

2012 Program Report Card: Care 4 Kids – Department of Social Services

Quality of Life Result: All Connecticut working age residents have jobs that provide financial self-sufficiency.

Contribution to the Result: Care 4 Kids is designed to subsidize child care expenses to allow low income working families and families receiving Temporary Family Assistance to work and participate in Jobs First Employment Services Program to transition off assistance and choose quality child care.

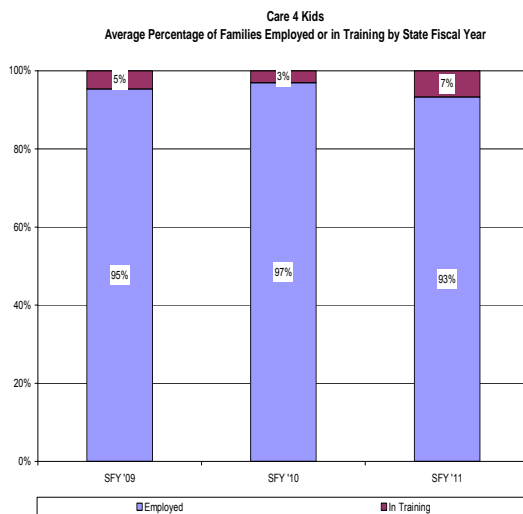
Program Expenditures	State Funding	Federal Funding*	Total Funding
Actual FY 11	100,930,232		100,930,232
Estimated FY 12	97,598,443		97,598,443

*The state receives federal reimbursement. In FY 11, \$36.5 million was received in federal dollars. It is estimated that in FY 12, the state will receive \$34.1 million in federal dollars.

Partners: United Way of Connecticut, Departments of Children and Families, Public Health, Emergency Services and Public Protection

How Much Did We Do?

Families Served – monthly average number of families employed and in training.

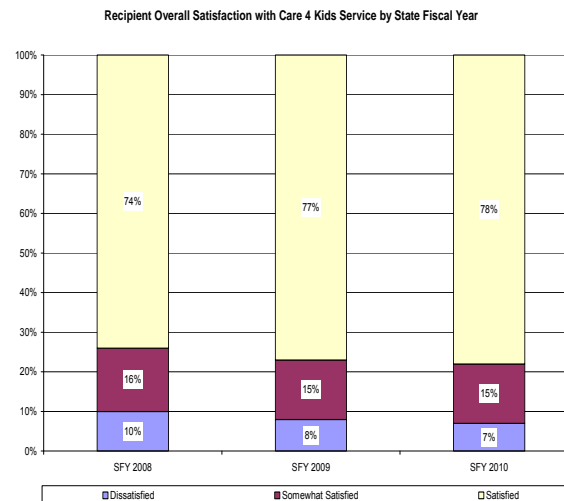


Story behind the baseline: Low and moderate-income families who are working and at risk of becoming eligible for TFA, teen parents who are attending high school, and families receiving TFA who are participating in an approved training program, working, or have recently transitioned off of TFA continue to receive assistance, within available resources. However, the demand for child care assistance continues to increase due to the high cost of quality care and the lack of growth of family income needed to cover child care expenses.

Trend: ◀▶

How Well Did We Do It?

Families' experience – family response to yearly satisfaction survey.



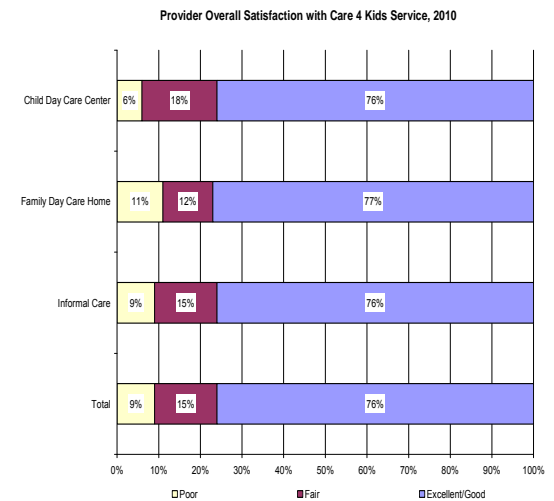
Story behind the baseline:

Independent yearly survey covers all aspect of program operations, from responsiveness to ease of gaining and maintaining program eligibility. Complaints often center on need for higher reimbursement rate or change in program eligibility to allow higher income families to participate.

Trend: ◀▶

How Well Did We Do It?

