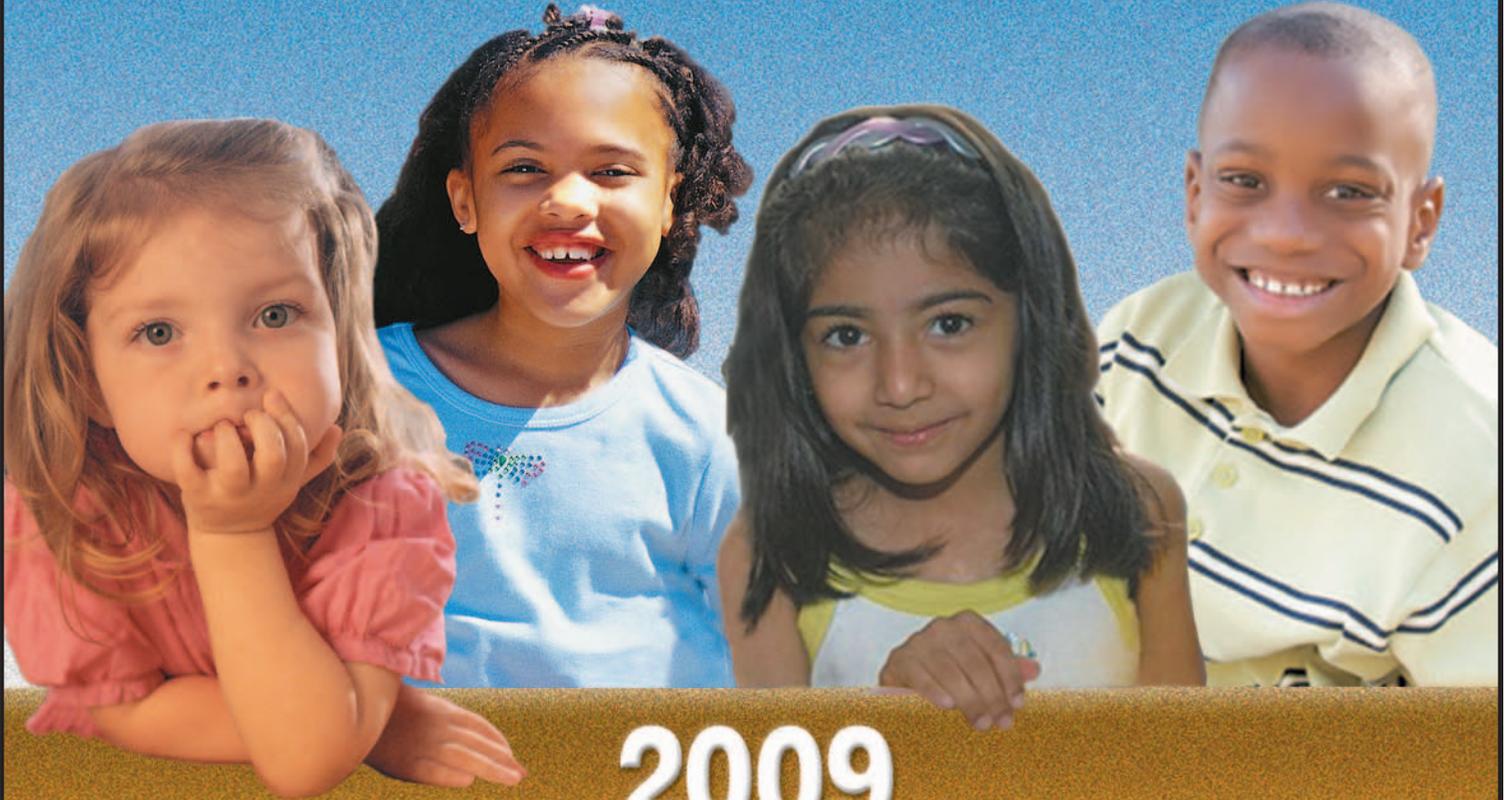


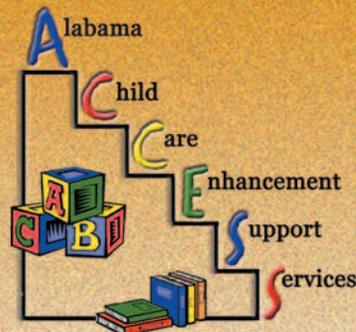


# ALABAMA CHILD CARE



2009

# MARKET RATE SURVEY



Child Care Division

# **Alabama Child Care Market Rate Survey: 2009**

**Office of Child Care Subsidy  
Child Care Services Division  
Alabama Department of Human Resources**

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## Executive Summary

The following report presents the results from the 2009 Market Rate Survey of Child Care Costs in Alabama. This survey was conducted under the auspices of the Office of Child Care Subsidy (located within the Child Care Services Division, Alabama Department of Human Resources) during May and June, 2009. The survey consisted of a questionnaire that was disseminated to all known providers of child care services in Alabama. Of the 3,589 providers contacted, 1,511 (or 42.1 percent) responded to the survey. Completed surveys were received from child care providers in all 67 Alabama counties and from all nine of the child care management regions that are administered by the Office of Child Care Subsidy. Of those providers responding to the survey, 67 percent were classified as “day care centers,” 21 percent as “family day care homes,” and 11 percent as “group day care homes.” Moreover, 71 percent of the responding providers represented licensed facilities, with the remaining 29 percent constituting “exempt” providers. Of the 1,511 providers that responded, 1,278 provided child care services to children under 2½ years of age, 1,289 to children aged 2½-5 years, and 1,268 to children of school age.

According to the survey, the average weekly rate charged for full-time care for children under 2½ years of age (all child care facilities combined) is just under \$103. As has been seen in prior years, the average charge is significantly lower for older children. The average weekly rate charged for children aged 2½-5 years is \$98, while the average rate for school age children (i.e., 5 years of age and above) is \$94. Child care rates also vary significantly according to the type of child care facility, the child care management region in which the facility is located, and whether the facility is located in a rural or urban county. Consequently, the average weekly full-time rate charged for child care (again irrespective of age category) is highest for day care centers, lowest for group day care homes, with family day care homes falling in between those two averages. Likewise, average weekly rates are higher for all age categories in the Huntsville, Mobile, Birmingham, and Montgomery child care management regions than in the Opelika, Dothan, Ft. Payne, Tuscaloosa, and Talladega regions. Finally, average weekly rates are higher for all age groups of children in the state’s urban counties than in its rural counterparts.

