

# Child Care Resource Service

Annual Report FY2011



Serving Champaign, Douglas,  
Iroquois, Macon, Piatt, and Vermilion  
Counties in East-Central Illinois



Child Care Resource Service strives to support families, child care providers, students, and communities in their commitment to provide high quality child care to all children and to make it accessible and affordable. We offer assistance and education as they work to develop excellence as advocates and professionals for children.



Child Care **CCRS**  
Resource Service

## From the Directors: Angela Wiley and Brenda Eastham



Child Care Resource Service (CCRS), established in 1985, is an information and educational referral service for families, child care providers, employers, and communities located in Champaign, Douglas, Iroquois, Macon, Piatt, and Vermilion Counties in East-Central Illinois. CCRS is funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) and is located on the University of Illinois campus. As part of the Department of Human and Community Development, CCRS is located in Bevier Hall where just over 30 staff are housed. In addition, also employed are an Iroquois/Vermilion county liaison, Mental Health Consultant, and several students.



We believe:

- Training and educating a qualified workforce leads to current and future success for children and families.
- Quality early care and education allows children to learn and families to work – a formula for success.
- Child care assistance provides supports so families can make the best choices for their children while they achieve economic self-sufficiency.

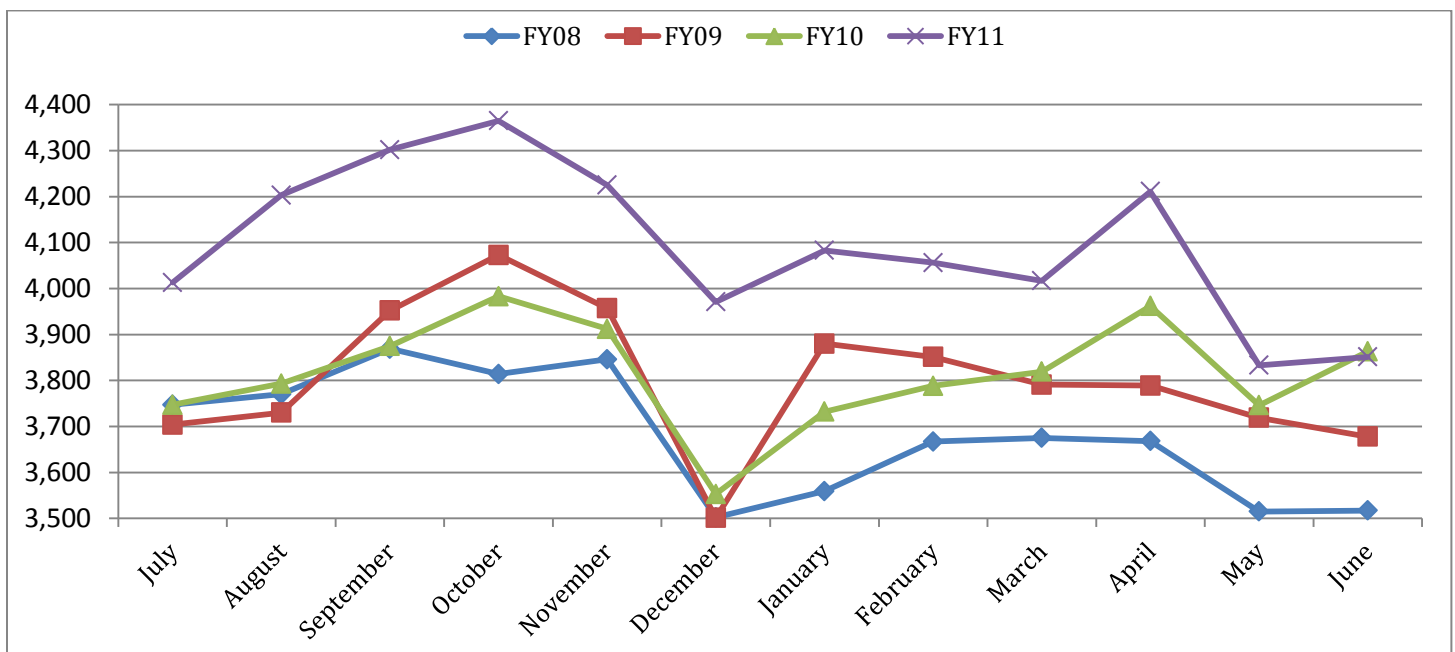
We are committed to strengthening families and child care providers.

## Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

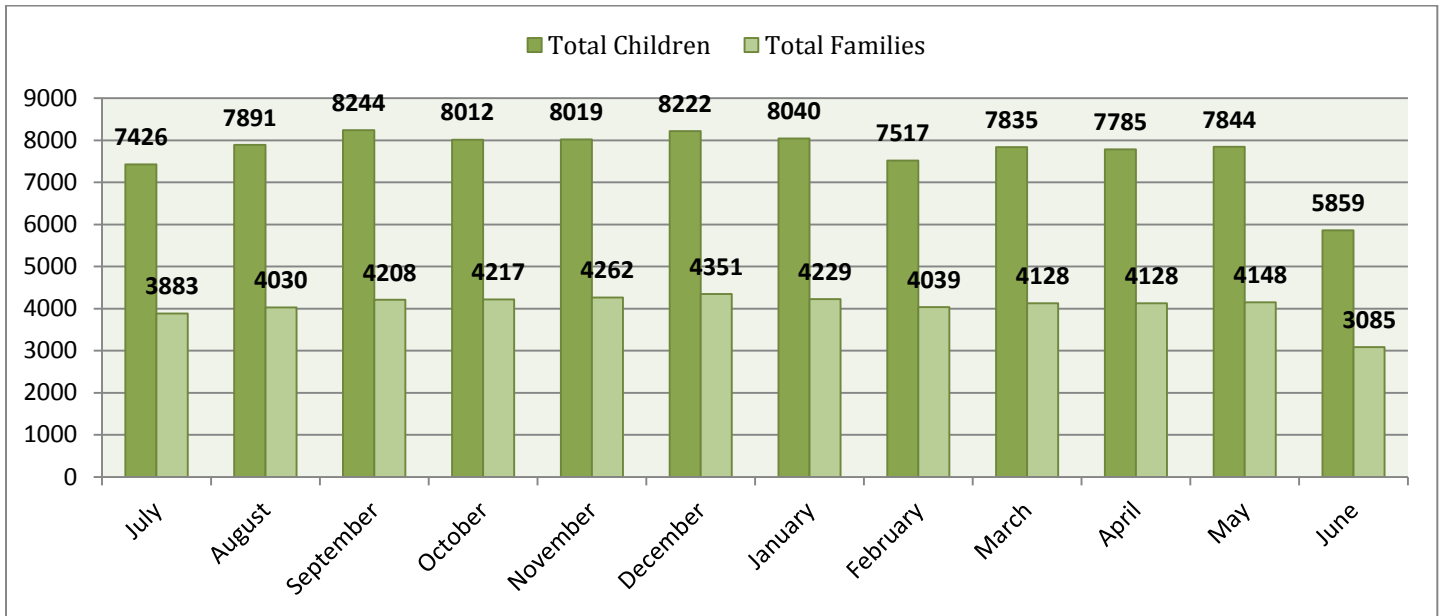
**Coordinators:** Chad, Lisa, and Darrin

**Staff:** Alice, Angela, Anna, Ashley, Carla, Dottie, Lulu, Marc, Megan, Richelle, Sarah C., Sarah W., Stacy, Tenaya, Valerie, and Whitney

