



Colorado Department of Human Services  
people who help people

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**Report to the  
Colorado General Assembly  
Senate Health and Human Services Committee  
and  
House Health and Environment Committee  
Concerning  
Child Care Resource and Referral System in Colorado  
Per CRS 26-6-116.  
December, 2012**

The State of Colorado, through the Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Early Care and Learning, currently contracts with Qualistar Colorado to provide for the administration and oversight of a statewide child care resource and referral system for Colorado's families and child care providers. Qualistar Colorado has been providing child care resource and referral services in the state for 20 years, originally as the Colorado Office of Resource and Referral Agencies (CORRA). Qualistar Colorado is a member of the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies.

Qualistar Colorado provides several different services to the State of Colorado as part of its work with the Division of Early Care and Learning. In addition to its work administering and coordinating the 17 regional child care resource and referral agencies located throughout Colorado, Qualistar also administers the TEACH Scholarship program for child care professionals; provides ratings to child care facilities using its proprietary Qualistar 4-Star Rating System; improves the health practices of child care facilities via the Child Care Health and Safety Nurse Consultant project; and conducts a biennial Market Rate Survey of fees charged by child care facilities on behalf of the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) as required by the federal Child Care Development Fund. Note: The Market Rate Survey was last performed in SFY 2010-2011 and will be performed again in SFY 2012-2013.

**Qualistar Budget for CDHS Funds for State Fiscal Year 2012-13**

<b>Services Provided by Qualistar</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Child Care Resource and Referral*	\$784,365
TEACH Scholarship*	\$120,000
Quality Ratings for 510 child care facilities	\$509,940
Child Care Health & Safety Nurse Consultant*	\$46,530
Market Rate Survey of Child Care Providers	\$20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,480,385</b>

\* The identified service receives additional funds from other sources

**Report on Qualistar Services for July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012**

**Child Care Resource and Referral**

*Description of Service:* Provides child care resource and referral services to Colorado families through a network of 17 local resource and referral agencies located around Colorado. Also works with child care providers to increase the number of providers, the quality of care, professionalism, and staff retention.

<b>Telephone Referrals for SFY 2011-12</b>	<b>Total</b>
Number of Telephone Referral Users	6,156
Telephone Referrals	6,772*
Enhanced and Special Needs Referrals	589
<b>Total Referrals</b>	<b>7,361</b>

\* Some users of the telephone referral system received more than one referral because they might require care for more than one child.

**Enhanced Child Care Referrals\*\***

	SFY 2011-2012 Qtr 1	SFY 2011-2012 Qtr 2	SFY 2011-2012 Qtr 3	SFY 2011-2012 Qtr 4	Totals SFY 2011-2012
Special Needs Referrals	32	21	34	53	140
Other Enhanced Referrals	105	93	196	55	449
<b>Total Special Needs/Enhanced</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>589</b>

\*\* An enhanced referral is defined as a referral that involves additional work on the part of the referral specialist. Most enhanced referrals involve services to families with special needs children. However, enhanced referrals may also include assistance for families with special language needs or emergency needs such as when a family has to start care the next day.

Internet Users	
Number of Internet Referral Users SFY 2011-2012:	10,668
SFY 2011-2012 Internet Referral Searches	49,423***

\*\*\* Individual users often perform multiple internet referral searches.

### **TEACH Scholarship Program**

*Description of Service:* The Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH) program provides scholarship funds to child care providers for up to 12 hours of college-credit early childhood education coursework to increase staff salaries, quality of care, professionalism, and staff retention.

FY 2011-2012			
	Fall 2011 Semester	Spring 2012 Semester	Summer 2012 Semester
# Recipients attending courses	94	93	52
# Credits completed	420	390	199
# Colleges attended	15	15	12
Combined Grade Point Average	3.6	3.6	3.7

