

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 4/7/99
Bill No. AB 166
Or
Subject: Vic Mc Murray
(Name)
525 Dunning Str
(Street Address or Route Number)
Madison, WI 53704
(City & Zip Code)
(Representing)

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only:
- Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms:
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 4/7/98
Bill No. AB 166
Or
Subject: Spencer Black
(Name)
(Street Address or Route Number)
(City & Zip Code) 77AD
(Representing)

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only:
- Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 4/7/99
Bill No. AB 166
Or
Subject: Dependent Care Tax Credit
(Name) Mary Babula
1818 Jennifer St.
(Street Address or Route Number)
Madison 53704
(City & Zip Code)
Wis. Women's Network
(Representing) Child Care Task Force

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only:
- Neither for nor against:

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Assembly Sergeant at Arms:
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 4-7-99
Bill No. AB166
Or. AB166
Subject _____

(Name) BARBARA S. HERRICK
(Street Address or Route Number) 6443 BRIDGE RD.
(City & Zip Code) MADISON WI 53713

(Representing) WI CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL NETWORK

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 4-7-99
Bill No. AB 166
Or. AB 166
Subject _____

(Name) TOM DURADA
(Street Address or Route Number) 125 S Webster
(City & Zip Code) MADISON WI 53702

(Representing) Dept of Revenue

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 4/7/99
Bill No. Child care credit
Or. Child care credit
Subject AB 166

(Name) Jon Peacock

(Street Address or Route Number) _____

(City & Zip Code) _____

(Representing) Wisconsin Budget Project (of the Wis. Council on Children & Families)

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 4/7/99
 Bill No. AB166
 Or
 Subject: Non-Residentable Working Family Tax Credit
Abbea Kirkland
 (Name)
118 Rosemary Ave
 (Street Address or Route Number)
Madison WI 53714
 (City & Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking in favor:
 Speaking against:
 Registering in favor:
 Registering against:
 Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
 Room 411 West
 State Capitol
 Madison, WI 53702

8 reg
in favor

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 7 April 1999
 Bill No. AB166
 Or
 Subject: Senator Fred Risser
 (Name)
220 South Capitol
 (Street Address or Route Number)
MADISON
 (City & Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking in favor:
 Speaking against:
 Registering in favor:
 Registering against:
 Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
 Room 411 West
 State Capitol
 Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: April 7, 1999
 Bill No. 166
 Or
 Subject: Dependent Care Tax Credit
Diane Michalski Turney Ph.D.
 (Name)
222 Merry St #15
 (Street Address or Route Number)
Madison WI 53704
 (City & Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking in favor:
 Speaking against:
 Registering in favor:
 Registering against:
 Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
 Room 411 West
 State Capitol
 Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 4-7-99
Bill No. AB 166
Or. Subject: PETER BOCK
(Name)
4710 W. BLUE MOUND RD
(Street Address or Route Number)
MILWAUKEE 53208
(City & Zip Code)
7th ASSEMBLY DIST
(Representing)

Speaking in favor:
Speaking against:
Registering in favor:
Registering against:
Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.
Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 4/7/99
Bill No. AB 166
Or. Subject: Child Care Income Tax Credit
(Name) Sen. Judy KOSBOW
(Street Address or Route Number)
(City & Zip Code)
(Representing)

Speaking in favor:
Speaking against:
Registering in favor:
Registering against:
Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.
Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 4/7/99
Bill No. 166
Or. Subject: Dependent Care Tax Credit
(Name) Jeannette A. Paulson
4306 Painters Dr.
(Street Address or Route Number)
Madison WI 53704
(City & Zip Code)
(Representing)

Speaking in favor:
Speaking against:
Registering in favor:
Registering against:
Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.
Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 4/7/99
BILLING No. 166
Or Subject: Dependent Care Tax Credit
Catherine M. Kearns
(Name)
4432 S. Gal
(Street Address or Route Number)
Greenfield, WI 53220
(City & Zip Code)
(Representing)

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.
Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: April 7, 1999
BILLING No. AB 166
Or Subject: WI Child Care Tax Credit
Patricia Mapp
(Name)
1927 Commonwealth Av.
(Street Address or Route Number)
Madison, WI 53705
(City & Zip Code)
My Family
(Representing)

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.
Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 4/7/99
BILLING No. AB 1618
Or Subject: 166
Tim Carpenter
(Name)
210N
(Street Address or Route Number)
(City & Zip Code)
(Representing)

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.
Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

