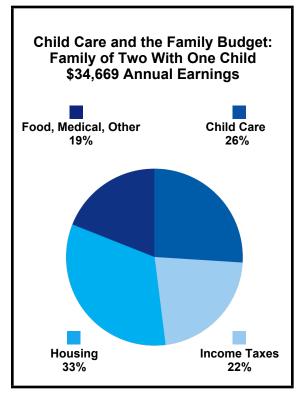
Did you know that...

- approximately 1,536 children under six in the county live in families where their sole parent or both parents are working? The need for child care is critical to the economic viability of these families.
- the county received and spent \$987,192 in federal and state funds (not including Smart Start) to help parents pay for child care in fiscal year 2013? In March 2014, the county served 203 different children with child care subsidy and had 279 eligible children on the waiting list for subsidy.
- Dare County has 37 licensed child care programs? Of these, 20 are centers and 17 are family child care homes. Of all the licensed programs in the county, 75% of the centers and 47% of homes have a 4 or 5 star rating. These businesses employ 137 people directly, and also contribute to the economy through purchases of goods and services provided by other businesses in their communities and state.
- there are 604 birth to five year old and 409 school-age children currently enrolled in these child care programs.
- among birth to five year old children enrolled in centers in Dare County, 83% are in 4 or 5 star licensed centers. Among birth to five year old children enrolled in homes in Dare County, 55% are in 4-5 star licensed homes.
- 38 teachers, directors and family child care providers living in Dare County participated in the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project in fiscal year 2013 with 18 child care programs supporting their employees returning to school through this scholarship program?
- using federal guidelines for setting subsidy payment rates and data from fiscal year 2012 market rate study, the 4-star center market rate for two year olds in Dare County is \$753 per month?
- most families in Dare County cannot afford the full cost of child care? Low-income families and families with more than one child have to pay a high percentage of their income for care. A single mother with one child earning \$34,669 or less per year can receive child care subsidy as funds are available. If funds are unavailable or if this parent's earnings exceed the income eligibility limit, a parent would pay 26% of her gross income (see chart) for child care offered at the county rate. Little is left in the family's budget for food, medical, clothing, travel or other basic living expenses. Due to the high cost of child care, parents often make difficult choices. Some may be forced to seek TANF. Others may seek cheaper, often inadequate child care or leave their children unattended.



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