to enabling parents to go to work.

On August 19, 2020, the Office of Children and Family Services adopted emergency regulations to clarify that school-age children may attend child care programs during the academic school year when such children were not required to be physically present in school as part of the regular school day.

### **Continuation of Career Pipeline**

Effective July 1, 2019, the pipeline project provided an opportunity to increase child care slots and enhance the quality of care provided to children in Steuben and Schuyler counties. The program also aimed to provide a steady income for individuals looking to start-up their own business. This initiative has been made possible through the following funding streams:

- Infant/Toddler
- Kay Hodge Memorial Fund
- Fund for Women
- United Way

In 2020, this initiative had shown to be successful, and was granted more funding as of April 2020. Continued funding will help individuals overcome the financial barriers of opening their own child care business.

### **Legally-exempt Services**

Since March 2020, the new requirement for 100% (annual) Legally-Exempt inspections was put on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, the enrollment officer maintained constant communication with providers to ensure they were meeting the health and safety requirements for their programs.

## Summary

As I write this, we are just past the one-year mark of the declared Covid 19 virus pandemic and the day the world shut down. But there were those who did not close their doors, the child care community. Most child care programs kept their doors open and responded to this crisis by doing what they do every day, caring for our community's children.

For years, as local child care advocates, we have been advocating for support for the child care sector in Steuben and Schuyler Counties. Our approach would change depending on who has been in office, what message would resonate, but the meat of our message was consistent. And that has been/is that child care is an essential service necessary for communities to grow and thrive like schools, hospitals, grocery stores, etc. *"That high-quality child care benefits families, children and employers because this **one** community asset supports family financial health, workforce stability and child development."* Never has this statement been truer than during this crisis, when the State declared a state of emergency and all schools closed. The child care sector became a *"first responder"* in supporting parents, schools, and businesses, in caring for the young children as well as supporting remote learning for school-agers.

The silver lining is that this tragedy and heartbreak allowed for opportunity to shine a light on the value of registered and licensed child care providers/programs - with their robust health & safety plans and rigorous infection control practices, they were safe alternatives to "home alone" for school-age children whose parents must work. They exemplified the vital community infrastructure along with medical services, law enforcement, fire fighters, grocery stores, etc. This pandemic created a radical change in how our communities are going about life. We should come together and leverage the kind of funding it takes to build a system that provides the care that children deserve, and that can meet any crisis head on. We learned the hard way that we cannot expect a child care system with few resources to take the place of closed school districts.

Also, it is important to note that there is another valuable service in this community that provided the on-the-ground support for child programs and families. Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCRRs) became an even more critical resource for child care information, referrals, data, and access to fee assistance for families and the distribution of vital ever-changing regulatory information, PPE supplies, and the facilitation of the federal CARES Act programs.

We all understand that there are many competing priorities for state and federal funding, but this virus has pushed child care to the head of the line. If child care businesses are to be on the frontline of a crisis and survive, they are going need the kind of backing that only government can provide. Despite the underfunding, the child care sector and their support services have endured and have prove to be one of the super-heroes in this crisis.

Farewell,

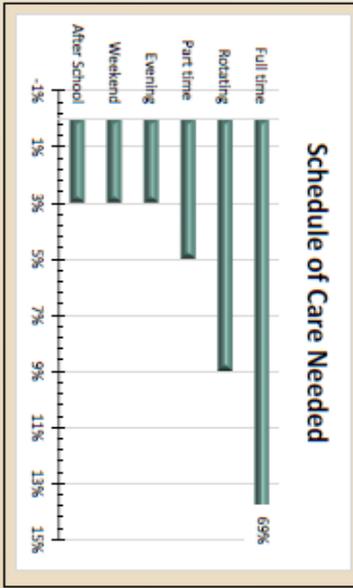
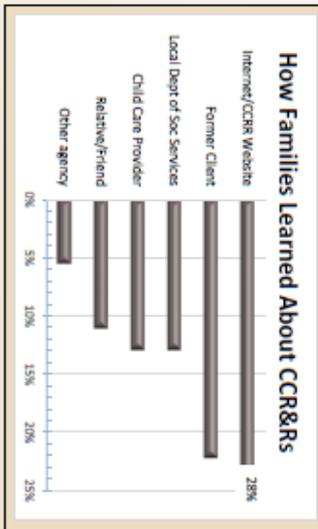
*Carla Hibbard*

# Child Care Aware - Schuyler County

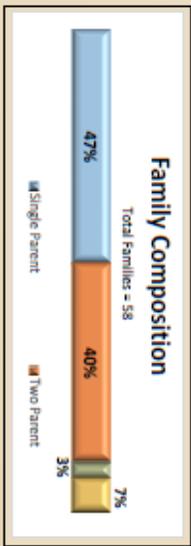
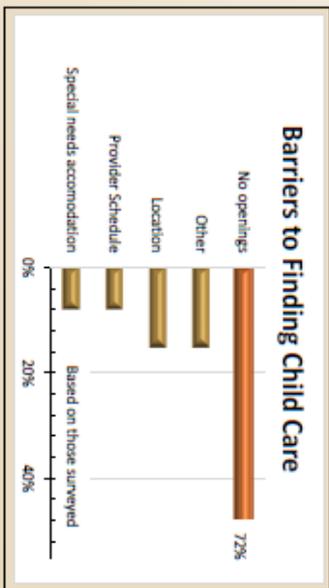
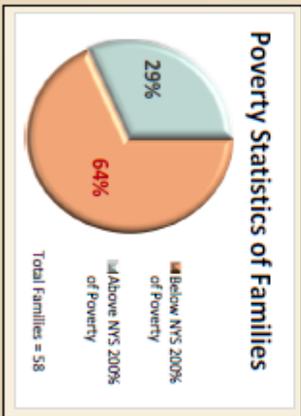
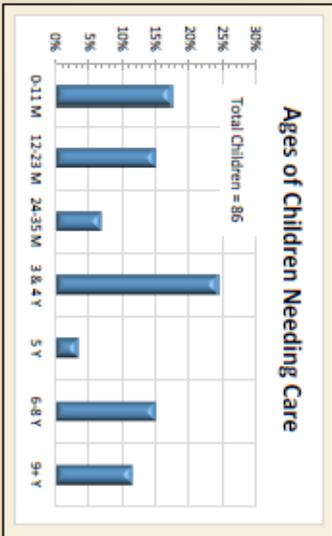


**Total Referral Requests = 56**

Provider Statistics					
Schuyler Center	Family	Group Family	School Age	County TTL	
# Providers	2	9	4	2	17
Max Capacity	142	71	64	162	439



Of those surveyed after using CCR&R referral services, 20% reported choosing Group Family Care and 10% chose Family Care.



Technical Assistance			
Schuyler	Phone T/A (# calls)	274	
	Intensive T/A (# hours)	47	
Health Care Consultation			
Plan Consult	Site Visit	Plan Review	
2	2	2	