



Child Care
Resource and
Referral Network

Powered by  **Building
Blocks**

2021 - 2022

Annual Report

Building
Blocks





LETTER FROM PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) team is happy to share our contract year 3 (October 2021-September 2022) Annual Report with you. Last year represented another year of growth and continued change for both our team and the Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

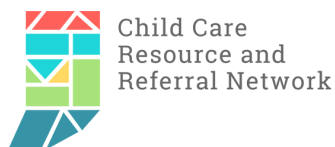
The CCR&R Network serves to provide local family outreach and support; connects with key audiences to advance early childhood education quality, access and affordability; and monitors for local changes, conversations and happenings related to early childhood education. CCR&R agencies work directly with families, providers, and community leaders in their local areas.

In this report, you will see how Building Blocks, formerly 4C of Southern Indiana, has influenced access, demand, and overall community impact. New initiatives, such as 2Gen and findhelp, helped us increase referrals by 67% and reach 1,032 families. The 2Gen Framework utilizes CCRR Network staff as Family Navigators, helping families find high-quality care and connecting them with additional resources and community partners.

There is still much work to be done and impact to be made. The team is up for the challenge and pour their heart and soul into the work. Flexibility and adaptability is the key in the early childhood world; and ability to revise and revisit. A quote by comedian, Lily Tomlin, summarizes our outlook as we close contract year 3 and move to contract year 4:

“The road to success is always under construction.”

Alysia D. Rhinefort, MPA
CCRR Program Director



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OVERVIEW



The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning contracts for local community-based organizations to administer the local Child Care Resource and Referral services for the State of Indiana. Indiana is divided into five Service and Delivery Areas. The four core CCR&R service categories include:

Family Education and referral support

CCR&R works with families in the southern 28 counties: provide education and referrals for high-quality care and out-of-school programs, conduct family outreach and facilitate workshops.

Program Services

CCR&R connects early care and education programs to information, trainings, and technical assistance; recruits new programs; works to increase the number of program members in professional organizations, and promotes professional development.

Public awareness and engagement

CCR&R creates awareness of the importance of early care and education through establishing partnerships and engaging with community-based organizations. The goal is to strengthen the early care and education network by providing trainings and resource support to community agencies.

Data collection and analysis

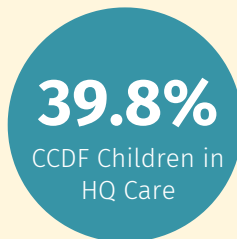
CCR&R assesses data utilizing state and federal statistics to develop strategic plans for the CCRR team to address community needs. They conduct annual quantitative and qualitative reports to share data on services and their impacts.

CCR&R is a federal and state funded program that provides resources to families, early childhood programs, and communities to create a strong statewide network of CCR&R services. Throughout this report, you will note how Building Blocks has influenced access, demand, and community impact.

QUICK STATS



We have assisted 1,032 families through our referral services to help best meet their individual childcare needs.



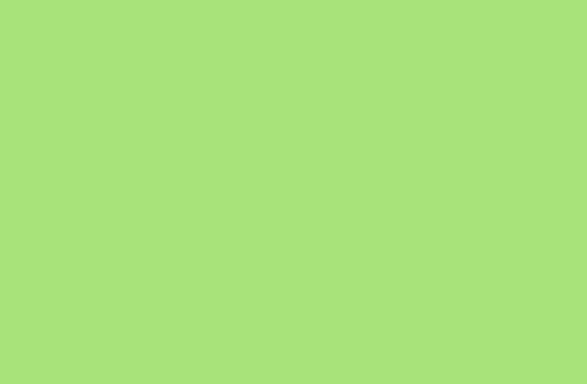
Across the 28 counties we serve, 39.8% of CCDF children are enrolled in a high quality care program



2,552 vulnerable children received Build, Learn, Grow scholarships totaling \$7,672,124 in funding to have access to childcare.

MISSION

To strengthen Indiana’s local early care and education infrastructure by connecting families to quality care, supporting providers, building capacity and engaging community leaders as advocates for high-quality, affordable early care and education.





Child Care
Resource and
Referral Network

Our Mission
Strengthening Indiana's local
early care and education
infrastructure by:

- ▶ Connecting families to quality care
- ▶ Supporting providers
- ▶ Building capacity

community leaders
city

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ACCESS



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Early Learning Access Index

The Early Learning Access Index is a data-driven tool that measures the accessibility of early learning programs for Indiana families. For each county, the index factors:

- Licensed capacity of programs
- Quality of programs
- Program affordability
- Variety of choices in programs

A major initiative that positively impacted each county's Index was the Build, Learn, Grow (BLG) program to maximize federal relief funds with the following goals: build reliable childcare infrastructure, create new learning opportunities for students, and help communities grow. Providers are supported through CCR&R by assisting providers on BLG.

Building Blocks assisted by giving providers information about:

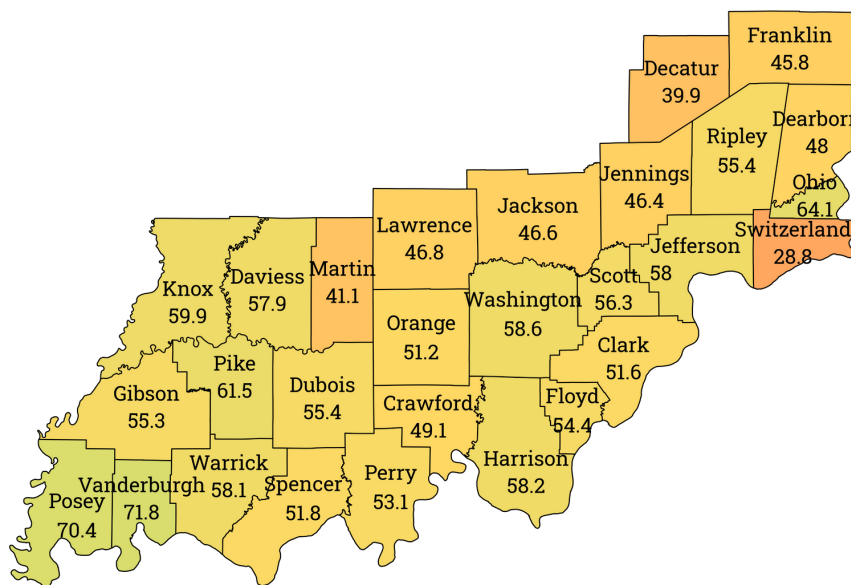
- Maintaining grant eligibility
- Reporting a program move
- Utilizing the funds to achieve sustainability for future years.

Providers were sent information on BLG events through Spark Learning Lab. These events gave providers a chance to join other early learning professionals from the community and local business professionals to consult and brainstorm ways to use the Build, Learn, Grow Stabilization Grant dollars to make an impact for their program

Capacity: SDA 5 had 65 new programs with an increase of 2,301 seats in licensed programs over prior year. Capacity increase can be attributed to new programs, classroom reopening, and program expansion. Providers were able to offer bonus and staff raises through the grant which helped maintain current staff and allow expansion.

Quality: 60% of providers in the region participate in Paths to Quality (PTQ). PTQ connects professionals with the support needed to create high quality learning environments for children. Areas impacting quality are staff shortages, level of staff education, and infant/toddler seat availability. A noticeable trend is an increasing number of staff and directors without education or experience in early childhood education and an increase demand for non-formal CDA.

Early Learning Access Index in Southern Indiana



Affordability: The region had a 3.8% increase in the average cost of weekly full-time care compared to last year. The average cost of care last year was at \$119.99 per week and this year is \$124.48 per week. This year, rural counties had a lower average at \$114.88 where urban counties had an average of \$138.34 per week. The mixed county average came in at \$121.93 per week. Providers have raised tuition to offset higher food costs and increase staff wages.