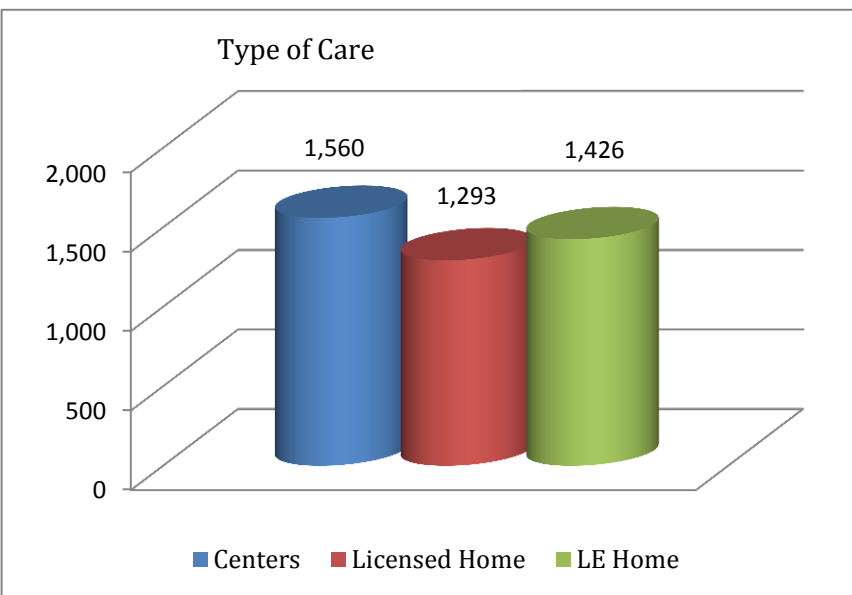
The CCAP program is funded through the IDHS to assist income-eligible families in paying for child care services. CCRS administers this program in a 6 county region. In order to be eligible, parents need to be working, going to school or training, or engaged in another work-related activity. During FY2011, the CCAP funding paid for a portion of the child care costs for an average of 4,094 families per month. As shown below, the client load has increased over the past fiscal years.



Furthermore, as shown in the chart below an average of 7,724 children were served each month.



Each family approved for the program is able to select a legally operating child care provider that best suits the needs of their individual family. As seen in figure below, on average, slightly more families choose center care over



family child care homes. In the figure at the bottom of the page, centers and homes are broken down by licensed and license-exempt care. In addition, license-exempt care is broken down by the relationship of the provider to the child and where the care is provided.

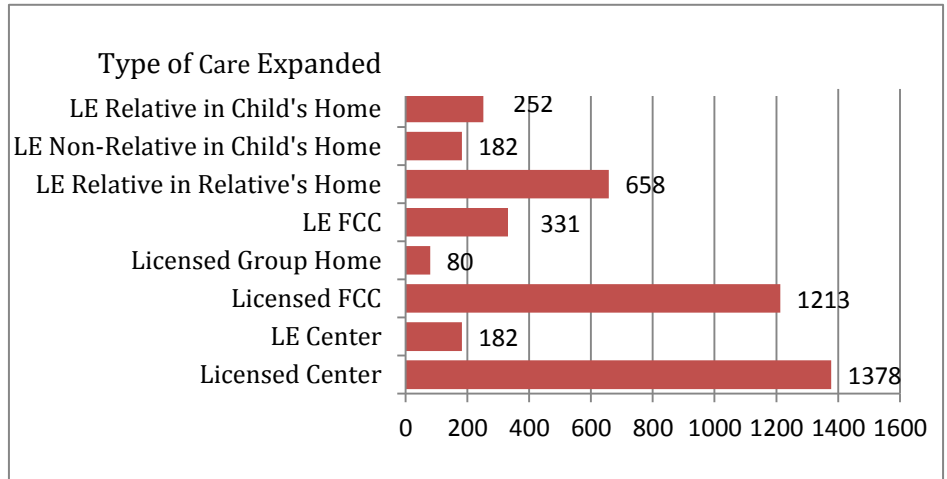
As part of the program, families are assessed a co-payment amount when approved that is based on their income, family size, and the number of children in care. The co-payment is paid directly by the family to the child care provider. DHS then pays the remaining payment, up to the maximum state rate directly to the provider. If a provider charges above that rate, the parent is

responsible for paying the additional charges. In FY2011 in our six counties, \$176,868.23 was assessed per month to families to pay for their child care. An additional \$2,510,652.47 was paid per month by IDHS for child care. This figure includes \$26,252.02 paid for the quality add-on for Quality Rating System (QRS) rated programs. For more information about this funding, please see the QRS section in this report.

**Income Eligible Guidelines:**

Family Size	Max. Monthly Income
2	\$2,268
3	\$2,857
4	\$3,446

The eligibility table is based on 185% Federal Poverty Level.



## Child Care Referrals

**Staff:** Ashley, Dottie, Jackie, Jenny, Kathy, Lou Anne, Milagros, and Tina

When a parent is looking for a child care provider, they can call CCRS for a referral—a listing of child care providers that may be able to provide child care for them. In fiscal year 2011, staff referred 1,192 families for care for a total of 1,851 children. The majority of families (90%) who called for referrals had incomes at least 200% below the state median income. The families that requested referrals lived in 20 different counties and 7 states. Five percent (5%) were teen parents. The majority of callers, (80%) were looking for care for employment reasons. Of those parents responding to follow-up surveys, 68% said they had no problem finding care, 25% said there were not enough openings, 18% said cost was a problem, and 10% said less-than-satisfactory quality prevented them from finding child care.