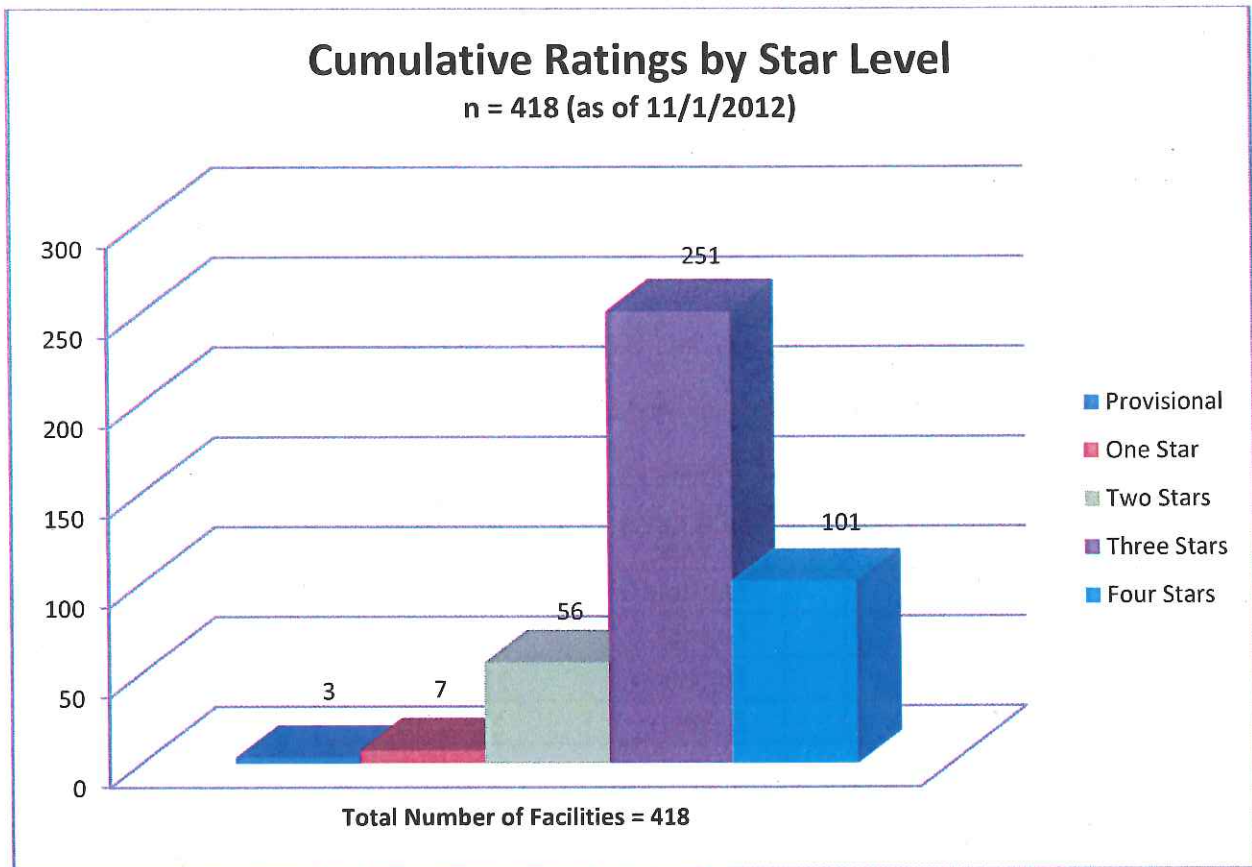
### ***Counties and Number of TEACH Scholarship Recipients***

County	Recipients	County	Recipients	County	Recipients
Adams	10	Eagle	6	Morgan	9
Arapahoe	8	El Paso	11	Pitkin	21
Boulder	11	Garfield	9	Summit	1
Broomfield	1	Grand	4	Teller	1
Conejos	1	Jefferson	22	Weld	11
Denver	11	Lake	3		

Note: Numbers reflected above represent the total number of TEACH Scholarships awarded during SFY 2011-2012. Funds from CDHS paid for 35% of the total TEACH Scholarships during SFY 2011-2012. The remaining 65% of the TEACH Scholarships were funded with private dollars raised by Qualistar, from sources such as Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation and Mile High United Way.