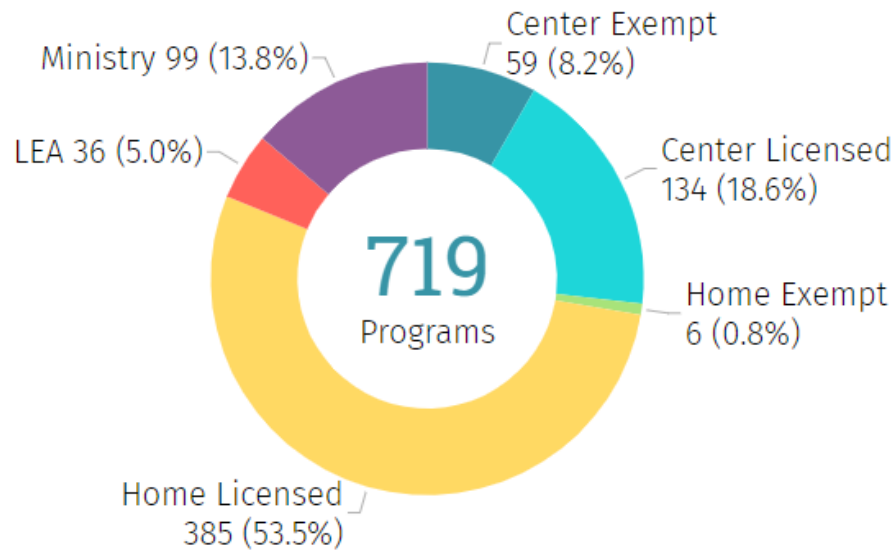
Choice: A variety of factors impact this portion of the index: a healthy blend of seats for all age groups, multiple program types, availability of programs with non-traditional hours, and the number of providers that accept CCDF vouchers or On My Way Pre-K funds.



County	Early Learning Access Index	Statewide Rank
Vanderburgh	71.8	3
Posey	70.4	5
Ohio	64.1	15
Pike	61.5	19
Knox	59.9	23
Washington	58.6	26
Harrison	58.2	29
Warrick	58.1	30
Jefferson	58.0	31
Daviess	57.9	32
Scott	56.3	35
Ripley	55.4	37
Dubois	55.4	38
Gibson	55.3	39
Floyd	54.4	42
Perry	53.1	45
Spencer	51.8	48
Clark	51.6	49
Orange	51.2	52
Crawford	49.1	59
Dearborn	48.0	61
Lawrence	46.8	63
Jackson	46.6	64
Jennings	46.4	66
Franklin	45.8	68
Martin	41.1	79
Decatur	39.9	82
Switzerland	28.8	91

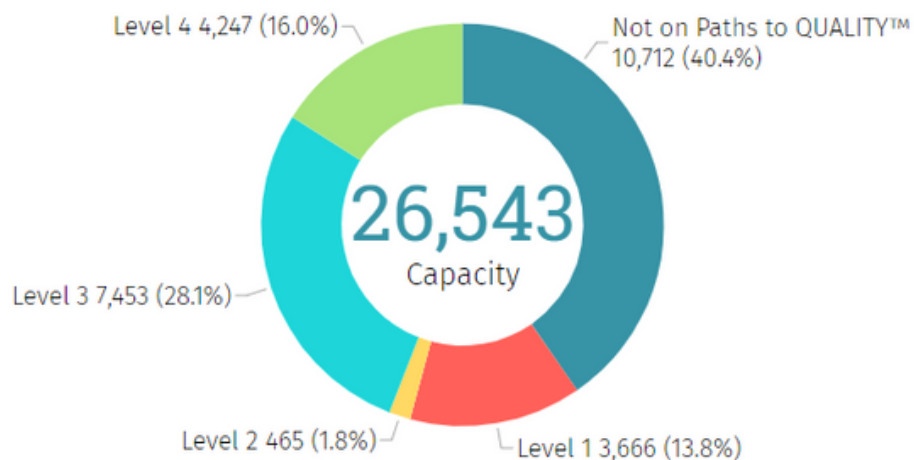
Programs and Capacity

Across the SDA, programs began to reopen classrooms that had been closed due to COVID and a lack of employees and/or children enrolled. With fewer staff, programs had to reduce the number of children enrolled to maintain child-to-staff ratio.



Across the SDA there were 13 programs closed that reopened under new ownership or moved to a new location. 6 programs closed to work outside the home or stated financial reasons for closing. Unfortunately, 4 programs closed due to provider death or illness. One of those programs was reopened under new ownership. 2 programs that closed stated the reason for closure was rules and regulations. 3 programs had their license revoked for noncompliance. 3 programs failed to reapply for licensure or refused to participate. 1 program closed due to fire. This provider is working toward reopening in the upcoming months to continue serving families in the community.

One of the programs that closed due to provider death communicated a desire to remain open. The children were temporarily placed in care of family members while we supported the provider's niece and employee to reopen with a new license within a few months. Building Blocks supported this provider by guiding them to the correct training courses and continued support through the application process.



“Hi, I had recently seen a post that you had shared with a group that I am a member of on Facebook, regarding possibly opening a daycare. Coincidentally, it is something that I have been interested in because I think it’s something that our community needs. I would like to know more information.” - Facebook user response to social media outreach

Capacity Building

Building Blocks seeks to build capacity by helping current programs maintain/expand and by recruiting new providers. Programs can expand by opening additional classrooms as a center or ministry, adding another location, or moving to a class 2 license as a home provider. A class 2 license allows a childcare home to extend enrollment up to 16 children if all ratios are maintained.

Provider recruitment is accomplished through Learning Communities, community events, placing flyers at locations around the SDA, community partners, and outreach on social media.

Our Program Engagement Specialists support providers by:

- Offering walk-through visits to ensure compliance
- Sending training opportunities
- Sharing funding/grant information
- Participating in local provider groups
- Making referrals to Spark, INAEYC, and local organizations that can help with business supports

Program and Capacity Changes by County

County	New Programs	New Capacity	Programs Closed	Capacity Closed	Net Program Change	Net Capacity Change
Clark	13	414	11	587	2	-173
Crawford	1	108	0	0	1	108
Daviess	5	168	7	156	-2	12
Dearborn	1	30	0	0	1	30
Decatur	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dubois	1	40	2	97	-1	-57
Floyd	9	183	10	300	-1	-117
Franklin	2	110	2	28	0	82
Gibson	1	66	0	0	1	66
Harrison	2	32	5	143	-3	-111
Jackson	3	188	2	88	1	100
Jefferson	1	12	5	60	-4	-48
Jennings	0	0	2	28	-2	-28
Knox	3	72	1	16	2	56
Lawrence	2	145	3	40	-1	105
Martin	1	12	0	0	1	12
Ohio	0	0	0	0	0	0
Orange	2	33	1	12	1	21
Perry	1	80	0	0	1	80
Pike	1	30	1	16	0	14
Posey	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ripley	1	12	0	0	1	12
Scott	3	76	0	0	3	76
Spencer	0	0	1	0	-1	0
Switzerland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vanderburgh	15	484	18	515	-3	-31
Warrick	1	72	2	113	-1	-41
Washington	2	24	2	24	0	0
Total	71	2,391	75	2,223	-4	168

Referring Providers to Services

Building Blocks refers providers to Spark for assistance when they want to participate in Paths to Quality (PTQ), increase their PTQ level, or seek additional quality-related training. PTQ is Indiana’s rating system that recognizes providers for their commitment to providing quality childcare and education. It classifies levels of quality care and establishes the requirements to meet those levels. Spark offers trainings specifically tailored to a provider's auspice.

Providers are referred to the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children (INAEYC) for CDA and T.E.A.C.H. scholarships. CDA is a nationally recognized credential that acknowledges an educator as a Child Development Associate. CDA educators are equipped to better meet a child's individual needs and provide quality care and education. The T.E.A.C.H. scholarship addresses the issues of under-education, poor compensation, and high turnover within the early childhood workforce by allowing participants to obtain a CDA and higher credentials. Staff with higher education can help programs advance in PTQ and create more high-quality seats for children.

