



## What Are The Impacts Of State Funding Cuts To Child Care Resource and Referral?

**“That would truly hurt me because I receive 60% of my referrals from the R&R and when families call me for referrals .... I forward them on to the R&R so they can give them information about providers and how to choose quality providers. My business would not be what it is today if the Resource and Referral were not there for me to access training and referrals from.”**

- Marcey McGraw, licensed child care provider from Pierce County, when asked about proposed cuts to the WA St. Child Care Resource & Referral Network

The Governor's proposed 2010 supplemental budget has severe impacts on the CCR&R system.

- ✎ The cut totals **\$425,000 or 14% of current funding levels**. This funding represents **all of the state's general fund contribution** for core CCR&R services. This cut would be **in addition to the 25% reduction** in overall CCR&R funding the system received for the current fiscal year, and would come just before **the loss over the next biennium of \$850,000** in federal ARRA stimulus funds.

### Impact on Services to Families


- ✎ **Reduced critical services for families.** Cuts would dramatically decrease telephone hours, forcing parents seeking child care to leave messages and wait for a counselor to call them back. This would occur at a time when parents will be seeking information on more options and advice from CCR&R counselors in order to find affordable and safe child care options while unemployed or suffering from decreased wages.
- ✎ **Restricted access to Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) supports.** As more parents are faced with an inability to afford licensed child care, they turn to care provided by family, friends, and neighbor (FFN) caregivers. The CCR&R Network's FFN Initiative is built on the foundation provided by core service funding. Reduced core funding will decrease the quality of and access to FFN supports
- ✎ **Decrease the effectiveness of Department of Early Learning licensing.** CCR&R works in partnership with DEL in order help child care facilities provide safe, caring learning environments. A dramatic decrease in CCR&R services will hamper DEL's ability to regulate the child care industry.

### Impact on Services to Child Care Businesses


- ✎ **Reducing and eliminating quality enhancement services to support child care businesses:**
  - **Reduction or elimination of on-site consultation.** The CCR&R Network's ability to offer onsite consultations will most likely be eliminated, as resources will be prioritized


for services that CCR&R is in statute to provide. This is the single most effective way to ensure providers can implement their knowledge of how to enhance the safety and quality of the care they provide. Consultation often includes guidance on dealing with challenging behavior, thus preventing children from having to be expelled.

- **Reduced access to community-based training.** A 14% reduction in basic services will significantly decrease the amount of training available to providers. All licensed child care staff and family child care business are required to meet the 20 hours of initial STARS training and 10 hours of annual continuing education. The CCR&R Network is the state's largest purveyor of STARS-approved, community-based training, and is often the only entity in rural areas that offer these services.
- **Decrease foundational supports for the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS).** Cuts to CCR&R core services will hamper expansion of QRIS, as we serve as the primary purveyor of "improvement" services within the 5 QRIS pilot sites. This would occur at a time when the legislature needs to expand QRIS statewide in order to become eligible for the pending federal Early Learning Challenge Fund's high level grants.


 **Creating instability in business lifeline to child care programs.** Child care businesses rely heavily on parent referrals from CCR&R programs to sustain their businesses. A reduction on CCR&R parent referral line hours will increase the chances that child care programs will continue to close, as they have steadily ever since the state removed provider recruitment & retention funds from the CCR&R Network in 2002.


## Impact on Communities and Policymakers

 **Reducing the efficiency and effectiveness of services to families in communities, especially rural areas.** Local communities rely on CCR&R programs to serve as "conveners" to coordinate services, prevent duplication of efforts and maximize the impact on services to children and families. The proposed cuts would increase fragmentation and duplication of services. This will impact rural communities disproportionately, due to increased reliance on local infrastructure, leading to more children in unsafe situations.

 **Diminishing the understanding of child care, family and community needs.** The CCR&R Network collects comprehensive statewide data on child care supply and demand. This service is essential to Washington's burgeoning early learning system. Without this data, policymakers and stakeholders will not have a current understanding of the child care needs of families, child care businesses, and communities during these volatile economic times.

## Impact on the CCR&R System

 **CCR&R Network employment.** Through inheriting a 25% funding reduction for the current fiscal year, the CCR&R Network has reduced its capacity to minimal levels, including the loss of some personnel. An additional 14% reduction will most likely be facilitated completely through FTE loss.

 **Decrease access to community-specific services.** Significant funding loss decreases the ability of CCR&R programs to leverage their host agency's capacity to offer enhanced services to families who might be looking for additional supports beyond basic child care. Common examples include enhanced services for military, homeless, and migrant families.