



**WORKFORCE
SERVICES**
CHILD CARE

OFFICE OF
**Child
Care**



Welcome●

- a. Committee Membership - Vacant Positions
- b. Approval of 9/11/2024, Meeting Minutes

II. OCC Director's Update
Heather Thomas

- a. OCC Staffing Update
- b. Child Care Solutions and Workforce Productivity Plan
- c. Utah Code - Question on Repeal Date for Advisory Committee
- d. DWS Outreach Campaign (mydoorway.utah.gov)
- e. DWS Annual Report
- f. CCDF State Plan Update
- g. Covid Relief Funding Update

III. Partner Highlight: Utah Education Policy Center Lisa
Wisham

IV. OCC Updates

- a. Stabilization Grant Kathy Randle
- b. Child Care Quality System
JoEllen Robbins
- c. Professional Development & Consumer Education Jamie
Foster
- d. School Readiness, Out-of-School Time & Community Grants .. Emma
Moench

V. Agency Updates

- a. Licensing
Florencia Schapira
- b. USBE
Cristina Barrera

VI. Other Business & Public Comment



Committee Membership - Vacant Positions

- Community-at-large representative
- Family child care representative
- Corporate Community representative (family friendly workplace with efforts related child care)

[Boards and Commissions Website - Apply for Seat](#)



- OCC Staffing Update
- Child Care Solutions and Workforce Productivity Plan
 - Recommendations around:
 - Child care supply
 - Child care workforce
 - Child behavior
 - Child care affordability and accessibility
 - Employer partnerships
 - December 1, 2024
- Utah Code - Question on Repeal Date for Advisory Committee

OCC Directors Update

-Heather Thomas




DWS Outreach Campaign

mydoorway.utah.gov




DWS Outreach Campaign

mydoorway.utah.gov

DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
SERVICES

Home Services ▾



Your doorway to new opportunities

Let the Department of Workforce Services help you find the right doorway when you're facing life's challenges. We provide job support and training, food, medical and utility assistance, unemployment, disability services and more. Use the dropdown menu to learn about our programs and find out if you're eligible.

How we can help you? ▾



DWS Outreach Campaign

mydoorway.utah.gov

Find the service that's right for you



Child Care Assistance



Disability Services



Employer Services



Food Assistance/SNAP



Homelessness





Job Support



DWS Outreach Campaign

mydoorway.utah.gov


Home Services ▾



Child Care Assistance

We know that finding high quality child care is one of the most important parts of parenthood. We help eligible families pay for part of the cost of child care. Eligibility is based on income, work and training hours and household size. Parents can also use our website to search for child care providers by location, quality, cost and more.


Program info



Get help paying for child care

Our child care assistance programs help parents pay for child care. The income limits are higher than most other assistance programs, so you may be eligible and not know it. For example, a family of four making \$7,902 or less per month could qualify. Do not skip applying if you were denied in the past or think you make too much money. The income eligibility limits for child care are updated annually. Our eligibility team will determine what is countable income.


[Learn more](#)



Find child care that fits

Search our database to find quality child care providers statewide. You can filter results by location, quality rating, ages accepted, care type, cost and whether they accept a Workforce Services' subsidy. Whether you need full-time, part-time or after school child care, you can find the right program for your family.

[Learn more](#)



Ensure you have quality child care

We are committed to helping you make informed choices in order to find high-quality child care. Through the Child Care Quality System, eligible child care providers may earn a certified quality rating. If the provider you select has received a high-quality rating, they have demonstrated that they provide a safe and healthy learning environment that supports children's growth and development.

[Learn More](#)



DWS Outreach Campaign

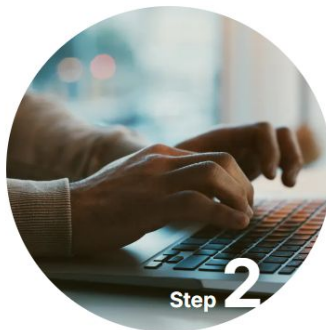
mydoorway.utah.gov

How do you apply for child care assistance?



