

# Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) Budget

Child Care Financial Assistance helps eligible families with the cost of child care. Payments are made directly to child care providers. The families' eligibility and benefit level is determined by the family's size and income level. Payment amounts are determined by the age of the child, type of program, and quality (STep Ahead Recognition System - STARS) rating.

The goals of the Child Care Financial Assistance Program are to:

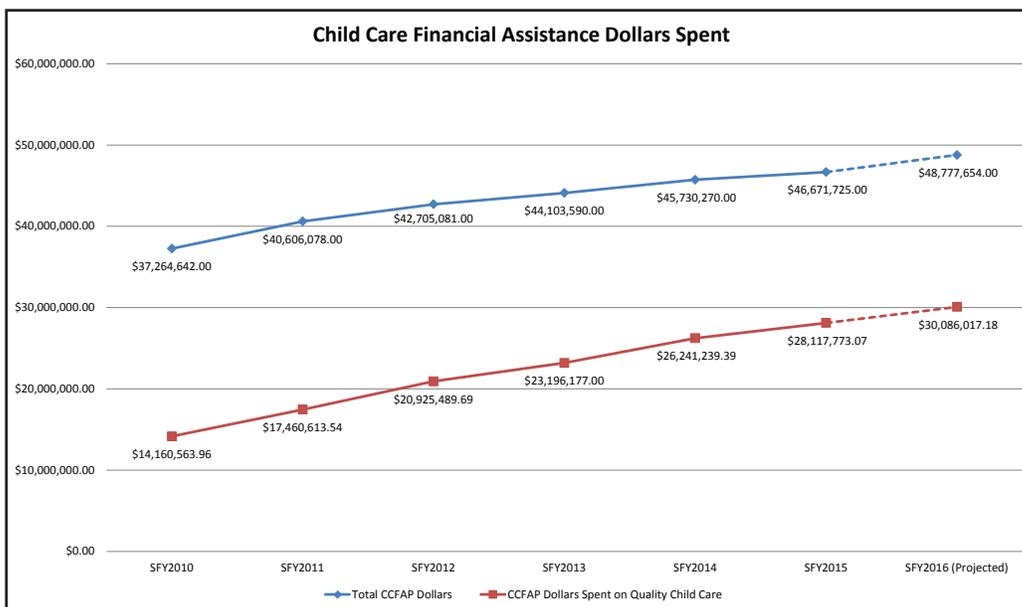
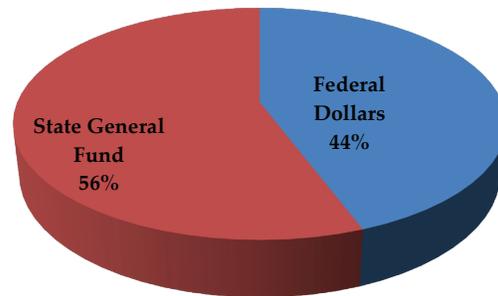
- Help eligible families pay for child care that meets their needs and promotes the best possible development for their children;
- Support a system of good quality child care services that is readily available to Vermont's children and families; and
- Increase access to high-quality, sustainable early care and learning and after school services in Vermont that are developmentally beneficial for children and strengthen families.

The program is funded through a combination of state and federal funds and promotes participation in high quality programs for assisted families..

