

- Between March 2007 and March 2010, children receiving Colorado Child Care Assistance increased from **36,087** to **40,474**, a **12.2%** increase.
- The State of Colorado has decreased funding for the Child Care Assistance Program in spite of the increased demand for services.

CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

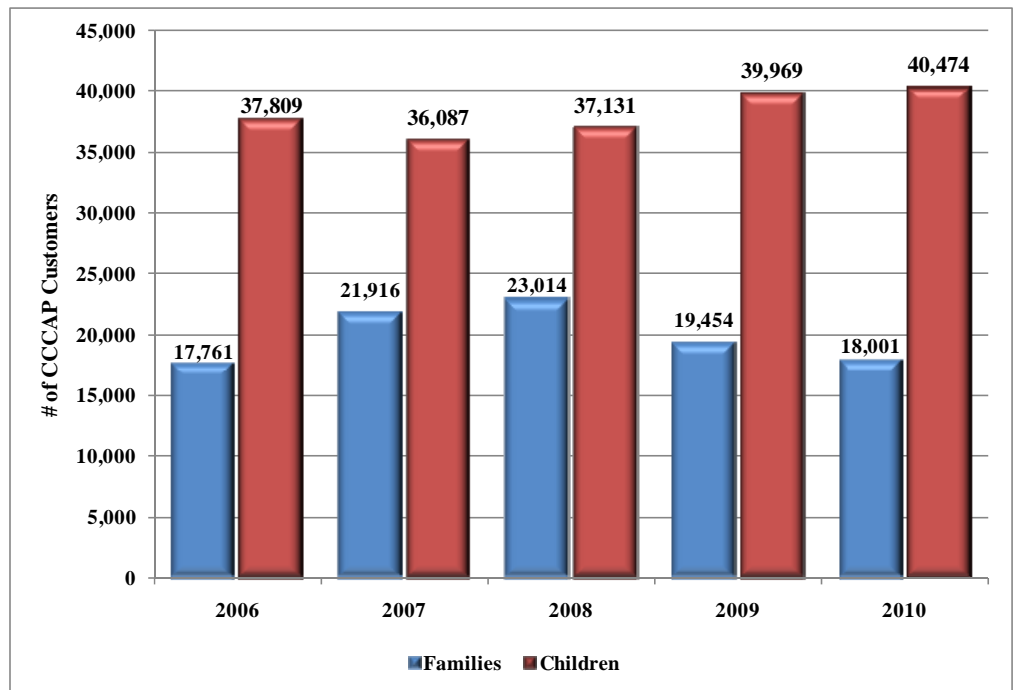
The Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) is designed to meet the critical need for child care assistance for low-income families. **CCCAP is not an entitlement program** and counties must manage to their allocations by making program eligibility adjustments.

The cost of child care can limit the ability of parents to work outside the home. The provision and effective delivery of child care assistance is critical to the continuum of any public assistance system. The availability of child care assistance is critical in helping families on the road to gainful employment and self-sufficiency.

Child Care Caseloads

Between March 2007 and March 2010, children served by CCCAP increased **12.2%**, from **36,087** children to **40,474** children in need.

Statewide CCCAP Customers, 2006-2010



Source: CCCAP annual program information. Reports generated by State of Colorado, for 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010

Funding

The CCCAP allocation is formula-developed and approved by the Child Care Allocation Committee. The formula determines each county’s allocation of the State’s Child Care Assistance Appropriation.

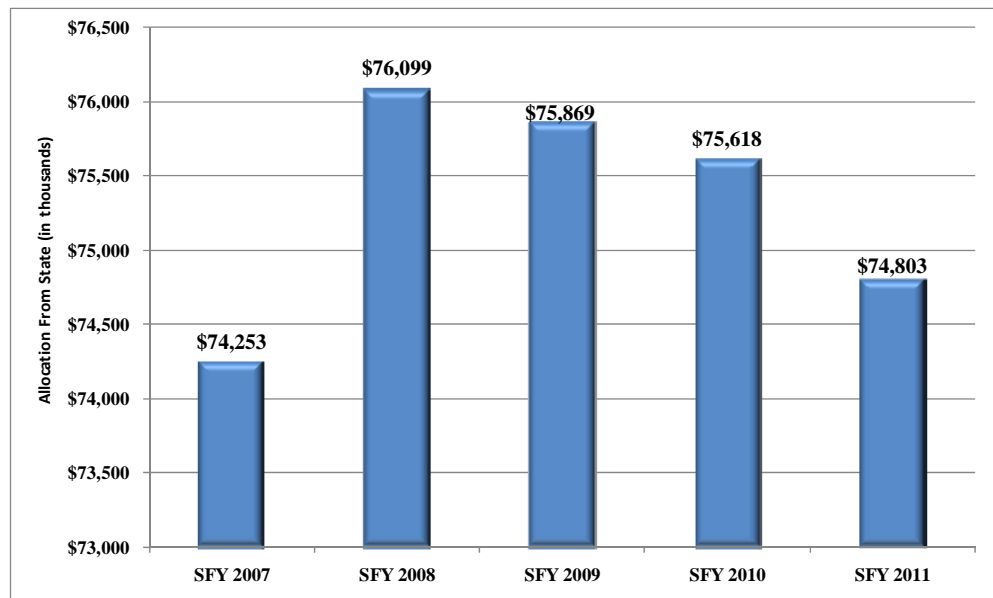
- The average CCCAP dollar amount per child has decreased by **5.9%** from FY2007 to FY2011

The allocation is comprised of three factors:

- Utilization/market rates
- Child population (ages 0-12)
- Food Assistance population (0-11)

Despite rising demand for CCCAP, the State has consistently decreased the annual allocations available to serve clients with this benefit over the past four State fiscal years. Child care funding from the State and Federal line items have continued to decrease since 2008.

Colorado Statewide CCCAP Allocations, 2007-2011



Source: Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care Allocation Reports

Counties have the ability to make changes to the CCCAP program to meet the needs in their communities. Counties can transfer up to 30% of TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) dollars to supplement the costs of child care. Due to SB 08-177, which required counties to spend down reserves, coupled with the recent economic downturn and demand for TANF, most counties no longer have the TANF reserves to supplement child care assistance.

Counties have had to make difficult decisions to continue to serve the neediest families, while staying within available funding. These changes have included:

- Implementing waiting lists of clients for benefits
- Reducing the gross income to a lower percentage of the Federal Poverty Level and thereby decreasing the number of households eligible for CCCAP.
- Eliminating or reducing CCCAP for parents who were pursuing education or training.
- Requiring clients to cooperate with Child Support Enforcement