1999 - 2000 LEGISLATURE

1999 ASSEMBLY BILL 166 

March 4, 1999 - Introduced by Representatives Black, Powers, Carpenter, Sinicki, J. Lehman, Ryba, Bock, Hasenohrl, Pohan, Lassa, Meyer, Schooff, Cullen, Plouff and Boyle, cosponsored by Senators Robson, Baumgart, Plache, Risser, Erpenbach and Clausung. Referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

Pg1Ln1 **An Act** to amend 71.08 (1) (intro.); and to create 71.07 (6m) and 71.10 (4) (cm)
Pg1Ln2 of the statutes; relating to: creating a nonrefundable individual income tax
Pg1Ln3 credit for certain expenses related to child or dependent care.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference BureauAB166 

Under current federal law there is an individual income tax credit for a portion of qualifying child or dependent care expenses that are paid for the purpose of enabling a taxpayer to be gainfully employed. An eligible claimant must maintain a household for a "qualifying individual", which is defined as a dependent under the age of 13, a disabled spouse or another disabled individual who is a dependent of the taxpayer. The federal credit is nonrefundable, meaning that no refund is paid if the amount of the credit exceeds the taxpayer's tax liability. The maximum credit is \$720 if the taxpayer has one qualifying individual or \$1,440 if the taxpayer has more than one qualifying individual.

AB166 

This bill creates a nonrefundable individual income tax credit that is equal to 50% of the amount that is claimed by an individual under this federal credit.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

AB166, s. 1



Pg2Ln1

Section 1. 71.07 (6m) of the statutes is created to read:

AB166, s. 1 - continued



Pg2Ln2

Pg2Ln3

71.07 (6m) **Child and dependent care expenses credit.** (a) Definitions. In this subsection:

AB166, s. 1 - continued



Pg2Ln4

Pg2Ln5

1. "Claimant" means an individual who is eligible for, and claims, the federal credit.

AB166, s. 1 - continued



Pg2Ln6

Pg2Ln7

Pg2Ln8

2. "Federal credit" means the federal tax credit, for expenses for household and dependent care services necessary for gainful employment, under section 21 of the Internal Revenue Code.

AB166, s. 1 - continued



Pg2Ln9

Pg2Ln10

Pg2Ln11

Pg2Ln12

(b) Filing claims. Subject to the limitations provided in this subsection, a claimant may claim as a credit against the tax imposed under s. 71.02, up to the amount of those taxes, an amount equal to 50% of the amount of the credit claimed by the claimant under the federal credit in the year to which the claim relates.

AB166, s. 1 - continued



Pg2Ln13

Pg2Ln14

(c) Limitations. 1. No credit may be allowed under this subsection unless it is claimed within the time period under s. 71.75 (2).

AB166, s. 1 - continued



Pg2Ln15

Pg2Ln16

Pg2Ln17

Pg2Ln18

Pg2Ln19

Pg2Ln20

Pg2Ln21

Pg2Ln22

Pg2Ln23

Pg2Ln24

Pg3Ln1

Pg3Ln2

2. For a claimant who is a nonresident or part-year resident of this state, multiply the credit for which the claimant is eligible under par. (b) by a fraction the numerator of which is the individual's wages, salary, tips, unearned income and net earnings from a trade or business that are taxable by this state and the denominator of which is the individual's total wages, salary, tips, unearned income and net earnings from a trade or business. In this subdivision, for married persons filing separately "wages, salary, tips, unearned income and net earnings from a trade or business" means the separate wages, salary, tips, unearned income and net earnings from a trade or business of each spouse, and for married persons filing jointly "wages, salary, tips, unearned income and net earnings from a trade or business" means the total wages, salary, tips, unearned income and net earnings from a trade or business of both spouses.

AB166, s. 1 - continued 

Pg3Ln3
Pg3Ln4

(d) Administration. Section 71.07 (9e) (d), to the extent that it applies to the credit under that subsection, applies to the credit under this subsection.

AB166, s. 2 

Pg3Ln5

Section 2. 71.08 (1) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

AB166, s. 2 - continued 

Pg3Ln6
Pg3Ln7
Pg3Ln8
Pg3Ln9
Pg3Ln10
Pg3Ln11
Pg3Ln12
Pg3Ln13
Pg3Ln14

71.08 (1) **Imposition.** (intro.) If the tax imposed on a natural person, married couple filing jointly, trust or estate under s. 71.02, not considering the credits under ss. 71.07 (1), (2dd), (2de), (2di), (2dj), (2dL), (2dr), (2ds), (2dx), (2fd), (3m), (3s), (6), (6m) and (9e), 71.28 (1dd), (1de), (1di), (1dj), (1dL), (1ds), (1dx), (1fd), (2m) and (3) and 71.47 (1dd), (1de), (1di), (1dj), (1dL), (1ds), (1dx), (1fd), (2m) and (3) and subchs. VIII and IX and payments to other states under s. 71.07 (7), is less than the tax under this section, there is imposed on that natural person, married couple filing jointly, trust or estate, instead of the tax under s. 71.02, an alternative minimum tax computed as follows:

