Children's Home Society & Family Services

OUR MISSION: is to help children thrive and to build, strengthen and sustain individual, family and community life

- Combining the two strong child and family-serving agencies makes the new organization, Children's Home Society & Family Services (CHSFS) even stronger and better positioned to serve and compete in today's economic and service environment.
- Both organizations have a strong financial base and make this move from positions of strength. The merger is in the best interests of the community and the people we serve.
- Our two **Board of Directors** have come together to govern the agency. The Board consists of 42 active volunteers. The joined staff of 342 help us to carry out our mission.

ADOPTION SERVICES

- Third largest adoption provider in the United States, and largest in Minnesota, finding permanent, loving families for more than **600** children annually.
- Provides Adoption Services for Minnesota's Waiting Children, American Infant Adoptions, International Adoptions throughout the United States, Pregnancy Counseling and Adoptive Placement Services to birth parents.
- Post Adoption Services including counseling, support groups and homeland tours to more than 3,000 adoptive families, adopted persons and birth parents.

In our fiscal year 2003/2004:

- 629 children adopted
 - 40 through the Minnesota Waiting Children Program
 - 55 through the Open Adoption/Pregnancy Counseling Program
 - 534 internationally from 14 different countries through the General/Coop Adoption Programs
- 5,728 people received adoption information
- 578 families completed adoption studies
- 166 new birthparents were served in our Open Adoption/Pregnancy Counseling Program
- 47 birthparents completed an adoption plan through Open Adoption/Pregnancy Counseling Program
- 3,422 individuals used a variety of Post Adoption Services; including counseling groups, workshops, birth country tours and background and genetic history related services

Founded in Saint Paul

1605 Eustis Street Saint Paul, MN 55108-1219

tel 651.646.7771 fax 651.646.8676 web chsfs.org



FAMILY SERVICES

Provides programs for individuals, families and the community that help people cope with personal problems such as depression, family violence, marital stress, alcohol and drug abuse, financial crises, sexual abuse and workplace trauma.

• Provided direct service to 3,911 unduplicated people in the areas of Financial and Home Ownership Counseling, Seniors, Parenting Plus, Mental Health Counseling, Learning Disabilities, Strong Families, Family Life Education, Creating Safety/Building Respect: Domestic Abuse Program, Community Programming for Youth, Family Services Employee Resources and Public Policy.

Family Services provides a broad array of programming that strengthens families and individuals. Programs encompass all ages and abilities, and include on-site agency programs, school and community based programs, and work site programs. Programs offered include financial counseling; services to seniors; education and support groups; youth diversion, support for students; individual, couple, group, and family mental health counseling; learning disabilities consultation; home ownership counseling; and consultation, counseling, and training services to businesses and their employees.

• Family Services programs and services are open to everyone, with a focus on people who are disadvantaged, communities of diverse ethnic backgrounds, and low income households. An adjusted fee scale assures that service is available to low income populations.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION SERVICES (CRISIS NURSERY)

- Largest provider of Crisis Nursery programs in Minnesota serving Anoka, Chisago/Isanti, Dakota, Ramsey, Washington & Wright counties.
- Provides overnight shelter and emergency daytime child care to children of families in crisis at all sites, as well as crisis drop-in care available at our center in Ramsey County all free of charge to the clients who need them.
- Provides short term counseling, parent education, home visits, mentoring and referrals.
- Provided emergency care and shelter to 1,474 children at five crisis nursery sites.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- Provider of **child care services** and early learning programs with **13** centers providing quality, affordable child care to **1,149** youngsters in a variety of settings including community-based, on-site corporate and learning institutions.
- Provided or facilitated financial assistance for child care to low-income parents entering the work force or pursuing educational opportunities.
- Utilizes the Second Step Violence Prevention Program in a proactive effort to increase appropriate social interaction among children.





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On-site Early Childhood Education



On-site Child Care since 1987



Quality Caring Commitment Convenience

Children's Home Society & Family Services' (CHSFS) Early Childhood Education Center and co-sponsor, Saint Paul College, offer on-site child care services to students enrolled in classes on campus.

