

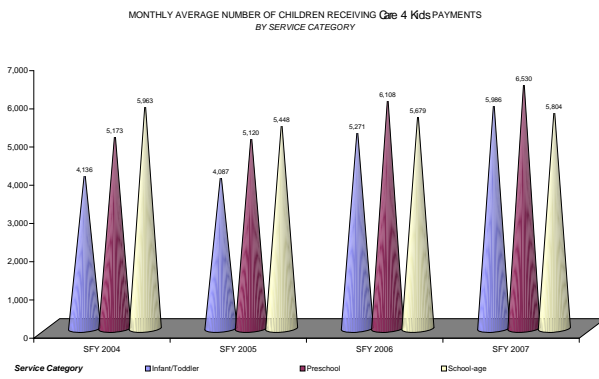
Connecticut Appropriations Committee RBA Template
Part II, Program/Agency/System Accountability Summary

Program/Agency/System: Care 4 Kids Program, Connecticut Department of Social Services

Quality of Life Result: All Connecticut children begin kindergarten healthy and ready for school success within their development potential.

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.

Performance Measure 1: Monthly average # of recipients by age groups



Story Behind Measure 1

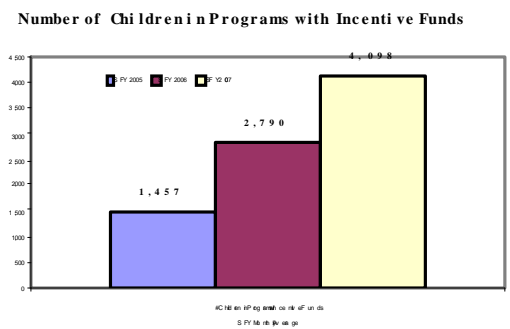
Priorities for service eligibility are established via state law and regulation. Currently, our priorities support families receiving and transitioning from public assistance, teen parents completing high school and low-income working families that meet a certain economic threshold.

Performance Measure 2: Number of employed families.

Story Behind Measure 2

Approximately 86 % of families are working parents. 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.

Performance Measure 3: # Care 4 Kids Children in Accredited Programs



Story Behind Measure 3

There has been a steady increase in the number of Care 4 Kids children in programs that are eligible to receive the C4K Accreditation Bonus. The monthly average number of children equaled 1,487 in SFY2005, 2,790 in SFY2006 & 4,098 in SFY2007

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

1. We will continue with fraud prevention processes to prevent improper payments and ineligible families from participating. This will allow more eligible families to participate*
2. We will offer orientation sessions to new child care providers and consumers in order to help them better understand the program rules.*
3. We will continue to encourage accredited programs to enroll children who are eligible for Care 4 Kids reimbursement.

*No-cost/low-cost action steps.

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Key Budget Information	SFY 2007
Total Program Expenditures	\$90,816,335
Funding as Percent of All Funding for Population Result	
Program Funding As Percent of Total Agency Budget	.020
Funding Distribution	
Total Federal Funds	\$36,833,732
Total State Funds	\$53,982,603
Capital Projects Subtotal	0
Other Funding	0
Percent of Total Current Funding Contracted to Third Parties	100%

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Program/Agency/System –
CT Department of Social Services – Care 4 Kids Program

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.

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

Contribution to Population Result

This program addresses 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	\$90,816,335
Funding as Percent of All Funding for Quality of Life Result	
Program Funding as Percent of Total Agency Budget	.020
Budget Distribution:	
Federal	\$36,833,732
State	\$53,982,603
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 financial assistance to help families purchase child care while they participant in job and/or training activities. These activities are designed to help families transition and remain off public assistance. The program serves a monthly average of approximately 11,550 families and 18,320 children, ages 13 and under and through age 18 if the child has a special need.