AB166, s. 3 

Pg3Ln15

Section 3. 71.10 (4) (cm) of the statutes is created to read:

AB166, s. 3 - continued 

Pg3Ln16
Pg3Ln17

71.10 (4) (cm) The child and dependent expenses care credit under s. 71.07 (6m).

AB166, s. 4 

Pg3Ln18

Section 4. Initial applicability.

AB166, s. 4 - continued 

Pg3Ln19
Pg3Ln20
Pg3Ln21
Pg3Ln22
Pg3Ln23

(1) This act first applies to taxable years beginning on January 1 of the year in which this subsection takes effect, except that if this subsection takes effect after July 31, this act first applies to taxable years beginning on January 1 of the year following the year in which this subsection takes effect.

(End)



Tommy G. Thompson
Governor

Cate Zeuske
Secretary of Revenue

**TESTIMONY ON
ASSEMBLY BILL 166
TO ASSEMBLY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
April 7, 1999**

Thank you for the opportunity to present information concerning the creation of a state individual income tax credit for expenses related to child or dependent care.

Federal law provides a credit for child and dependent care expenses for up to \$2400 for one child, and \$4800 for two or more children. Depending on the adjusted gross income, the credit can be as much as 30% of child care expenses. As the AGI increases, the percentage applied declines according to a schedule. For AGI above \$28,000, the credit is 20% of eligible expenses.

The maximum federal credit is \$720 for one dependent and \$1440 for two or more dependents. The federal credit may be claimed only if the tax filer and spouse are both working, or if one parent is a full-time student or an individual incapable of caring for himself or herself.

The only Wisconsin tax benefit provided for child and dependent care services under current law, is an exclusion from gross income of the amount of employer sponsored child care or dependent care that does not exceed \$5000.

Adoption of AB 166, which would create a nonrefundable credit for child and dependent care expenses equal to 50% of the federal credit, would offset a portion of a taxpayer's costs of earning income. For many tax filers, child care and dependent care is a significant expense they face in earning wages.

The committee should be aware however, that many costs of earning income are currently not deductible. These would include costs of commuting to and from work or meals during the workday. Allowing a credit only for certain expenses incurred by just one segment of the workforce would raise questions of tax fairness. A new credit would not be in line with the objective of tax simplification that is one of the primary goals of the Governor's tax reform proposal.

Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups

Testimony Before the Assembly Ways and Means Committee

In Support of AB 166/SB 74

By Betsy Abramson, Tom Frazier and Linda Ketcham

April 7, 1999

The Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups (CWAG) joins with other advocacy organizations representing children in support of this proposal for a state tax credit for qualifying child or dependent care expenses paid by a taxpayer to enable the taxpayer to be gainfully employed.

Long-term care is the number one priority concern for older people and their families in Wisconsin. This proposal will help families with costs such as those related to home health care, attendant care and adult day care. Wisconsin is in the process of redesigning its long-term care system to shift the institutional bias and permit more individuals to remain at home longer as care needs develop and progress. This dependent care tax credit is an important piece in the long-term care puzzle which will enable more families to help their elderly loved ones remain independent and exactly where they want to be: at home.

We support this proposal because it is intergenerational and pro-family, supporting the needs of working families who are trying to provide the best support and care for their loved ones.

Distribution by Income Class of Federal Child Care Credit (1998)

Income Class (thousands of \$)	Total Returns in Class (thousands)	% of Total Tax Filers	Returns Claiming Credit (thousands)	% of Returns Claiming Credit	Amount of Credits Claimed (millions of \$)	% of Total Credits	Average Credit per Claimant (\$)	Average Credit for all tax filers(\$)
Below \$10	19,763	14.8%	3	0.02%	<\$0.5	0.02%	NA	NA
\$10 to \$20	25,158	18.8%	346	1.4%	\$102	4.1%	\$295	\$4.05
\$20 to \$30	20,397	15.2%	935	4.6%	389	15.5%	416	19.07
\$30 to \$40	16,189	12.1%	831	5.1%	349	13.9%	420	21.56
\$40 to \$50	12,434	9.3%	718	5.8%	296	11.8%	412	23.81
\$50 to \$75	19,469	14.5%	1,473	7.6%	662	26.4%	449	34.00
\$75 to \$100	10,015	7.5%	804	8.0%	391	15.6%	486	39.04
\$100 to \$200	8,383	6.3%	531	6.3%	267	10.7%	503	31.85
\$200 and over	2,129	1.6%	95	4.5%	49	2.0%	516	23.02
Totals	133,937	100	5,736	4.3%	\$2,505	100	\$437	\$18.70

NA: Not Available

Source: Prepared by the Wisconsin Budget Project using 1998 data and projections from the Joint Committee on Taxation.

