



# Reaching Out

to the Child Care Community

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## 2009 ANNUAL CHILD CARE BUSINESS SURVEY

Resources for Child Caring's Referral Department is conducting the annual business update survey. All programs in Minnesota are being asked to update their business **AND** rate information in **ONE** survey. An internet survey option is available again this year and directions were included in a post card from the MN Department of Human Services. Watch for the paper survey to arrive in the mail in January. As always, you may contact the referral service directly at 651-641-0332, to complete the survey over the phone with a referral staff member. The survey will also be posted on our website to download, complete and return to us in the mail.

Your information will be used to help parents locate your program through the referral services at RCC or on the MN statewide website. It will also help us plan training and support to meet your program needs; identifying changes and trends related to child care rates; provide market rate information to help in determining future Child Care Assistance Program maximum rates and update rate statistics available through the CCR&R. The average rates will again be posted on our website at the conclusion of the survey at [www.resourcesforchildcare.org](http://www.resourcesforchildcare.org)

Thank you in advance for your quick response to our surveys.



## CCR&R GRANTS

Resources for Child Caring administers grant funds to expand the quality and availability of child care and school-age care programs for Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington counties in Minnesota. The funding is provided by the State of Minnesota. If you have additional questions, please call the Grant Line at 651-287-6919 or to download applications, visit the web site at [www.resourcesforchildcaring.org](http://www.resourcesforchildcaring.org). The documents located on the web site are enterable PDFs; however, this application still must be mailed to our office. We do not accept email submissions. Grants available as of January 2009 are:

**Start Up:** These funds are available to assist with the costs associated with the start-up of newly licensed child care providers/programs. Grants are limited to items and services required by licensing or the Fire Marshall. These grants are reviewed on an ongoing basis until March 31, 2008.

**Emergency:** Emergency Grants are available to assist licensed child care providers/programs and legally exempt school-based school-age care programs experiencing an emergency. An emergency includes occurrences that disrupt a providers/program's immediate ability to provide care for the children enrolled in their program, or occurrences that jeopardize the health and safety of the children in the program.

**Family, Friends, and Neighbors (FFN):** Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis until April 30, 2008.

The documents below are enterable PDFs; however, this application still must be mailed to our office. We do not accept email submissions.

## News on Parent Aware

### What is Minnesota's Parent Aware Rating Tool?

Designed by child care providers, early learning professionals and parents, Minnesota's voluntary Parent Aware Rating Tool is intended to support our state's children by creating a rating system which identifies, recognizes and celebrates quality in early education. The rating tool will recognize early educators for the quality of care they deliver and build on this quality by supporting their efforts at program improvements. For more information, visit the Parent Aware web site [www.parentawareratings.org](http://www.parentawareratings.org).

Resources for Child Caring will be offering multiple opportunities for training on Parent Aware curriculum and assessments. Current Parent Aware providers can attend these trainings at no cost. **Through a partnership with Parent Aware, any child care provider or staff, regardless of being located in a Parent Aware pilot area or not, will be able to attend at the discounted rate posted in the training catalogue and receive free resource materials for use with implementation.** Please reference the training catalogue, mailed in December, or to download another copy, go to the Resources for Child Caring

## Online Learning

Distance should not be a barrier to anyone who needs training. The Resources for Child Caring Learning Center provides easy access to education. Family child care business classes are currently available online. Visit [www.rccllearningcenter.org](http://www.rccllearningcenter.org)

Eager-to-Learn is an innovative, community based, e-learning program of the Minnesota Child Care Resource & Referral Network. Courses are designed to provide quality, accessible, educational opportunities for people who care for children.

Visit [www.mnchildcare.org](http://www.mnchildcare.org)



## RCC Receives Award from American Red Cross

Resources for Child Caring was awarded the American Red Cross Twin Cities Chapter Community Outreach award for efforts in training child care providers, particularly those who speak English as their second language, with lifesaving skills. Staff attended the awards event on November 11, 2008 at the Red Cross offices in Minneapolis. Pictured below are Sandy Myers, Director of Programs and Public Policy, Halima Wako, East African Outreach Specialist, and Mai Thao Xiong, Hmong Outreach Coordinator.



## SIDS and Accidental Death Support

The Scott County Licensed Family Child Care Association has put together an incredible collection of information and support resources directed at child care providers that have questions about, or who have experienced the pain and tragedy of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome or other childhood death in their care setting. While the framework and initiation originated with the family child care sector of the early childhood field, the collection of resources and links can serve as a resource to anyone with a need for support.

