



**WORKFORCE
SERVICES**
CHILD CARE

OFFICE OF
**Child
Care**



Welcome ●

Agenda

- I. Welcome Joyce Hasting
 - a. Committee Membership - Vacant Positions
 - b. Approval of 1/14/26, Meeting Minutes
- II. OCC Director's Update Heather Thomas
 - a. Legislative Update
 - b. Budget Update
- III. Partner Highlight: Child Care Resource Agency - Metro..... Carolyn Lawson
- IV. OCC Updates
 - a. Child Care Quality System JoEllen Robbins
 - b. Engagement & Development Jamie Foster
 - c. School Readiness, Out-of-School Time & Community Grants Emma Moench
 - d. Subsidy Ann Stockham Mejia
- V. Agency Updates
 - a. Child Care Licensing.....Crystal Knippers
 - b. Utah State Board of Education Cristina Barrera
- VI. Other Business & Public Comment
- VII. Adjourn



Committee Membership

Vacant Positions

- Small business community representative (2)
- Corporate community representative
(family-friendly workplace with efforts related to child care)

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



OCC Director's Update

-Heather Thomas



OCC Director's Update

Legislative Update

- HB 190: Child Care Business Tax Credit
- HB 290: Child Tax Credit Amendments
- HB 379: Child Care Provider Food Preparation Amendments
- SB 12: Sunset and Repeal Date Amendments
- Education Savings Incentive

Budget Update

- Additional Meeting





Children's Service Society of Utah

**CHILD CARE
RESOURCE AGENCY**



Partner Highlight

Child Care Resource Agency~Metro
Serving:
Salt Lake and Tooele Counties



Who Are We?

CCRA-Metro is part of the **Children's Service Society of Utah (CSS)**,
Utah's oldest nonprofit dedicated to child welfare.

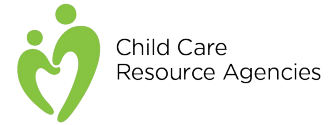
Serving families as part of CSS since 1996.



We support safe, nurturing, high-quality child care by providing guidance, resources, fingerprinting, and professional development advising to providers and parents.



What Do We Do?



Who We Serve

- **828** regulated child care programs serving Salt Lake & Tooele Counties

How We Support

- **Child Care Quality System** **76 certified programs**
- **Professional Development & Training** **52 Child Development Associate (CDA) completions (FY25 data)**
- **Family Referrals** **73 referrals via *CareAboutChildcare.utah.gov***



*Data reflects current reporting period

Programs Unique to CCRA ~ Metro

Refugee Start-Up Grant: Supporting refugees through licensing guidance and start-up funding to open regulated child care programs that promote economic stability and strengthen community connections.

Grants can pay for these start-up expenses:

- Child Care licensing fees
- City or County business license fees
- Fire and kitchen Inspection
- Fire extinguishers and smoke detectors
- First aid and CPR Training
- Food handlers permit
- Childcare training
- Additional expenses related to childcare licensing requirements

Number of refugees receiving support to become child care providers: 7

Number of refugees who received a child care license or certificate: 2

*Data reflects current reporting period



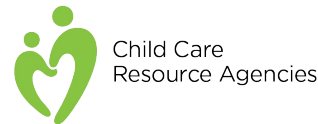
Programs Unique to CCRA ~ Metro

Kids in Care (KIC) Program: Helps eligible unemployed parents access child care support as they work toward employment and family self-sufficiency.

KIC reimburses regulated child care providers for up to 150 hours of drop-in care per eligible family while parents participate in formal job search activities.

Number of families receiving job search support from Kids in Care: 9

*Data reflects current reporting period



Programs Unique to CCRA ~ Metro

Live Scan Fingerprinting Services

We provide fingerprinting services for individuals required to work in child care or after-school settings.

Services are by appointment only, Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–1:00 PM.

419 fingerprint appointments completed!

