

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

**Program/Agency/System Purpose:**

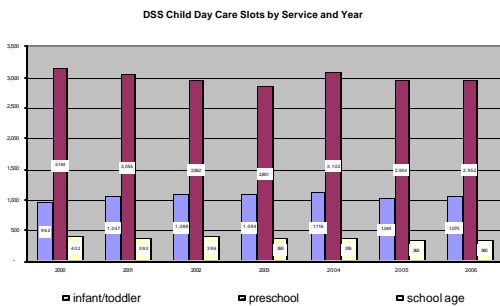
Allow parents to work and/or participate in employability preparation programs. Allow for parent-child development and a system of family supports to address health, mental health, emotional and social well-being, cognitive development, economic support and language development

**Program/Agency/System:**

CT Department of Social Services – Child Day Care Center Program

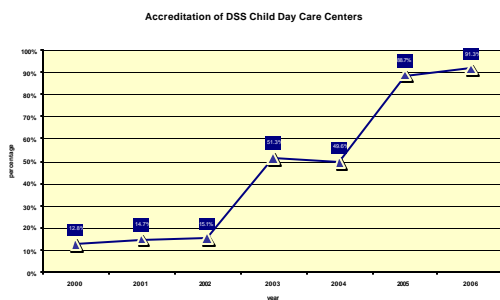
**Performance Measure 1**

# of infant-toddler, preschool and school-age funded spaces



**Performance Measure 2**

# of accredited sites



**Performance Measure 3**

# of employed families

Eighty (80%) of families served are required to be working. 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. DSS monitors contract compliance via sample caseload on an annual basis. We do not collect aggregate data. However, our contract partners have not failed to meet this contract standard. Sample caseloads indicate 90% compliance.

Key Budget Information	SFY 2006
Total Current Program Year Funding	\$26,807,107
Funding as Percent of All Funding for Population Result	
Program Funding As Percent of Total Agency Budget	.006
Funding Distribution	
Total Federal Funds	\$15,666,685
Total State Funds	\$11,137,422
Capital Projects Subtotal	0
Other Funding	0
Percent of Total Current Funding Contracted to Third Parties	100%

**Story Behind the Baselines**

The DSS Child Day Care Center Program serves a monthly average of approximately 2,500 parents and 4,300 children, ages 13 and under at 111 accredited sites through 53 contractors administered by municipalities and not-for-profit community based organizations. In addition to the purchase of preschool spaces, this program is the only state funded program that directly purchases spaces for infants and toddlers (ages 0-3) in licensed child daycare centers and school-age children (ages 5-12) in community based settings. This is in contrast to the School Readiness program, which only serves pre-school (ages 3-5) children. The decision about the age groups to be served is determined by community need.

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

1. We are developing a competitive procurement process to insure that only qualified child care centers meet contractual requirements to support the program objectives. This can allow for a new direction of age-specific services as determined by the community need.\*
2. We will monitor the status for contractors with 2007 NAEYC re-accreditation end date to insure contractors are successful and that we meet 100% compliance.\*
3. We will provide support to those contractors experiencing problems by referring them to the Statewide Accreditation Facilities Program.\*
4. We will support the collection of data for worker skills levels as requested by the Early Childhood Policy and Research Council if new resources are committed and add such data as a contract requirement.\*

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

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

### Program Purpose -

Allow parents to work and/or participate in employability preparation programs.  
Allow for parent-child development and a system of family supports to address health, mental health, emotional and social well-being, cognitive development, economic support and language development

### Agency/Program –

CT Department of Social Services – Child Day Care Center Program

**Contribution to Population Result –** this program allows for staff interactions with children and parents in order to strengthen parent-child development and improve child outcomes in health, mental health, emotional/social well-being, cognitive development, and language development. In addition, the program requires that 80% of participating families must be employed, thus insuring family economic stability, which is a key contributor to the child’s well-being and success in school.

<b>Key Budget Information (<i>Dollars reported in millions</i>)</b>	
Total Program Year Budget – SFY 2006	\$26,804,107
Funding as Percent of All Funding for Quality of Life Result	
Program Funding as Percent of Total Agency Budget	.006
Budget Distribution:	
Federal	\$15,666,685
State	\$11,137,422
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

This program serves a monthly average of approximately 2,500 parents and 4,300 children, ages 13 and under at 111 accredited and non-accredited sites through 53 contracts administered by municipalities and not-for-profit community based organizations. In addition to the purchase of preschool spaces, this program is the only state funded program that directly purchases spaces for infants and toddlers (ages 0-3) in licensed child daycare centers and school-age children (ages 5-12) in community based settings. This is in contrast to the School Readiness program, which only serves pre-school (ages 3-5) children. The decision about the age groups to be served is determined by community need.

