



How can child care resource and referral services help out during tough economic times?

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

Funding invested in resource and referral services supports economic viability in local communities by supporting families to:

- **Find employment.** R&R programs help parents locate intermittent child care while they are job hunting.
- **Maintain employment.** R&R programs help parents locate safe, dependable, high quality and affordable child care for their children.
- **Enhance the knowledge of family, friends, and neighbors (FFN) caregivers.** In order to cut costs in difficult economic times, parents often turn to family, friends, and neighbors to care for their children. R&R programs offer quality support to these caregivers, including opportunities to participate in play and learn groups.
- **Connect with resources.** R&R programs assist families with locating available state and local financial assistance to help them pay for child care. This helps to lighten the caseloads of state subsidy workers.

RESOURCES FOR PROVIDERS

Funding invested in resource and referral services supports small businesses that operate child care facilities to:

- **Sustain their child care businesses.** R&R programs offer a free parent call-in line that refers parents to licensed child care programs that match their needs. In addition, the R&Rs provide a wide range of supports to programs that lower the cost of staying licensed, such as free marketing, business technical assistance, and onsite coaching on all aspects of the learning environment.
- **Enhance the quality of child care offered to families.** R&R programs offer onsite consultation to license applicants and licensed child care programs to address specific concerns (such as the challenging behavior of a child) and to help increase the overall quality of the care and education they provide for children.
- **Pursue higher education opportunities.** The quality of the early childhood/child care workforce is critical to improving child outcomes and school readiness. **Washington Scholarships for Child Care Professionals** offers comprehensive financial support to providers seeking degrees and early childhood credentials. This also serves as a direct investment in Washington State's community and technical colleges.

RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITIES AND POLICYMAKERS

Funding invested in resource and referral services supports community building activities by:

- **Fostering local coalitions and partnerships.** R&R programs serve as leaders in their local communities to build partnerships and to help generate new as well as increase existing resources.
- **Leveraging existing resources.** R&R programs help to coordinate local services that leverage and maximize resources available to support children and families.
- **Providing supply and demand data.** R&R disseminates statewide and county-level data that is vital to communities and policymakers to make informed decisions on how to prioritize resources in difficult economic times. R&R data is also used by first responders and law enforcement for public safety.
- **Informing policy decisions.** The R&R Network connects policy makers with providers and parents, ensuring that policy decisions are informed by what is currently happening in local communities.