



What is SELF?

SELF is the Seacoast Early Learning Fund created by the Community Child Care Center of Portsmouth, an additional funding program to help low income families afford childcare.

Why is SELF needed?

More Parents in the Workforce

The number of children with all caregiving parents in the workforce has increased dramatically since post-World War II when most women in married-couple families cared for children in the home. In **1969, 56% of mothers in married-couple families with children under age 15 were in the workforce, which rose to 74% in 2009***. From 2006-2008, 65.8% of New Hampshire children under six had all caregiving parents in the labor force compared to a 62.5% national rate.

Increased Demand for Subsidized Childcare

As the percentage of young children with all parents working increases, so does the need for reliable, high quality, affordable child care. Child care slots are subsidized by funding from the State of NH DHHS through the federal Child Care and Development Fund for income eligible New Hampshire families. The subsidy program is run by the Child Development Bureau in the Department of Health and Human Services.

As the effects of the recession linger, more New Hampshire families have difficulty affording child care.

Demand for child care subsidies increased nearly 17% in the 16 months before the end of FY 2009. With a flat budget from FY 2008 to FY2010, the Child Development Bureau could not meet the growing demand fueled by the recession*.

In September 2009, New Hampshire announced the state's first-ever waiting list for child care assistance. In December, 2010, 1955 children were on the New Hampshire wait list for childcare assistance with an average wait time of seven to nine months. New Hampshire was one of 19 states which had waitlists for childcare assistance in 2009 and 2010.* As of February 2011, the wait list was suspended and all eligible families could again receive immediate assistance. The Child Development Bureau will start another wait list on July 1, 2011 (NH DHHS 2011c).

CCCC's mission since 1967

Our mission is to provide high quality child care and early education for children age eight weeks to 12 years, to give priority to children that are in need, and to take a leadership role in advocating for children and families. We do this by working with State and Local Municipalities to provide tuition assistance and scholarships for families in need. In order to meet our mission to serve low income families (29% of our families qualify for child care tuition assistance or scholarships currently), we ask for support from all of the seacoast community.

SELF is supported by DONORS LIKE YOU who want to see families succeed!

You can help families continue to work, and create a stable environment for children today. Your tax-deductible donation today will be building stronger seacoast families for the long term. Call 603-422-8223 today!

*All data referenced from 2011 New Hampshire Statewide Data Book available at www.kidscount.org

"The tuition scholarships I have received from the SELF program have been a big help. I had been barely making it. I am a single father and don't have help from the other end, so I am trying to catch up all the time. The cost of living here, rent alone, makes things difficult. That little bit of support helps me to achieve some other goals for my household.

Community Child Care Center works in the best interest of the child. What they are doing to help parents out benefits everyone. It is not their job to go the extra mile, but they do and that has made a world of difference."

- Kindergarten parent