## Performance Measures and Story Behind the Baselines

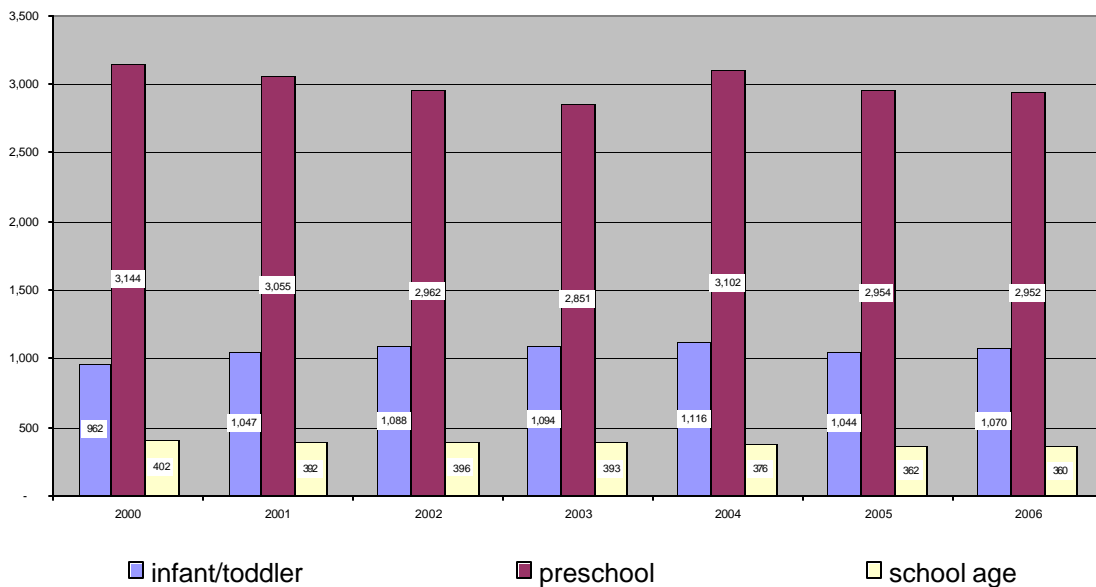
### Summary of Story Behind the Baselines:

The DSS Child Day Care Center Program is a unique program in that it has operated for over 30 years and not only supports parents to work and/or participate in training and education programs but it also allows for parent-child development and a system of family supports to address health, mental health, emotional and social well-being, cognitive development, economic support and language development. There have been minimal financial expansions in recent years and programs are very resourceful in securing in-kind contributions within the communities they reside. Data collection has been and remains a barrier to help document child outcomes. Where possible, we collect information to insure programs meet minimal contract compliance and monitor program performance. The measures chosen are our best indicator to express that the program are meeting our contract requirements. There is always room for improvement, which is dependent on addition resources.

### Story Behind Measure 1

The DSS Child Day Center Program provides opportunities for eligible working families with children under age 13 to secure child care. The various DSS contracted programs work within their communities to determine the family needs and what age categories s need care within the funds allocated by the General Assembly. This is a true community needs assessment process and is only limited by the funds allocated. Following is the statewide summary to those decisions since 2000 delineated by infant-toddler, preschool and school-age children served.