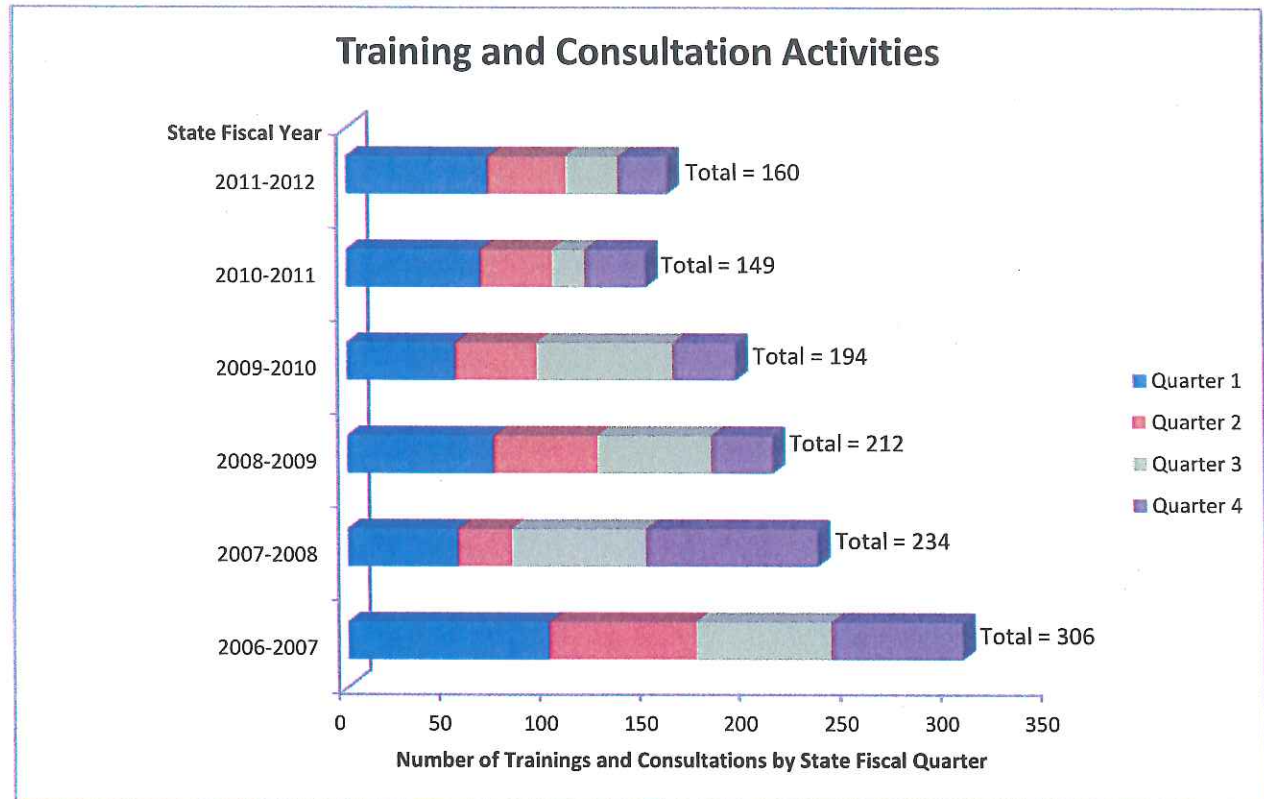
**Quality Ratings (on behalf of the School Readiness Quality Improvement Program)**

*Description of Service:* Qualistar provides ratings of child care facilities and homes that are participating in the School Readiness Quality Improvement Program. The purpose of the School Readiness Quality Improvement Program is to improve the school readiness of children, five years of age or younger, who are cared for at early care and education facilities located in neighborhoods with elementary schools that receive moneys from Title I of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (reauthorized as the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001), and are required to implement a priority improvement or turn-around plan, or are subject to restructuring. The School Readiness Quality Improvement Program is intended to develop the school readiness of the targeted children by improving the quality of the early care and education they receive. The School Readiness Quality Improvement Program includes an initial rating, coaching and a follow-up rating using the Qualistar Four Star Rating instrument for each of the child care facilities and homes that participate in the program.



## Child Care Health and Safety Nurse Consultant Program

*Description of Service:* This program is designed to provide a financially stable and sustainable statewide system of trained health consultants available to the local child care community. Services also structured to increase local community awareness and to grow existing health consultation system to include the state public health system as well as private nurse consultants. The health consultant addresses health and safety concerns and their effects on the quality of child care environments.



The above graph represents the total number of activities for all quarters of the Child Care Health and Safety Nurse Consultant program to date. Decreased activities in the last three years are a result of funding decreases.

### **Market Rate Survey:**

*Description of Service:* Collect and organize data from local child care providers about the fees that they charge their customers for child care. The data is used to support planning for the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP). The data is also required for the State Plan that must be submitted to the federal government every two years. The current Market Rate Survey for this planning cycle will not be completed until April 2013. The previous Market Rate Survey, included with the latest State Plan, can be found at

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDHS-ChildYouthFam/CBON/1251586020166>