Orientation Trainings

In Orientation I, providers learn details for starting a childcare program. This training is standard for all provider types and offers a foundation on the basics of opening a childcare business. Orientation II is program-specific and goes into specific details by facility type. OTs are mostly taken online; however, some providers prefer an in-person training.

In-person training allows the provider the ability to get immediate answers to questions, fewer chances for multitasking/decreased focus, and the ability for the trainer to adjust the training to focus on the issues that learners are having trouble with.

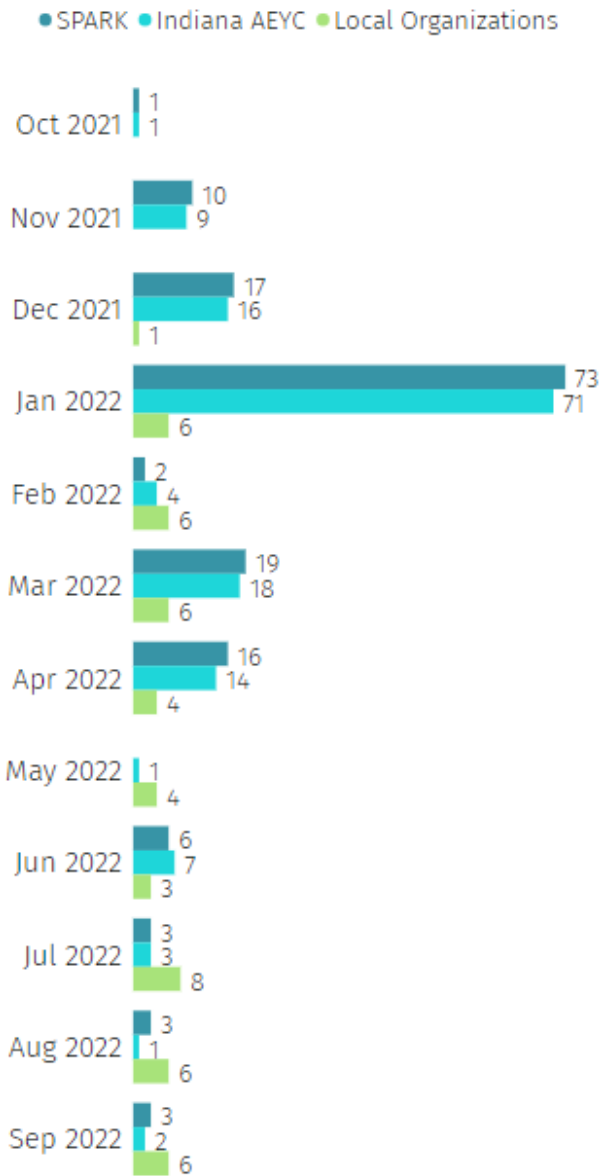
Orientation I Completions

227

Orientation II Completions

123

Referring Providers to Services



“Thanks so much for doing the in-person Orientation Training 2 at the library the other morning. I struggle with the computer, and I feel like I understand the training and what is required so much better being able to talk and discuss after each section.” -Emerging provider

Learning Communities

The Learning Community program was created to help potential childcare providers reach their goals of becoming licensed and serving children. By recruiting providers and facilitating the Learning Community program, CCRRs directly impact the childcare landscape of their own service areas by helping to increase the number of programs in the areas that need it most. The Learning Community includes a monthly discussion webinar covering the strategic side of running a successful childcare program. Webinar titles included:

- Setting Up Your Small Business for Success
- Little Clients, Big Learning
- Family Engagement
- Money Matters

In our SDA there were 8 participants total for the state-wide Learning Community.

Local Learning Communities facilitate community-level resource sharing by focusing the discussion on a scale suited to community-level provider needs, problem solving and barriers to licensure. Program Engagement Staff facilitate the meeting. Local meetings help emerging providers troubleshoot licensing issues and prepare them for licensing inspections. Barriers that emerging providers face are funds for startup and expansion, finding an appropriate building, finding qualified staff, and obtaining and paying for the appropriate level of education to operate a program. There were 11 participants in the Local Learning Community throughout the year within our SDA.

2,301
increase in
licensed
capacity

Capacity-building efforts have resulted in an increase over prior year through new program openings or program expansion.



High Quality Care

High Quality Care is recognized in Indiana as programs that participate in Paths to Quality at level 3 or 4. High quality care and capacity has decreased in the region in the past year. There were 44.7% CCDF in high quality care last year compared to 39.8% this year. Providers offering high-quality care decreased from 36.2% last year to 34.6% this year. However, high-quality capacity only decreased from 44.4% to 44.1%. Present issues causing a reduction in quality programs are staff shortages and staff level of education. We are experiencing an increase in staff and directors without education or experience in early childhood education and an increase demand for non-formal CDA.

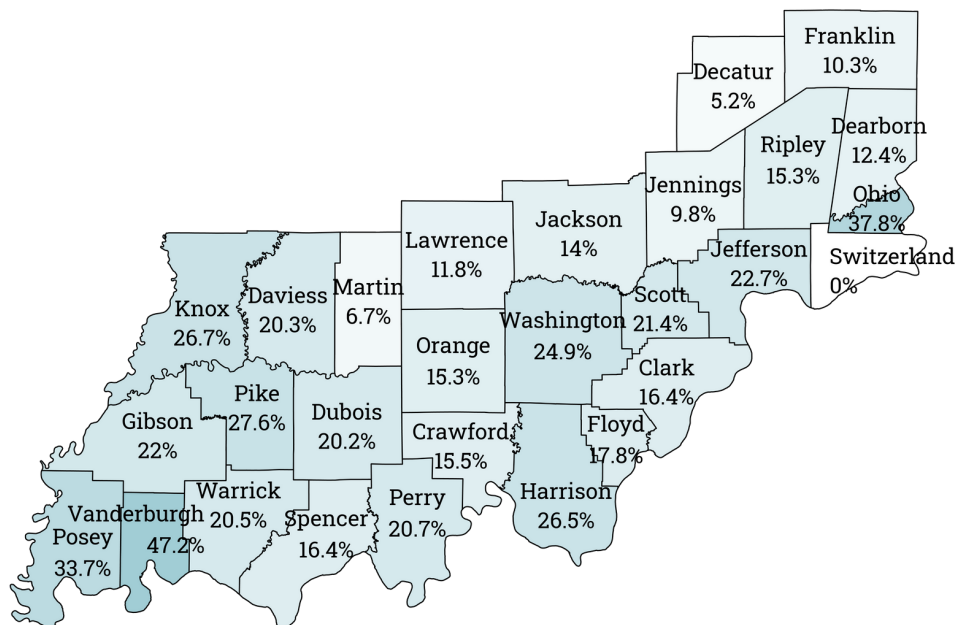
CCR&R is working to increase awareness of the importance of high-quality care for children by handing out “What is quality care?” flyer at events, having conversations within our communities, presenting at community meetings, and partnering with local organizations.