Create a [Utah ID](#) or sign in to your account

From [jobs.utah.gov](#), select 'Sign in' and 'myCase' in the upper right corner. If you have not applied for assistance before, select 'Apply for Benefits.' If you have a case number, select 'Login with UtahID' or 'Create Account/Forgot Password.' View this [video](#) for help getting started.



Submit an application

Apply [online](#) or in person at a local [employment center](#). Eligibility varies based on your situation. If you are interested, we encourage you to apply. The application is simple and takes less than 30 minutes to complete. You do not need to include your Social Security number on the application, just leave it blank if you prefer. Assistance in other languages (including Spanish) is available by calling [1-866-435-7414](#).



Submit items on the verification checklist

Your application will be screened by an eligibility worker. You will receive a verification checklist listing the items needed to process the application and a deadline to return the items. You must select an approved provider before your application can be processed. Submit all requested items within 30 days of the application date. Monthly payments will be



DWS Outreach Campaign

mydoorway.utah.gov



DWS Annual Report



[DWS Annual Report Link](#)

- Office of Child Care
- Child Care Quality Initiatives
- Child Care Subsidy Program
- Education Savings Incentive Program
- Appendix A: OCC Pandemic Funding Spending FY24 Report



CCDF State Plan Update

- Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan
 - 2025-27 Plan effective October 1, 2024
- Plan Approval Letter
- Appendix: Address Non-Compliance Action Steps, Responsible Entities, Expected Completion Dates
 - Due within 60 days of the issuance of the Plan Approval Letter
- Waiver Request related to New 2024 CCDF Final Rule
 - Extended due date to December 30, 2024



Covid Relief Funding Update

| Funding Source | UT Allocation | Amount Expended | % Expended |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act | \$40,414,976 | \$40,414,976 | 100% |
| Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act | \$108,969,353 | \$108,969,349 | 99.99% |
| American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) - Stabilization | \$261,389,459 | \$261,389,459 | 100% |
| ARPA - Discretionary/Supplemental | \$163,429,739 | \$161,754,176 | 98.97% |
| Total | \$574,203,527 | \$572,527,960 | 99.71% |



Utah Education Policy Center

– Lisa Wisham





Utah Out-of-School Time Statewide Needs Assessment

Department of Workforce Services, Office of Child
Care Advisory Committee

November 13, 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
UTAH EDUCATION
POLICY CENTER

Bridging Research, Policy, & Practice

Utah OST Elementary Age Needs Assessment

Utah Department of
Workforce Services,
Office of Child Care
(DWS,OCC)

Project Launch: Fall 2023



Key Partners

- Department of Workforce Services (DWS) - Office of Child Care (OCC)
- Utah Afterschool Network (UAN)
- Utah State Board of Education (USBE)
- Utah Education Policy Center (UEPC)

** Advisory Committee



Goals of Utah OST Needs Assessment Project

1

Identify strengths and critical gaps in service by identifying what programs exist across the state.

2

Understand what youth and families want and need from afterschool programs.

3

Recognize assets and resources being used to support programs.

4

Explore challenges programs face.

5

Examine barriers that stand in the way of youth and family participation.

