

History of Child Care Resource and Referral in Union County

1976

- CCCC was incorporated as Union county Child Care Resource and Referral agency.

1978

- CCCC established Union County's first Family Child Care Network, prior to family child care registration, for the care of children in protective services and sponsorship of the child care food program.

1980

- Some CCR&Rs added local county subsidy programs to their responsibilities. CCCC paid for the child care subsidy of children in protective services in Family Child Care.

1984

- CCCC established the first training calendar based on identified needs of the child care community, and has continued to do so every year to the present, utilizing various funding sources.

1985

- CCCC offered its first Child Development Associate (CDA) training using Jobs Partnership Training Act funds, providing comprehensive training and technical assistance, and has continued to offer CDA training every year to the present, utilizing various funding sources.

1986

- Three regional CCR&R agencies were funded in the northern, central, and southern regions of the state. Each regional office was responsible for coordinating the resource and referral services for its region and for working closely with any local CCR&Rs to identify and meet the child care needs of the communities. These regional agencies also served as the local CCR&R for each county in the region and were responsible for providing services in those counties where no CCR&R existed. The three regionals were Community Coordinated Child Care, Passaic County 4 C's and EIRC.

1988

- CCR&Rs were extremely influential in welfare reform (the REACH program) in New Jersey. Lead Agencies (CCR&Rs) were selected in each county to provide child care referrals and counseling services to REACH participants.

1992

- CCR&Rs became the administrators for the NJ Cares for Kids voucher program.
- Union was one of the first counties to roll out the NJ Cares of Kids voucher program.

1995

- New Jersey stopped its regional service structure; CCR&R was redesigned as a local service provider system.

1997

- As part of the redesign of CCR&R in New Jersey, a single unified agency was selected in each county to perform all services, including:
 - CCR&R Services
 - Family Child Care Registration
 - Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
 - NJ Cares for Kids Voucher Program (NJCK)
- CCR&Rs were instrumental in the development of the NJ Professional Development Center for Early Care and Education. The NJDHS awarded a planning grant for the New Jersey Professional Development Center to the New Jersey Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NJACCRRA), with Community Coordinated Child Care of Union County acting as the lead agency.

1998

- NJDHS awarded a five-year grant to Kean University, partnering with NJACCRRA to implement the plan: NJ Sows the Seeds for Growth: A 5-year Plan for an Early Care and Educational Professional Development System. CCCC administered the grant for NJACCRRA.
- CCCC was then chosen by its peers to successfully apply for and implement the DHS grant-funded NJ Professional Development Center for Early Care and Education (Clearinghouse and NJ Registry) in partnership with Kean University.

2001

- CCR&Rs conducted their first statewide child care market rate study.

2002

- CCCC designed and implemented our first comprehensive training, assessment and on-site intervention model, Project Improve, utilizing United Way funds, and has continued to offer comprehensive training, assessment and on-site intervention services every year to the present, utilizing various funding sources.
- CCCC received 1.2 million dollars for a federal quality improvement grant "Early Learning Opportunities Project (ELOP) which was a quality improvement project for child care centers, family child care providers, and FFN, where an assessment of the program was conducted and Parent Literacy was a component.

2006

- CCR&Rs identified "Quality Indicators" for an infant/toddler program that addressed caregiver/child interaction, the environment, and health and safety.
- CCR&Rs collected data for the New Jersey Child Care Economic Impact Council's report, Benefits for All: The Economic Impact of the New Jersey Child Care Industry.

2007

- The NJ Department of Children and Families implemented the Strengthening Families Initiative (SFI), a family support network through the CCR&Rs.

2009

- CCR&Rs conducted a statewide cost analysis for mandatory family child care registration.
- CCR&Rs advocated on behalf of Bill A4073, mandatory family child care registration.
- Through an RFP process, CCR&Rs were awarded a quality infant/toddler TA and training grant, the NJ First Steps Infant/Toddler Initiative with Community Coordinated Child Care as lead agency for Central Region.

2010

- CCR&Rs contract for child care health consultation ended.
- CCR&Rs collected data in collaboration with NJACCRRRA for the market rate study entitled The High Price of Child Care: A Study Profiling the Cost of Care within Licensed Centers in New Jersey.
- CCR&Rs collaborated with the NJ Department of Education, NIEER, and NJACCRRRA on data collection for the 2010 study, Variations in Wages & Benefits Paid to New Jersey's Center-Based Child Care Staff Based on Classroom Role, Ages Served, and Center Characteristics.

2014

- CCCC was awarded a grant by DCF to develop and implement Union County's Council for Young Children.
- New Jersey received federal funding from the Department of Education and Health and Human Services "Race to the Top—Early Learning Challenge Grant" and implemented a Quality Rating Improvement System called Grow New Jersey Kids.