Note: A non-refundable dependent care credit in Wisconsin would probably benefit fewer low-income families because Wisconsin has a higher income tax threshold.

AB 166



WISCONSIN
WOMEN'S
network

122 STATE STREET
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53703
(608) 255-9809

To: Members of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee
Re: Assembly Bill 166, Dependent Care Tax Credit
From: Mary Babula, Co-Chair of Child Care Task Force
4/7/99

The Wisconsin Women's Network Child Care Task Force supports Assembly Bill 166, the Dependent Care Tax Credit. We urge you to support it and send it to the floor of the Assembly for action with your support.

The Wisconsin Women's Network Child Care Task Force brings together organizations and individuals representing child care consumers, child care providers and others working to improve women and children's lives. Our goal, for our twenty year history, has remained: to achieve quality child care for all families who need it at a price they can afford. This legislation will help us take one more step in that direction.

Child care expenses represent a significant portion of working families' budgets. Child care often costs more than a public college education. In Wisconsin, the average annual cost of public college tuition in 1997 was \$2,747, which is less than half the average cost of child care for a four year old in child care in Dane County, of \$6,240. When families are using child care, they are usually younger, at earlier stages in their careers, and their incomes are usually lower than they will be when their children are in college. College students can also help pay their own college costs, which we can't expect of preschool children.

We have accepted as a public responsibility, because it leads to a social benefit to all of us, that we will invest in making public college opportunities available to those who qualify by providing public support regardless of the family income. We provide additional public support to low and moderate income persons attending college, through grants and loan guarantees. We have also accepted as public responsibility providing care and education for children from age five through eighteen (three through twenty one if the child has special needs), and that is also provided regardless of the family's income.

When it comes to child care, which is both care and education, we still expect parents to pay the majority of child care costs. Some low income parents receive a public subsidy, so they only pay a portion of their child care costs. Some employers understand the value of helping their employees find and pay for reliable and safe child care, which helps those parents. However, most

parents pay for child care costs out of their family budgets, even though child care is also necessary for all of our society--allowing parents to work and support their children.

This legislation would help working families by making child care more affordable. It would add to the tax credit they receive when they file their federal income taxes. This is truly a tax cut for working families, the backbone of our vibrant economy.

We urge you to support this legislation. It is a wise investment which will keep people working and keep our economy strong.

significant break for ave working
family. Childcare is a significant
cost for working families. - Black

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raj bene in \$20K-40K range" - Black

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it would exceed those of this
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1998 Data Report



**CHILD CARE
RESOURCE
& REFERRAL
NETWORK**

Making Child Care Work

Wisconsin Child Care Resource & Referral Network, Inc.

The Wisconsin Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Network is a statewide organization of community-based child care resource and referral agencies committed to building an inclusive, high-quality child care/child development system. The mission of the Network is to exercise leadership in the creation of such a system, and to promote the professional growth and development of member agencies. The Wisconsin CCR&R Network receives funding from grants through the state Department of Workforce Development Office of Child Care, as well as memberships, corporations, and other contracts.

Each year, the Wisconsin Child Care Resource and Referral Network collects data from its 17 member child care resource and referral (CCR&R) agencies using a standardized software and process. These data are then compiled, published and distributed statewide. This report, which includes data from January through December 1998, is produced to inform the public, child care providers, state and local governments about CCR&R work, as well as some facts about child care services in Wisconsin. This report is dedicated to Wisconsin's children in child care with the belief that CCR&Rs and this Network are contributing to parent selection of high quality child care in this state.

Report authors and reviewers:

- Diane Adams, WI CCR&R Network, Coordinator
- Becky Mauss, WI CCR&R Network, Data/Training Specialist
- Debra Suchla, WI CCR&R Network, Board President
- Bonnie Meyer, Technology Committee Co-chair
- Anne Paradies, Technology Committee Co-chair

February, 1999

WI CCR&R Network, 519 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Appleton, WI 54911

www.wisconsinccrr.org

920-734-1739

To reach the nearest CCR&R, call 888-713-KIDS (5437).

