



FACT SHEET

WYOMING LEGISLATIVE SERVICE OFFICE

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EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

On the following pages, three tables show various aspects of funding for early childhood development programs in Wyoming. Table 1 summarizes the programs that directly fund child care and preschool services, either through contracts with organizations or subsidies for low-income families. Table 2 shows the related state activities that have the purpose of improving the quality of child care. Table 3 lists the amounts awarded by the Wyoming Business Council for child care facilities planning, construction, purchase, and infrastructure improvements.

Child care and preschool services are included together because there is not a common statewide distinction between preschools and child care facilities. The Department of Family Services licenses child care facilities without distinguishing whether the facility is a preschool. According to DFS staff, some licensed child care facilities include a preschool. When issuing child care subsidies to low-income families, DFS does not make a distinction as to whether that subsidy is used at a preschool or child care facility.

Another example of the difficulty separating the two is with the Department of Health's Early Intervention and Education for children with developmental disabilities. WDH contracts with Child Development Centers to provide a range of services, not just preschool. The centers also provide services to infants and toddlers.

CHILD CARE AND PRESCHOOL SERVICES

Table 1 summarizes the programs in Wyoming that directly fund child care and preschool services. Funding for the state programs is for the FY 2009-10 biennium, while funding for Head Start is only for one year (Federal Fiscal Year 2009). Funding for Tribal Head Start is for Federal Fiscal Year 2007. Head Start funding does not flow through any state agency, but goes directly from the federal government to local providers.

Table 1: Overview and Funding of Wyoming Child Care and Preschool Services.

Agency and Program	Overview	FY 2009-2010		
		General Fund	Federal Fund	Total
Department of Education: TANF Preschools	Provides funding to preschools to serve at-risk children; program providers include Head Start, Child Development Centers, private providers, and school districts	-	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
Department of Family Services: Child care subsidies	Provides subsidies to low-income families for child care, allowing parents to choose the provider	\$15,053,932	\$10,864,344	\$25,918,276
Department of Health: Early Intervention and Education*	Through contracts with Child Development centers, provides early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and special education and related services to children age 3-5 with disabilities	\$59,189,939*	\$9,112,451*	\$68,641,390*
Federal Fiscal Year 2009				
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Head Start	Provides grants to local public and private non-profit and for-profit agencies to provide comprehensive child development services to low-income children and families, with a focus on helping preschoolers develop early reading and math skills	-	\$9,929,639	\$9,929,639
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Early Head Start	Provides grants to local agencies to promote healthy prenatal outcomes, enhance development of infants and toddlers, and promote healthy family functioning	-	\$2,592,267	\$2,592,267
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Tribal Head Start**	Provides Head Start services on tribal lands	-	\$1,942,169 (FFY 2007)	\$1,942,169 (FFY 2007)

Source: LSO Research staff summary of information provided by the Departments of Education, Family Services, and Health, and the Wyoming Head Start State Collaboration Office.

Note: *Figures for WDH's Early Intervention and Education include all funding for that program. Most of that goes to contracts with Child Development Centers which provide a range of services, not just preschool.

CHILD CARE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES

Other state programs do not directly fund child care or preschool, but do support the provision of quality child care or preschool. These services, shown in Table 2, include licensing child care facilities, helping parents locate child care, and training providers.

Table 2: Overview and Funding of Child Care Quality Improvement Activities.

Agency and Program	Overview	FY 2009-2010		
		General Fund	Federal Fund	Total
Department of Family Services: Licensing	Licenses child care facilities	-	\$2,956,324	\$2,956,324
Department of Family Services: Quality activities	Activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Resource and referral system to help parents find child care, ✓ Provider training and technical assistance, and ✓ Training registry for providers 	\$1,352,566	\$2,959,406	\$4,311,972
Department of Workforce Services: WY Quality Counts	Activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Website and campaigns to draw awareness of quality interactions with children; ✓ Grants for continuing education and scholarships for advanced education in early childhood career fields; ✓ Technical assistance for child care providers 	\$2,329,500	-	\$2,329,500

Source: LSO Research staff summary of information provided by the Departments of Family Services and Workforce Services.

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION FUNDING FOR CHILD CARE FACILITIES

In recent years, the Wyoming Business Council has awarded grants for child care facilities and planning around the state. Some of these projects have been funded through the Business Ready Community Program (BRC). Other projects have been funded through the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), a federally-funded pass through grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Since 1999, CDBG has supported child care projects in Wyoming by funding child care related planning grants and infrastructure (water, sewer, roads and buildings). To be eligible under federal regulations, some of these projects must address care for children with special needs.

Table 3: Capital Construction Funding for Child Care Facilities, 1999-2009.

Year Grant Awarded	Project	Amount Awarded
Business Ready Community		
2006	Riverton – Smart Start	\$1,488,000
2007	Rock Springs – YWCA Child Care	\$912,748
2007	Sheridan – Hand in Hand Center	\$3,000,000
2009	Mountain View – Valley Children’s Center	\$1,666,462
2009	Sundance – Kid’s Care	BRC: \$175,682 CDBG: \$357,718
Community Development Block Grant		
1999	Campbell County – Building and site improvements for the Children’s Center	\$243,375
2000	Upton – New building for child development center	\$244,728
2000	Thayne – Bought a building for the Thayne Child Development Center	\$136,000
2002	Evansville – Building improvements for the Nutrition and Child Development	\$147,246
2002	Mountain View – Planning grant for day care plan	\$7,500
2003	Evanston – New building for a child development center	\$180,348
2003	Laramie County – Planning grant for the Early Education Partnership	\$25,000
2004	Green River – Planning grant for the Child Development and Family Resource Center	\$21,043
2004	Converse County – New building for early childhood center	\$300,000
2004	Sheridan County – Building improvements for Children’s Center	\$119,300
2004	Uinta County – Planning grant for the Child Development Association	\$7,665
2005	Alpine – New building for Star Valley Child Center	\$291,000
2005	Douglas – Planning grant for a child care plan	\$25,000
2005	Teton County – Planning grant for a child care assessment	\$19,371
2006	Sheridan – Planning grant for a child development center	\$25,000
2006	Wamsutter – For water and sewer lines, opening up development for a child care facility	\$160,000
2007	Johnson County – New building for a child development center	\$300,000

Source: LSO Research staff summary of information provided by the Wyoming Business Council.

If you have any further questions do not hesitate to contact me at 777-7881.