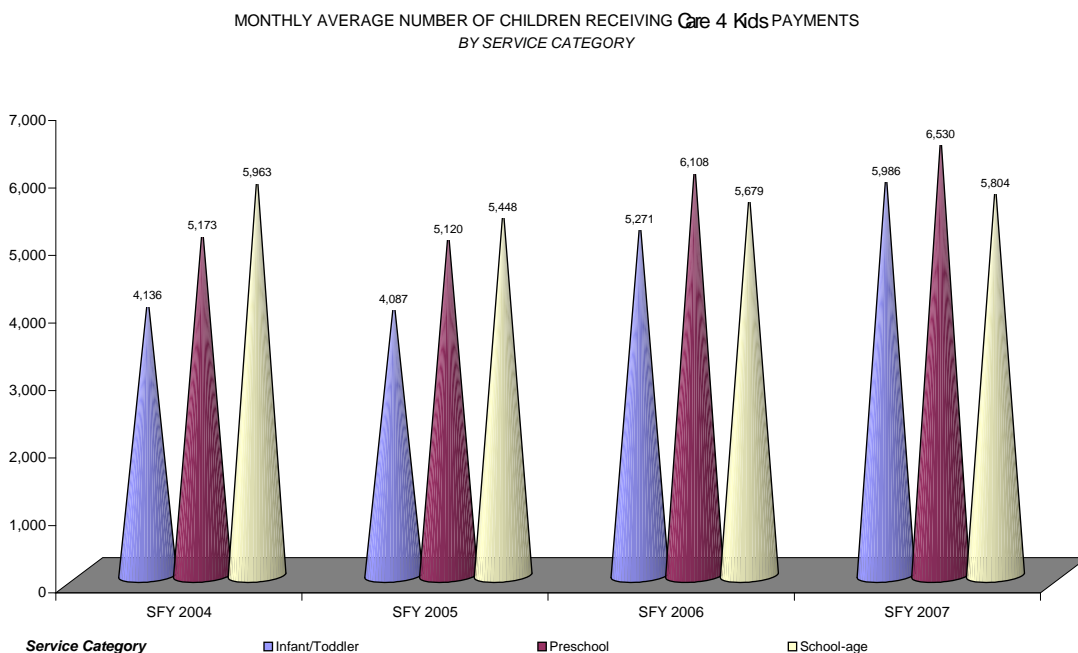
Participation levels are dependent on appropriated funds. Licensed child care providers receive reimbursements if the eligible parent meets program guidelines as established by federal/state laws and regulations. Parents can select their own child care setting to meet their preferences and care hours need as long as the provider is licensed.

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Performance Measures and Story Behind the Baselines

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.



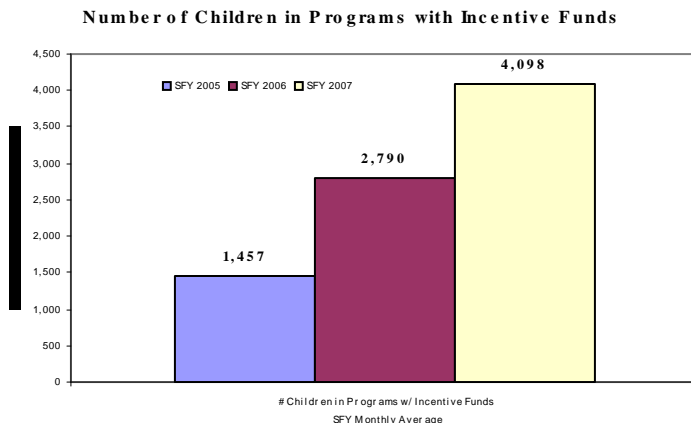
Performance Measure 2

Number of Employed families. Approximately 95 % of families served are required to be working. The remaining 5% 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 educational outcomes.

Performance Measure 3

Number of Care 4 Kids Children in Accredited Programs. There has been a steady increase in the number of Care 4 Kids children in programs that are eligible to receive the C4K Accreditation Bonus. The monthly average number of children equaled 1,487 in SFY2005, 2,790 in SFY2006 & 4,098 in SFY2007. DSS has worked closely with the C4K vendor and the AFP program to insure that accredited facilities enroll C4K children.

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



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 continue to expand fraud prevention processes to prevent improper payments. This will allow more eligible families to participate.*
2. We will offer orientation sessions to new child care providers and consumers in order to help them better understand the program rules.*

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 adopted 2007-2008 budget will provide \$90.8M and the 2008-2009 recommends \$93M. This is another measure to the need from eligible families transitioning from public assistance and ongoing demand from low-income working parents. These are positive signs that families are becoming self-sufficient.

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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 and also review the data included in PKIS.

Appendix D, Partners (Optional)

Appendix E, What Works (Optional)