



Vermont Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies



Strengthening Services for Vermont Children and Families

2007 Annual Report, July 2006-June 2007

The Vermont Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, VACCRRRA, is a network of twelve agencies throughout Vermont. The twelve member agencies share a common commitment to developing quality child care options and delivering consistent services statewide.

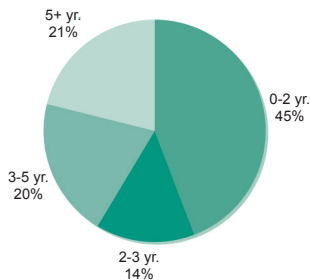
We work with member agency staff and diverse professionals in the early childhood field to build awareness of child care issues, provide information of available resources and increase the development of quality services for children throughout Vermont.

While VACCRRRA contributes to improving the child services system, our member agencies are working directly with parents, providers and their communities.....

Our member agencies support and guide parents through the process of finding and paying for quality child care.

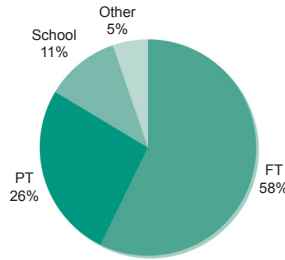
Helping Vermont Families and Children

From July 2006-June 2007, member agencies received 5,058 calls from parents seeking child care for 6,927 children.



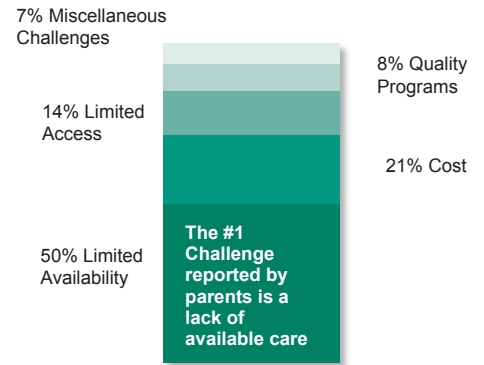
4% of the children seeking services have special needs.

Age of Child Needing Care



49% of parents are seeking care in licensed centers; 47% are seeking family child care; 4% are seeking other arrangements.

Type of Care Requested



The #1 Challenge reported by parents is a lack of available care

Challenges Reported by Parents

The Impact of Educating Parents about Child Care

“Good consumer education is critical to making the market function properly. If parents are not able to make informed choices, their access to the market is limited.”

-Office of the Inspector General, US Department of Health and Human Services

AVAILABILITY FACTS:

- Infant spaces represent an estimated 14% of the 34,000 registered slots;
- In 2007, requests for infant care represented over 45% of all referral calls and the number one reported challenge by parents;
- In 2007, 62% parents found child care, 35 % did not, 3% stopped work. *(Based on 20% parent follow up feedback.)*

WE BELIEVE The 2007 welfare work requirements will contribute to the existing infant care crisis.

AFFORDABILITY FACTS:

- Financial eligibility remains at 1999 poverty guidelines. Current reimbursement rates fall between the 40th and 70th percentile for each type of care in each region of the state;
- In 2007, VACCRRRA member agencies supported an average of 7,000 families per month through the process of receiving child care financial assistance.
- 55% of total calls received were eligible for financial assistance.

WE BELIEVE 1999 poverty guidelines are unacceptable and put children at risk in unregulated care situations.



“Even with 100% subsidy assistance, I still owe \$48 a week. That might not sound like a lot to some people but for my family, that is a week of food!”

-Vermont Parent with two children

Reaching for Quality: Our member agencies support the professional development of child care providers

Quality FACTS:

- Vermont is among the top ten states in developing a coordinated quality system of care;
- In 2007, the universal pre-Kindergarten bill passed, approving the use of Average Daily Membership (ADM) funding for preschool services;
- The percent of quality recognized family child care homes and licensed centers has more than doubled over the past 4 years.

WE BELIEVE a coordinated approach to increasing professionalism in the childhood field and the availability of quality training opportunities will greatly benefit Vermont children.

WE BELIEVE quality preschool services are attainable in quality home based and center based programs. Our member agencies support providers in attaining quality standards.

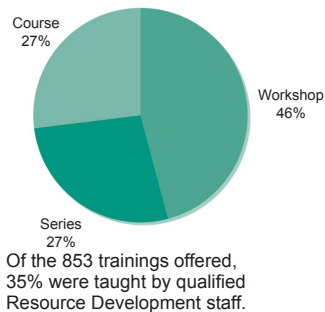
Quality Improvement Opportunities for Providers

"I didn't expect much when I started the STARS process (Step Ahead Recognition System) but now I am so glad I did it. It has shown me where I have drifted away from some good things I used to do and really refocused and reenergized me. I have reconnected with why I love my work. It wasn't that hard in the end, once I realized that you use what you are already doing."