Profile of Children and Families

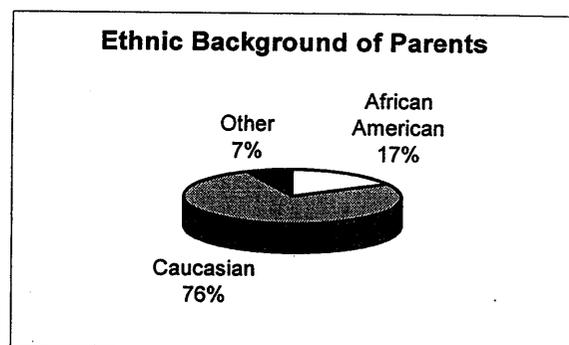
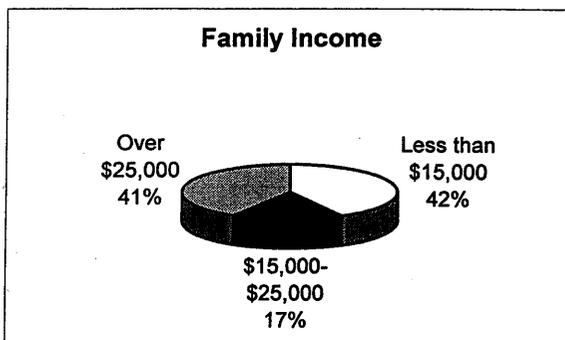
CCR&R Services

During 1998, 21,688 families with 32,743 children received child care referrals from CCR&R agencies statewide. The number of referrals from CCR&R agencies increased 23% since 1995 and 4% since 1997. The number of children for whom referrals were made increased 10% compared to 1997. Over 2,825 families made additional requests for referrals after not finding suitable care from the original report generated.

Of the nearly 22,000 families receiving referrals in 1998, 3,013 were "enhanced" referrals, an increase of 167% over 1997. Enhanced services are usually paid for by a corporation or governmental unit as part of an employee benefits or service program. Enhanced CCR&R services may include child care referrals with confirmed vacancies, follow-up with parents until they have found care, and child care supply building. This dramatic increase is due, in part, to the contracts held by 4C-Community Coordinated Child Care, Inc., serving Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington and Waukesha Counties. 4C completed 2,453 enhanced referrals, nearly five times as many as in 1997.

CCR&Rs in the state also offered consultations, but not referrals, to nearly 6,000 parents. Thus, over 28,000 families were served through referrals and consultations by Wisconsin CCR&R agencies in 1998.

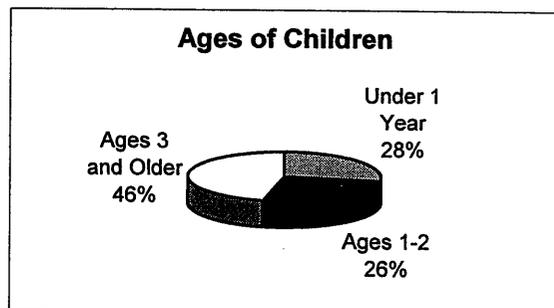
Family Income and Racial Background



Of the 72% of families revealing their family income to the CCR&R, 42% had gross incomes of less than \$15,000 per year, and 41% had incomes over \$25,000 per year. At least 37% of the families who called the CCR&R were known to be receiving a child care subsidy at the time. The families who contacted CCR&Rs for child care consultations or referrals, and who revealed their racial background (18,123 families), were Caucasian (76%), African-American (17%), Native American, Hispanic, and other races (7%).

Ages of Children

The majority of children for whom referrals were made were age two or under (54%). Parents of 6,265 school-age children were assisted in their search for before and after school care or summer care.



Types of Child Care Requested

Currently there are four types of regulated child care in Wisconsin to which CCR&Rs refer families: licensed group centers for nine or more children, licensed family child care for four to eight children, certified family child care for three to six children, and provisional certified family child care for three to six children (without the training requirement of regular certified child care). The type of child care requested varies based upon each family's needs. Some request only one type of care while others request referrals to all types of child care. During 1998, 46% of requests were for family child care, and another 40% were for group center care. CCR&Rs attempt to help families locate other types of care, as well, such as in-home care, camps and playgroups. Over 60,000 requests were made for all types of child care.

