

Issue Brief – Kindergarten Match for Child Care

WFS.02

UTAH DOES NOT GET ANY MATCHING CHILD CARE FUNDS

The primary source of funding for the Child Care program is the federal Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) grant. A portion of this grant is only available if matched with state funds. Over the last several years the Legislature has not appropriated any funds for matching, allowing the following funds to lapse:

FFY 02	\$12,313,684
FFY 03	\$11,898,374
FFY 04	\$10,977,484
<u>FFY 05</u>	<u>\$ 7,595,200</u>
Total	\$42,784,742

KINDERGARTEN MATCH

Because Utah does not have a Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten is non-compulsory, the feds will allow Workforce Services to count state expenditures for Kindergarten as a match for 20% of Child Care funds and 20% of maintenance of effort. So by the feds counting \$1,427,913 of current State expenditures for Kindergarten toward Child Care maintenance of effort and matching requirements, the department will be able to draw down an additional \$3,455,000 of federal Child Care funding.

FEDERAL SPENDING REQUIREMENTS

Under federal regulations, at least 70% of the draw down must be spent on child care subsidy expenditures and the remaining 30% may be spent on quality activities. DWS proposes to spend the 30% to support after school programs.

Workforce Services (DWS) has been working with Davis and Granite School Districts to certify the necessary Kindergarten expenditures. Each district will certify expenditures of \$713,957 per fiscal year. In exchange, DWS will contract with Davis and Granite School Districts in the amount of \$71,396 per fiscal year for the term of the MOU. These funds must be used to support quality after-school programs within the school districts.

OTHER AFTER-SCHOOL PROVIDERS

The quality funds will be made available to public and private providers of after-school care via an RFP process called Youth Connections. The RFP will be released in February 2006.

ANNUAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

DWS conducts an annual needs assessment. The 2005 assessment documents the need for additional after-school care in virtually every county in Utah. The study is available at www.jobs.utah.gov/occ.