*Data reflects current reporting period



Child Care
Resource Agencies



Goals for FY 26

- **Increase by 10% the number of programs participating in the Child Care Quality System (CCQS)**
- **Maintaining a 60 % or higher completion rate for the CDA Cohorts**
- **Remain fully staffed and continue to nurture happy and healthy employees by fostering a culture of trust, appreciation, and balance.**



Carolyn Lawson
Program director CCRA ~ Metro
Carolyn@cssutah.org
801 326-4379



OCC Updates



CCQS

-JoEllen Robbins



Center Comparative Data

Rating Distribution for Centers 2025

124 of 445 centers with certified rating= 28% of all centers

Foundation of Quality	Building Quality	High Quality	High Quality Plus
24/124=19%	47/124=38%	49/124=39%	5/124=4%

Rating Distribution for Centers 2026

139 of 440 centers with certified rating= 32% of all centers

Foundation of Quality	Building Quality	High Quality	High Quality Plus
28/139=20%	49/139=35%	54/139=39%	8/139=6%



Center Comparative Data

	2025	2026	2025	2026
What is measured	Number of Programs	Number of Programs	Percentage of Programs	Percentage of Programs
ERS Observation Score Increase	74/124	76/117	65%	65%
SAPQA Observation Score Increase	48/79	46/82	61%	56%
Increase Points Education of Director	45/124	40/117	39%	34%
Increase Points Education of Caregiver	36/124	23/117	32%	20%
Overall Point Increase	76/124	65/117	67%	56%
Increase of Certified Rating	38/124	30/117	33%	26%

Family Child Care Comparative Data

Certified Ratings for FCC 2025

54 of 829 FCC Providers = 6.5%

Certified Foundation of Quality	Building Quality	High Quality
10/54=18%	16/54=30%	28/54=52%

Certified Ratings for FCC 2026

58 of 822 FCC Providers = 7%

Certified Foundation of Quality	Building Quality	High Quality
8/58=14%	12/58=20.5%	38/58=65.5%



Family Child Care Comparative Data

	2025	2026	2025	2026
What is measured	Number of Programs	Number of Programs	Percentage of Programs	Percentage of Programs
Increase Observation Points	20/36	27/40	54%	67.50%
Increase Points Education of Primary Caregiver	11/36	6/40	30%	15%
Overall Point Increase	27/36	26/40	73%	65%
Increase of Certified Rating	8/36	6/40	22%	15%

Coaching and Support

Coaching:

- 18 center and two family programs applied for intensive coaching
- Six centers and two family programs were selected
- Of the fourteen center programs finishing the year, three reached HQ and transitioned out, nine were renewed and two were not.
- Three FCC programs were renewed. Three reached HQ

Peer Learning Communities:

- One ITERS, one ECERS and one SAPQA cohort for centers
- Three English FCCERS and one Spanish FCCERS cohort for FCC



Other Updates

- First applications have been received for programs that will be first to score on new Framework.
- Programs that achieve a HQ rating over three consecutive years will move to an observation schedule of every other year.
- In some months, if applications exceed the workforce capacity for observations, applications will be prioritized and one or more applicants may be assigned a new observation month.
- Re-evaluation of the Infant/Toddler Incentive



Utah Early Childhood Conference



Dates: March 13 - 14, 2026

Location: Loveland Living Planet Aquarium in Draper

Keynote Speakers

- Friday: Julie De Jesus
- Saturday: Jen Bradwell

For more information and registration, click [here](#).



Engagement & Development

- Jamie Foster



Engagement & Development

Upcoming Conferences:

CCRA Western Early Childhood Conference

Theme: Roundin' Up Bright Futures, One Child at a Time

When: April 10 - 11

Where: Southern Utah University

Register [here](#)

Child Care Business and Administration Summit

Theme: The Beautiful Spectrum of Child Care Administration

When : May 2

Where: City Center Hilton

Click [here](#) for more information



School Readiness, Out of School Time, and Community Grants

- Emma Moench



Education Savings Incentive

Annual state-funded incentive that provides a match of up to \$300 in a my529 educational savings account(s) for eligible families experiencing intergenerational poverty