Note: Since many parents first using child care may not be familiar with child care regulations, CCR&R staff spend significant amounts of time counseling parents about regulatory differences, types of programs, quality indicators, and the range of options available to them. While CCR&R staff counsel families, ultimately, the child care decision rests with the parents—they are the only ones who can judge which program will be best for their children.

Child Care Programs in 1998

Program Turnover

At the end of 1998, there were 2,284 group centers serving children full or part-day; 2,601 licensed family child care providers, and 4,721 certified or provisional family child care providers. This is a total of 9,606 regulated programs and providers statewide. Of the group centers, 101 are sponsored in part or fully by employers, with the highest concentrations of employer-sponsored centers in Milwaukee (20) and Madison (14).

Child care program turnover continues to be high in nearly every part of the state: 2,247 programs or providers opened, while 2,427 closed for a variety of reasons. Although more programs closed than opened in 1998, there was a net gain of 677 spaces. This gain is only due to child care programs opening and closing. The actual number of spaces gained or lost is difficult to track due to the number of programs that change regulated capacity during any given year.

Type of Care	Programs Opened	Programs Closed	Spaces** Gained/Lost
Group Center - Full Day	91	59	1307
Group Center - Part Day	11	19	-56
Licensed School-Age	32	41	-276
Licensed Family	332	419	-745
Certified Family	1078	1449	-1756
Provisional Certified Family	703	440	2203
Total:	2247	2427	677

**Based on average estimated capacity by type of program or a local annual survey.

CCR&Rs continue to work on increasing child care capacity in areas which may be lacking sufficient care. CCR&Rs offer start-up sessions, one on one consultation, and technical assistance to potential providers. In 1998, CCR&Rs offered 92 start-up sessions with 380 potential child care providers in attendance. Of those who attended start-up meetings, 97 became regulated child care providers. Due to the rural nature of many of the CCR&R service delivery areas and limited funding for resource development, several CCR&Rs do not offer start up meetings. These CCR&Rs (in addition to those offering start-up meetings) provide one on one consultation and technical assistance to potential child care providers. In 1998, approximately 22% of potential providers working with CCR&R went on to become regulated child care providers. We expect to see the number of potential providers assisted by CCR&R consultations and the number of providers who became regulated rise as the information on the number of start-up meetings along with one on one consultations is collected in 1999. In addition, during 1999 CCR&Rs will consistently ask programs and providers who close about their reasons for closure.

Training and Quality

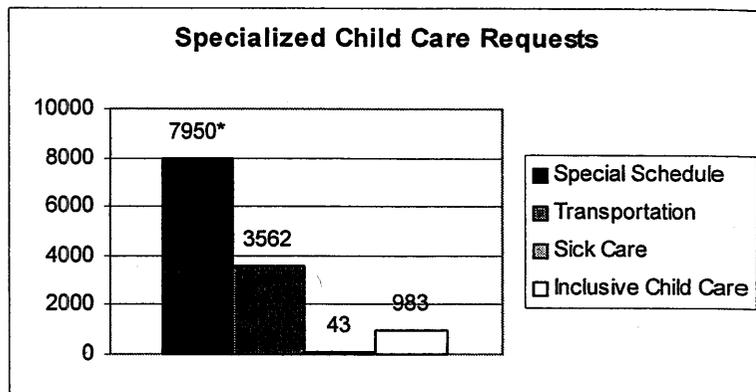
Training is one tool that CCR&Rs use to retain existing child care programs. Training opportunities aid programs in achieving basic and continuing education required by both licensing and certification. In 1998, CCR&Rs offered 839 training events which attracted 15,663 child care providers and teachers, which is a 15% increase over 1997. Consultation and technical assistance are two other tools used to retain child care providers. CCR&Rs gave technical assistance to child care programs on 16,808 occasions in 1998.

Quality child care continues to be an emphasis in the state. Federal, state and local funds are available to aid child care programs in achieving higher standards (accreditation) and credentials. These achievements are recorded on CCR&R databases. In October 1998, there were 215 accredited child care programs in Wisconsin: 188 licensed group centers were accredited by National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and 27 family child care programs were accredited by Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA). The number of accredited programs was 6% higher in 1998 than 1997. The Wisconsin Professional Credential for Child Care Administrators saw its first graduating class in 1998, with 36 child care center administrators completing the 18 credit credential, that includes courses in financial and operations management, best practices, and administrative supervision.