CCDF Child Placement End of Year

PTQ Level	CCDF Children	Capacity	CCDF Children as % of Capacity
0	1137	10712	11%
1	1222	3666	33%
2	207	465	45%
3	1254	7453	17%
4	442	4247	10%



Children Able to be Served by High-Quality Care



High-Quality (HQ) Care by County

County	Total Programs	HQ Programs	Percent HQ Programs	Total Capacity	HQ Capacity	Percent HQ Capacity
Clark	79	25	31.6%	3,089	1,503	48.7%
Crawford	3	2	66.7%	161	53	32.9%
Daviess	21	4	19.0%	862	196	22.7%
Dearborn	13	5	38.5%	915	328	35.8%
Decatur	11	2	18.2%	400	65	16.3%
Dubois	24	9	37.5%	946	665	70.3%
Floyd	75	20	26.7%	2,902	409	14.1%
Franklin	8	4	50.0%	202	60	29.7%
Gibson	24	11	45.8%	1,304	373	28.6%
Harrison	27	12	44.4%	472	320	67.8%
Jackson	41	16	39.0%	1,068	326	30.5%
Jefferson	19	7	36.8%	302	158	52.3%
Jennings	23	5	21.7%	411	114	27.7%
Knox	30	7	23.3%	1,015	436	43.0%
Lawrence	17	5	29.4%	819	246	30.0%
Martin	6	1	16.7%	97	45	46.4%
Ohio	1	1	100.0%	20	20	100.0%
Orange	17	4	23.5%	241	56	23.2%
Perry	6	4	66.7%	254	162	63.8%
Pike	10	2	20.0%	254	49	19.3%
Posey	9	8	88.9%	415	405	97.6%
Ripley	16	4	25.0%	468	300	64.1%
Scott	12	7	58.3%	408	222	54.4%
Spencer	10	3	30.0%	333	129	38.7%
Switzerland	4	0	0.0%	112	0	0.0%
Vanderburgh	149	68	45.6%	7,121	4,580	64.3%
Warrick	46	9	19.6%	1,602	357	22.3%
Washington	18	4	22.2%	350	123	35.1%
Total	719	249	34.6%	26,543	11,700	44.1%

When working with emerging providers, Program Engagement Specialists share information on quality and the necessary steps to become a PTQ program. Family Engagement Specialists also help families understand the importance of quality when assisting them with the childcare referral process. 100% of respondents to our Referral feedback survey stated their knowledge of how to use PTQ in their childcare search increased. Those same respondents stated they were likely to seek out a program that participates in PTQ.

Despite the challenges faced surrounding quality in childcare, 7 counties in our SDA were able to increase high-quality capacity. Counties that saw an increase in high-quality capacity include: Clark (16.9%), Daviess (10.7%), Harrison (9.2%), Jefferson (3.3%), Martin (46.4%), Orange (2.8%), and Posey (2.9%). These counties are located across SDA 5's footprint.

Building Blocks escalated efforts to increase awareness, support, and engagement in counties in the eastern part of our SDA in this contract year. We have been able to increase staff that is strategically placed geographically to help make inroads in more counties. This increased participation in coalitions and community events from our CCRR team has helped us to see quality increase in multiple regions and not just relegated to one region of our SDA.

CCDF Care & CCDF Outreach

Program Engagement Specialists connect programs with their CCDF intake office and encourage them to accept vouchers due to the lack of vacancies in programs accepting vouchers. Family Engagement Specialists connect families with their regional CCDF intake office during the referral process if they meet the financial requirements for CCDF vouchers.

In SDA 5, there are three CCDF intake offices which include Building Blocks, Firefly Children and Family Alliance and River Valley Resources. Family Engagement Specialists support families in locating providers accepting CCDF vouchers with vacancies. Some barriers families face:

- Finding providers that accept CCDF vouchers
- Finding care during non-traditional hours
- Finding a spot in a program for the child's age
- A lack of vacancies in HQ programs.

The CCRR team has continuous follow up with each family that qualifies for CCDF until they are able to locate a seat that fits their child's need.

"I really found it beneficial to families during COVID that childcare vouchers were offered while you seek employment. As a single parent this was a great asset for mothers that couldn't seek employment before due to childcare." - Respondent to Building Blocks Community Satisfaction survey

Children Using CCDF For High-Quality Care

39.8%



Affordability

SDA 5 had a 3.8% increase in the average cost of weekly full-time care compared to last year. The average cost of care last year was at \$119.99 per week, and this year is at \$124.48 per week. This year, rural counties had a lower average at \$114.88 where urban counties had an average of \$138.34 per week. The mixed county average came in at \$121.93 per week.

CCR&R attempt to contact providers regularly to get updates on rates and vacancies in the programs. In the last year, SDA 5 had 796 attempts to update and 294 successful program updates. The process for recording attempts to update programs changed mid-year. In the beginning, one attempt to contact the provider for an update was recorded as an attempt. The procedure changed to reflect at least two attempts to contact the provider either via email or phone would count as an official attempt for data purposes.

Providers have raised tuition rates due to a number of economic factors:

- Offset higher food costs
- Purchase materials
- Increase staff wages
- Facility maintenance

Difficulty staffing and financial issues played a factor in at least 4 of the provider closures in the past year. One provider stated, "We have been trying to hire more staff so that we could call the families on our waiting list. We would get close several times but, they wouldn't show up. With prices going up and not being able to bring more families in due to staffing issues, everyone decided to just close."

Average Weekly Cost of Care by Age

0-12 Months

\$144.33

13-23 Months

\$137.15

24-35 Months

\$133.57

3-4 Years

\$128.28

5 Years

\$125.66

Kindergarten

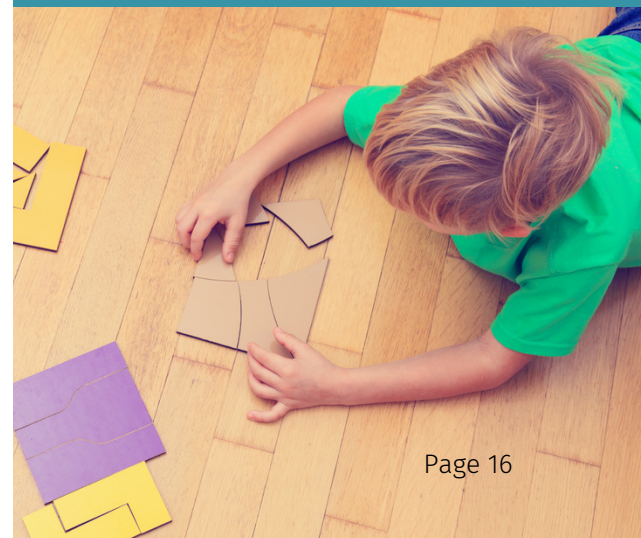
\$114.12

School Age Care - All Others

\$115.60

School Age Care - Before/After School

\$83.47



Affordability by County

County	Median Annual Family Income	Average Full-Time Annual Cost	Cost-to-Income Ratio
Clark	\$61,746	\$7,514	12.2%
Crawford	\$63,857	\$6,760	10.6%
Daviess	\$66,952	\$5,905	8.8%
Dearborn	\$80,322	\$7,971	9.9%
Decatur	\$63,900	\$6,893	10.8%
Dubois	\$78,217	\$6,844	8.7%
Floyd	\$76,767	\$7,316	9.5%
Franklin	\$78,526	\$8,016	10.2%
Gibson	\$65,753	\$6,156	9.4%
Harrison	\$76,703	\$6,228	8.1%
Jackson	\$64,887	\$6,528	10.1%
Jefferson	\$63,158	\$6,077	9.6%
Jennings	\$65,837	\$6,733	10.2%
Knox	\$62,875	\$5,702	9.1%
Lawrence	\$62,918	\$6,712	10.7%
Martin	\$66,064	\$5,720	8.7%
Ohio	\$72,970	\$7,904	10.8%
Orange	\$52,342	\$5,230	10.0%
Perry	\$63,997	\$6,734	10.5%
Pike	\$71,009	\$5,631	7.9%
Posey	\$98,471	\$7,717	7.8%
Ripley	\$69,733	\$7,200	10.3%
Scott	\$62,492	\$6,310	10.1%
Spencer	\$75,936	\$5,472	7.2%
Switzerland	\$56,090	\$6,461	11.5%
Vanderburgh	\$54,793	\$7,606	13.9%
Warrick	\$92,889	\$7,560	8.1%
Washington	\$63,754	\$5,620	8.8%

Average cost by age group increased at roughly the same amount (\$4-\$5/week increase per age group over prior year). The exception to this was the 3-4 age group which rose almost \$7/week. Cost to income ratios remained steady across each county over prior year with minimal, if any, changes. Infants continue to remain the highest priced age group for care. Currently, Franklin County has the highest average cost of care in the SDA.