Peace of Mind

While parents attend school, they know their children are being cared for in a safe and nurturing center by a professional team of early childhood educators. A primary goal of CHSFS is to provide age-appropriate learning and school-readiness skills to the children we serve. Learning takes place in a childfocused environment where exceptional staff-to-child ratios help to ensure quality care.

Commitment to Children

Children's growth and development are at the heart of CHSFS' philosophy of service. Children deserve a safe, positive and supportive atmosphere where they can play, learn and grow in non-competitive and cooperative ways.

Our Center

- Open 6:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m.,
 Mon.– Fri., 4:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m.,
 by special arrangement
- Serves breakfast, lunch and snack daily to children
- Serves children between the ages of six weeks through kindergarten entrance
- Offers help securing financial assistance for child care for income-eligible families
- Is licensed to serve 63 children
- Remains open year-round, including summer session
- Offers child care for a limited number of children whose parents are not enrolled at Saint Paul College

Call CHSFS' on-site Child Care Center at 651-864-1581 and plan to visit!

Enrollment Procedures

Advance registration is required for enrollment. Registration involves three steps:

- 1. Plan a visit to the center
 You and your child will be given
 a tour of the center. This is an
 opportunity to gather information
 and to ask questions. The
 enrollment forms also will be
 explained at this time.
- 2. Determining tuition and fees
 Tuition varies with the age of your child and the number of days he/ she will attend the center. If you are in need of financial assistance for child care tuition, please discuss possible arrangements with the center director. One of our goals is to help eligible families secure child care tuition assistance through public subsidy programs.

3. Enrollment

Prior to admission, health information will be required. This includes a recent physical exam along with a current record of your child's immunizations. Parents are encouraged to plan as far ahead as possible when making child care arrangements.

Program Highlights

Staff

A dedicated team of professionals is committed to regular communication with parents, to the well being of children and to excellence in child care.

Partnership

We are a teaching facility. Saint Paul College students who are studying nursing or to become early childhood educators intern at our center. This enhances the service we provide to children as well as college students' experiences in the field.

High/Scope Curriculum

Children learn by doing; and, much of their time is spent in active learning situations where they have choices and focus on key experiences. There is a strong emphasis placed on promoting pre-literacy and school readiness.

Second Step Violence Prevention Curriculum

Children participate in activities that teach empathy, sensitivity, acceptance and understanding of others.

Field Trips, Special Events & Head Start Preschoolers participate in these opportunities on a regular basis. Please ask the center director for more details.



Accreditation

Our child care center is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, signifying that national standards of excellence for early childhood programs have been met in areas of health, safety and nutrition, staffing and administration and staff-child relationships.

This information can be made available in alternative formats upon request. For accomodations, please contact Disabilities Services at 651-846-1547 or TTY at 651-846-1548.

Children's Home Society & Family Services

Since 1889, Children's Home Society & Family Services has met the needs of children and families through our adoption, child abuse and neglect prevention, early childhood education and comprehensive family services. As a statewide non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization, CHSFS is committed to help children and families thrive. CHSFS touches the lives of over 33,000 individuals each year.

It is the mission of CHSFS to help children thrive and to build, strengthen and sustain individual, family and community life.











All children deserve high-quality Early Childhood Education.

Children's Home Society & Family Services' commitment to Early Childhood Education is evident on the faces of the 1,149 youngsters we served last year in community-based, on-site corporate and educational settings. Of this number, CHSFS provided tuition assistance for 406 eligible children whose parents entered the workforce or pursued educational opportunities. Our demographics indicate that 81% of families in our community-based child care centers are at or below the poverty line as determined by federal free/reduced lunch guidelines. Unfortunately, due to changes in state funding, high-quality, developmental child care is increasingly difficult for low-wealth families to access.

An \$86 million funding reduction for child care programming and subsidies throughout the state caused many families to quit their jobs or leave their children in unsupervised, inferior or legally unlicensed child care situations. Many parents not eligible for CHSFS's tuition assistance chose to make significant sacrifices. These included filing for bankruptcy, moving into a smaller apartment or withdrawing money from a retirement account in order to continue enrollment when faced with the increased copay rates.