Providers' experience – provider response to yearly satisfaction survey.



Story behind the baseline:

Independent yearly survey captures how well the program works for the variety of child care providers who care for children that receive Care 4 Kids assistance. Approximately 90% of the providers surveyed rate service as fair to excellent. This has been a consistent finding for the past few years. Most complaints pertain to the need for higher reimbursement.

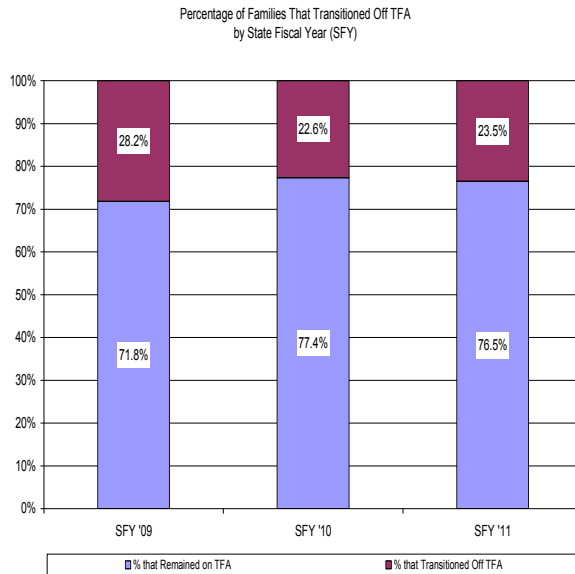
Trend: ◀▶

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Is Anyone Better Off?

Families that Transitioned Off Temporary Family Assistance – percentage of families on TFA and those that transitioned off TFA because of increased income



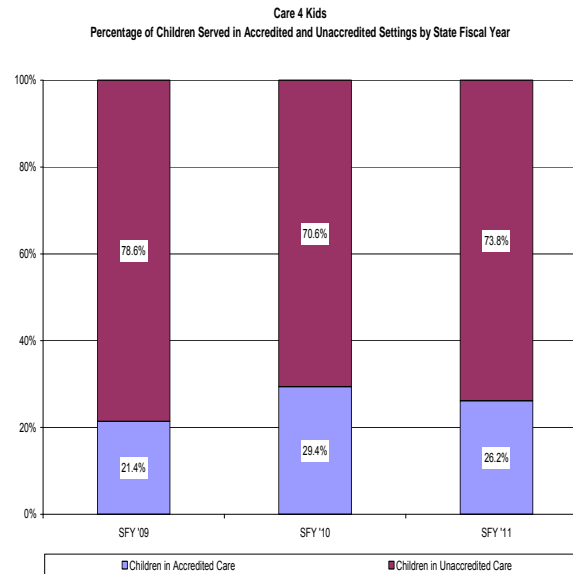
Story behind the baseline:

Working families that transition off of TFA still need ongoing financial assistance to meet their child care expenses. Care 4 Kids is designed so that as family income increases the family share of the child care expense also increases and less public funds are needed. This is a wise investment of public funds and eventually ends when the family becomes self-sufficient.

Trend: ◀▶

Is Anyone Better Off?

Children in Accredited Programs – percentage of children enrolled in accredited and unaccredited care programs



Story behind the baseline:

Families are encouraged to choose quality settings when possible and national accreditation is an indicator of quality. CT has one of highest % of accredited child care centers in the U.S. unfortunately, there are few accredited family day care homes and there are no accreditation programs for kith/kin providers which also receive Care 4 Kids assistance.

Trend: ◀▶

Proposed Actions to Turn the Curve:

Collecting Information

- Identify other DSS funds to support family day care homes to become accredited
- Identify other DSS funds to support kith and kin providers to attend training and education workshops on order to enhance their early childhood development skills.
- Collaborate with Department of Labor to expand opportunities for TFA clients to obtain jobs and transition off TFA cash assistance.
- Work with the Care 4 Kids program administrator to increase the number of highly satisfied parents and providers

Data Development Agenda:

Analyze the percentage of eligible working families in the state that could be eligible for Care 4 Kids assistance to determine if funding levels and outreach efforts are sufficient. Determine if the percentage of low-income families using unlicensed care settings is comparable to the number of non low-income working families using unlicensed care settings. If there are differences, determine the cause – is it parental choice, cost, insufficient supply of licensed settings, other. The department plans to develop new reporting variables such as the length of stay while receiving TFA and Care 4 Kids.