

Connecticut Appropriations Committee RBA Template Part II, Program/Agency/System Accountability Summary

Program/Agency/System Purpose:

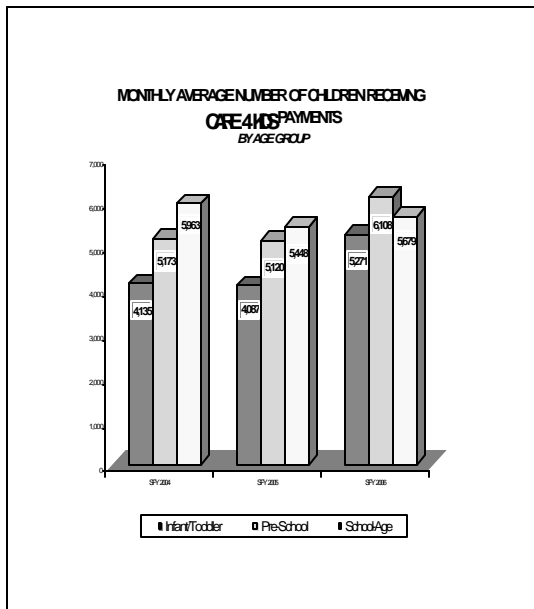
Allow eligible parents on family assistance to access child care financial assistance in order to work and/or participate in employability preparation programs in order to transition from public assistance and to allow eligible low-income working parents to access child care financial assistance in order to work.

Program/Agency/System:

CT Department of Social Services – Care 4 Kids Program

Performance Measure 1

Monthly average # of recipients by age groups



Performance Measure 2

of employed families

Approximately 86 % of families served are required to be working. The remaining 14% participants are cash assistance families who participate in training or job related activities. Working parents contribute economic security for their families and thus, children are less inclined to remain in poverty situations. Research indicates that children in non-poverty situations have better outcomes.

Key Budget Information	SFY 2006
Total Program Expenditures	\$73,029,478
Funding as Percent of All Funding for Population Result	
Program Funding As Percent of Total Agency Budget	.017
Funding Distribution	
Total Federal Funds	\$35,229,491
Total State Funds	\$37,799,987
Capital Projects Subtotal	0
Other Funding	0
Percent of Total Current Funding Contracted to Third Parties	100%

Story Behind the Baselines

The Care 4 Kids Program has been operating for several years under a variety of names and in a number of agencies. Its prime purpose, as mandated by federal and state laws, has continued to be the provision of child care financial assistance to help families secure job and/or training activities in order to help families transition and remain off public assistance. The program serves a monthly average of approximately 11,500 parents and 18,000 children, ages 13 and under and through age 18 if the child has a special need. Participation levels are dependent on appropriated funds.

Turning The Curves: What do you propose to do over the next two years and why?

1. We will implement new computer system enhancements to streamline application processes.*
2. We will expand fraud prevention processes to prevent improper payments and ineligible families from participating. This will allow more eligible families to participate.*
3. We will offer orientation sessions to new child care providers and consumers in order to help them better understand the program rules.*
4. We will conduct a market rate survey, as required by federal law to determine if payment rates are consistent with the rates generally charge by child care industry.*

*Indicates, low-cost, no-cost action steps, including reallocation of existing resources.

Connecticut Appropriations Committee RBA Template

Part II, Program/Agency/System Accountability

Program/Agency/System Purpose -

Allow eligible parents on family assistance to access child care financial assistance in order to work and/or participate in employability preparation programs in order to transition from public assistance and to

Allow eligible low-income working parents to access child care financial assistance in order to work.

Program/Agency/System –

CT Department of Social Services – Care 4 Kids Program

Contribution to Population Result – This program address the need to insure that families are economically sufficient. Working parents contribute economic security for their families and thus, children are less inclined to remain in poverty situations. Research indicates that children in non-poverty situations have better outcomes and thus, are better prepared to be ready to learn and succeed when school.

Key Budget Information (<i>Dollars reported in millions</i>)	
Total Program Year Budget – SFY 2006	\$73,029,478
Funding as Percent of All Funding for Quality of Life Result	
Program Funding as Percent of Total Agency Budget	.017
Budget Distribution:	
Federal	\$35,229,491
State	\$37,799,987
General Fund - <i>same as state</i>	
Capital Project Funds	0
Other State Funding	0
Other Funds (Not Federal or State)	0
Percent of Total Current Funding Spent on Direct Service	100
Percent of Total Current Funding Contracted to Third parties	100

Basic Program Facts

The Care 4 Kids Program has been operating for several years under a variety of names and in a number of agencies. Its prime purpose as, mandated by federal laws, has continued to be the provision of child care financial assistance to help families secure job and/or training activities in order to help families transition and remain off public assistance. The program serves a monthly average of approximately 11,500 parents and 18,000 children, ages 13 and under and through age 18 if the child has a special need. Participation levels are dependent on appropriated funds. Child care provides as defined by state law receive reimbursements if the eligible parent meets program guidelines as established by federal/state laws and regulations. Parents can select their own child care setting to meet their preferences and care hours need.