Please consider these facts:

Minnesota has one of the highest female workforce participation rates in the country, and it is estimated that 77% of mothers of young children are working. The need for early childhood care and education programs continues to increase, due not only to demand, but also a recognition of the critical importance of educational experiences in the early years. CHSFS implements curriculum that is challenging, developmentally appropriate and culturally responsive to prepare children for school entrance. Safe and affordable child care allows families to work, provide for their children and feel good about the care their children are receiving.

The child care industry has one of the highest turnover rates of all occupations in the United States, estimated at 40%, compared to an average rate of 19%. We believe that the most important factor effecting the quality of our programs is our staff. Our staff are essential to our rich tradition of providing outstanding care for children. In 2003, the turnover rate at our four community-based centers was 10%.

High-quality, Early Childhood Education Programs are one of the best public investments for long-term economic development. CHSFS currently commits \$435,205 in fundraising dollars to Early Childhood Education for low-wealth families. Presently, we could serve 50 more children at our community-based centers with additional funding for tuition assistance.

tounded in Saint Paul Microscopia 1889

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CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY & FAMILY SERVICES

Early Childhood Education and Child Care Program

Located at Saint Paul College 235 Marshall Avenue St. Paul, Minnesota

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT

The first five years of life are a time of continuous learning. Research shows that children who attend high-quality early childhood programs are better prepared for school success than children who do not receive this educational opportunity. Studies have also found that while most preschool children spend at least a portion of their day in care outside of the home, they are not in settings of sufficient quality to produce later learning outcomes. Many children from low-income families are in child care programs "of such low quality that learning and development...may even be jeopardized." (U.S. Dept. of Education, 2000) Early education promotes the overall development of a healthy child, but it is also critical because children who have had the right kinds of educational experiences before kindergarten do substantially better in school.

<u>UNDUPLICATED NUMBER AND AGES OF CHILDREN SERVED - 2004</u>

In total, 113 children received Early Childhood Education Services at Children's Home Society & Family Services (CHSFS) on-site center at Saint Paul College. The children were between the ages of six weeks to kindergarten entrance.

RACE/ETHNICITY

African	18
African American	32
American Indian	0
Asian/Pacific Islander	5
Caucasian/White	33
Hispanic/Chicano/Latino	10
Multiracial	15
Other	0
Race Unknown	0

FAMILY INCOME

Low or no income	94
Not low income	19
Income unknown	0

LOCATION OF FAMILY RESIDENCE

Hennepin County	4
Ramsey County – St. Paul	90
Ramsey County - Suburban	9
Washington County	8
Other	2



For additional information, please contact Karen Svendsen, Children's Home Society & Family Services' Early Childhood Education Regional Supervisor, at 651 255-2411.

Founded in Saint Paul Minnesota in 1889

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OUR MISSION

To help children thrive and to build, strengthen and sustain individual, family and community life.

OUR VISION FOR CHILDREN

To create a place in every mind and heart where each child has dignity and respect.

OUR DEFINITION OF FAMILY

A family consists of two or more people, whether living together or apart, related by blood, marriage, adoption or committeent to care for one another.



212 2nd Street SE, Suite 116 SM Minneapolis, MN 55414 SM (612) 455-1055 SM www.childcareworks.org

Child Care Cuts in the Governor's Proposal \$70 Million Cut From Child Care Reimbursement Rates

Governor Pawlenty's Budget Proposal

The Governor's budget proposes to freeze child care provider reimbursement rates until July 2007 at rates that were set in 2001. As of July 2007, the State would lift the freeze, and begin increasing the rate annually by a slim 1-2% using 2001 rates as the base. With this plan, the reimbursement rates paid to child care providers would never even come close to the market rates.

Why is This a Bad Idea?