Topic Areas

Access and
Availability

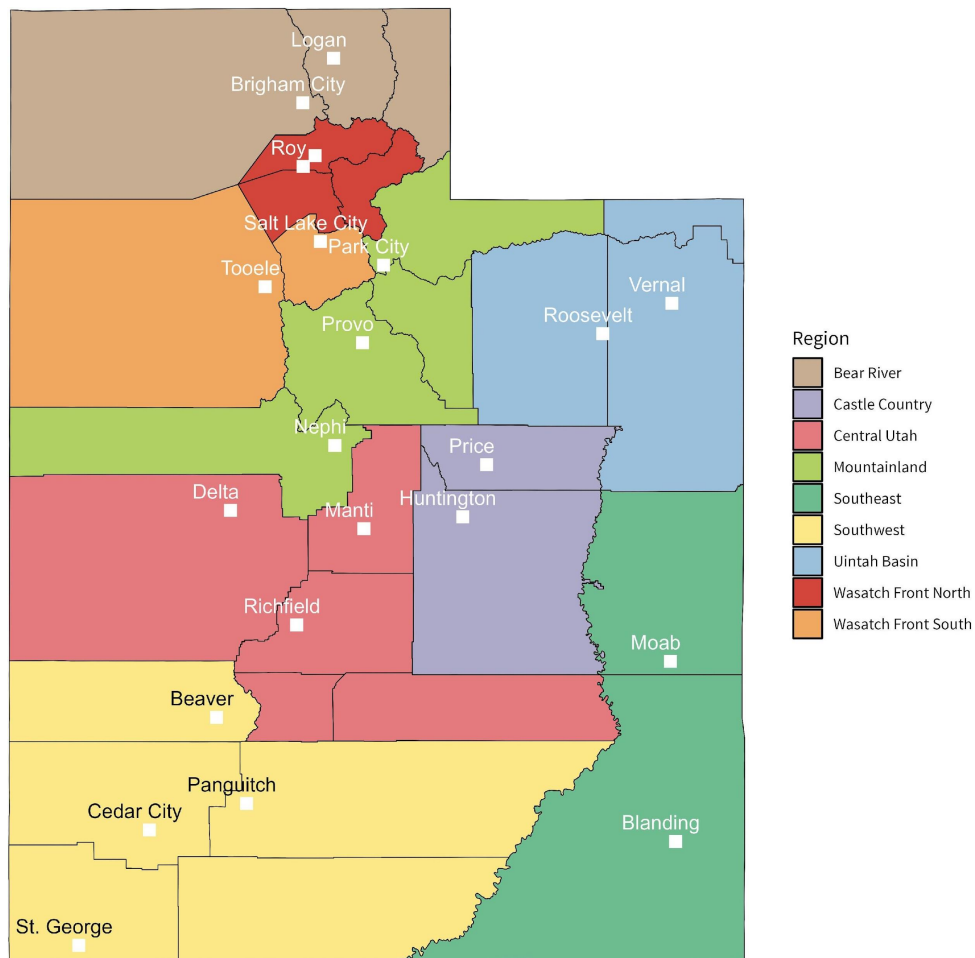
Programming
Capacity

Program Quality
and Continuous
Improvement

Partnerships

Alignment with
the School Day

Availability of
Resources and
Funding



DWS Service Areas

Comprehensive Data Collection Effort

(February-June 2024)

Quantitative Data

- OST Staff Surveys
- OST Program Coordinator Surveys
- Family Surveys
- UAN Program Information Forms
- Utah Census Data
- USBE Student & School Data
- USBE Grant Funding Data

Qualitative Data

- OST Staff Interviews
- OST Program Coordinator Interviews
- OST Staff Focus Groups
- UAN Team Focus Group
- USBE Funder Interviews
- Family Focus Groups



Statewide Representation

| Data Sources | Number of Respondents |
|--|-----------------------|
| OST Staff Survey | 356 |
| Family Survey | 331 |
| OST Funding Survey | 13 |
| OST Coordinator Focus Groups/ Interviews | 95 |
| Partner Organization Focus Groups | 13 |

| Document Review and Secondary Data |
|--|
| OST Program Information |
| Utah Census Data |
| National Center for Education Statistics |
| USBE Data |
| USBE Funding Data |
| DWS Funding Data |

A group of diverse school children are sitting at a computer lab. In the foreground, a young boy with dark skin and curly hair is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. Next to him, a boy with light skin is looking intently at a computer monitor. In the background, a girl with red hair in a ponytail and another child are also working at computers. The setting appears to be a modern classroom or computer lab with large windows in the background.