- Eligible families have received information via email and postcard
- Application Window: January 2 - March 3, 2026
 - 7 applications
- Application review in March and April
- my529 payment in May
- Legislative update

my529[®]
UTAH EDUCATIONAL SAVINGS PLAN



Subsidy Update

- Ann Stockham Mejia



Subsidy Update

Revised Child Care Provider Guide is now available

- <https://jobs.utah.gov/occ/provider/ccproviderguide.pdf>

New - Provider Overpayment Dashboard

- Includes outstanding overpayments and payments options
- Anticipated launch date: March 16, 2026



Agency Updates





Utah Department of

Health & Human Services

Licensing & Background Checks

Child Care
Licensing
- Crystal Knippers



Child Care Licensing Provider Support

Comprehensive Child Care Licensing Resource Manuals are regularly developed and maintained on our website for public access. (dlbc.utah.gov)

Additional Resources

Access training materials created by DLBC and other state agencies.

Training Videos
DLBC videos reviewing rules and requirements

Child Care Resource Agency Courses
View the CCRA course list

Utah Career Ladder
Information about the Utah Career Ladder system

Creating a UtahID
Instructions on how to create a UtahID

Resource Manuals

Frequently Asked Questions

What training am I required to complete?

In partnership with the Office of Licensing, several Child Care Resource Agencies (CCRAs) conducted a series of listening sessions for providers.





Utah State
Board of
Education | Preschool

The **Utah State Board of Education's Vision** is *"Academic and Organizational Excellence in Utah Education."*

We believe in the power of early learning and are dedicated to supporting families, educators, and communities across Utah's mixed-delivery system in fostering the healthy development of preschool-age children.

USBE

- Cristina Barrera,
Preschool Education
Specialist



Student Services Training Request Portal (TRP)

- Request professional learning & training support from the USBE Preschool Team
- Used by public school (LEA) preschool programs and non-LEA or community-based preschool providers
- Supports early learning, preschool instruction, and program quality



Student Services Training Request Portal (TRP)



When should programs use the TRP?

- When a program needs targeted training or professional learning (PL)
- For teachers, administrators, or mixed audiences
- To help USBE clarify needs and coordinate next steps
- PL is provided at no-cost to programs and providers.



Student Services Training Request Portal (TRP)

Quick Access Qualtrics Form (Shareable)

- [Training Request Portal \(TRP\)](#)
- [Professional Learning Menu
for Community Preschool
Programs](#)
- USBE Preschool Team follows
up after submission



PEEP Updates

PEEP Updates Starting Fall 2026 (Entry)

- *Utah's Pre-kindergarten Entry and Exit Profile (PEEP)* is intended to inform various stakeholders, such as parents, teachers, and leadership, on the **academic and lifelong learning practices** essential for students before entering and exiting kindergarten.
- USBE is officially implementing changes to the *Pre-kindergarten Entry & Exit Profile* beginning with Fall 2026 Entry administration.



PEEP Updates

What's Changing for 2026–2027?

- The PEEP is being revised to offer more authentic learning tasks through observational assessment items.
- The PEEP will have the same assessment approach for Entry and Exit administrations.
 - Helps programs, teachers, and caregivers support clearer tracking of student growth from the beginning of the year to the end.



PEEP Updates

Mandatory Training (New Requirement)

- All test administrators must complete a full-day training on administering newly revised items.
- Training will be offered in-person or online live.
- A schedule of training dates/locations is anticipated to be released soon; programs are advised to watch for that communication to ensure staff are trained prior to the testing window.



PEEP Updates

Mandatory Training (Previous Requirement)

- All PEEP administrators must receive USBE training on standard test administration and testing ethics procedures, and read the information contained in the [USBE Standard Test Administration and Testing Ethics Policy](#).
- [2025-2026 Standard Test Administration and Testing Ethics Training](#)
- [2025-2026 Standard Test Administration and Testing Ethics Policy Training Signature Form](#) for program files only



PEEP Updates

Materials Transition (Critical Dates + Expectations)

- Current PEEP documents and materials on the USBE website will be removed and unavailable after **June 15, 2026**.
- *Do not save or print old materials for use in the new school year.*
- New materials (teacher administration manual + student materials) will be available for printing starting **July 15, 2026**, on the [USBE Assessments Website](#) under the “Pre-Kindergarten” tab.
- Printing is the responsibility of preschool programs; USBE will not provide printed materials.