Because of the dramatic cuts the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) sustained in 2003, CCAP is already a struggling program. The families CCAP is meant to serve are not accessing the program. This means fewer children ready for kindergarten, fewer families achieving economic stability, and fewer businesses with reliable employees. A combination of low eligibility and high co-payments have created the lowest CCAP demand in years, including no waiting lists in Hennepin, Anoka and Washington counties. Frozen reimbursement rates over the past two years have exacerbated the problems. Low-income working families cannot pay the difference between the private market rate and the State's reimbursement rate, on top of their co-payment. These families are either dropping out of CCAP or not requesting assistance at all. This includes MFIP families — families for whom Child Care Assistance is guaranteed. 2004 saw a 20% drop in MFIP Child Care usage, even though the drop in MFIP participation was only 8%. The child care infrastructure is crumbling. It cannot sustain further retreat from the State and still be available to serve CCAP and private-pay families.

Child Care Cuts in the 2003 Legislative Session

In 2003, Child Care Assistance was cut by \$86 million over 2004-05. Entrance eligibility was dropped to 33rd in the nation. Family co-payments were increased. Child care provider reimbursement rates were frozen for two years at the rate surveyed in 2001 and licensing fees for child care providers were increased. Between July 2003 and today, while the child care "free market" rates have increased (along with child care facilities' rents, utilities, and other business costs which cannot be frozen), the reimbursement rates the State pays have remained flat. By the fall of 2004, the percentage of programs in the State with rates at or below the reimbursement rate had shrunk by 30% for child care centers and 14% for family child care homes. In July of 2005, the reimbursement rate freeze is scheduled to end, and reimbursement rates are scheduled to be increasing to reflect current market rates.

Background on the Child Care Assistance Program

Minnesota's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) helps low-income working parents pay for child care. The program serves two purposes: (1) keeping low-income parents in the workforce and moving towards self-sufficiency; and (2) providing a safe, nurturing environment that promotes "school readiness" for young children.

Families are eligible to receive Child Care Assistance if they participate in MFIP (Minnesota's welfare-to-work program) or are earning less than 175% of the poverty guideline (\$27,000 for a family of three; that family is then eligible for assistance until their income reaches \$39,000). An important part of the program is parent choice families may choose any child care provider that accepts CCAP families.

Families pay a co-payment towards the cost of care, dependent upon their income. Co-pays range from 3-22% of a family's gross income. The State will pay the chosen provider up to the 75th percentile of the designated market rate (currently the 2001 market rate), minus the family's co-payment. If the family chooses a provider who charges more than the 75th percentile of the 2001 market rate, the family may also be required to pay the difference in the fee, in addition to their co-payment.



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FAQS ABOUT FREEZING THE CHILD CARE RATES

This Isn't Really a Cut - We're Just Slowing the Growth, Right?

Wrong. The 2003 Legislature projected 2006-07 CCAP spending of \$407 million. The Governor's budget projects a decrease in expenditures of \$70 million. This proposal will result in less child care programs accepting CCAP children and less low-income children receiving quality child care. The child care reimbursement rates were to be frozen only from July 2003 until July 2005 — as a temporary fix to the State's deficit — with a promise that the freeze would be lifted in July 2005. Many providers are depending on the freeze lifting to be able to survive and continue serving CCAP families.

Aren't We Still Targeting Our Resources to the Lowest Income Families?

No. The Governor is banking on a loss, on average, of 700 MFIP Child Care families per month between 2004 and 2009 — even though Child Care Assistance for MFIP families is guaranteed. Neither MFIP participation nor MFIP work hours are expected to drop by this amount. DHS assumes that a driving factor will be that MFIP families cannot find child care that they can afford to pay both the co-payment as well as the difference between the reimbursement rate and the actual rate. Where these children spend their days while their parents are working is completely unknown.

Wouldn't Child Care Programs Still Accept CCAP Kids? Won't They Take What They Can Get — Just Like Health Care Plans and Nursing Homes?

Not likely. Only 6-10% of child care slots statewide are paid for by the State. While CCAP rates have more impact on private market rates charged in programs made up largely of CCAP children, in other communities, providers are more likely to simply opt-out of serving CCAP families. There is no incentive for a program to accept CCAP families when the rate paid by the State is so much lower than the rate paid by private-pay families. Low-income families do not have the means to make up the difference in the rate by paying an extra \$100-200 per month — on top of their family co-payment.

Won't Parents Still Have Plenty of Choices for Child Care?