Disregarding age groups, the average cost of full-time care by auspice is (from largest to smallest):

- Exempt homes - \$154.84/week
- Licensed centers - \$153.19/week
- Ministries - \$135.75/week
- Licensed homes - \$120.51/week
- LEA's - \$93.24/week
- Exempt centers - \$80.40/week



Build, Learn, Grow & BLG Outreach

The Build, Learn, Grow Scholarship program launched in April 2021, providing financial support to Indiana families to help children access high-quality early childhood education and out-of-school care following the COVID-19 pandemic. As the program came to an end by June 2022, Indiana is working to provide continued support to vulnerable scholarship families by temporarily expanding Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) assistance and encouraging providers to support families more broadly through recent Stabilization Grant funds.

Many hard-working Hoosier families will not be able to shoulder the financial burden of paying for high-quality care. To address this need and support families' ability to continue working and keeping their children learning, the Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning (OECOSL) provided temporary CCDF eligibility for more than 1,500 scholarship families enrolled in participating school-age programs with incomes at or below 85% of state median income. Providers worked with eligible families to complete and submit an application form on their behalf, which was reviewed and processed by local CCDF eligibility offices. Siblings in the household under age 13 were also eligible for CCDF assistance.

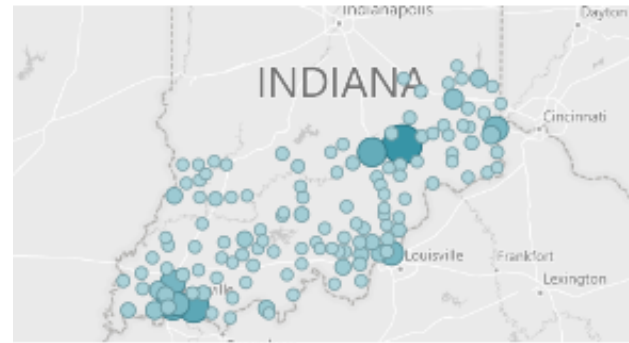


\$7,672,124
Amount Awarded

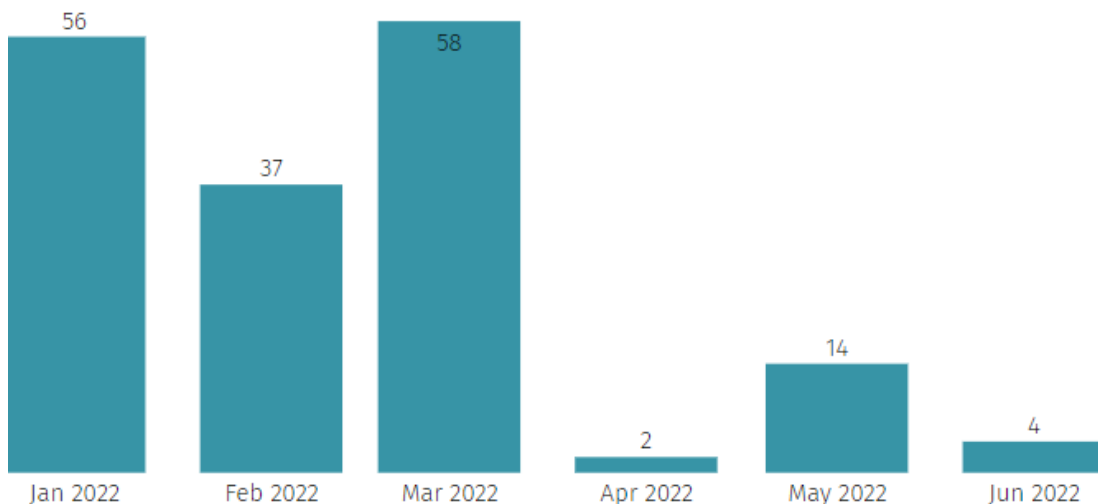


2,552
Children Served

Children Served by ZIP Code



Build, Learn, Grow Outreach



Non-Traditional Care

Finding care outside of a traditional first shift schedule for parents and caregivers can be a challenge. Although this issue is a reported concern in some situations, Building Blocks has not seen this as a widespread need as much as some other areas of concern related to access to childcare. Across our SDA, we have seen a decrease in providers who offer non-traditional care.

In efforts to keep their programs open, providers are cutting back on the hours they are serving their communities. Versus prior year, programs with extended hours decreased from 261 to 197. Programs with overnight hours decreased from 51 to 36. Finally, programs operating on weekends decreased from 43 to 37.

197

Programs with Extended Hours

Any operating hours outside of the traditional range of 6 A.M. to 6 P.M., including overnight hours.

36

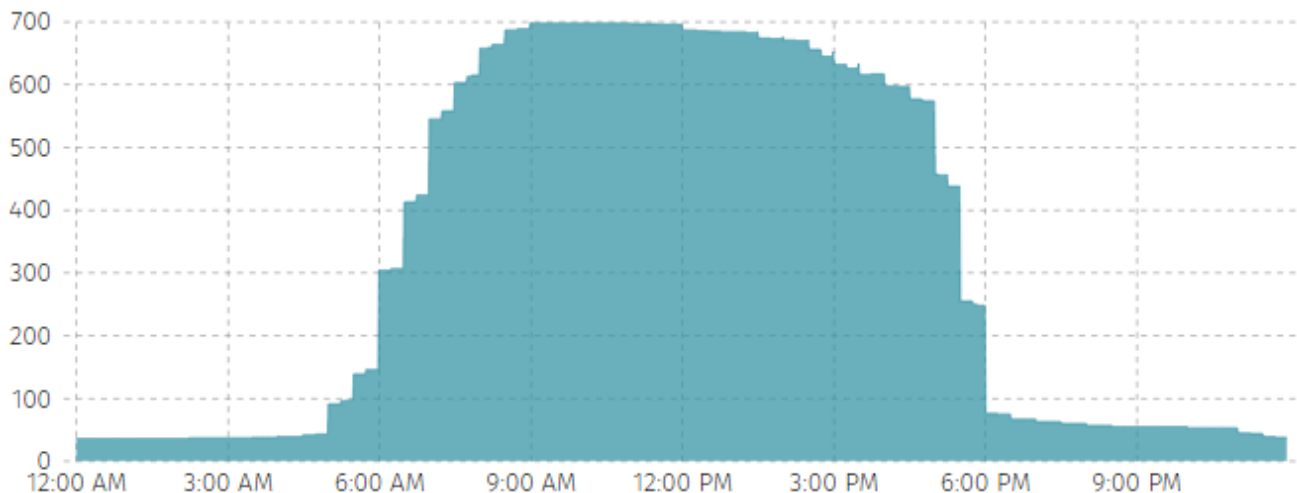
Programs with Overnight Hours

Operating hours that begin in the evening (or earlier) and continue through the night into the morning (or later), including night-only and 24-hour programs

37

Programs Operating on Weekends

Programs Operating by Time of Day

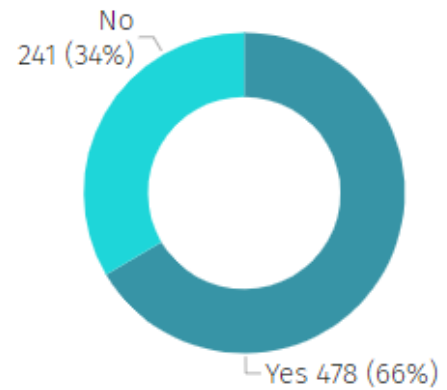


School-Age Care

In the month of August, Building Blocks recorded our highest request for childcare referrals. This increase was largely due to the need for school-age before and after school care. It can be even more difficult for parents to find the childcare seats and supports they need as their children enter school ages. Of the 719 total programs in SDA 5, 478 offer seats for school-age children. 21 of our 28 counties do not have a registered program that provides school-age care on a year-round basis.