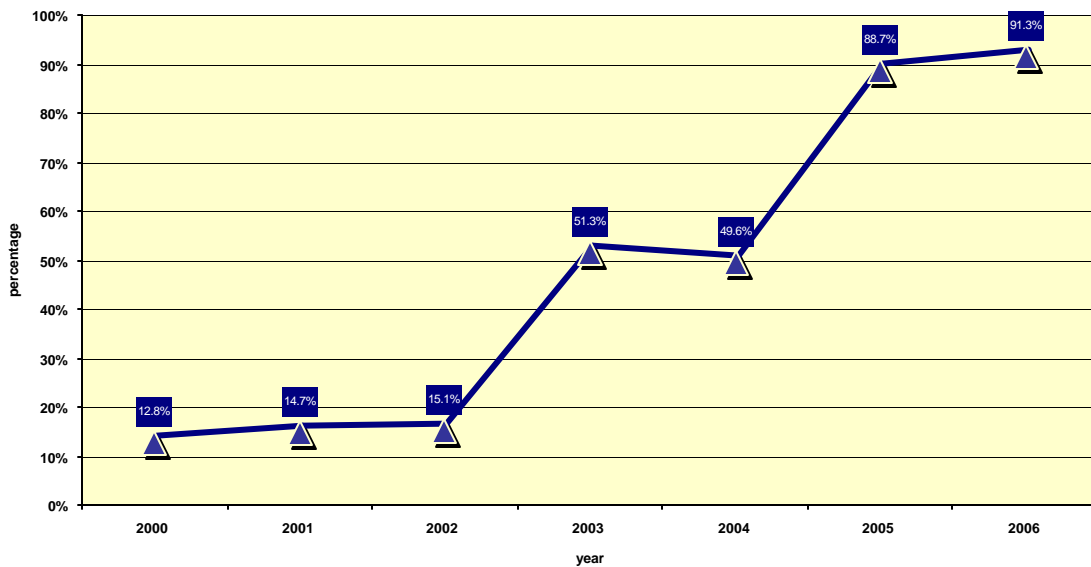
DSS Child Day Care Slots by Service and Year



## Story Behind Measure 2

The DSS Child Day Care Program made a policy decision to require all contracted programs to be accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) in 2001. This decision complements the school readiness legislation requirement that all school readiness programs be accredited. The chart below identifies the current status for those DSS accredited programs. DSS is monitoring the remaining programs to insure their accreditation completion. DSS provides “good case” provisions to those programs that need assistance. DSS also funds the Statewide Accreditation Facilitation Program (AFP) to provide the necessary support services.

Accreditation of DSS Child Day Care Centers



## Story Behind Measure 3

80% of families served by contract partners are required to be working. 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. Serving working families is a contract condition. DSS monitor contract compliance via sample caseload on an annual basis. We do not collect aggregate data. However, our contract partners have not failed to meet this contract standard. Sample caseloads indicate 90% compliance.

## Partners and Their Roles

Our partners are the contractors who receive the funds and provide such services. We also rely on the Statewide Accreditation Facilitation project to support contractors deficient in their NAEYC accreditation status, CT Charts a Course for professional opportunities for center staff, Early Childhood Consultation Program for family/child mental health supports, Care 4 Kids program for financial assistance.

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

1. We are developing a competitive procurement process to insure that only qualified child care centers meet contractual requirements to support the program objectives. This can allow for a new direction of age-specific services as determined by the community need.\*
2. We will monitor the status for contractors with 2007 NAEYC re-accreditation end date to insure contractors are successful and that we meet 100% compliance.\*
3. We will provide support to those contractors experiencing problems by referring them to the Statewide Accreditation Facilities Program.\*
4. We will support the collection of data for worker skills levels as requested by the Early Childhood Policy and Research Council if new resources are committed and add such data as a contract requirement.\*

Future performance improvements are dependent on increased financial resources targeted to specific performance indicators. For example, if child outcomes are to be rigorously measured, additional resources are needed to support enhanced data management tools. Program performance can also be enhanced if staff turnover is reduced. For example, this program continues to receive a reduced reimbursement level (\$6,344 per preschool age child per year) compared to the reimbursement for a similar state subsidized school readiness program (\$8,025 in state fiscal year 2007 per preschool age child per year).

Program performance for infant-toddlers will also be dependent on increased resources to support the comprehensive array of services needed to meet this unmet demand. We see the need to serve infant-toddlers since they represent the foundation for successful school readiness. We plan to demonstrate this by working to develop DSS child day centers as a “hub” for service enhancement and coordination. We will work with the Bridgeport-Leadership in Action Program to test this model and explore a similar arrangement with the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Family Support model. We will continue our efforts to coordinate existing federal, state, and community services funded by others to provide the necessary supports and enhancements.

## Appendix A, Data Development Agenda

There is no comprehensive data system in place to report child outcomes. All contactors report monthly either through electronic submissions or manual reports. These reports provide information on enrollments, which support payments. Summary manual reports are also requested semi-annually to report on contract outcomes and measures. There would need to be a significant investment to fully automate this program. We will review data elements recommended for school readiness programs. Many DSS centers are also receiving school readiness funds and are aware of information be collected.

## Appendix B, Link to Budget

We are unable to report on any changes until the Governor presents the 2007-2008 budget.

## Appendix C, Information and Research Agenda

There are no current resources targeted for research. That has not been the objective to this source of funds over the past 30 years. 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)