**Type of Care** – CCRS staff maintain a parent a database of child care providers. Basic information is collected on

### Requested day care for 1,851 children

- 26% were birth to 15 months of age
- 19% were age 3 or 4
- 45% were from Champaign County

each provider to give to families looking for child care. Because visits or monitoring of programs is not done through our agency, CCRS does not give a recommendation. Parents are provided with indicators of quality care to assist them in finding the

program that best suits their needs. At the end of FY2011, CCRS had 865 child care providers on the database. The chart below shows the total number of child care facilities and capacity broken down by county and type of care. Centers include: Pre-school programs, School-Age programs, Park/Recreation programs, Head Start programs, and Preschool For All programs. All but 4 of the Family Child Care Programs (FCC) on the database are licensed. Centers are split evenly between licensed and licensed exempt.

**Average Rates** – The

average rates (shown below) for our six-county region are broken down by county and type of care. FCC homes and Centers (which include all types listed above) are listed as average full-time weekly

County	Number of Facilities		Capacity	
	FCC	Centers	FCC	Centers
Champaign	367	103	3112	8875
Douglas	29	5	268	97
Iroquois	46	12	373	334
Macon	63	40	590	3116
Piatt	25	7	226	251
Vermilion	143	25	1264	1530

rates. Statistics for which there were fewer than 3 providers were deleted.

County	Infant		Preschool		School Age (B/A)	
	FCC	Center	FCC	Center	FCC	Center
Champaign	\$135.50	\$233.87	\$125.51	\$173.66	\$88.03	\$98.64
Douglas	\$105.00	N/A	\$103.00	N/A	\$61.15	N/A
Iroquois	\$98.06	N/A	\$91.64	N/A	\$76.68	N/A
Macon	\$127.10	\$173.14	\$121.55	\$136.48	\$117.10	\$85.55
Piatt	\$113.00	N/A	\$103.13	N/A	\$86.67	N/A
Vermilion	\$106.25	\$151.19	\$97.12	\$111.30	\$71.50	\$68.50

## Data

**Staff:** Jenny, Brenda

A variety of the data that CCRS collects are confidential, and some requests for data, such as for direct mailing purposes, are not granted. In addition, our data is not available for commercial use or as a referral tool for use by another agency. However, agencies, schools, child care providers, college students, grant writers, and other non-profit organizations frequently use information from our databases to enhance their publications or services. In 2011, CCRS had a total of 20 requests for data and 16 were approved.

## Child Care Training

**Coordinator:** Lou Anne

**Staff:** Jackie and Jenny

The training department collaborates with child care associations and both state and local agencies within our six counties to meet the needs of child care providers with respect to training, education, and technical assistance. In fiscal year 2011, training staff offered 303 total trainings. Over 4,200 participants attended the trainings. The total participant hours were just over 10,190 hours. Of the 303 trainings offered, 169 were workshops, 60 series sessions, and 22 were cancelled. Of those trainings cancelled, 86% were cancelled due to low enrollment.



Of the 3,085 participants in workshops,

- ❖ 2,606 were licensed
- ❖ 60 did not accept CCAP children
- ❖ 970 were center teachers

Of the 1,080 participants in series sessions,

- ❖ 208 were license-exempt
- ❖ 950 were serving CCAP children

Of the 52 providers who participated in a self-study,

- ❖ 46 were licensed
- ❖ 23 were family child care owners

Highest attended trainings were:

- ❖ A Child With Autism (105)
- ❖ Vermilion Co. Child Abuse Conf. (68)

Community Collaborators included:

- ❖ Anita Purves Nature Center
- ❖ Asthma Coalition
- ❖ Champaign Co. Birth to 6
- ❖ Champaign Co. Child Abuse Prevention Coalition
- ❖ Danville Area Community College
- ❖ Decatur Area Education Coalition
- ❖ Directors Groups
- ❖ East Central Illinois AEYC
- ❖ Family Child Care Associations
- ❖ McCormick Tribune Center for Early Childhood

## Mental Health Consultant

**Staff:** Marilee Wright

The Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant offers CCRS childcare providers on-site consultations, technical assistance, and trainings regarding a variety of issues. In fiscal year 2010 Marilee provided 220 consultations with 155 hours of face-to-face service, 42 technical assistance contacts with 100 hours of face-to-face service, and 23 training hours for a total of 287 participants. The majority of providers requested Mental Health Consultation related to concerns about a child (71%), help working with parents (57%), or classroom/program issues (57%). Forty-two percent of the providers who received service reported the situation as an “urgent” concern.