Maybe not. The number of child care centers and family child care homes with rates low enough to be paid by the State will continue to shrink, greatly diminishing parent choice, particularly in rural areas with less child care available overall. By 2007, it is possible that only a limited number of child care programs would be accessible for parents to choose without paying the difference between the rates.

This Won't Affect Private-Pay Families, Right?

Yes, it will. As reimbursement rates for child care programs shrink, even a program with a small number of CCAP children will have to make changes to balance their budget. These changes will be visible to ALL parents using child care. Changes may include: fewer choices for ALL parents via program closures; lower or frozen staff wages (already only slightly higher than dishwashers' wages), which will increase already high turnover and decrease quality; and cutting staff entirely. A Hennepin County study, Centers in Change, stated that in 2004 26% of a sample group of child care centers reduced staff benefits and salaries, and 45% cut staff entirely. 30% of the sample cited the market rate freeze as a primary reason for making reductions. This significantly lowers access to quality care for all families.

<u>Isn't This Really Just a Metro Issue?</u>

No. The DHS Cost of Care report states: "Since rural centers are operating at a loss, they are less likely to be able to absorb costs without increasing rates. This is particularly problematic because center care is limited in rural areas." (page 51)

Is This a Good Strategy?

No. DHS reports that although this strategy has significant cost savings, the Cost of Child Care study comments that, "Because no rate increases would be allowed, a rate freeze is the strategy most likely to restrict access [for CCAP children] to both licensed family child care and center-based care," (page 51). Limiting access to quality child care settings for low-income, at-risk children will negatively affect children's school readiness and families' progress toward economic stability.



Legislation Tracking 2005

Child Care Specific Bills

Subject	Bill #	Authors	History	Upcoming Hearings	Brief Description	CCW Position
Child Care Access	HF XXX	Slawik			 Increases income eligibility to 250% FPG to enter and exit CCAP; Lowers family co-payments to no more than 15% of gross income; Adds 15% differential rate for accredited child care programs; Suspends license fees for child care centers and family child care homes until 2008, during which time a statewide standard FCC license fee will be developed. 	Support
Child Care Access	SF XXX	Scheid			 Increases income eligibility to 250% FPG to enter and exit CCAP; Lowers family co-payments to no more than 15% of gross income; Adds 15% differential rate for accredited child care programs; Suspends license fees for child care centers and family child care homes until 2008, during which time a statewide standard FCC license fee will be developed. 	Support
Early Childhood Bonding	HF 264	Slawik Greiling	1/20 Introduced; referred to Ed Finance	Same and the same	Provides the ability to direct bond proceeds to early childhood facilities, for both construction and rehabilitation. Eligible programs include Head Start, ECFE programs, and other early childhood intervention programs.	Support

Subject	Bill #	Authors	History	Upcoming Hearings	Brief Description	CCW Position ¹
Early Childhood Bonding	SF 360	Hottinger; Scheid; Kubly; Klerlin; Wergin	1/19 Introduced; referred to Finance; 1/24 SF 1 passed 2 nd & 3 rd reading; laid on the table		Provides the ability to direct bond proceeds to early childhood facilities, for both construction and rehabilitation. Eligible programs include Head Start, ECFE programs, and other early childhood intervention programs. Note - \$500,000 is included in SF 1 (bonding bill)	Support
Freedom to Breathe Act	SF 404	Dibble Belanger; Kiscaden; Solon; Dille	1/20 Introduced; referred to Health & Family Security		Includes a variety of regulations regarding smoking, including requiring family child care homes to disclose to parents or guardians of children cared for on the premises of the existence of smoking on the premises outside the hours of operation.	Support
Higher Education Child Care Grants	SF 446	Kierlin Olson; Larson	1/24 Introduced; referred to Finance		Increases the maximum annual child care grant award for students from \$2,200 to \$2,600.	Support
License Fees Modified	HF 374	Nornes Erickson; Cox; Lanning; Samuelson; Urdahl; Gunther	1/24 Introduced; referred to Jobs		Lowers child care center license fees in this manner: 1 to 24 persons \$300 \$225 25 to 49 persons \$450 \$340 50 to 74 persons \$600 \$450 75 to 99 persons \$750 \$565 100 to 124 persons \$900 \$675 125 to 149 persons \$1,200 \$900 150 to 174 persons \$1,400 \$1050 175 to 199 persons \$1,600 \$1,200 200 to 224 persons \$1,800 \$1,350 225 or more persons \$2,000 \$1,500	Support
Montessori Rate Bonus	SF 147	Kierlin Olson; Wergin; LeClair	1/24 Introduced; referred to Education		Provides a 10% differential rate for accredited Montessori programs that accept CCAP children.	Support
Rural Rates	HF 522	Lanning Nornes	1/27 Introduced; referred to Jobs		Returns the reimbursement rates of providers whose rates decreased with the 2003 freeze to their pre-freeze rates.	Support

