

Child Care & Early Education

RESEARCH CONNECTIONS

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Child Care Subsidy and TANF Administration A Key Topic Resource List

November 2006

Research Connections conducted a comprehensive search of its collection for resources focused on the administration of child care subsidy and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) programs. Search results are grouped into three broad areas:

- Coordination of child care subsidy and TANF administration
- Child care subsidy administration
- Child care subsidy access and use

From the many results, *Research Connections* selected a limited number of resources of various types including reports and papers, fact sheets and briefs, summaries, and reviews. Selection criteria included policy relevance and relatively recent publication. The full results came from basic searches on the exact phrases: “subsidy administration”, “child care subsidies”, “subsidy policy”, “TANF”, “welfare”, and “access barriers.”

Resources are organized according to publisher type and publication date. *Research Connection’s* one-sentence description is included for each resource on the following list. For complete citations, which include abstracts and full text for some resources, click on the titles.

COORDINATION OF CHILD CARE SUBSIDY AND TANF ADMINISTRATION

Government

- **United States. Administration for Children and Families. Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, (2001) [Welfare-to-work transitions for parents of infants: In-depth study of eight communities \[Final report\]](#) Princeton, NJ: Mathematica Policy Research**
A study of welfare-to-work transitions for parents with infants in eight communities within six states
- **United States. Dept. of Health and Human Services. Office of Inspector General. Office of Evaluation and Inspections, (1999). [Head Start, TANF, and child care needs assessments](#). (OEI-05-98-00540). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General**
A description of efforts to assess family needs and provide support services to low-income families receiving Head Start, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) subsidies

Universities and Research Organizations

- **Adams, Gina, Holcomb, Pamela A., Snyder, Kathleen, Koralek, Robin, Capizzano, Jeffrey. (2006). [Child care subsidies for TANF families: The nexus of systems and policies](#) Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.**
The first part of a three-part study of the interaction between state and local welfare-to-work programs and child care assistance programs, focusing on administrative structures, protocols and interagency coordination as they affect TANF parents.
- **Adams, Gina, Koralek, Robin, Martinson, Karin. (2006). [Child care subsidies and leaving welfare: Policy issues and strategies](#) Washington, DC: Urban Institute**
The second part of a three-part study of the interaction between state and local welfare-to-work programs and child care assistance programs, focusing on child care subsidy use by parents in transition from TANF to employment
- **Holcomb, Pamela A., Adams, Gina, Snyder, Kathleen, Koralek, Robin, Martinson, Karin, Capizzano, Jeffrey. (2006). [Child care subsidies and TANF: A synthesis of three studies on systems, policies, and parents](#) Washington, DC: Urban Institute**
A summary of findings from a three-part study of the interaction between state and local welfare-to-work programs and child care assistance programs, focusing on administrative structures, protocols and interagency coordination as they affect administrators and TANF parents, child care subsidy use by parents in transition to work, and the experiences of current and former TANF recipients with the subsidy system.
- **Snyder, Kathleen, Bernstein, Sara, Koralek, Robin. (2006). [Parents' perspectives on child care subsidies and moving from welfare to work](#) Washington, DC: Urban Institute**
The third part of a three-part study of the interaction between state and local welfare-to-work programs and child care assistance programs, presenting focus group data on the experiences of current and former TANF recipients with the child care subsidy system.

- Adams, Gina and Rohacek, Monica. (2002). [Child care and welfare reform](#) (Welfare Reform & Beyond Policy Brief No. 14). Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.
A brief on the effects of welfare reform on child care
- Loprest, Pamela, Schmidt, Stefanie, Witte, Ann D. (1999). [Welfare reform under PRWORA: Aid to children with working families](#) (Wellesley College Working Paper 99-12). Wellesley, MA: Wellesley College, Department of Economics.
An assessment of themes and impacts of welfare reform for states and families, including examinations of the "work-first" approach, child care funding and subsidies, and employment incentives

CHILD CARE SUBSIDY ADMINISTRATION

Government

- United States. Administration for Children and Families. (2000). [National Study of Child Care for Low-Income Families: State and Community Substudy: Interim report](#) Cambridge, MA: Abt Associates
A study of the responses of 17 states and 25 communities to the child care needs of low-income families.