Summer months can be particularly stressful on families. The Build, Learn, Grow Summer Program scholarships were helpful in assisting families with the additional financial burden facing the stress of having to find care. Almost 18% of children who received a BLG scholarship this past year were specifically for the opportunity to find summer care. In total, school-age children represented 30% of children in our SDA that received a BLG scholarship this past year.

School-Age Care Programs



317

School-Age Children Served through Build, Learn, Grow Scholarships

454

School-Age Children Served through Build, Learn, Grow Summer Program Scholarships





DEMAND



Child Care
Resource and
Referral Network



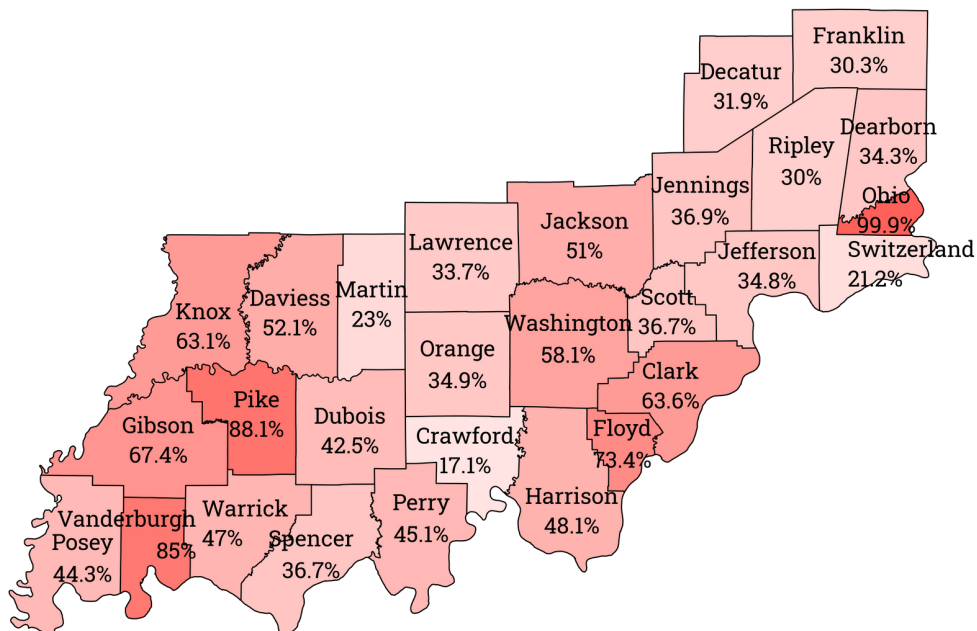
Capacity Sufficiency

Across 28 counties, the childcare landscape looks different in each community. Building Blocks has partnered with each of our counties in the past year to support their Early Childhood Coalitions by providing accurate information and statistics catered to their specific population. Each county is supported with the goal of increasing accessible, affordable, and high-quality early learning programs.

Through our partnerships in Knox County, 148 new capacity was created and raised their capacity sufficiency to 63.1%. Knox has the 7th highest % in the SDA and the 11th largest 0-5 population in the SDA. Similar partnerships in Floyd County led to the creation of 264 new capacity and sufficiency % raised to 73.4%. Floyd has the 4th highest % in the SDA and the 3rd largest 0-5 population in the SDA.

We collaborated with the Knox County United Way's Education Committee to improve the quality of care and PTQ level for providers in their county. This partnership led to the creation of an Early Childhood Education (ECE) Initiative Team supported by the local Chamber of Commerce.

Children Who Can be Served by Local Care Options



Family Referrals

The past year has once again seen an increase in the number of childcare referrals Building Blocks completed, increasing from helping 618 families last year to 1032 families this year. The ease and convenience of the online form is appreciated by families and make up the majority of the referrals we complete.

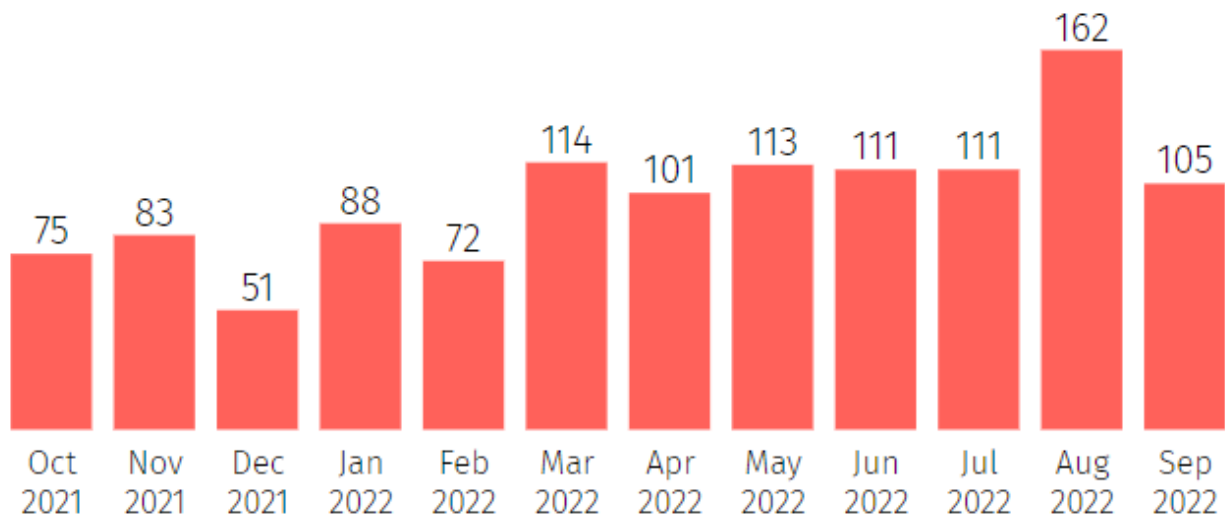
We have continued to offer resources, including explanations on types of providers and safe sleep information when conducting referrals. Whenever we communicate with families, we encourage them to reach back out if they need additional support.

Some families will reach back out with follow-up questions within days of the referral being completed, while others might reach back out several months later with a new request. We want families to know that we are here to support them with referrals and any questions they might have.

We completed the largest number of referrals in August as families found it increasingly difficult to find before and after school care for their school-age children at the beginning of the most recent school year. A larger than normal amount of these referral requests came from the middle and eastern part of our SDA.

Our Family Engagement Specialists complete enhanced referrals for families that are having a particularly difficult time in the referral process. All respondents to our Referral Feedback survey state that they feel equipped with the information necessary to make a good decision about childcare for their child(ren).

Monthly Family Referrals



1,032

Families Served
through Referrals

Family Resource Navigator

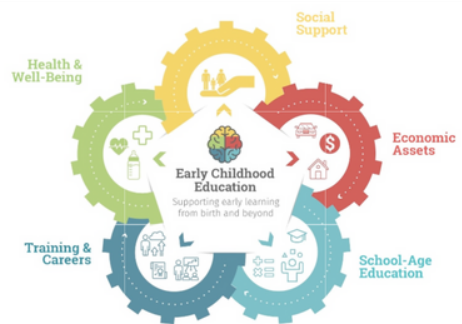
A relatively new tool, findhelp is already proving to be a useful resource. Families often communicate other supports outside of childcare they may need. We have always tried to connect families with additional resources they are in need of, and findhelp allows us to easily do that with a website that families can also access, if desired.

Most of the families we have helped are also looking for financial, education, and housing assistance. Not only does this allow us to meet more needs of the families who reach out to us, but it allows us to work alongside other organizations to help support these families. Multiple families have been connected to resources they need using the Resource Navigator. An example of this was a newly single mom raising her preschool-aged child with an autism diagnosis, requested a referral.

The mother explained her current situation and asked Building Blocks for additional resources we could provide her. A childcare referral, as well as a needs assessment through findhelp.org were both conducted with the parent.