High-Level Findings

OST programs are a necessity for many

In many Utah communities, OST programs are considered a necessity by many families looking for a **safe, engaging environment for their children after school.**

The percentage of children living in **one-parent/guardian households** ranges across the service regions from **13%** (Mountainland) to **35%** (Southeast).

“We have someone looking after him and I know that he is getting the **care that he needs** while I am at work.”

(Family Survey Respondent)

Some OST teams identified specific challenges in providing needed program services, including **transportation** for program participants, program **staffing**, and rising program **expenses**, particularly in **rural** areas of the state.



Transportation is a priority and a challenge

90% of family survey respondents who have children currently participating in OST programs identified transportation (*How easy this program is for my child to get to/from each day*) as “Somewhat important or very important”

Transportation was the **biggest challenge** identified by OST staff survey respondents (31%) when asked about concerns they receive from families of OST program participants.

*"I really had to fight to get the program there. The principal was just like, **"We really like having our doors shut at 4:00, and the lights turned off."** So, our program ended and there was a lot of parents who were upset. They (children) didn't have any place to go. Some of the kids, **they found ways to transport them over to (a different school), which is nearby, but it would be great to have a (closer) location."***

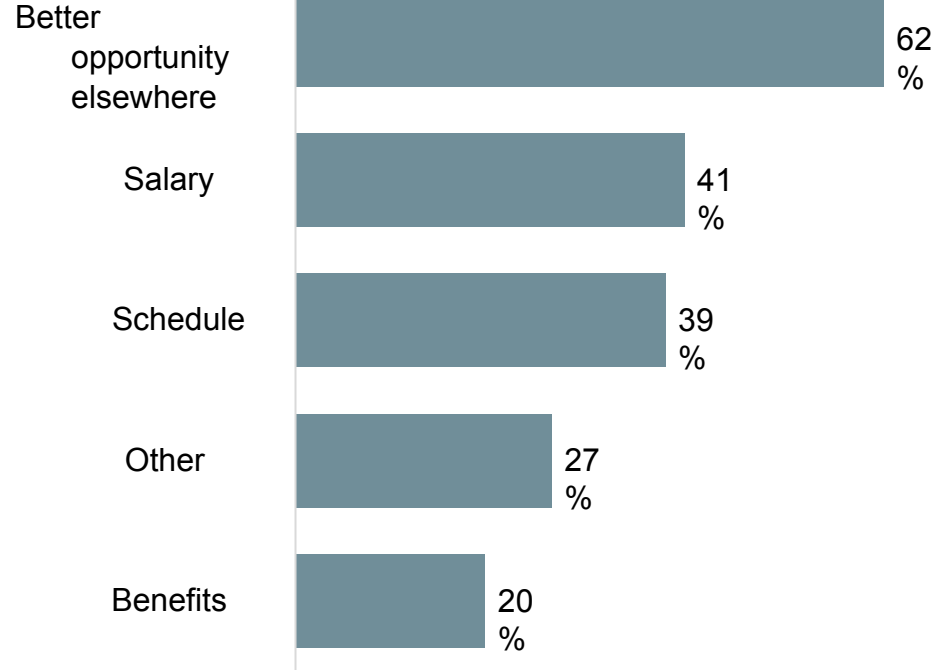
"Transportation from the district, for example, they've had to increase to cover additional fuel, increase pay for drivers, all of these things. And so, **it's frankly become untenable** because the **grants aren't keeping up with the rising costs** of all of these things, and we've had to reduce significantly the amount of transportation we're able to provide."



