

Press Backgrounder

California Child Care Resource and Referral Network/ Resource and Referral Agencies

Since 1980, the **California Child Care Resource & Referral Network** has supported its member resource and referral (R&R) agencies while playing a lead role in helping create awareness about child care issues locally and statewide. The Network -- a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization -- is based in San Francisco, with satellite offices in Los Angeles, Chico, Hanford, and Sacramento. The organization promotes affordable, accessible, and quality child care by:

- Collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data on child care, including publishing the biennial California Child Care Portfolio, a county-by-county report on child care supply, demand, and costs related to local and statewide demographic trends
- Educating legislators, state and local governments, community leaders, and other key-decision makers about child care issues
- Initiating innovative programs that bring more child care providers into the profession and prepare them to deliver quality care
- Supporting parents in their efforts to advocate for improved child care and early education
- Producing educational materials, information, and curricula for parents and providers
- Managing TrustLine, California's criminal and child abuse registry background check system for in-home and license-exempt providers

R&R agencies, funded by the California Department of Education, Child Development Division, are located in every county in the state. They help families find child care that best meets their needs, recruit and train child care providers, and collect data from parents and child care providers. R&Rs provide a variety of services to parents seeking care, to providers seeking professional development and incentives for remaining in the profession, and to communities seeking support for their youngest residents.

The 2005 California Child Care Portfolio (release date: Jan. 6, 2006)

Every two years since 1997, the **Network** has published reliable information about the amount of licensed child care and the estimated demand for care in each county. As with prior publications, this 2005 Portfolio is based on data gathered from the 61 state-funded R&R agencies. The R&Rs obtained information from more than 45,000 child care providers and from a sampling of thousands of parents over a three-month period. To supplement these results, data from the U.S. Census, the California Department of Finance, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and other public and private sources is also included. County profiles include information on the relationship between child care and local demographic, economic, and geographic factors.

To get *The 2005 California Child Care Portfolio Summary*, contact the Network at (415) 882-0234. For copies of the state and county data pages: www.rrnetwork.org.

California Child Care Resource and Referral Network

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