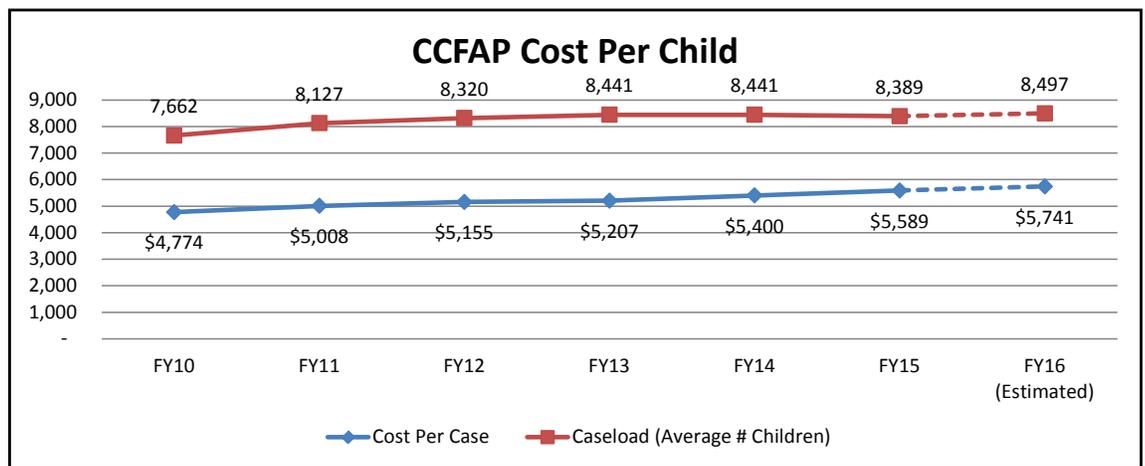
## Funding Sources

The Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) is funded through a combination of state and federal funds. The federal funds include Title IV-E, IV-B, the Child Care Development Fund, and the Social Services Block Grant. In addition, the funds used in the CCFAP program are used to leverage those federal funds for additional programs for the Department for Children and Families.

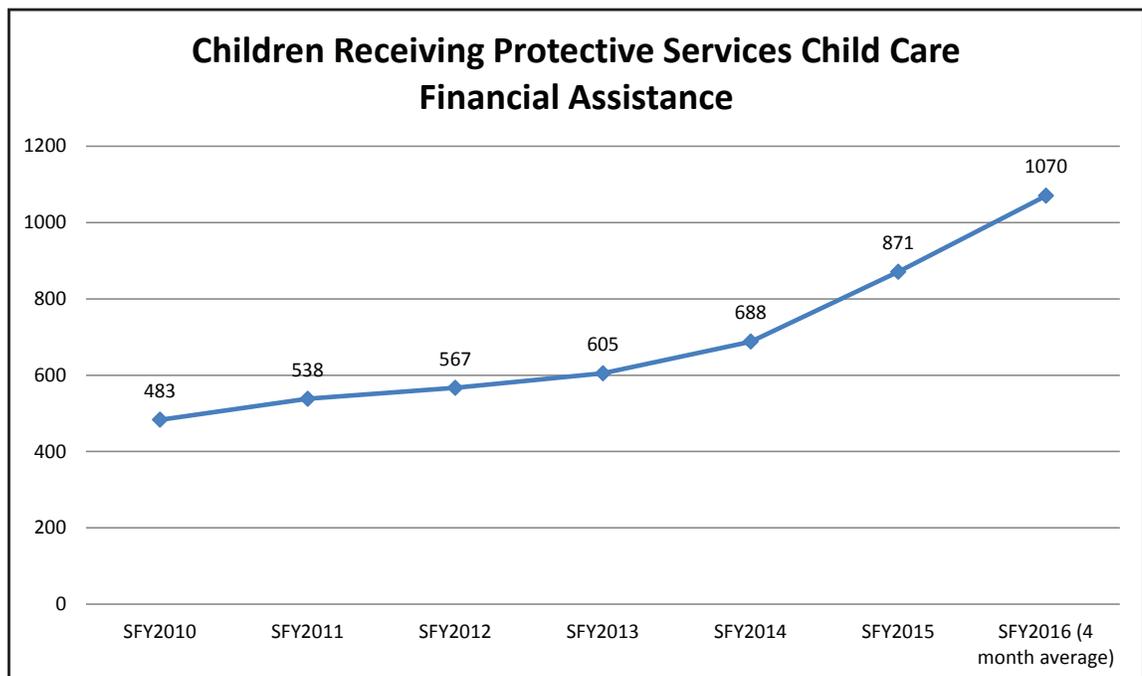
CCFAP Budget Funding Sources



Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) cost per child has been increasing each year. The increase in cost is attributed to more children authorized for child care who are in protective custody with the Department for Children and Families; of those children many are infants and toddlers where tuition rates are higher. In addition, more families are choosing higher quality child care options.



As seen in the chart below, the largest pressure on the Child Care Financial Assistance Program is the number of children in protective custody attending child care. Many of these children are infant and toddlers and are attending high quality programs where they are receiving the early intervention and social/emotional supports they need.



**Data Notes:**

- CCFAP Cost Per Child – data is extracted from the amount actually spent each month on Child Care Financial Assistance attendance, and the number of children child care attendance is submitted for in that month. That information is averaged over the course of the State Fiscal Year.
- Average Number of Children served by Age Category in SFY2015 – this is based on the number of children whom attendance was submitted for in each month of the state fiscal year, all months are averaged to find the average number of children served in the fiscal year. Infant category is defined as birth to the second birthday; toddler is defined as two to the third birthday; preschool is defined as three years old to the sixth birthday; and school age is six years old and older.