Specialized Child Care Services

Specialized Care

Families often have circumstances that require them to seek out specialized child care, such as for children with disabilities or other special health care needs, children who need transportation to and from school or activities, and for children who need child care during non-traditional hours. Using their standardized software, CCR&Rs are able to track child care providers who offer care during non-traditional hours or who have had training to care for children with special needs. While no Wisconsin child care program may discriminate against children because of disability, gender, racial group, or income, not every child care program serves all age groups or offers care during non-traditional hours. CCR&Rs received 12,538 requests for special child care services in 1998.



*Includes all requests for evening, overnight, weekend, temporary/emergency, and rotating child care schedules.

Special Needs and Child Care for Illness

In 1998, CCR&Rs received 983 requests for child care for children with disabilities, ranging from learning disorders to physical disabilities such as asthma and fragile medical conditions. The number of requests for referrals for children with special needs increased 37% over 1997.

The CCR&R agencies received 43 requests for care for mildly ill children, in 1998. The number of requests for sick care has decreased since 1997 when there were 69 requests for care for mildly ill children.

Special Schedules

CCR&Rs provided child care referrals to 6,541 families with non-traditional schedules (after 6:00 p.m. and on week-ends). Such schedules make looking for child care difficult. Only about 4% of licensed group centers and 14% of licensed family child care providers offer such hours. Nearly one-third of all certified and provisional certified family child care providers offer care during non-traditional hours, but have a small number of children in their legal limit.

Evening

Over half (52%) of the 6,541 families requesting care for non-traditional hours needed care during the evening (after 6:00 p.m.). Of the 9,606 regulated child care providers in Wisconsin at year's end, 20% provide child care during the evening. As many as 1,103 certified child care providers provide care between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m., compared with 98 licensed full or part-day group centers, 364 licensed family child care providers, and 351 provisional certified family child care providers.

Overnight

Overnight child care (between midnight and 6 a.m.), was requested by 569 families (7%). Overnight child care is offered by 905 of the regulated child care programs in the state: 10 licensed group centers, 200 licensed family child care providers, 531 certified family child care providers, and 164 provisional certified family child care providers.

Weekend

Nearly a quarter (23%) of families requiring special schedules needed child care on the weekends. Thirteen percent of child care programs in the state provide care on Saturday and/or Sunday: 46 licensed group centers, 330 licensed family child care providers, 705 certified family child care providers and 207 provisional certified family child care providers.

Rotating/Flexible Care, Transportation, and Emergency/Temporary Care

CCR&Rs received 4,971 requests for other specialized types of child care. In 1998, CCR&Rs processed referrals for 1,123 families needing rotating or flexible child care and 3,562 requests for child care programs that would transport their children either to/from school, to/from activities, or to/from home. Transportation is second only to weekend care when it comes to most requests for specialized child care. Families also requested emergency or temporary care on 286 occasions.

Child Care Resource & Referral

CCR&R Functions

Child care resource and referral agencies in Wisconsin serve an important function: to "do what it takes" to make child care work for families. CCR&Rs help parents sort through the child care options and assist them in selecting quality child care. CCR&Rs work to increase the child care supply in areas that may be lacking sufficient care, and offer technical assistance and training to potential and existing child care programs. CCR&Rs are also heavily involved in community planning. They help communities, school districts, employers, W-2 agencies and others develop solutions to complex child care problems. CCR&Rs are represented on several collaborating groups statewide; staff from CCR&Rs attended over 1,700 community planning meetings in 1998.

Each CCR&R in Wisconsin manages a database of existing child care programs and providers. The database is updated continuously to keep up with the thousands of changes that are made each year, as programs open and close, or change their services, so as to ensure that parents are receiving the most accurate information possible. CCR&Rs in Wisconsin refer equally to all regulated child care programs (family child care and centers) and serve families and children from all income groups.

CCR&R Standards

CCR&Rs in Wisconsin must meet standards established for state-designated child care resource and referral agencies. Each CCR&R must go through a standards review process every three years. The Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA) managed the validation of standards process in 1998, and four CCR&Rs successfully completed the standards validation process for the first time: Child Care Connection, Inc. (Wausau, WI), Mid-Wisconsin Child Care Resource & Referral (Stevens Point, WI), Northwest Wisconsin Child Care Resource & Referral (Hayward, WI), and Project Bridges Child Care Resource & Referral (Eagle River, WI).

Training and Networking

All CCR&R agency staff and directors are expected to attend ongoing training from the Network or other sources. Wisconsin CCR&Rs are members of the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRRA). The technical assistance, training and public policy information from NACCRRRA strengthens Wisconsin CCR&R agencies' ability to serve families, child care programs, employers, tribes, decision makers, community planners, and legislators.

Call, toll-free, 888-713-KIDS (5437) to reach the CCR&R agency serving you.