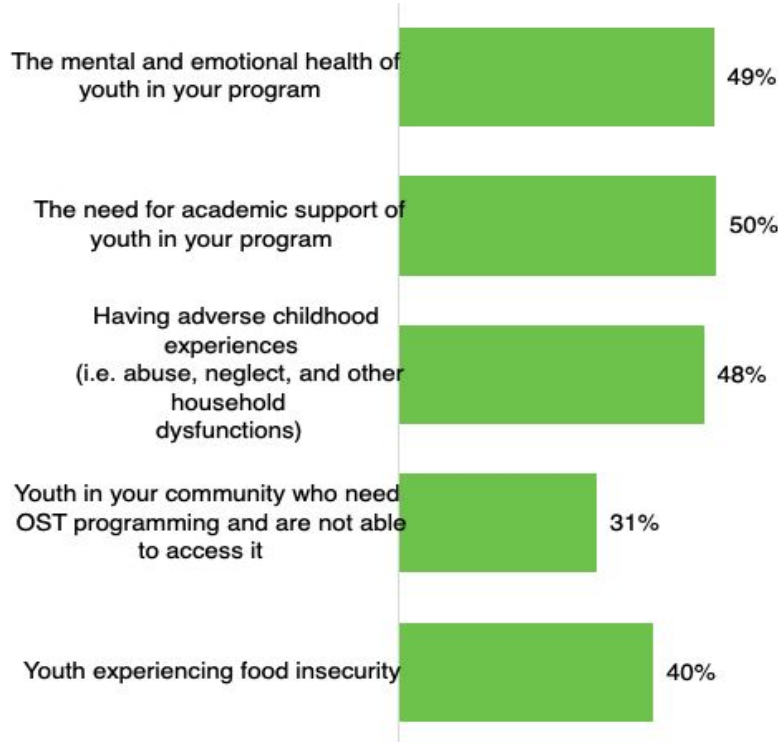
Staffing is a challenge

56% of OST staff survey respondents statewide said that hiring and/or retaining staff during the 2023-24 school year had been “**Very or Somewhat Difficult**”

Reasons for OST Program Staff Turnover

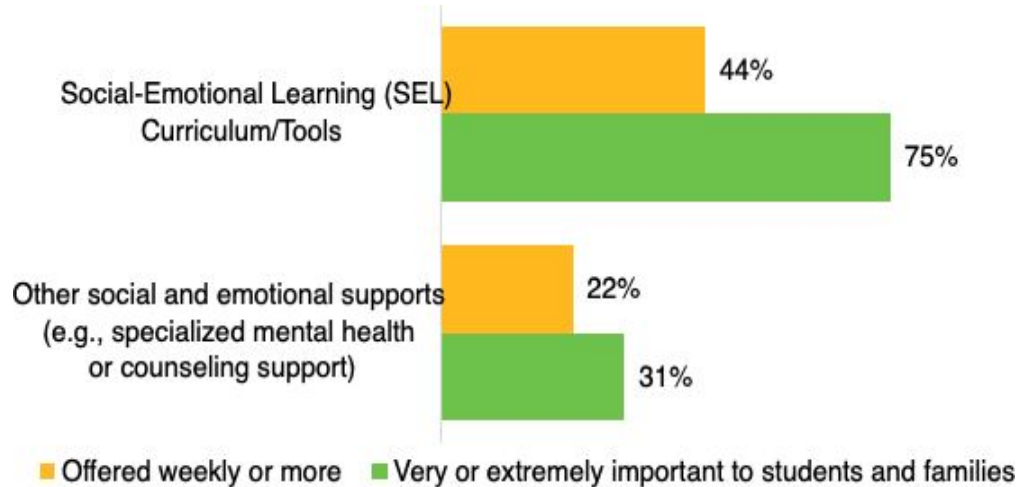


Mental health supports and resources are a critical need throughout the state



Percentage of OST staff that reported these as current concerns regarding the children and families within the programs.

Mental Health Supports and Resources



% of OST staff reporting these SEL supports are offered at least weekly.

and

% of OST staff identifying these supports as very important or extremely important for children and families.

