

ANNUAL REPORT
2020-2021



Creating **BRIGHTER** Futures

> Letter from our Leaders

Childcare Resources was founded over 37 years ago with the belief that children are our greatest natural resource, and it is imperative that they receive quality care from trained and supported staff to help them reach their full potential. While our agency began modestly as the outgrowth of a child care task force convened in 1984 by the United Way of Central Alabama, Childcare Resources now reaches thousands of children, families, and child care providers across our four-county footprint each year.

The faces of the families and providers we support are the faces of Central Alabama. From working families juggling the challenges of parenthood to seasoned professionals working in child care facilities and home-based programs — our community is united by the importance of early education and the passion for ensuring our children receive every opportunity to make a positive impact on the world.

Access to affordable, quality child care and early education was a tremendous challenge at our inception in 1984. Childcare Resources has worked diligently to improve both quality of and access to child care in Central Alabama, and continues that hard work today. With your support, we will continue to build a future where our next generation of leaders will prosper.

Thank you for your continued belief in our mission.



JOAN WRIGHT
Executive Director



MICHAEL F. WALKER
2020-2021 Board Chair





Our Mission

To make quality care and education of young children happen by providing information, education, and assistance to families, providers of child care, and the community.

> Our Programs

1

Train and support child care professionals, providing a sizable portion of training available in Blount, Jefferson, Shelby, and Walker Counties

2

Provide child care financial assistance to low-to-moderate income working families who earn too much to qualify for state subsidy programs

3

Support families who are searching for child care options by providing **comprehensive child care information and advocacy resources** to ensure families understand the importance of the significant development that occurs in the early years that impacts later success in school and life

4

Promote a child's development through comprehensive early learning, health, and family well-being services.

Training and Technical Assistance

The goal of Training and Technical Assistance is to increase the quality of child care available to children by providing education through training and technical assistance to individuals working in child care or interested in a career in early care and education.

207
training sessions
completed

420
training hours
completed

86
early care
programs
impacted

82%
of trainings
held virtually



19 average point
increase in
post-test scores

"We were so fortunate to have Childcare Resources provide our teacher trainings this year. Their presenters were truly knowledgeable and professional. The trainings were informative and interesting, which can be difficult when held virtually.

We are grateful to Childcare Resources for delivering our trainings virtually, allowing our staff to get the required hours needed, but in an environment that made everyone comfortable."

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Preschool Partners

> Sky's the Limit Conference

The annual Sky's the Limit Conference was held as a virtual learning event. On the day of the conference launch, participants were able to log-in and enjoy selected training sessions with additional access to trainings for an additional two weeks following. Upon completion of the conference, learners earned 5.5 hours of training from local, state, and national presenters.

130
participants

Theme: Go Boldly: Navigating the New Normal
Keynote: Holly Elissa Bruno



➤ *Early Learning Resource Center*

The goal of the Early Learning Resource Center (Library and Van) is to reduce the cost of delivering quality child care by providing access to teaching materials and resources free of charge. The Resource Center offers free membership and is open weekdays while the Resource Van travels 10 routes monthly.

Early learning resources available include teacher curriculum books, children's literature, music CD's and DVD's, age-appropriate theme boxes, puppets, storybook kits, Ellison Press die-cuts, lamination services, and one-on-one consultation with a Child Development Consultant.

48

patron visits to
the resource
library center

35

patron visits to the
resource library
van

54

child care
programs on van
routes

16

providers received
curbside drop-off
visits

Specialty Program

RISE PROGRAM

The goal of RISE is to positively impact the quality of child care in our community by assisting providers in surpassing the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) Child Care Licensing and Performance Standards, achieving measurable improvements, and supporting the pursuit of national accreditation and re-accreditation. In central Alabama, only 5% of centers are nationally accredited.



472

consultations to child
care programs

2 CENTERS
achieved national re-accreditation

"The support of RISE is important to directors because it provides the opportunity to share and discuss the challenges that we all face daily. This program was particularly helpful during the pandemic. We wanted to make sure we were making the right decisions for our program, families, and staff. I believe the support and opportunity to share ideas, collaborate, and encourage each other gave us the strength to get through an exceedingly difficult year."

DIRECTOR
Harris Early Learning Center

Specialty Program

INFANT TODDLER PROGRAM

The goal of the Infant Toddler Program is to increase the quality of child care available to infants and toddlers. The program is designed to assist classrooms in surpassing the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) Child Care Licensing and Performance Standards and to encourage directors to operate their program consistent with best practices as it pertains to teacher-child interactions in a nurturing learning environment.