## Resource Development and Outreach

**Coordinator:** Dottie

**Staff:** Kathy

Information about our agency’s service is shared at community fairs, employer events, children’s carnivals and parent fairs, fiestas, conferences, school open houses, and any other area where we can target those in need of services. In fiscal year 2011, outreach staff made 82 networking contacts and 13 Community Collaborations. Over 5200 materials were also shared with our communities. A total of 200 provider recruitment contacts were made with persons interested in becoming a child care provider or in opening a center. This includes 72 start-up packets, 52 welcome visits, and 24 follow up contacts.

# Quality Counts

## Quality Counts Van Program

**Staff:** Kathy

The van program is a community education program for child care providers and families they serve. It focuses on the issues of quality child care. In order to help child care providers enhance the literacy aspects of their programs, a key indicator of quality child care, CCRS regularly visits providers and offers literacy materials with the Quality Counts van. In fiscal year 2011, we visited 560 licensed family child care homes and 110 licensed child care center programs throughout our six counties. We also reached out to 70 license-exempt family child care homes to provide them with free books and community resources that they could keep in their homes.



## Quality Counts Child Care Grants (QCCC Grants)

**Coordinators:** Dottie and Tina

The QCCC grants are provided by IDHS to improve the quality and the capacity of programs throughout the state. In FY2011, CCRS gave out \$263,359 to local child care providers through 3 different options.

1. Competitive Grants – this option ran similarly as in the past. Providers sent in an application with supporting documentation and a group of community members scored the grants based on a state evaluation tool. Sixty-one (61) providers submitted a competitive grant. Fifty-six (56) were funded.
  - ❖ 31 grants were funded to receive, maintain, or move up on the QRS rating scale.
  - ❖ 19 grants were funded to maintain DCFS standards.
  - ❖ \$149,822 through 42 grants was for learning environment materials.
  - ❖ \$99,050 through 28 grants was for facility improvements.
  - ❖ 25 of those grants awarded were to center programs; 31 to FCC.
2. Training Grants – this option included 8 training workshops focused on the Environmental Rating Scales (ERS). Participants in this option were guaranteed a grant if they completed all the required trainings and submitted an ERS of their own program with a plan on how to use the grant to improve their ERS scores.
  - ❖ 14 grants were received; 6 requested and received funding.
  - ❖ All funds, \$17,404, were used for learning environment materials.
3. License-exempt Program – this option allowed licensed exempt programs to take a portion of the QRS level one training in order to complete a tier rating. Although 14 completed the requirements, none requested funding.



## Quality Counts Quality Rating System (QRS)

**Coordinator:** Tina

The Quality Counts QRS system assists Illinois child care programs in providing quality care for children and their families. This is a voluntary program available to license-exempt family child care providers, licensed family/group home child care providers, and licensed centers. Technical assistance, training, and supports are available to all providers. The system offers progressive levels which providers can achieve depending on the type of care they provide. Specific quality criteria must be met to achieve each level. Once a child care provider has met the requirements for that level, they will be recognized for their achievement. Those providers serving families using the CCAP program will receive a quality add-on rate to the standard CCAP reimbursement rate. In FY2011, just over 1,250 participant hours of training related to QRS were completed. Several providers are working on accreditation as well, which will make their programs eligible for a quality rating at Star Level 3 once completed. At the end of FY2011, there were 12 licensed centers and 4 licensed family/group home child care providers taking full advantage of this program by receiving their star award. An additional 30 license-exempt providers have obtained a quality tier rating allowing them to receive the quality add-on rate. During the past year, \$26,252 was paid to child care providers in our 6 counties for achieving their QC QRS rating. This was in addition to their daily state rate and parent co-payment.