Subject Bill # Authors History Upcoming Brief Description CCW Position ! Hearings						
Shaken Baby Video	SF 538	Johnson, D.E.; Kubly; Gerlach; Wergin; Lourey	1/26 Introduced; referred to Health & Family Security		Requires the commissioner to make available for viewing by licensed and legal nonlicensed child care providers a video presentation on the dangers as part of the initial and ongoing training of the providers.	No position

Other Early Childhood Bills

Subject	Bill #	Authors	History	Upcoming Hearings	Brief Description	CCW Position
All Day K	SF 190	Hottinger Stumpf; Kelley; Wiger	1/10 Introduced; referred to Finance		Provides funding for voluntary All Day Kindergarten	No position
All Day K & Pre-Kindergarten School Readiness Services	SF 221	Skoglund Dibble	1/13 Introduced; referred to Finance		Provides revenue for certain pre-kindergarten students identified by school districts as lacking the pre-literacy skills necessary to be at grade level by the end of the first grade; authorizes school district contracts for the services with providers qualified to provide school readiness programs; provides funding for voluntary full day kindergarten	No position
Early Childhood Programs Restoration	HF 152	Slawik Hansen; Davnie; Paymar; Liebling; Welti; Otremba; Goodwin; Clark; Lillie; Walker; Nelson, M.; Lieder; Mullery; Koenen; Hornstein; Hausman; Hilstrom; Kahn; Simon; Johnson, S.; Sailer	1/10 Introduced; referred to Ed Finance		Restores funds for ECFE, Community Ed, School Readiness, and Head Start	Support
Early Childhood Programs Restoration	HF 146	Paymar M. Nelson	1/10 Introduced; referred to Ed Finance		Restores funds for ECFE, Community Ed, School Readiness, and Head Start	Support

Subject	BIII#	Authors	History	Üpcoming Hearings	Brief Description	CCW Position ¹
Pre-Kindergarten Students in Learning Year Programs	SF 222	Skoglund Dibble	1/13 Introduced; referred to Finance		Relating to education; providing extended time revenue to school districts for certain pre-kindergarten pupils enrolled in learning year programs	No position
Pre-Kindergarten Tax Credit	HF 136	Slawik Meslow; Goodwin; Lillie; Koenen; Clark; Hilstrom; Johnson, S.	1/10 Introduced; referred to Taxes		Authorizes education expense credits and deduction application to pre-kindergarten expenses and museum memberships.	No position
Pre-Kindergarten Tax Credit	SF 513	Hottinger Marty; Moua; Skoe; Tomassoni	1/26 Introduced; referred to Taxes		Authorizes education expense credits and deduction application to pre-kindergarten expenses and museum memberships.	No position
School Readiness Board	HF 140	Slawik Meslow; Davnie; Paymar; Hansen; Otremba; Goodwin; Clark; Lillie; Walker; Scalze; Lieder; Mullery; Koenen; Hornstein; Cox; Johnson, S.; Welti; Abeler	1/10 Introduced; referred to Ed Policy		Establishes an 11-member State Advisory Board on School Readiness to advise the Governor and the Legislature on developing a coordinated, efficient, and cost-effective system to deliver early childhood programs.	No position

Omnibus Bills

Subject Bill #	Authors	History/Votes	Brief Description