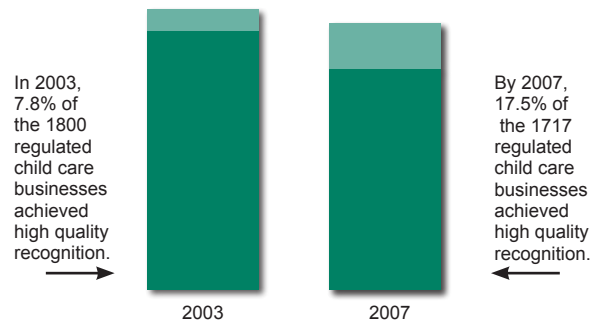
- Pam is registered family provider with 20 years experience. She is one of 209 providers throughout the state who has participated in the STARS program.

Helping Child Care Providers

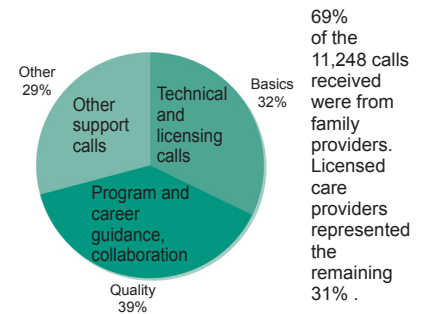
From July 2006-June 2007, VACCRRRA member agencies supported providers, providing 853 trainings, 11,248 phone consultations and 1,052 home visits. In addition, member agency staff assisted non-providers, providing 5,760 phone consultations and 145 home visits.



Trainings



Quality Programs on the Rise



Supporting Providers

VACCRRRA FY 07 Key Accomplishments

- VACCRRRA compiled statewide data on child care referral services for parents and resource development services for providers.
- VACCRRRA coordinated and participated in multiple networking and partnership meetings among professionals in the early childhood field.
- VACCRRRA increased public awareness of member agency services through increased consistent messaging.
- VACCRRRA contributed to the statewide quality services through the development of a best practice handbook and initiation of a web-based resource library project, www.vermontchildcare.org

VACCRRRA MEMBER AGENCIES

Addison Region

Addison County Child Care Services at Mary Johnson's Children Center
(802) 388-4304

Bennington Region

Bennington County Child Care Association of Sunrise Family Resource Center
(802) 447-3778

Caledonia/Essex (South) Region

Kingdom Child Care Connection at Umbrella
Toll free: (800) 916-8645

Chittenden Region

Child Care Resource
Toll free: (800) 339-3367

Franklin/Grand Isle Region

The Family Center of Northwestern Vermont
Toll free: (800) 427-6574

Lamoille Region

Lamoille Family Center
(802) 888-5229

Orange/Windsor (North) Regions

Child Care Project
Toll free: (800) 323-5446

Orleans/Essex (North) Regions

North East Kingdom Community Action Parent Child Center
(802) 334-4072

Rutland Region

Vermont Achievement Center
Toll free: (800) 775-2390

Windsor (South)/North Windham Region

Springfield Area Parent Child Center
(802) 866-5242

Washington Region

The Family Center of Washington County
(802) 828-8772

Windham (South) Region

Windham Child Care Association
Toll free: (866) 254-5332

What is VACCRRRA?

OUR MISSION:

The Vermont Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies is the voice of Vermont's twelve regional members.

We hear the needs of families and child care providers and respond by strengthening child care in communities throughout Vermont.

We work toward the day when all children and families have the care and education they need to thrive.

OUR PARTNERS:

VACCRRRA is supported and funded by the Child Development Division of Vermont.

What does VACCRRRA do?

- We connect families with member agency services;
- We support our 12 member agencies' staff in delivering quality services to families and providers;
- We provide statewide data and information to parents and decision makers;
- We engage in child care public awareness and education opportunities as a unified voice representative of all members.

What do VACCRRRA member agencies do?

- Support and guide parents through the process of finding quality child care;
- Help eligible families pay for child care utilizing the Vermont Child Care Subsidy program;
- Educate the consumers and public on the importance of high quality child care and the growing need for additional resources;
- Support the professional development of child care providers, providing training and classes;
- Collaborate with other organizations and within local communities, planning for and providing affordable, quality child care that meets the needs of children.

Printing provided by the Chittenden Bank