Mental Health Supports and Resources

*“Since Covid especially, **we’re seeing huge increases in the SEL needs of youth**. And I think a lot of systems, schools, out of school {OST programs}, families, so many different systems are really struggling to figure out how to meet those needs. And so, it’s manifesting in increased behavior concerns, longer-term behavior concerns... And so, I think the whole field is trying to figure out how to meet the needs of kids who’ve experienced this historical thing.”*

*“I would say **one of the biggest {families’ needs} is mental health**, both for themselves and supporting their kids in that.... There is a gap in what’s available.”*

*“But the gaps I hear over and over have to do with **parenting and mental health**. I also think **connecting with community resources is more difficult in the rural areas**.”*

Community partnerships fill critical gaps

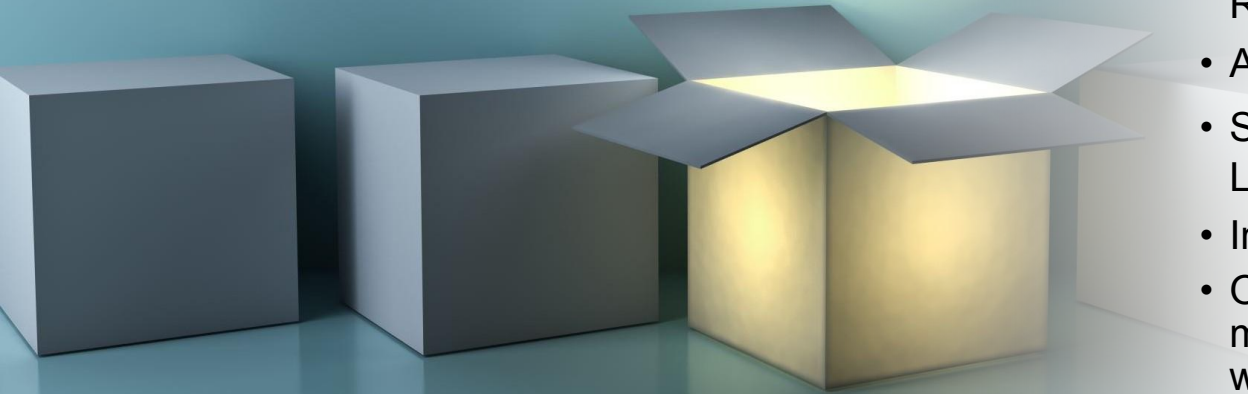
“But the biggest thing is **resource sharing**. I'm really good at recognizing resources that three or four places have and how we can share those together. I also try really hard to be respectful of other non-profits and what the schools are doing and I don't look at myself as competing with them... We have this idea that we're competing. We're competing with childcare, we're competing with schools, we're competing... I am not competing with any of that. We are all part of the whole... I'm advocating for everybody.”

“Even if we had the (OST grant) funding now, **we wouldn't be able to have the types of snacks that the (community partner) currently is providing**. We could have a fruit, maybe a granola bar, cheese stick, or something like that. What they provide are ham and cheese sandwiches with a pear, with a drink, with chocolate milk...”

“We do a really good job, I think, of **connecting them (families) with other organizations like DWS and WIC and the local health department** because we have events that we try to make really fun, but we also invite those organizations too. So it's like they come maybe for the fun, but while they're there they get connected. And so I feel like we're able to do a really good job, especially along the Wasatch Front, of meeting those needs.