University and Research Organizations

- Schulman, Karen, and Blank, Helen. (2006). [State child care assistance policies 2006: Gaps remain, with new challenges ahead](#). Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center.
An issue brief discussing results of a survey of state child care administrators investigating state child care policies regarding income eligibility limits, waiting lists, parent co-payments, and reimbursement rates.
- Carlson, Barbara, & Scharf, Rebecca. (2004). [Lost in the maze: Reforming New York City's fragmented child care subsidy system](#) New York: Welfare Law Center.
A report from the Welfare Law Center discussing the New York City child care subsidy system and offering focus group recommendations to help create an easy-to-use, seamless subsidy system.
- Adams, Gina, & Snyder, Kathleen. (2003) [Essential but often ignored: Child care providers in the subsidy system](#) (Occasional Paper No. 63). Washington, DC: Urban Institute
An analysis of subsidy policies and practices that affect providers serving subsidized families, focusing on the amount providers are paid to care for subsidized children and how providers experience the subsidy system
- De Wys, Shelley, Brandon, Richard N., and Maher, Erin J. (2003). [Child care subsidy benefit structures: A cross-state comparison](#) Unpublished manuscript.
An examination of variations in child care subsidy policies across states, focusing on affordability, financial accessibility, adequacy, work incentives, and equity

- Edie, David, Adams, Diane B., Riley, Dave A., Roach, Mary A. (2003). [Alternative policy options for child care subsidy programs](#) (Public Policy Options for Early Care and Education Report No. 1). Madison: University of Wisconsin—Extension. *A report on Wisconsin's child care subsidy program and possible policy alternatives.*
- Mezey, Jennifer, Lombardi, Joan, Schumacher, Rachel, Greenberg, Mark H., Hutchins, John. (2002). [Unfinished agenda: Child care for low-income families since 1996: Implications for federal and state policy](#) Washington, DC: Center for Law and Social Policy. *An in-depth study of the child care experiences of low-income parents, child care providers, and state child care systems since 1996 in Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Texas, and Washington*

CHILD CARE SUBSIDY ACCESS & USE

Government

- United States. General Accounting Office (GAO). (2002). [Child care: States exercise flexibility in setting reimbursement rates and providing access for low-income children](#) (GAO-02-894). Washington, DC: U.S. General Accounting Office. *A study of how states set reimbursement rates and how subsidies and co-payments permit families to use various forms of child care.*
- United States. Administration for Children and Families, (1999). [Access to child care for low-income working families](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families *This report explores the magnitude of the gap between the demand for child care subsidy assistance and the actual acquisition among low-income, subsidy eligible families.*

Journals

- Scott, Ellen K., London, Andrew S., Hurst, Allison. (2005). [Instability in patchworks of child care when moving from welfare to work](#) *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 67(2), 370-386. *A longitudinal study of welfare recipients in Cleveland, Ohio, examining the stability of child care arrangements during welfare-to-work transitions*
- Shlay, Anne B., Weinrub, Marsha, Harmn, Michelle, Tran, Henry. (2004). [Barriers to subsidies: Why low-income families do not use child care subsidies](#) *Social Science Research*, 33(1), 134-157. *An analysis of why child care subsidies are underutilized among African-American families in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