<http://www.sclfcc.com/SIDS2.htm>

Thank you to the Scott County Family Child Care Association for compiling this resource and sharing the web link with their early childhood care and education peers.

## Voices for Children Advocacy Day

The Voices for Children Advocacy Day is an opportunity for parents, teachers, early care and education professionals, and others from across the state to stand up and be counted as a voice for children. The event will include a rally in the Capitol Rotunda, fun activities for children, and opportunities to visit with legislators. Voices for Children is scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Minnesota State Capitol.

For more information visit:

[www.voicesforchildrenmn.org](http://www.voicesforchildrenmn.org)

or call 651-644-8138 / 1-866-644-8138



## Shade Structure Grants

The American Academy of Dermatology's (Academy) Shade Structure Program are grant awards (\$8,000 each) for the purchase of permanent shade structures designed to provide shade and ultraviolet (UV) ray protection for outdoor areas. The Academy also provides a permanent sign to be displayed near the shade structure promoting the importance of sun safety. The Academy receives support for this program from Johnson & Johnson Consumer Products Company.

The Shade Structure Program is open to 501(c)(3) organizations that serve children and teenagers, ages 18 and younger. To be considered, applicants must be sponsored by an Academy member dermatologist, demonstrate a commitment to sun safety within their organization and agree to meet a specific timeline. Deadline for applications is April 10, 2009. For more information, visit <http://www.aad.org/public/sun/grants.html>.

## Valuable Information for Families

The Earned Income Tax Credit of the EITC is a refundable federal income tax credit for low to moderate income working individuals and families. To qualify, tax payers must meet certain requirements and file a tax return, even if they did not earn enough money to be obligated to file a tax return.

The EITC has no effect on certain welfare benefits. In most cases, EITC payments will not be used to determine eligibility for Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), food stamps, low-income housing or most Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) payments.

If a family qualifies for the federal EITC they may also qualify for the Minnesota Working Family Credit. For more information on the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit go to <http://www.irs.gov>. For more on the Minnesota Working Family Credit, visit <http://www.taxes.state.mn.us/taxes>

Free help may also be available to complete tax returns. Find out where you can get FREE help with your taxes by calling the IRS toll-free at (800) TAX-1040 or (800) 829-1040. Or go to [www.irs.gov/individuals/topic](http://www.irs.gov/individuals/topic). You can also contact the Minnesota Department of Revenue at (800) 652-9094 or (651) 296-3781. For tax information and general information about paying for child care, visit [www.childcarefinancialaid.org/](http://www.childcarefinancialaid.org/)

## Inclusive Child Care

Consultants are available to provide on-site and phone consultation, free of charge, to early childhood care and education programs, school age programs, family child care and education programs, and preschool programs that are including a child with special needs.

Resources for Child Caring's Special Needs department currently provides services in Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington Counties. Contact Carol Stromme at [cstromme@resourcesforchildcare.org](mailto:cstromme@resourcesforchildcare.org) or 651-641-6644 for more information.

The Center for Inclusive Child Care (CICC) provides Inclusion Consultants, free of charge, and are coordinated by Dea Anderson through CICC. If you have questions or are interested in the use of this service, please contact her by email at [dea@inclusivechildcare.org](mailto:dea@inclusivechildcare.org) or by phoning her at 612-767-5159.



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Phone: 651-641-0305  
Fax: 651-645-0990



## News and Resources to Share?

If any organizations or individuals know of any resources that would be of value to early care and education professionals and are willing to share in a future issue of Reaching Out, please contact Sandy Myers at [smyers@resourcesforchildcare.org](mailto:smyers@resourcesforchildcare.org) or 651-641-6635.

Thank you for the following organizations for their contributions to this issues:

Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support  
Scott Licensed Family Child Care Association  
MN CCR&R Network’s Eager to Learn Program  
Minnesota Department of Human Services and Department of Health

## Metro CCR&R District Key Contacts

**To update enrollment or note changes in your program contact:**

Resource and Referral 651-641-0332

**To register for classes:** 651-641-3549

**For grant information:** 651-287-6919

**For Local Technical Assistance:**

Anoka County: Casey Green 763-783-4881

Carver County and Scott County: Marie Johnson  
952-402-9824

Dakota County: Mischelle Ulrich 952-985-4045

Hennepin County: Fay Hopkins 651-641-6624

Ramsey County: Theresa Fountain 651-641-6610

Washington County: Holly Weisert 651-788-0425

**Language Access Line: Support in Hmong, Somali, or**

**Spanish:** 651-665-0150