Insights to Action

- Data-Driven Allocation of State and Federal Funds
- Opportunities to Leverage Multiple Sources of Funding for OST Programs
- Mental Health Supports and Resources
- Alignment with the School Day
- State and National Professional Learning Opportunities
- Intentional Partnership Networks
- Opportunities for Advisory Committee members to be involved in future OST work statewide, such as advocacy and policy work.
- Structures in Place for Further Research





Next Steps

OCC Updates



- \$434.1 million were issued to 1041 programs from January 2022 through September 2024.
 - 582 Child Care Licensed Family Programs
 - 358 Child Care Centers
 - 45 DWS Approved Exempt School Age Programs
 - 34 DWS Approved Exempt Centers
 - 11 Child Care Residential Certificates
 - 9 Child Care Commercial Preschools
 - 2 Child Care Out of School Time Programs
- Median amount received for the duration of the grant
 - \$651,400 for Child Care Centers
 - \$124,032 for Child Care Licensed Family Programs

Stabilization Grant

-Kathy Randle



CCQS

-JoEllen Robbins



Center Comparative Data

Rating Distribution for Centers 2023

114 of 422 centers with certified rating = 27% of all centers

| Foundation of Quality | Building Quality | High Quality | High Quality Plus |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 34/114 = 30% | 47/114 = 41% | 30/114 = 26% | 3/114 = 3% |

Rating Distribution for Centers 2024

128 of 445 centers with certified rating = 29% of all centers

| Foundation of Quality | Building Quality | High Quality | High Quality Plus |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 27/128 = 21% | 46/128 = 36% | 51/128 = 40% | 4/128 = 3% |



Comparative Data for Rated Centers November 2023

| | 2023 | 2024 | 2023 | 2024 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| What is measured | Number of Programs | Number of Programs | Percentage of Programs | Percentage of Programs |
| ERS Observation Score Increase | 64 | 73 | 66% | 63% |
| SAPQA Observation Score Increase | 46 | 51 | 59% | 60% |
| Increase Points Education of Director | 28 | 46 | 29% | 40% |
| Increase Points Education of Caregiver | 26 | 37 | 27% | 32% |
| Overall Point Increase | 59 | 76 | 61% | 66% |
| Increase of Certified Rating | 28 | 44 | 29% | 38% |

*Data reflects 115 recertifying programs in the past 12 months.

Family Child Care Comparative Data

Certified Ratings for FCC 2023

FCC Providers 58 of 879 = 7%

| Certified Foundation of Quality | Building Quality | High Quality |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| 13/58 = 22% | 25/58 = 43% | 20/58 = 34% |

Certified Ratings for FCC 2024

FCC Providers 55 of 849 = 6%

| Certified Foundation of Quality | Building Quality | High Quality |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| 14/55 = 25% | 15/55 = 27% | 26/55 = 47% |



Comparative Data for Family Child Care Programs

| | 2023 | 2024 | 2023 | 2024 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| What is measured | Number of Programs | Number of Programs | Percentage of Programs | Percentage of Programs |
| Increase Observation Points | 10 | 21 | 34% | 57% |
| Increase Points Education of Primary Caregiver | 10 | 12 | 34% | 32% |
| Overall Point Increase | 19 | 25 | 66% | 68% |
| Increase of Certified Rating | 7 | 6 | 24% | 18% |

*Data reflects 37 recertifying programs in the past 12 months.

CCQS Scoring Framework Revision

- CCQS Scoring Framework Revision First Draft Complete
- Meetings with Providers and Stakeholders
 - Licensed Centers
 - Tuesday, November 12th - 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
 - Monday, November 18th - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.: [Register here](#)
 - Licensed Family Child Care
 - Wednesday, November 13th - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.: [Register here](#)
 - Tuesday, November 19th - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.: [Register here](#)
- Next Steps:
 - Review Feedback from Meetings (Late 2024)
 - Revised Draft out for Public Comment (Early 2025)
 - Review Feedback from Public Comment (Early 2025)
 - Revised Draft to OCC Advisory Committee (Spring 2025)
 - Communication (At least 6 months prior to implementation) and Systems Changes (Mid 2025)
 - Implementation (Late 2025/ Early 2026)



Early EdU - Spring Semester is now accepting applications through November 21st.