A referral list was sent to the parent containing financial support information and 10 CCDF programs that were near the parent's home and were comfortable supporting children on the autism spectrum.

After finding a program that worked well for the family, the parent was referred to local assistance programs that could further support her family's needs. These resources included information on a rapid rehousing team, an autism family support center, SNAP, and a local food pantry. Our team communicated with the parent for multiple weeks, ensuring the parent was able to fill out the appropriate forms for each program, and secure a spot on the CCDF waitlist. Contact information was given to the parent for any future needs that may arise.



Family Resource Navigator Referrals

The findhelp system has made referrals to additional supports easier for us to accomplish. Prior to having findhelp, this process was more difficult due to not having a quick way to assess the totality of a family's needs and having all available resources in one location.

Families taking the needs assessment are able to walk through it with a member of the Building Blocks team, or they can complete it on their own. Before findhelp, Building Blocks averaged 4 referrals to additional resources each month. With the ability to help families with the needs assessment, we were able to complete 8/month

Top Family Resource Navigator Identified Needs

Identified Needs | 365 Days

CATEGORY	SEEKERS	PERCENT
Financial	22	71.0%
Housing	14	45.2%
Utilities	13	41.9%
Medical	12	38.7%
Goods	11	35.5%
Education	10	32.3%
Work	7	22.6%
Food	7	22.6%
Transportation	6	19.4%
Family/Community Support	5	16.1%
Disability Support	5	16.1%

Referrals on findhelp



Workshops for Parents

Workshop Name	Attendees
24/7 Dads Series	41
CD Virtual	19
Child Care/Early Learning 101	7
cMoe Conscious Discipline Series	6
Conscious Discipline Series	125
Creative Exploration Days	48
December Developmentally Appropriate Toys	1
Interactions that Boost Relationships: A Key to Social-Emotional Development	10
Play and Learn Circle Time	7
Safe Sleep Practices: Reducing Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Module 1	132
SEL/ Development	14
Understanding Trauma	5
Total	415

Building Blocks offers a variety of workshops aimed at supporting families and encouraging healthy development for children. A new workshop we successfully launched was a 'Play and Learn' setting at the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana's art gallery this year. Titled, "Creative Exploration Days", children and their families were invited into the space to create, build, play, and learn to support children's developmental growth.

After four successful dates with the art gallery, we expanded this idea to other counties so that we may reach more families. Currently, Building Blocks is supporting a local library using a similar 'Play is Learning' approach.

Families were welcomed with multiple activity stations dedicated to promoting different developmental skills. They are also provided with an objective sheet that displays the early learning outcomes children are meeting while attending the workshop. Building Blocks is continuing to partner with this library in Posey County for an ongoing 'Play is Learning' event, while also engaging Washington and Harrison counties to build similar self-sufficient workshops across SDA



Individualized Support and Events

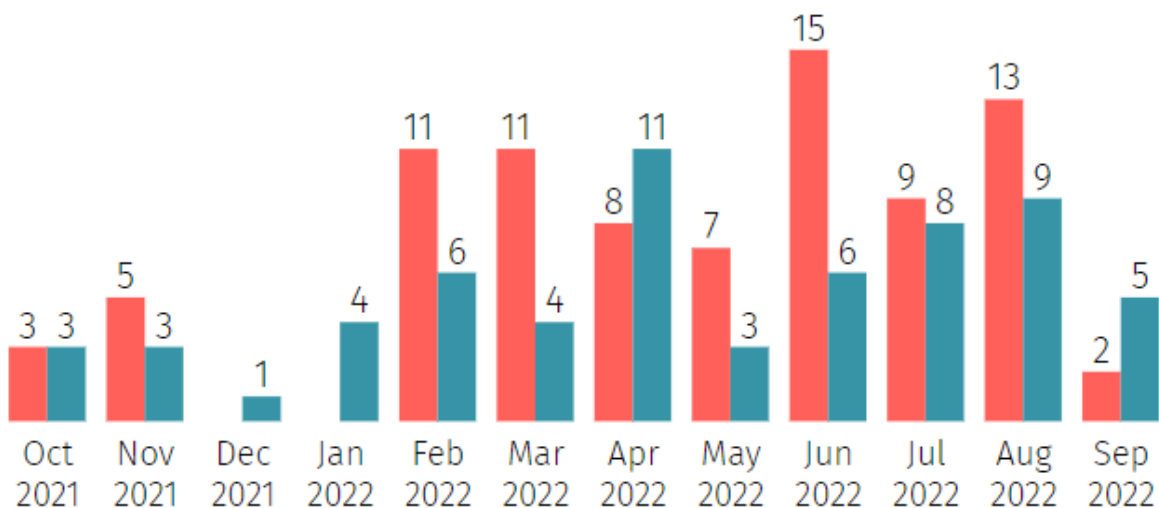
This past year a total of 84 individualized supports were completed. Some of the additional supports included answering follow-up questions, making referrals to other organizations, and continued follow-up to ensure supports were received. The findhelp system has made this easier for us to accomplish. Prior to having findhelp at our disposal, one family that reached out to us was having difficulties with the provider they were at.

The parent became frustrated with several issues at the establishment but was not sure what to do or where to turn. The parent expressed that they weren't sure who to contact so they reached out to us because they knew we would be there to help them through a concern they were having.

Building Blocks was able to support the parent with their concerns, provide educational materials regarding expectations for childcare providers, and provided new options for a childcare provider when they requested a search for new options. Through an enhanced referral, we were also able to help them land at a new provider that the family and child were happy with. Through multiple emails and phone calls, we were able to support this family every step of the way to find a solution.

Individualized Support and Events for Families

● Families Receiving Individualized Support ● Events for Family Audiences



COMMUNITY IMPACT



Child Care
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Community Engagement

Our in-person community engagement efforts have increased over the last year due to COVID restrictions lifting. More community events and resource fairs have occurred to get information and assets to families in need. Building Blocks attended 97 community events and resource fairs in the last year. Event highlights include:

Homeless Connect of Southwest Indiana

- 534 individuals in attendance
- CCR&R was responsible for the parent resource area of the event. We interacted with 40 families; assisting them with childcare resources, On My Way PreK information and we were able to start the CCDF enrollment process for 7 families.

Vanderburgh County Familia Dental and Anthem Back to School Event

- 1400 people attended the event and received back to school supplies
- CCR&R engaged 50 families needing childcare resources

Clark County Drive Through Baby Shower

- 75 families in attendance
- CCR&R engaged with each family, handing out information on childcare referrals, developmental milestones, children and hot cars awareness, and family supports

Jeffersonville Back to School Community Health Fair

- 150-200 families in attendance
- CCR&R connected with around 100 families needing information on childcare resources and family services we offer

The CCR&R team is actively involved in community meetings, coalitions, and tasks forces in each of the 28 counties in SDA5. These meetings allow us to build collaborative relationships with organizations and agencies across Southern Indiana. We share data in meetings to show the impact of lack of educators in our early learning settings and how this has affected the capacity for children to receive high-quality care.

With this data and information, we have been able to form early childhood coalitions and taskforces like the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Initiative Team in Knox County. We have also been an integral part of the formation of the Align Southern Indiana Early Childhood Align Team and have supported work to develop their mission and vision and initiatives that will be implemented within their 5 counties (Harrison, Washington, Clark, Floyd, and Scott).



Community Engagement

444

Meetings with Family Resource Community

514

Meetings with Community Resources

563

Outreach Activities with Employers & Coalitions

Business Engagement

Through community and meeting involvement, Building Blocks has been able to connect with multiple business organizations and Human Resources departments in each of the counties we serve. We have attended the Southern Indiana Works Partner Meeting for over 2 years. The One-Stop Coordinator for Southern Indiana Works, who oversees this group, has valued our partnership and expertise in the field of early education and how we can support families needing childcare to go back to work.

