



TALKING POINTS: BUDGET

Early learning has already been cut to minimum levels.

- Cuts during the 2009 Legislative session to CCR&R, ECEAP, QRIS, DEL and others have impacted children and families and reduced the early learning field to minimal capacity.
- **DEL lost 29 FTEs and is disproportionately federally funded compared to other state agencies, with its federal funds outweighing state funds 2 to 1.**
- **CCR&R core services received \$1.35 million in funding cuts last year, equating to a 25% reduction.**

The state cannot afford to fall backwards in early learning at this critical time.

- Early learning has real momentum right now, as evidenced by overwhelming public and bi-partisan legislative support to include early learning within the state's definition of basic education.
- DEL is about to unveil its long term plan for a comprehensive birth-3rd grade system, with short term recommendations to be provided to the Governor and Legislature for the 2010 session.
- The federal government is moving forward with making early learning a priority through the creation of the Early Learning Challenge Fund, which would provide \$8 billion in grants over the next 8 years for system reform, an unprecedented amount for early learning. **Among the necessary components for states to be qualified for these high level grants are a statewide QRIS system and a comprehensive data system, both of which rely on a strong CCR&R system.**

CCR&R is a necessary service during tough economic times.

- More and more families are utilizing the care of a family member, friend, or neighbor in order to save costs on child care. **Demand has grown for CCR&R's Family, Friend, and Neighbor supports, such as play & learn groups, while funding has decreased.**
- Families need CCR&R's referral services now more than ever. **The most recent quarterly State of Care Index (www.care.com) reports that 43% of families changed their main form of child care last year, and half of those were due to economic concerns.**
- CCR&R simplifies and streamlines the child care search process, which is beneficial to businesses. **The State of Care Index reports that 49% of parents confessed to using work hours to conduct their child care search, and 31% of families reported that their search took more than 12 hours.**
- Families need child care access to meet their changing employment needs. CCR&R actively recruits and assists those who are interested in going through the process to become a licensed provider. **Since 2003, when CCR&R funding peaked and was cut dramatically to balance the post 9/11 welfare box (and was never restored), the number of family child care providers operating in the state has dropped every year from 6410 to 5299, and it continues to drop.**
- **Child care providers turn to CCR&R in order to sustain their business during tough times.** We provide them with business through referrals, free or cheap supports in order to improve the quality of their business, and higher education scholarships so they can obtain degrees or credentials in early childhood, with wage enhancements when they are done.
- CCR&R serves as the convener in communities around early learning, ensuring that all resources are leveraged to maximize service delivery. **Over our 20 year existence the CCR&R Network state office alone has raised more public and private funds than we have received from the state for core CCR&R services.**

CCR&R is necessary to the early learning system.

- CCR&R connects families with community services that meet their needs (even beyond child care), for free, statewide.
- **CCR&R is the only statewide provider of supports for FFN caregivers.**
- **CCR&R is the largest purveyor of community-based training, coaching, mentoring, technical assistance, and onsite consultation for child care providers in the state.**
- **Washington Scholarships for Child Care Professionals is the state's only provider of higher education scholarships for those working in early learning.**
- **CCR&R serves as the primary purveyor of "improvement" services across the 5 QRIS pilot sites.**

- CCR&R collects real time statewide child care supply and demand data for the use of policy makers on all levels.

CCR&R is extremely cost effective.

- CCR&R is the glue that brings community coalitions together around early learning, in order to leverage available resources to their full potential.
- **Facing funding cuts, the CCR&R system stayed committed to expanding our parent referral services to include online referrals statewide.**
- **Despite state funds for the FFN initiative being cut in half during the 2009 Session, CCR&R was able to extend FFN supports to every region of the state, through its private fund raising and partnerships in local communities.**
- In 2008, **with just \$3.7 million**, CCR&R:
 - **handled 108,955 public line calls;**
 - **processed 32,130 referrals;**
 - **directly served 22,835 families (most of them low-income) and 32,288 children**
 - **provided 3549 community-based training hours for providers;**
 - **provided 2298 hours of child care onsite consultation**