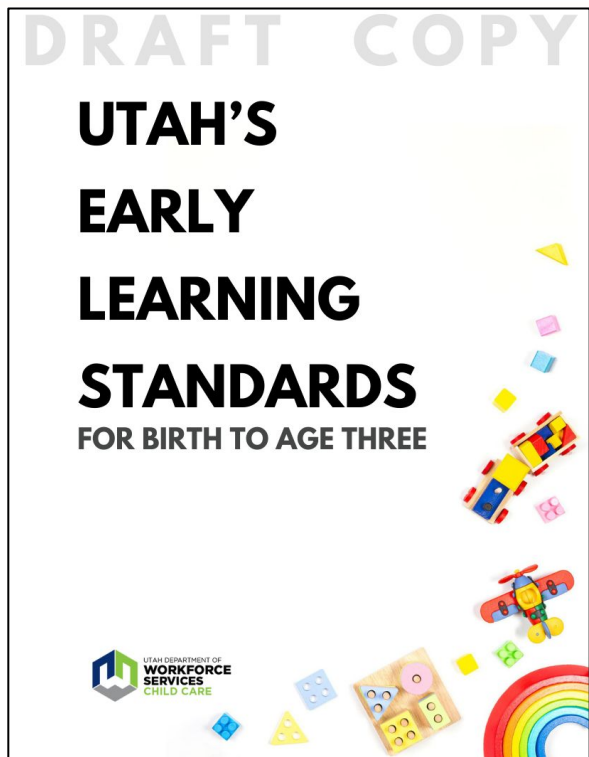
Two of the following course topics will be offered:

- Child Development and Brain Building (birth through age 12)
- Supporting Language and Literacy Development in Preschool (birth through age 5)
- Positive Behavioral Support for Young Children (birth through age 5)

Professional Development

- Jamie Foster





School Readiness Updates

- High Quality School Readiness (HQSR) - Formerly Expanded Student Access (ESA)
 - Request for Grant Applications (RFGA)
 - Revisions
 - Currently Posted
 - Letters of Intent due November 22
- 2025 legislative language to prioritize HQSR (formerly ESA) grant funding
- Becoming High Quality (BHQ) grant application

School Readiness, Out of School Time and Community Grants

-Emma Moench



Agency Updates



NEW LEADERSHIP:

Office Of Licensing Director: Florencia Schapira
Office of Licensing Assistant Director: Travis Broderick
Child Care Administrator: Kimberly Rice
Residential Manager: Melinda Fabrizio
Commercial Manager: Michele Rice

NEW WEBSITE: DLBC.utah.gov

The old website is still operational but eventually we will combine into one website.

RULE STATUS: New rules have undergone a thorough review and are in the process of being approved. OL will let providers know when they are sent out for the 30 day comment process.

Office of Licensing-Child Care

-Florencia Schapira



Office of Licensing-Child Care

CCL NEW OFFICE ORGANIZATION:

RESIDENTIAL: Licensed Family
Residential Certificate
Family, Friend and Neighbor (DWS)
CCRRP Providers (Background checks)
Alternative Care

COMMERCIAL: Centers
Hourly
Out of School Time
Commercial Preschool Programs
License Exempt DWS approvals





The [Utah State Board of Education \(USBE\) Vision](#) is “Academic and Organizational Excellence in Utah Education.”

USBE’s Preschool Education team believes in the power of early learning and are dedicated to supporting families, educators, and communities in fostering the healthy development of preschool age children.

Utah State Board of Education

- Cristina Barrera



Utah State Board of Education (USBE)

- The **2024 Utah Preschool Conference** was fantastic!
 - We increased attendance by **82%**!
 - Provided a two-day hybrid conference with 289 attendees and 390 total registrants.
 - The keynotes and hybrid session recordings/resources are available now for viewing via [Zoom Events](#).
- Access the [2024 Superintendent's Annual Report](#) and data from the 2022-2023 school year.
- Follow what's happening in education during the [2025 Legislative Session](#).



Other Business



Adjourn

Next Meeting

Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm





**WORKFORCE
SERVICES
CHILD CARE**

