FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy September!

I’m thrilled to be sharing some exciting news for our region! The King County Council voted at their August 28th meeting to allocate more than $153 million from the Puget Sound Taxpayer Accountability Account (the ST3 ballot measure that was passed in 2016) to fund increased child care capacity in King County. This funding will support building new early learning spaces or rehabilitating existing space to meet licensing requirements, particularly in child care desert areas and co-located or close to affordable housing.

Why is this important? The lack of licensable child care facilities in the region has become increasingly problematic. Our staff regularly hear from families that there is a lack of licensed care, especially for infants and toddlers utilizing a state subsidy. We also hear from child care providers that skyrocketing leasehold and other costs are so burdensome that some have been forced to close their doors. The lack of financing for facilities and capital improvements to child care spaces prevents early learning programs from opening or growing to meet the needs of our community. All of these challenges limit the number of children who benefit from high-quality early learning programs, which research directly links to success in school and later in life.

This funding win is the result of three years of hard and focused work by a group of committed organizations and individuals that believe this key early learning investment would have a profound impact on our community’s children and families. Child Care Resources is so proud to be part of this team and the way it meets the needs of families, children and child care providers! I am beyond excited to see what we can accomplish in the next 10+ years for our kids as a result of this win!

**FEATURE STORY**

The good news: Seattle’s preschool program (SPP) ranked highest in quality among pre-K programs in the top 40 U.S. cities according to a new report from the National Institute for Early Education Research at Rutgers University. Yay! The bad news: not enough of our kiddos can access this amazing program—in fact, fewer than 25% of our four-year-olds. Contributing to poor access is the fact that the SPP was only being operated by center-based child care programs, even though in-home Family Child Care programs account for nearly 30% of all preschool slots in Seattle.

Child Care Resources has been playing a role in addressing SPP’s access issue. As the Early Achievers coaching and relationship keeper to the vast majority of all licensed child...

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Seattle City Council approved integration of 20 additional SPP slots within Family Child Care programs beginning with this current school year.

FEATURE STORY: Seattle Preschool Program
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care programs in Seattle, our staff knew that in-home Family Child Care Providers could operate the Seattle Preschool Program just as effectively as center-based programs. To prove it, we piloted the SPP model and curriculum in eight Family Child Care programs over the past two years.

Evaluation showed that outcomes of the pilot Family Child Care programs were right on par with center-based SPP models, so the Seattle City Council approved integration of 20 additional SPP slots within Family Child Care programs beginning with this current school year. This city is also providing start-up funds to all Family Child Care sites in the program to pay for indoor and outdoor classroom materials.

Here are some of the highlights of the two-year pilot that CCR’s Sandra Taylor, coordinator of the SPP Family Child Care pilot and hub, presented to Seattle City Council earlier this year when advocating for expansion of the Family Child Care model.

• First, it’s important to point out the uniqueness of the Family Child Care (FCC) model. FCC providers cultivate and maintain much deeper relationships with both the children in their care, and their families, largely due to the intimacy of an in-home environment with fewer children. This deeper understanding of children’s needs and family situations, combined with the nimbleness of a smaller program, impacts how a provider customizes her teaching, caregiving and parent involvement. These two unique strengths definitely contributed to the positive outcomes the pilot participants experienced.

• It was easy for all eight of the FCC providers in my pilot to identify differences in their programs pre-SPP pilot, compared to their programs today. Four significant improvements to all of their programs include:

  o evidence-based curriculum to guide daily learning activities;
  o assessment tools to better track children’s development and progress towards milestones;
  o access to Public Health screenings that identify learning barriers such as vision or hearing impairments, weight, and height.
  o and bi-annual observation visits from a UW assessment team to track the outcomes of the tools. One such assessment recently reported that the vocabulary level of children in FCC programs was equal to or higher than that of children in center-based SPP programs. These program improvements help increase providers’ confidence going into upcoming rounds of Early Achievers re-rating cycles, where some or all of these FCC programs will likely earn a level 4 rating!

A Seattle preschool program graduate at the 2019 graduation ceremony. © Tom Slattery

CCR’s Annual Benefit Luncheon
Tuesday, October 15th

Click here to register!
2019 Provider Satisfaction Survey

Assessing childcare provider satisfaction with service-delivery on a regular basis is an important piece of agency accountability and continuous quality improvement. This evaluation, an initial pilot of a satisfaction survey, provides a baseline understanding of how well providers perceive CCR’s services. By adapting to best fit providers’ needs, CCR will ultimately support provider wellbeing and broader issues including provider workforce retention.

KEY FINDINGS

• 83% of respondents reported that they would recommend CCR to other childcare providers

• 90% of respondents feel that CCR staff communicate and interact with them in a way that providers feel is respectful

• 89% of respondents feel that CCR staff value their opinions and experiences

• 89% feel that the time they spend with CCR staff is valuable

• Three-quarters said that they have made changes to their childcare practice as a result of working with CCR

• On a scale of 0-4, overall childcare provider satisfaction was 3.27

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

1. What are you currently working on?
   I am currently the Seattle Preschool Program Coordinator. This position allows me to work with Family Child Care providers that have programs located in the city of Seattle. We implement a preschool curriculum in Family Child Care programs.

2. What is your favorite part of your job?
   My favorite part of the position are the wonderful interactions with child care providers, families, and support agencies such as; Public Health, University of Washington, and other educators, and coaches. I particularly enjoy working with families with enrollment and connecting them with program resources and concerns that they may have regarding developmental questions about their child.

3. What has been a recent challenge in your work?
   Recruitment and on boarding new Family Child Care (FCC) providers. It is important that new FCC providers in our HUB are the right fit for the Seattle Preschool Program. There are a tremendous amount of changes that the typical FCC is required to make in order to comply with the Seattle Preschool Program, such as implementing a certified preschool curriculum, an online assessment tool, and screenings.

4. What was your favorite book or game as a child?
   My favorite game as a child was hide and seek.

5. What is one cool thing that most people don’t know about you?
   I flew over the Grand Canyon in a helicopter.
Fall 2019 News

- CCR’s Seattle preschool program
- 2019 provider satisfaction survey
- Staff spotlight: Sandra Taylor, Seattle Preschool HUB Coordinator
- Join us at CCR’s annual benefit luncheon

Learn more at childcare.org.

YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

Because of donors like you, CCR is able to improve all children’s access to high quality early learning experiences, so that they grow up prepared for school and for life. Thank you!

Kellan was eight months-old when we first met him and his mom living in transitional housing in Redmond. His dad was recently incarcerated, and his twenty-one-year-old mom had very little parenting support or family connections. She had not expected to be a single parent, so was feeling anxious about finding quality child care she could trust so she could go back to work.

Our Homeless Child Care Program team did some preliminary vacancy checks and guided her to possible child care providers. We helped her set her priorities - what to ask for over the phone and what to look for in a child care program when she went to visit. We also helped her apply for Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) subsidy and coached her to ask important questions and advocate for herself and her son. She was able to qualify for WCCC subsidy and find a child care provider that she liked.

With Kellan in a stable early learning environment, his mom continues to stay employed, is learning about the systems that support licensed child care, and is developing a strong relationship with the person who cares for her baby. CCR’s Homeless Child Care Program is helping pay her WCCC copayment—a seemingly small amount of financial support that is helping Kellan’s mom maintain her car and pay her other bills that will eventually lead to a more stable housing situation.