CCR&R Directory

4C-Community Coordinated Child Care, Inc., Milwaukee	(414) 562-2650
Community Coordinated Child Care, Inc., Madison	(608) 271-9181
Child Care Partnership Resource & Referral Center, Eau Claire	(715) 831-1700
Community Coordinated Care, Inc., Green Bay	(920) 432-8899
South Central Child Care Resource & Referral, Inc., Janesville	(608) 758-1170
Child Care Resource & Referral, Inc., Appleton	(920) 734-0966
Project Childcare Resource & Referral, Inc., River Falls	(715) 425-8112
Child Care Resource & Referral of Central WI, Wisconsin Rapids	(715) 423-4114
CCR&R Services of Greater Racine and Kenosha, Sturtevant	(414) 884-9892
Child Care Resource & Referral, Inc., Oshkosh	(920) 426-8920
Family Connections, Inc. Resource & Referral, Sheboygan	(920) 457-1999
Family Resources, Inc., La Crosse	(608) 784-4519
Child Care Connection, Inc., Wausau	(715) 848-5297
Mid-Wisconsin Child Care Resource & Referral, Stevens Point	(715) 342-1788
Northwest WI Child Care Resource & Referral, Hayward	(715) 634-2299
Project Bridges Child Care Resource & Referral, Eagle River	(715) 479-0337
Southwest WI Child Care Resource & Referral, Boscobel	(608) 375-2537

Contact your local CCR&R by calling, toll-free, 888-713-KIDS (5437).

Wisconsin Child Care Resource & Referral Network, Inc.

Phone: 920-734-1739, Fax: 920-734-3887

www.wisconsinccrr.org

e-mail: wicrrn@athenet.net

WI CCR&R Network Activities

Wisconsin CCR&R Network Functions

The Wisconsin CCR&R Network provides training and technical assistance to its 17 member CCR&R agencies. In 1998, the WI CCR&R Network provided six training workshops for CCR&R staff and board members. Training is also a component of each of the WI CCR&R Network's quarterly board meetings. In 1998, 74 Network and CCR&R staff completed a total of 475 hours of continuing education. The WI CCR&R Network also offered four scholarships for CCR&R staff to attend the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRA) Annual Public Policy Symposium and Regional Conference. Network staff offered technical assistance to its member agencies on 76 occasions on a variety of topics ranging from handling media questions to technological and board governance.

Consumer Education and Health & Safety Campaigns

The WI CCR&R Network completed two major projects in 1998: the consumer education campaign titled, "Explore Quality Child Care Choices," and a child health and safety campaign for family child care titled, "Your Home, Safe and Healthy." Both were funded by grants from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Office of Child Care. For each project, the WI CCR&R Network assembled workgroups made up of CCR&R staff, food program representatives, state licensing staff, Wisconsin Child Care Improvement Project, and local public health officials (health and safety campaign). Materials for both campaigns are available at the WI CCR&R Network office and at the Child Care Information Center.

"Explore Quality Child Care Choices" includes posters, public service announcements and three brochures all in English and Spanish. The brochures cover different topics, including: "Your Guide to Choosing Child Care," "Your Guide to Licensed Care," and "Your Guide to Legal Child Care." A video about choosing child care was also produced under this grant. The video was designed for parents choosing child care. It profiles each of the different types of regulations and some quality indicators. All materials were distributed to W-2 and child care agencies across the state. Also part of the consumer education campaign is a toll-free number from which anyone in the state can call and be connected to their local CCR&R. The toll-free number is featured on all of the consumer education campaign materials and on marketing materials from the Department of Workforce Development for the child care subsidy, Wisconsin Shares. In a two-week period in November/December alone, CCR&Rs took nearly 350 calls from families calling the toll-free number to ask about child care subsidies.

"Your Home Safe and Healthy" was produced in collaboration with the Wisconsin Poison Centers, and the Department of Health and Family Services Bureau of Public Health. "Your Home Safe and Healthy" consists of a booklet with basic information about health and safety and a video titled "Family Day Care Health and Safety Checklist" produced by the child care resource and referral agencies of Massachusetts. The project is designed to help everyone caring for children, especially provisional certified family child care providers, maintain health and safety standards for those children. The booklet has been distributed statewide to CCR&Rs, certified family child care providers, county certifiers and other agencies.

The CCR&R Network's web site (www.wisconsinccrr.org) is a source of fresh information about child care, regulations, public policy, and family needs. This web site also offers important links to other national and state child care organizations, including local CCR&R web sites.

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