102
consultations to child
care programs

100% OF CLASSROOMS
achieved 80% or more of their quality improvement plan goals

"I am incredibly grateful to be a part to the Infant Toddler Program at Childcare Resources. I was nervous and scared about how I would pick-up the pieces during the Pandemic and provide services to families who really need us and rely on us to provide care. I had to hire multiple new teachers (who were new to child care) and was stressed as to how I was going to train them to be successful when each was in a different classroom. The consultant was there for me the entire time. She called me often asking how she could be of assistance. I would tell her an issue and she would make magic happen by providing the needed guidance. She was able to provide technical assistance with room arrangements virtually and provide specific requested training topics at small group in-person training."

DIRECTOR
Beary Best of Care

Financial Assistance

The goal of the Supplemental Child Care Program is to help low-to-moderate income working families maintain employment and achieve self-sufficiently. This program provides financial assistance to families enrolled in the program by paying a portion of child care costs to a legally operating child care provider of their choice.



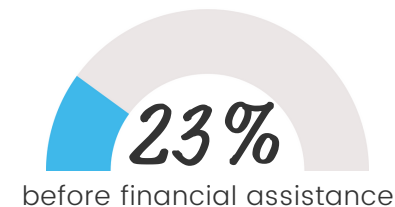
\$35,570
average annual income
of enrolled families



TOP EMPLOYMENT SECTORS



% OF ANNUAL BUDGET SPENT ON CHILD CARE



"Childcare Resources has helped me tremendously throughout the years. I am solely responsible for my son financially and the program helped me when no one else would. I can go to work and know that my son is cared for and taught in a great facility. My son will be in kindergarten next year and I know he is ready and will be successful. Financial assistance has made everything easier and less stressful for me, and it has been a blessing to not have to worry about affording child care during the pandemic."

SCCP PARTICIPANT

Resource and Referral

Resource and Referral provides free customized child care searches for the community. Each search includes provider profiles to assist the family in locating quality child care as well as parent resources to support the unique needs of each individual family.



6 average number of
referrals provided in each
customized search



"Childcare Resources' Resource and Referral Program is a great program to use when you need assistance! I was new to the Birmingham area and lost hope in finding child care. I was referred by another agency to contact Childcare Resources for help so I made the call and left a message just hoping to get a call back. The coordinator called me back so quickly and was so sweet and genuine as I shared my child care needs with her. I could tell that she loves what she does and has a passion for helping others."

RESOURCE AND REFERRAL PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

Head Start Program

The Head Start and Early Head Start Program promotes a child's development through comprehensive early learning, health, and family well-being services. Childcare Resources Head Start Program operates through a partnership model with local schools, child care programs, and the community.



57%
of children participating
received health, hearing,
vision, and development
screening



60%
of children participating received health,
hearing, vision, and development screening



ZIP CODES SERVED IN
JEFFERSON COUNTY

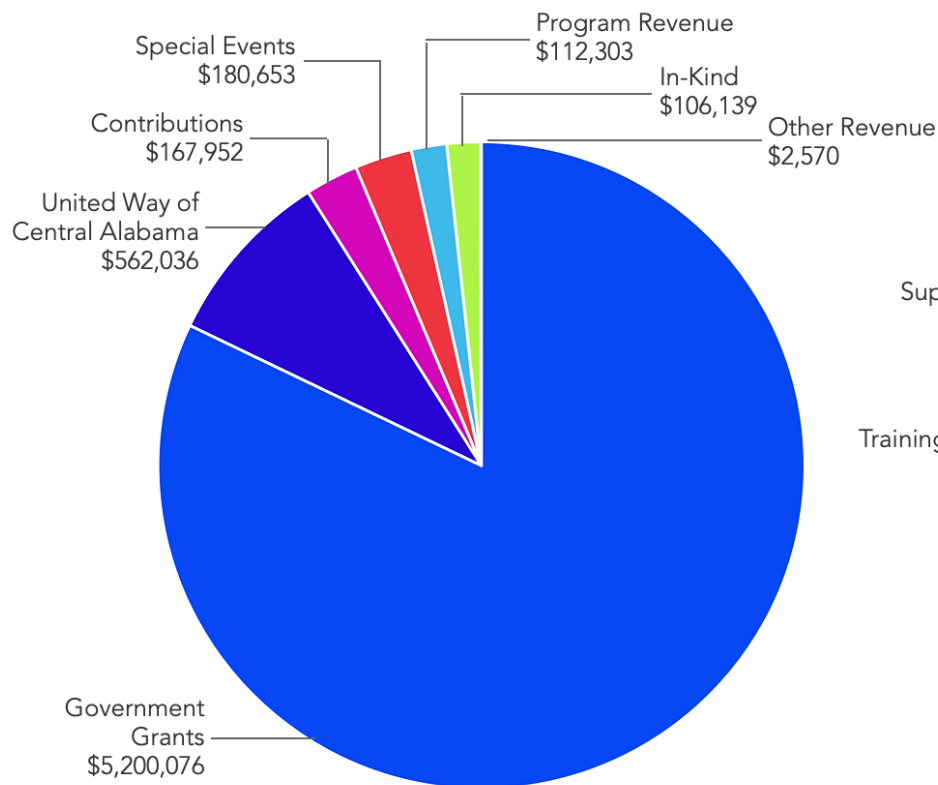
35020 • 35022 • 35094 • 35203
35205 • 35206 • 35212 • 35217