Universities and Research Organizations

- Grobe, Deana, Weber, Roberta B. (Bobbie), Davis, Elizabeth E. (2006). [Why do they leave?: Child care subsidy use in Oregon](#) Corvallis: Oregon State University, Family Policy Program
An investigation into why Oregon parents leave the child care subsidy system and a comparison of those findings to studies examining why eligible parents did not take up subsidies
- Snyder, Kathleen, Banghart, Patti, and Adams, Gina. (2006). [Strategies to support child care subsidy access and retention: Ideas from seven Midwestern states](#). Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.
An overview of the child care subsidy policies and strategies in place in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin in 2005, focusing on access to and retention of subsidies
- Schaefer, Stephanie A., Kreader, J. Lee, & Collins, Ann. (2005). [Predictors of child care subsidy use](#) New York: Child Care & Early Education Research Connections
A review of research on factors influencing child care subsidy use among eligible families
- Witte, Anne D., Queralt, Magaly. (2005). [An examination of the duration of child care subsidies in Rhode Island: Impacts of policy changes and cross state comparisons](#) Wellesley, MA: Wellesley College, Department of Economics
An examination of the duration of child care subsidies in Rhode Island: Impacts of policy changes and cross state comparisons.
- Kinukawa, Akemi, Guzman, Lina, Lippman, Laura. (2004). [National estimates of child care and subsidy receipt for children ages 0 to 6: What can we learn from the National Household Education Survey?](#) Washington, DC: Child Trends.
A research brief using data from the National Household Education Survey, 2001, to examine the characteristics and child care arrangements of children aged zero to six receiving child care subsidies.
- Lowe, Edward D., & Weisner, Thomas S. (2004). ["You have to push it--who's gonna raise your kids?": Situating child care and child care subsidy use in the daily routines of lower-income families](#) (The Next Generation Working Paper Series No. 7). New York: MDRC.
A study of the factors explaining the low and episodic use of center-based child care and child care subsidy programs, on the basis of data from the New Hope Ethnographic Study.
- Southern Institute on Children and Families. (2004) [Status report on state implementation efforts: Action plan to improve access to child care assistance for low-income families in the South](#) Columbia, SC: Southern Institute on Children and Families.
A survey of actions taken by southern states to implement a regional action plan to improve access to child care assistance for low-income families

- **Witte, Ann D., and Queralt, Magaly. (2003) [Impacts of eligibility expansions and provider reimbursement rate increases on child care subsidy take-up rates, welfare use and work](#) (NBER Working Paper Series No. 9693). Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research.**
An assessment of the influence of expanded child care subsidy eligibility, and increased provider reimbursement rates, on demand for care, cash assistance receipt, and employment among current and former welfare recipients in Rhode Island
- **Adams, Gina, Snyder, Kathleen, and Sandfort, Jodi R. (2002) [Getting and retaining child care assistance: How policy and practice influence parents experiences](#) (Occasional Paper No. 55). Washington, DC: Urban Institute.**
A study of parents' interaction with the child care subsidy system and how state and local subsidy policies and practices affect parents' experiences. Particular attention is paid to the process of applying for and retaining subsidies.
- **Adams, Gina, Snyder, Kathleen, and Sandfort, Jodi R. (2002) [Navigating the child care subsidy system: Policies and practices that affect access and retention](#). (Series A, No. A-50). Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.**
A brief that summarizes the results of a study of child care subsidy policies and practices that can affect parents' interaction with the subsidy agency, the subsidy application process, and subsidy retention.
- **Meyers, Marcia K., Peck, Laura, Davis, Elizabeth E., Collins, Ann, Kreader, J. Lee, Georges, Annie, Weber, Roberta B. (Bobbie), Schexnayder, Deanna Schroeder, Daniel G., Olson, Jerry A. (2002) [The dynamics of child care subsidy use: A collaborative study of five states](#) New York: Columbia University, National Center for Children in Poverty**
A multi-state study of child care subsidy dynamics from July 1997 to June 1999 in Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Texas.
- **Weber, Roberta B. (Bobbie), Davis, Elizabeth E. (2002). [Continuity and stability: Dynamics of child care subsidy use in Oregon](#) New York: Columbia University, National Center for Children in Poverty.**
A comparative study of child care subsidy programs in five states, focusing on length of subsidy receipt and provider stability for Oregon families, compared to those in Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, and Texas
- **Witte, Anne D., Queralt, Magaly. (2002). [Take-up rates and trade offs after the age of entitlement: Some thoughts and empirical evidence for child care subsidies](#) (NBER Working Paper Series No. 8886). Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research**
A discussion of different methods for calculating rates of child care subsidy take-up rates, with examples from Rhode Island

To view and sort the full search results from which these resources were selected, you may use the [Recreate Complete Search](#) function.

This selected Resource List was developed by staff of Child Care & Early Education *Research Connections*. Special thanks to Patti Banghart.