



# EARLY CHILDHOOD RESOURCE CENTER

*A Ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System*



# Community Development Block Grant to Open Licensed Child Care Programs



- **Location:** City of Canton
- **Grant Award:** \$40,000 grant to local nonprofit (Early Childhood Resource Center) in 2018 and 2020;
- **Goal:** Open new licensed family child care homes;
- **Target:** Low-income woman in the City of Canton:
- **Components:** recruitment, small start-up grant, training/credentialing and support through . Family Services licensing process;
- **Today:** 11/12 child care programs are still open and serving children.



# Early Childhood Resource Center



## Regional Presence

Early Childhood Resource Center  
United Way Building  
37 N. High Street, Suite D  
Akron, Ohio 44308



Early Childhood Resource Center  
1718 Cleveland Ave NW  
Canton, OH

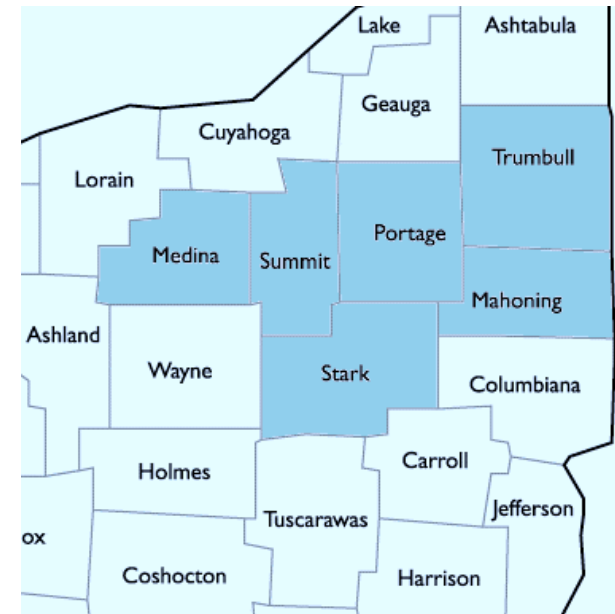


Early Childhood Resource Center  
6414 Market Street  
Boardman, Ohio 44512

# SDA 4-Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Agency



- Increase awareness of early childhood options for providers, families, and community stakeholders;
- Increase quality of child care services by providing professional development and technical assistance to programs; and
- Provide information to communities on the importance of quality and the impacts of early childhood education.



SDA 4 includes Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, & Trumbull counties.

# Targeted Services



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- Training and quality improvement of child care providers
- Consumer and Parent Education & Support Services (referrals, education, coaching)
- SPARK: Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids (home visitation for families)
- Recruitment of foster parents and Kinship resources (Ohio KAN)





# Workforce Supports & Professional Development



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Increase the supply of high-quality early education and care

- Step Up To Quality
- Tailored technical assistance to meet the needs of child care programs
- Workforce supports including the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential
- Training and recruitment
- Advocacy
- Child care business Supports



# Child Care Referrals/ Consumer Education



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Finding high-quality child care in your community can be confusing.

- Where do you start?
- Who do you call?

**The Early Childhood Resource Center is the Child Care Referral hotline!**

Parents or agencies can call 877-691-8521 to be connected to one of our referral specialists OR parents can search on our website.

We encourage parents to ***Follow the Stars*** when looking for child care!

Wait—HOW many stars are good? Is there high-quality child care near my house? What should I look for when I visit?



Where should I start?

We are the experts: let us help!

Call us at (877) 691-8521  
or visit [ecresourcecenter.org](http://ecresourcecenter.org)



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A Child Care Resource and Referral  
Agency proudly serving Mahoning,  
Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, and  
Trumbull counties.

## What To Look For When Choosing Child Care

- Step Up To Quality star rating
- Clean, safe environment
- Open door policy
- Knowledgeable, trained staff
- Age-appropriate activities and environments
- Appropriate supervision
- Written policies and procedures
- Warm, responsive teachers
- Licensing inspection results posted

Let us help you Follow the Stars to find high-quality child care that meets your needs.

Call us at (877) 691-8521  
or search online anytime at  
[ohiochildcarefinder.org](http://ohiochildcarefinder.org)



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proudly serving Mahoning, Medina, Portage,  
Stark, Summit, and Trumbull counties.