"As a single mother with three children, I am so grateful for the support and guidance Childcare Resources has given me and my family. In addition to being able to enroll my two youngest daughters in their Head Start program, I was also able to work with one of their Family Advocates to work toward my goal of purchasing my own home. They helped me navigate and apply for a United Way Individual Development Account, which ultimately helped me achieve my goal. Now, one of my favorite things to do is watch my kids play in their own backyard."

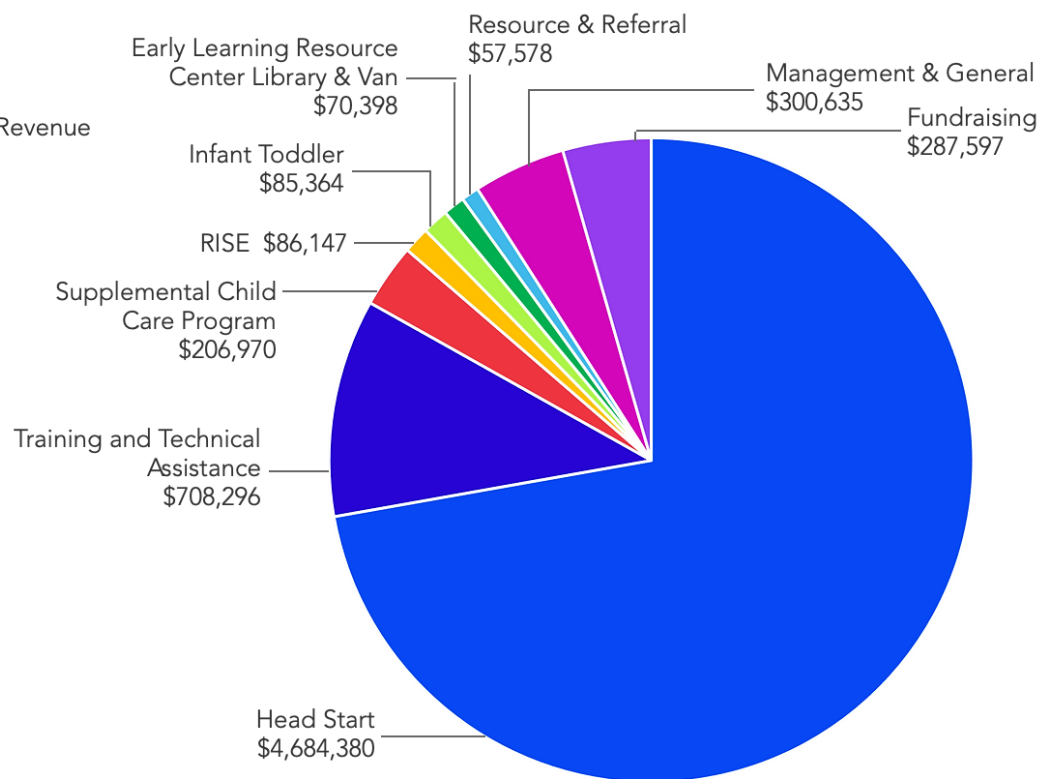
HEAD START PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

Agency Financials

REVENUE



EXPENSES





Creating Brighter Futures

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