We have had the opportunity of presenting to this group and to their staff to show the importance of early education and the supports we offer families looking for care. After understanding the services we offer, the coordinator connected us to a local HR manager who was interested in childcare resources for their employees. We were able to present our programs and services and offer support for their employees with young children.

Through our partnership with Align Southern Indiana, we were reconnected to the HR manager after they reached out to the Align director looking for data on the cost of childcare. We met with the HR manager again to discuss data on the cost of childcare and how their company could support families with this cost while they were on the waitlist to obtain CCDF vouchers. Our team was able to gather data and help the business determine an appropriate course of action to support their employees.

"Thank you. You have always stepped up when I needed you to present. I appreciate that very much because...childcare is the biggest barrier for folks looking for work, and I need to get my staff thinking about...referring to Building Blocks...I'm really pleased that you'll do this for us!" - One-Stop Coordinator for Southern Indiana Works



Business Engagement

206

Level 1:
Business Action

234

Level 2:
Personalized Interaction

310

Level 3:
Resource Exchange

Social Media

Building Blocks utilizes Facebook and Instagram to engage with families, childcare providers, and the community. Our posts include (but are not limited to):

- Advertising upcoming community events we have partnered with
- Trainings and workshops we offer
- Family engagement ideas
- Resources and information for childcare providers


We track our social media impressions (the number of times our Facebook post or Instagram story was displayed to a user), and our social media engagements (the number of times that users reacted to, commented, shared, or clicked on our posts). Our impressions are up 646.6% and our engagements are up 383% compared to 2020-2021. 40% of our workshop survey respondents stated they heard about the workshop through social media.

One of our top posts promoted and explained our Creative Exploration Days (a family engagement program where we partnered with the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana). We had 1,809 impressions and 322 engagements with this post. We were able to utilize tagging the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana in the post which gave us more exposure to different audiences and sharing pictures of the day to encourage new families to join our next event. The post brought attention to the highly successful event, as well as the new partnership we created with a local organization.

Another top post promoted our 24/7 Dads workshop series. The series provided insight for fathers to gain the necessary tools to take on a more active role in their children's lives. 24/7 Dads would go on to become our 4th-highest attended series of workshops this past year.

Top Performing Social Posts


Our first Creative Exploration Day with Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana was a HUGE success yesterday. We ca...



Engagement Rate (per Impression)	17.8%
Impressions	1,809
Engagements i	322

Are you a dad looking to increase your awareness, knowledge and skills on being a father? Then join us for a new program...

Knowledge, and skills to be a father. The goal is to help fathers to be as involved, responsible, and committed as they can be in their children's lives given fathers' unique circumstances.



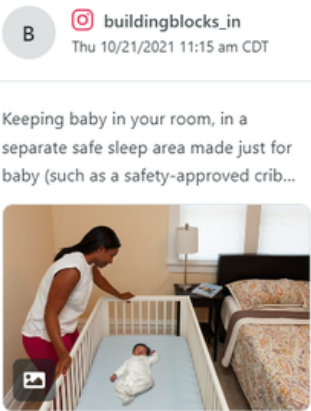
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	5.2%
Impressions	959
Engagements i	50


Social Media

Top Performing Social Posts continued...


Building Blocks' top Instagram post highlighted the importance of safe sleep practices and shared opportunities to enroll in a safe sleep workshop. Safe sleep workshops see our highest rate of attendance. Promoting workshops on social media allow us to effectively promote throughout our footprint. Safe sleep workshops were offered in Clark, Knox and Vanderburgh County and average over 12 attendees per workshop.



In our efforts to emphasize early education during summer months, Building Blocks staff frequently meets with community summer school programs. In June, we had the privilege of reading a book with over 50 pre-K, Kindergarten and first grade students enrolled in Vanderburgh's YMCA summer program. Each child received a copy of the book, participated in a craft related to the book and were treated with shaved ice.



B  **buildingblocks_in**
Thu 10/21/2021 11:15 am CDT

Keeping baby in your room, in a separate safe sleep area made just for baby (such as a safety-approved crib...

Engagement Rate (per Impression)	6.1%
Impressions	82
Engagements 	5

...  



 **Building Blocks**
Tue 6/21/2022 7:15 pm CDT

Building Blocks staff had a great time at Delaware School's YMCA Reading Program today! We read the book...

Engagement Rate (per Impression)	10.3%
Impressions	701
Engagements 	72

...  

547 Social Media Posts

Facebook:
398 Posts
28,941 Engagements

Instagram:
149 Posts
258 Engagements

Community Highlight



CREATIVE EXPLORATION DAYS

10AM-2PM
 JUNE 1: LEARNING THROUGH MOVEMENT
 JUNE 15: LEARNING THROUGH LIGHT
 JULY 13: LEARNING THROUGH A CHILD'S EYES
 JULY 27: LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

FOR AGES 1-5
 PRESENTED BY ARTSWIN AND BUILDING BLOCKS
 SPONSORED BY CENTERPOINT ENERGY

Building Blocks and The Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana partnered to present early childhood Creative Exploration Days at the Bower-Suhrheinrich Foundation Gallery in downtown Evansville. We invited children ages 1 – 5 and their caregivers to spend time in the gallery moving, building, creating, reading, and imagining, to demonstrate early learning happens through creative play.

Staff from Building Blocks were on-hand to share expertise, ideas, and insight with caregivers while their child interacted with art supplies, manipulatives, instruments, scarves, and movement toys. Each participating child also received a free book to take home.

Each date offered developmentally appropriate play and art activities focusing on the corresponding theme. An early learning objective sheet was also sent home with each family who attended, outlining skills and early learning objectives the child gained by participating in the workshop.

Over the course of the event, we had a total of 27 children attend with many children and families attending multiple dates. The model of the event is able to be replicated by our partners so they can host future events without requiring Building Blocks staff to be in attendance. The success of the event has created opportunities to expand this to other counties in SDA 5.



An example objective sheet sent home with families to promote creative learning at home

<u>Indoor</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Early Learning Objectives</u>
Paints, Crayons, Paper	Free draw, story dictating	Demonstrates fine-motor strength and coordination (Uses fingers and hands); Demonstrates positive approaches to learning (shows flexibility and inventiveness in thinking); Thinks symbolically; Demonstrates knowledge of the physical properties of tools.



CONCLUSION

Throughout this report, you can see the efforts of the Building Blocks CCR&R team reflected in the data. The increase in referrals and families served is an indication of the hard work, dedication, and attentiveness of our staff. It is our continued desire to raise awareness regarding the need for increased access, affordability and quality in early learning and care in the communities we serve. Given our large footprint, there are counties that have taken years to make progress in, but we have made advancements in those counties and are regarded as an important community resource.

Our increase with community engagement is validation of the work and involvement in all 28 counties with a staff of 7. Looking ahead to year 4 and the end of this current contract, Building Blocks will leverage our partnerships to increase impact in our SDA. Our state partners will be joining our team for a Provider Access Fair in early November. This one-stop shop event will equip childcare providers with the tools to navigate, starting, or advancing their childcare business.

As we continue to work toward increasing the number of childcare providers across our SDA, our team will develop strategic plans to target communities and organizations who have knowledge of unlicensed programs and provide them with the data showing the importance of high-quality care. Data plays a key role in our efforts. Our specialist will utilize various data sources to assist the CCR&R team meaningfully engage coalitions and early childhood initiatives.

From our involvement with a local Homeless Connect event, we discovered a new population of families in need of our services: the Marshallese. Our team has spent time learning about this culture and how we can best support them. Through another community partner, we have also been involved in efforts to support Afghan refugees relocating to the area.

Entering Year 4 we are excited to build on the successes of the last 3 years while learning from the challenges we have faced along the way. We continue to focus on ways to further strengthen Indiana's local early care and education infrastructure along with engaging the community leaders as advocates for high-quality, affordable early care and education.



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