

Understanding Child Care in the Regional Economy

Description

CCDF policy focuses on expanding access, supply and quality in child care for low-income working parents. However, it is also part of a broader system of child care supports. As employers and economists become more interested in the role of child care as social infrastructure for economic development, there will be increased pressure to better integrate CCDF programs with other government (tax or education) policies and private employer supports. Panelists in this session outlined the challenges and opportunities on the horizon.

Facilitator

Lynda Laughlin, Temple University

Panelists

Mildred Warner, Cornell University

Child Care as an Economic Sector

When we think about the child care market, we need to think about the broad array of services, paid and unpaid, public and private, which parents use. Interventions in one part of the child care market affect other components. Recognizing child care as an economic sector opens up the possibility of a different array of economic development policy tools not traditionally applied to the sector, and new partners who will become increasingly important in the future.

Marcia Meyers, University of Washington

Parents as Earners and as Caregivers: The Role of Child Care

The large majority of all children live in families in which one or both parents are employed. Child care plays a pivotal role in parents' ability to balance their earning and caregiving roles. The extent to which child care helps or hinders parents in this balance depends on both workplace policies and the efforts of government to address issues of supply, quality, and affordability.

Dana Friedman, Early Care and Education—Long Island

Involving Corporations at the Local Level

What are the roles the business community can play in promoting child care? Beyond getting educated and arguing for increased public and private investment, the business community can support management improvements in the sector itself. They can also help us think how we link targeted programs like CCDF and TANF to broader community-wide initiatives. Universal access as a goal does not mean everyone needs the same services. Employers can help us market to different segments of the community.

CCPRC Annual Meeting
Plenary Panel, Session 13
Wednesday, April 26, 8:45 a.m.

Documents in the Session Folder

- Understanding Child Care in the Regional Economy
- Choice and Accommodation in Parental Child Care Decisions
- Understanding Child Care in the Regional Economy: Involving Corporations at the Local Level

Discussion Notes

There were no discussion notes for this session.

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Presentations represent the views of panelists and do not necessarily reflect those of the Child Care Bureau or other members of the Child Care Policy Research Consortium.