

CHILD CARE OFFICE AND CHILD DAY CARE SERVICES

PROGRAM MISSION

To reduce risks and ensure the health, safety and welfare of children in child care facilities through licensure and training, and to assist parents in becoming more self-sufficient by providing financial support for childcare services to low-income families.

- **Licensure** of day care facilities helps to prevent risks to children and assure an acceptable level of quality care. The Child Care Office staff licenses early childhood programs; family day care homes; and private, parochial, and technical schools through implementation of three local ordinances. Compliance with standards, as outlined in each code, is determined by licensing studies, announced and unannounced monitoring visits, and the investigation of complaints. Local codes are more stringent than state licensing regulations, which address early childhood programs and only family day care homes with six to nine children. The County licensing program supplements, as well as complements, the state's efforts.
- **Training** is offered to caregivers to upgrade the quality of care for children. Training is designed in collaboration with the Northern Virginia Community College for family day care providers and childcare center staff on a variety of topics including infant-child CPR, first aid for caregivers (taught in English, Spanish, Bengali, and Hindu), creative activities, health and safety, and language development. Additionally, the Toy Lending and Resource Library provides educational toys, equipment, and resource materials. The Office also provides technical assistance and counseling, issues a quarterly newsletter with resource information, and coordinates with Public Health, the public library and other County agencies for additional training.
- **Financial support** for childcare is available to low-income families in the form of a subsidy. The Child Care Services staff purchases childcare on behalf of eligible residents after assessing the initial and continued eligibility of residents for day care services. A childcare subsidy is provided for TANF/VIEW recipients and other low-income working families earning up to 185% of the federal poverty level. Parents pay a portion of the day care cost, based on their income and family size. The average monthly day care cost for the County is \$525 per child. The Federal and State Child Care Block Grant Program provides the major funding for this program.

PROGRAM FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Adopted	FY 2007 Proposed	% Change '06 to '07
Personnel	\$698,006	\$705,429	\$648,544	-8%
Non-Personnel	123,308	125,184	170,452	36%
Purchase of Service	3,400,972	3,184,852	3,239,684	2%
Total Expenditures	4,222,286	4,015,465	4,058,680	1%
State Share	497,349	495,212	500,129	1%
Purchase of Service	2,838,830	2,532,525	2,696,300	6%
Total Revenues	3,336,179	3,027,737	3,196,429	6%
Net Tax Support	\$886,107	\$987,728	\$862,251	-13%
Authorized FTEs	10.8	10.8	9.0	
Funded FTEs	10.8	10.8	9.0	

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SIGNIFICANT BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- ↓ Personnel costs and FTE decreases due to the reallocation of two Administrative Technician positions (1.8 FTE), from the Child Care Office to the Centralized Intake Unit (ASIST). These decreases are partially offset by a two percent market pay line adjustment, a 10% increase in employer health insurance costs, and an increase in employer retirement contributions to maintain full funding of the retirement fund.
- ↑ Non-personnel costs increase due to reallocation and creation of a budget to cover the cost of utilities for the Arlington Community Action Program’s lease of the George Mason Center. Non-personnel also increases due to increased rent costs for 3033 Wilson Boulevard, and a reallocation of DTS telephone costs across the division’s programs.
- ↑ Purchase of service expenditures increase due to a projected increase in subsidized child day care expenses (\$159,117), partially offset by elimination of funding which had been budgeted to support rent and related costs in privately owned space for the Arlington Community Action Program prior to its move into the County-owned George Mason Center (\$104,285).
- ↑ Purchase of service revenue increases due to the projected increase in subsidized child day care expenses and a projected increase in available revenue (\$163,775).

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Child Care Office

	FY 2002 Actual	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Estimate	FY 2007 Estimate	FY 2007 Goal
Number of violations found in child care facilities	25	23	24	25	25	24	24
Number of violations corrected in child care facilities	24	23	24	25	25	24	24
Number of day care homes where quality of care improved through training	300	275	253	200	245	270	270
Number of facilities with complaints resolved within compliance date	20	24	20	20	18	18	18
Percent of facilities with complaints resolved within compliance date	95%	96%	95%	95%	94%	100%	100%
Percentage of child care providers receiving licenses within established timeframes	N/A	N/A	97%	95%	98%	100%	100%
Percentage of child care providers satisfied with licensure process	N/A	N/A	95%	95%	95%	100%	100%
Percent of child care providers and potential providers with complaints regarding licensure process	N/A	N/A	5%	5%	5%	0%	0%
Total child care slots	4,589	4,574	4,500	4,490	4,340	4,490	4,490
Family day care homes licensed	293	282	245	200	275	275	275
Early childhood programs licensed	62	62	66	72	70	70	70
Visits to family day care homes announced	293	280	245	169	250	500	500
Visits to family day care homes unannounced	293	293	253	295	325	500	500
Visits to early childhood programs announced	62	62	66	71	70	70	70
Visits to early childhood programs unannounced	62	62	66	111	70	70	70
Average frequency of visits per year	2	2	2	2	2	4	4
Number of facilities with complaints	21	25	21	13	19	19	19

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- There is a continual decrease in the number of licensed providers due to relocation to affordable outlying counties. Some licensed providers have chosen to become inactive. Projection for FY 2007 is increased due to current recruitment efforts. Training is mandatory for first aid and highly encouraged for child development and best practices. Not all providers participate in training.
- Timeframes for receiving licenses for child care providers is impacted when providers do not complete required paperwork on time. Assistance is provided when necessary.
- The FY 2006 estimated total child care slots was revised based on the expectation that 50 new providers will be recruited. By FY 2007, we are expecting to recruit an additional 25 new providers who will offer at least 75 new slots for care, if each provider applied for at least three slots. Additionally, at least 75 new slots are anticipated with the opening of new and expansion of existing programs.
- The decrease in announced visits to family day care homes in FY 2005 is due to staff vacancy and decline in the number of licensed providers. Currently, a licensing specialist conducts one announced visit. Responsibilities have shifted to enable staff to conduct two announced visits, thus the projected increase in visits for FY 2006 and FY 2007.
- Responsibilities shifted which allowed staff to conduct more unannounced visits to early childhood programs and several visits were required to a few programs to resolve and ensure corrections to violations.
- Average visits per year reflects increasing the number of visits by two--one announced and one unannounced.

Child Day Care Subsidy Program

	FY 2002 Actual	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Estimate	FY 2007 Estimate	FY 2007 Goal
Number of TANF/VIEW participants who found employment with the assistance of day care subsidy	89	85	87	86	89	89	89
Percentage of persons surveyed who are satisfied with timely response to day care requests	N/A	N/A	80%	80%	90%	90%	90%
Number of children receiving day care subsidy: Non-VIEW day care	498	498	509	356	400	400	400
Number of children receiving day care subsidy: TANF/VIEW daycare	89	85	87	122	100	100	100
Number of children receiving day care subsidy: Head Start	60	60	60	198	233	233	233
Number of children receiving day care subsidy: Total	647	643	656	676	733	706	706

- Decrease in the number of non-VIEW clients served based on eligibility. Family no longer eligible for services because of income and/or relocating out of agency jurisdiction.
- Increase in number of TANF and TANF/View clients served based on eligibility.
- Increase in Head Start eligible children. More families qualify for free extended day services. More slots available during the FY 2005 period due to numbers of children transitioning into Kindergarten. Short term purchase orders created because a number of families' income increased causing a higher client fee responsibility. As a result, families chose to discontinue based on their new fee. The FY 2006 estimate was revised to reflect an increase related to the expansion of a new classroom which creates 15 new slots for children of Arlington Parenting Teens and Head Start.