# Types of Home-Based Providers



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## **Type A family child-care home**

- 6 to 12 children (or 4 to 12 children if 4 are under age 2)
- Licensed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS)
- Eligible for the Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC) program

## **Type B family child-care home**

- 1 to 6 children (not more than 3 under age 2)
- Licensed by ODJFS
- Eligible for the (PFCC) program license-exempt

## **License Exempt**

- 1 to 6 children (not more than 3 under age 2)
- Not eligible for the PFCC program



# Trend Data on Licensed Care in Ohio 2018-2022



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| Year      | Licensed Centers | Licensed Homes |
|-----------|------------------|----------------|
| June 2020 | 4165             | 2763           |
| June 2021 | 4224             | 2631           |
| June 2022 | 4175             | 2229           |

- The # of family child care homes are closing at a high rate
- The # of child care centers has rebounded since 2020



# Why funding for this type of project supports economic development



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- Canton had pockets within the city that were child care deserts
- The pandemic created shortages of child care slots, hindering families' ability to work
- Neighborhood-based care decreases transportation needs
- Empowers women to open small business
- Small businesses create tax revenue for the city
- Providing a high-quality start for our future leaders
- Disrupted child care arrangements reduce worker productivity, lead to staffing challenges, and harm businesses' bottom line.
- According to Ready Nation, based on Ohio's share of the nation's overall domestic product, the state's economy could be losing about 1.7 Billion each year in earnings, productivity and revenue

## Why Communities Invest in Economic Development



"It empowered women to have their own businesses, at the same time educating our babies and early toddlers to be high achievers"

-Rollin Seward

Former Director of Development, City of Canton

# Family Child Care Project Components



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- Recruitment
- Needs assessment to identify barriers
- Building/home evaluation
- Enrollment in Child Development Associate (CDA) credential training classes
- Step Up to Quality support to earn star rating
- Small start-up grants
- Coordination with inspectors and licensing
- Coaching and technical assistance



# Family Child Care Project

## Components-Coaching Visits



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- Created a business plan
- Create an action plan and timeline
- Review licensing rules
- Obtain staff qualification for initial licensure
- Developing handbook, disaster plans, enrollment forms, and operating procedures
- Create marketing plan
- Create a supply list and budget
- Designing and setting up the learning environment
- Contacting inspectors and ODJFS licensing staff to complete initial inspections



# Project Barriers

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- Structural changes needed to meet licensing
- Background check issues
- Access to health care to get a physical
- Not having the equipment needed
- Transportation
- Lack of income and time during start-up
- Planning, writing and business acumen
- Not meeting basic required licensing components



# Lessons Learned



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- Larger start-up grants
- Flexibility in the project budget to move money to meet individual needs
- Pair with other grants/supports for add-on services and case management
- Utilize shared services
- Use existing templates and forms as a framework
- Individualization of the process is key!



# Meet Ky'Nesia



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Ky'Nesia has three daughters. Before receiving this grant, she was a home health aide working a midnight shift. Ky'Nesia loves kids and saw this project as an opportunity to spend more time at home with her girls while following her passion. Ky'Nesia was one of 12 women to open a family child care business through this project.

“It’s a very good program. It helps people become employed with a business of their own that they can make a livable income, and it helps family in their immediate area that are looking for childcare options.”



# Project Receives National Recognition



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In 2021, the Early Childhood Resource Center, along with the City of Canton, received the National Community Development (NCDA) Audrey Nelson Community Development Certificate of Distinction award for our project.



Contact: Rollin Seward  
City of Canton Department of Development  
(330) 489-3258  
[rollin.seward@cantonoio.gov](mailto:rollin.seward@cantonoio.gov)  
Web: [www.cantonoio.gov](http://www.cantonoio.gov)



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 4, 2021

Contact: The Early Childhood Resource Center - Sandy Turner (330) 491-3272

**MEDIA ADVISORY: Audrey Nelson Community Development Certificate of Distinction Award awarded to the Early Childhood Resource Center of Canton**

The Early Childhood Resource Center received a 2021 National Community Development Association (NCDA) Audrey Nelson Community Development Certificate of Distinction Award.

The award is named in honor Audrey Nelson, who was the first Deputy Executive Secretary of NCDA. She grew up in an inner-city Chicago neighborhood which was a target area for local Model Cities Program, a precursor to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

The City of Canton awarded the Early Childhood Resource Center \$40,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds for a year-long program that helped Canton residents start their own family child care businesses.

The program, which began in August 2018, paved a career path for the participants while increasing the amount of high-quality child care that is available in the Southeast and Northeast areas of Canton.

An Early Childhood Specialist worked with each participant to create an individual plan. Weekly monitoring and coaching was provided that included physical set up of each location, starting a personal business and training that included Health & Safety and Family Child Care Business Practices.

All of the participants have worked to complete their Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential, a national credential for early childhood. To achieve this, the participant must attend classes, acquire 480 working hours, produce a required portfolio, be observed and take the credential test. The Early Childhood Specialist led the class and coached the participants. The credential is required for the state qualification of Step Up to Quality rating that all child care providers must receive to enter into a contract to provide child care with the state.

The grant also provided environmental materials and developmentally appropriate toys for each participant to use in their new family child care businesses.

With these new family child care businesses open seven days a week, they could impact 90 children!





# Questions?



# Contact Information



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**Thank you!**