PEEP Updates

Key Dates at a Glance

- June 15, 2026: Old online PEEP materials removed/unavailable
- July 15, 2026: New materials available for program printing
- Fall 2026: Revised PEEP begins with Entry administration
- 2026–2027 School Year: Changes apply throughout the year

More support?

For questions about the PEEP, contact USBE Elementary ELA Assessment Specialist, Dallas Brooks at dallas.brooks@schools.utah.gov or call 801-538-7833.



21st Century Community Learning Centers

Request for Applications for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Grant

- This grant is federal funding from Title-IVB of the Every Student Succeeds Act.
- Provides educational opportunities for students and families during out-of-school time hours.
- Provides tutoring and homework help as well as other enrichment activities.



21st Century Community Learning Centers

21st CCLC Grant Cycle Information

- A four-year grant from the 2026-2027 school year until the 2029-2030 school year.
- Applicants may be local education agencies, nonprofit organizations, or faith-based organizations.
- Applicants can apply for up to six program sites.
- Annual amounts requested in an application may range from \$100,000 - \$400,000.



21st Century Community Learning Centers

21st CCLC Grant Application Packet

- We are anticipating ~ \$2,000,000 in available funds, but funding is always dependent on USBE first receiving the funds from the federal government.
- To apply, please download the [2027 Application Packet](#). All applicants must have [Utah Grants](#) account.
- Enter responses directly in the document unless otherwise indicated. Upload documents to application in UT Grants.

21st Century Community Learning Centers

Timeline for Grant Application Process

- [Pre-recorded Bidders' Conference](#) is available online.
- Required [Letter of Intent](#) due: **4/1/26 at 11:59 pm**
- Application Opens in Utah Grants: **5/1/26**
- Application Documents and Budget due in Utah Grants: **5/27/26 at 5:00 pm**
- Grant Review Period: **5/28/26 to 7/10/26**
- Award Notification: **Week of 7/13/26**



21st Century Community Learning Centers

Bidders Conference

The [Bidder's Conference](#) with information about the application process and questions was pre-recorded and is available online.

For more information about the grant purposes, cycle, and requirements, please visit the [USBE 21st CCLC website](#) or review the [21st CCLC Grant Information Guide](#) and watch the [Grant Information Video](#).



Child Nutrition Programs (CNP)

You are welcome to register now for upcoming virtual and in person trainings through [EventBrite!](#)

- **Wednesday, May 13** at 10:30-11:30 am
 - [Virtual Power Hour: Healthier CACFP](#)
- **Tuesday, May 19** at 8:30 am-3:30 pm
 - *In-Person Basic Training at USBE*
- For more information, please contact: **USBE Community Programs Coordinator, Utah CNP, Nicole Vance**, at nicole.vance@schools.utah.gov or call 801-538-7689.



Child Nutrition Programs (CNP)

- We have started sending out a newsletter for CACFP that is available to anyone who is interested.
- This newsletter is how we will send information out for Utah's CACFP Program.
- **Anyone on your staff can sign up to receive this newsletter** by filling out this [form](#).



Child Nutrition Programs (CNP)

- We are reviewing and updating our CACFP application process for new sponsors. To accommodate this, we will close new sponsor inquiries from **March 9-September 30, 2026**.
 - Submitted by **March 9**? Finish all requirements and pass your pre-approval visit by **May 30, 2026**.
 - Didn't finish by **May 30**? You can reapply starting **October 1, 2026**.
 - We'll use existing records when possible but may request updated info when applications reopen.



Other Business



Adjourn

Additional Budget Meeting

April - TBA

Next Scheduled Meeting

Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm





**WORKFORCE
SERVICES
CHILD CARE**