## Infant Toddler Program

**Coordinator:** Barb

The Infant-Toddler Specialist provides a number of services to child care providers, including consultations and training on topics related to developmentally-appropriate practice with infants, toddlers, and two-year-olds. In addition, assistance in understanding and using the Infant Toddler Environmental Rating Scale (ITERS) is provided. In FY2011, activities included 16 series sessions and 65 workshops. Training topics include:

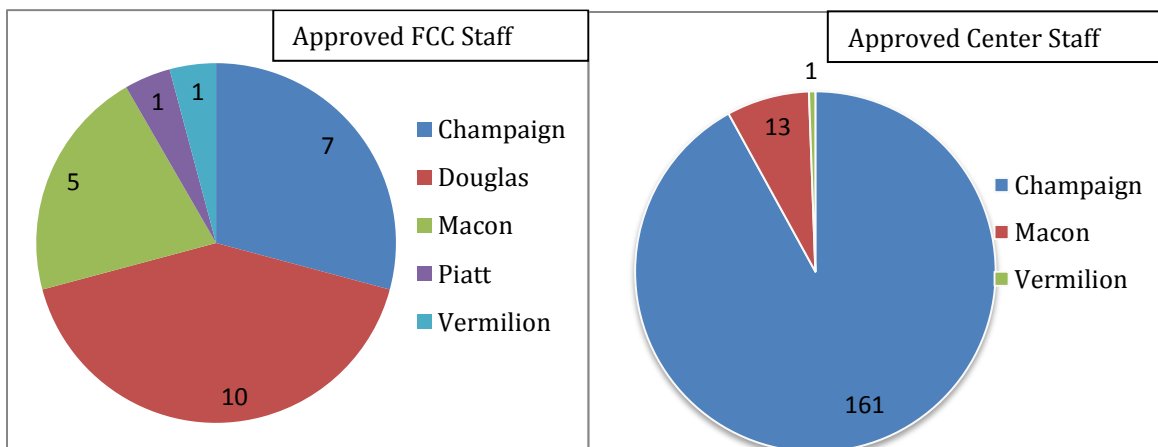
- ❖ Room arrangement
- ❖ Separation anxiety
- ❖ Music and movement
- ❖ Routines for infants, toddlers, and twos
- ❖ Milestones of development
- ❖ Cooking with toddlers

## Grants

### Professional Development Funds (PDF) and Accreditation Assistance Funds (AAF)

**Coordinator:** Brenda

These grants are designed to support individual pursuit of professional development in early care and education. Providers participating in educational events or those trying to obtain a variety of early childhood credentials that meet grant guidelines can be reimbursed for their expenditures. In FY2011, \$16,486 through 199 grants was distributed to individual providers. Of the 199 providers approved for a grant, 168 were from Champaign County.



Center program staff (175) were more likely to apply for funds than family child care staff (24). The two graphs shown to the left show how many providers were approved in each county and between FCC and Center

staff. Counties not shown had no providers receive a grant. Providers were only denied a grant if the request was ineligible due to the type of request. AAF funds enable providers to pursue program accreditation. Five (5) providers received a total of \$3,475 for accreditation assistance.

## Research

**Staff:** Angela, Milagros, Samantha, Maria, and Rebecca

IDHS is required by federal legislation to conduct two research projects every other year. First, the *Illinois Market Rate Survey* of licensed child care facilities which assesses what child care providers charge for child care. The information gathered in this survey serves as the bases for establishing the payment rates for subsidized child care. Second the *Illinois Salary and Staffing Survey of Licensed Child Care Facilities* documents the average wages, salaries, and benefits paid to child care practitioners throughout the state; the qualifications of new practitioners hired during the previous two years; the number of qualified practitioners who apply for vacant positions; and the difficulties centers face in engaging and retaining practitioners. Additional research projects in which CCRS is involved include the Latino Needs Assessment, Abriendo Caminos: Preventing Childhood Obesity Among Latinos, The Impact of the Recession on Child Care In Illinois, and the Attachment to Child Care Providers.

**Additional CCRS Staff:** Office Manager – Mindy, Iroquois County Liaison – Mary Ellen, Web Specialist – Ashley, Media Specialist – Donna, Hispanic Liaison – Milagos, and Administrative Services Coordinator – Darrin.

### **Community Advisory Boards**

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