Performance Measures and Story Behind the Baselines

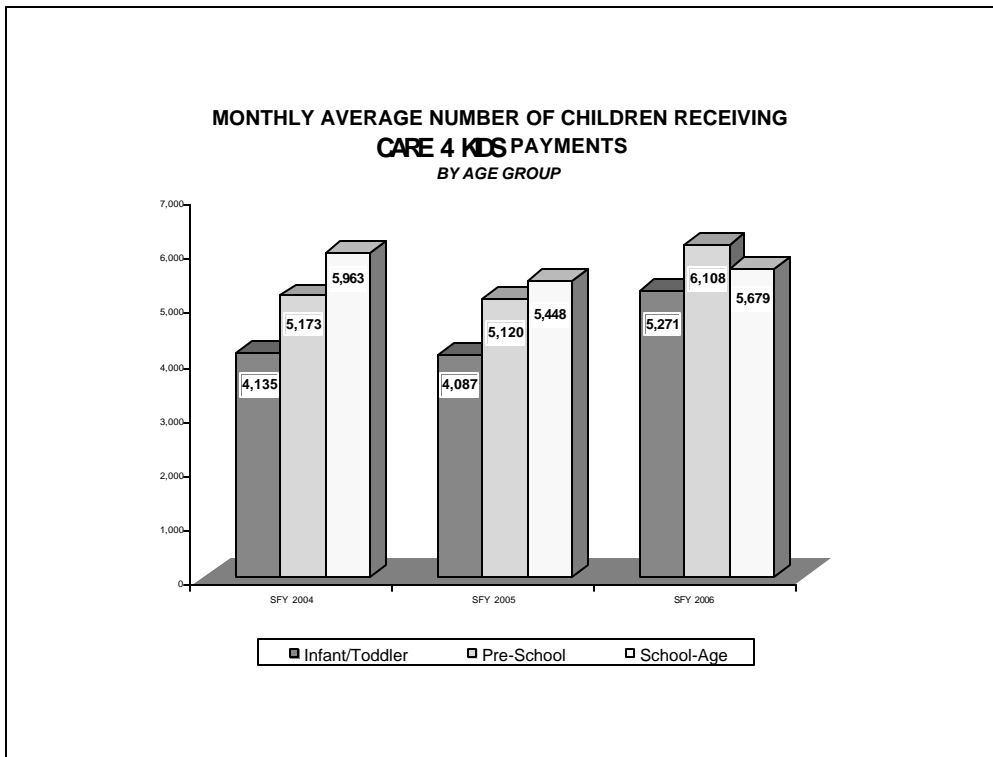
1. We will implement new computer system enhancements to streamline application processes.*
2. We will expand fraud prevention processes to prevent improper payments and ineligible families from participating. This will allow more eligible families to participate.*
3. We will offer orientation sessions to new child care providers and consumers in order to help them better understand the program rules.*
4. We will conduct a market rate survey, as required by federal law to determine if payment rates are consistent with the rates generally charge by child care industry.*

Performance Measure 1

Monthly average # of recipients by age groups.

The Care 4 Kids program serves families, which meet certain eligibility criteria.

Priorities for service eligibility are established via state law and regulation. Currently, our priorities support families receiving and transitioning from public assistance, teen parents completing high school and low-income working families that meet a certain economic threshold. A core principle established by federal and state law is parental choice for child care settings as long as they meet state laws. There is much information collected to manage and monitor the program. Additional resources would support increased participation, reimbursement rates and other possible quality incentives.



Performance Measure 2

of employed families

Approximately 86 % of families served are required to be working. The remaining 14% participate are cash assistance families who participate in training or job related activities. Working parents contribute economic security for their families and thus, children are less inclined to remain in poverty situations. Research indicates that children in non-poverty situations have better outcomes.

Partners and Their Roles

Our partners are the several thousand child care consumers and providers who receive the funds on behalf of the parent who choose their setting. We work with the departments of Children and Families (abuse/neglect background checks and foster/adoptive care access), Public Safety (criminal background checks), Public Health (licensing standards), Education (supplements to school readiness providers, nutrition program access)

What do you propose to do to improve performance in the next 3-5 years and why?

1. We will implement new computer system enhancements to streamline application processes.*
2. We will expand fraud prevention processes to prevent improper payments and ineligible families from participating. This will allow more eligible families to participate.*
3. We will offer orientation sessions to new child care providers and consumers in order to help them better understand the program rules.*
4. We will conduct a market rate survey, as required by federal law to determine if payment rates are consistent with the rates generally charge by child care industry.*

Appendix A, Data Development Agenda

There are a variety of reports generated to document program and expenditure activity that helps to manage and monitor the program. We will monitor the proposed Early Childhood Policy and Research Council data development agenda and participate as funds permit.

Appendix B, Link to Budget

The 2007-2008 Governor's budget recommends \$89M and the 2008-2009 recommends \$93M. The 2007-2008 budget reflects continued demand from that has been recognized during the current state fiscal year appropriation at \$71M. Our current year projections indicated we might spend \$88M. This is another measure of the need among eligible families transitioning from public assistance and the ongoing demand from low-income working parents. These are positive signs that families are becoming self-sufficient.

Appendix C, Information and Research Agenda

There are no current resources targeted for research. However, the variety of data elements we have can lend itself to possible research activities. We will monitor the proposed Early Childhood Policy and Research Council research agenda and participate as funds permit.

Appendix D, Partners (Optional)

Appendix E, What Works (Optional)