

# CCR&RS ARE THE Eyes and Ears

OF AMERICA'S CHILD CARE SYSTEM



**Located in 47 states, Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (CCR&Rs) serve as resource hubs for families, child care professionals and communities.**

Below includes services that are most commonly offered:



## CCR&Rs help families find quality child care

CCR&Rs help families navigate complex child care systems to ensure that they find high-quality, culturally responsive child care that meets their unique needs. CCR&Rs serve as a single point of access for:

- Child care referrals and consumer education.
- Child care financial assistance programs.
- Child care, Head Start, preschool programs, and out of school time programs.
- Services for children with special needs.



## CCR&Rs support early childhood educators and child care programs

CCR&Rs build the supply of quality child care within their state and local communities.

Services offered include:

- Providing mentoring, coaching, and technical assistance at child care programs both in-person and virtually.
- Developing quality improvement plans and supporting the programs through the implementation of the plans.
- Providing business training to child care programs to ensure that their businesses are sustainable.
- Disseminating funding to child care programs.
- Equipping early childhood educators with professional supports, education, resources, and grants to ensure that they are prepared to offer specialized care and education to the children in their care.



## CCR&Rs support the whole family

CCR&Rs prioritize placing children in safe, high-quality child care settings and provide additional resources and supports to strengthen the whole family. Services include:

- Connecting families to services such as health insurance, food assistance programs, and child care health and mental health consultants.
- Linking providers to program supports such as assistance with child development screenings and serving as Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) sponsors.



## CCR&Rs support child care and development block grant (CCDBG) implementation

CCR&Rs are supported by CCDBG funding and play an essential role in leading and coordinating each state's child care system. In this role, CCR&Rs improve the quality and consistency of services for families, early childhood educators and communities. As a result, most CCR&Rs are vital resources for successful CCDBG implementation. Services Include:

- Delivering training on critical health and safety topics required for child care programs to accept children whose care is being funded by CCDBG dollars.
- Administering child care financial assistance (subsidy) programs to allow low-income families the opportunity to select the best child care program for their family's needs without concern of financial barriers.



## CCR&Rs partner with state lead agencies

CCR&Rs have deep experience collaborating with state lead agencies to meet the emergent needs of children, families, and providers. This includes:

- Responding to emergency situations by quickly dispersing personal protective equipment (PPE), sanitization and mitigation supplies, and other resources.
- Sharing meaningful feedback to support the equitable distribution of funding.
- Conducting targeted outreach and raising awareness of grant opportunities.
- Standing up grant application portals.
- Providing technical assistance and resources to child care providers to complete grant applications.
- Executing delivery of funds to child care programs.
- Reporting up-to-date child care data.



## CCR&Rs collect, analyze and disseminate data

CCR&Rs maintain relationships with child care programs and families. These personal relationships allow them to maintain accurate, up-to-date and comprehensive child care databases. Their extensive data is used to:

- Identify and seeking supports for underserved populations.
- Pinpointing child care supply and demand needs and mobilizing communities to find solutions to the identified needs.
- Informing important decision-making around topics such as child care funding and licensing regulations at the state and local levels.
- Providing important data that fuels CCAoA's national research and advocacy efforts.



## CCR&Rs engage business and community stakeholders

CCR&Rs strengthen communities by building connections within their communities.

- Serving as a connection point between early learning programs, including Head Start, Early Head Start, Pre-K, out of school time care and child care communities.
- Facilitating public / private sector partnerships to increase investments in child care.
- Assisting business leaders in implementing policies and supports for their employee's child care needs.

## TOP 5 ISSUES

CCR&Rs across the country have reported that the top 5 issues they prioritize in their work are:

- Child Care Business Practices
- Family Child Care Supports
- Health and Mental Health
- Child Care Advocacy
- Racial Equity



To find the CCR&R that services your community, visit [childcareaware.org](https://childcareaware.org) or call **800.424.2246**.