Based upon the market rate analyses, DHR established a new reimbursement rate for families receiving child care subsidies (effective October 1, 2009). These new reimbursement rates are within \$15 or less of the market rate average for all age groups of children and all categories of providers (i.e., day care centers, family day care homes, and group day care homes) across all nine of the state’s child care management regions.

## Highlights

- Average weekly child care rates for full-time enrollees in Alabama's child care facilities vary from just under \$103 for children under 2½ years of age, to \$98 for children aged 2½-5 years, to \$94 for children of school age. As has been seen in prior survey years, child care costs decline with the age of the child, with weekly rates for children of school age only around 91 percent of those for children under 2½ years of age.
- The difference in weekly child care rates between licensed and exempt facilities varies significantly across all age categories. On average, exempt facilities charge between \$8 and \$11 more than licensed facilities depending upon the age of the child.
- Child care rates in Alabama vary significantly according to the type of provider, with average weekly costs (regardless of the age category of the child) highest for day care centers and lowest for group day care homes. Family day care homes, on average, charge more than group day care homes, but less than day care centers.
- Average weekly child care rates are significantly higher in the Huntsville, Mobile, Birmingham, and Montgomery child care management regions than in the Opelika, Dothan, Ft. Payne, Tuscaloosa, and Talladega regions. This pattern holds for all age categories of children.
- Within the nine child care management regions, child care rates typically are highest in the Birmingham region and lowest in the Dothan region.
- DHR subsidies for child care costs (effective 10/1/2009) are within \$15 or less of the average market rate for all age groups of children and for all categories of providers (day care centers, family day care homes, and group day care homes) in all nine of the state's child care management areas.
- Child care providers overwhelmingly indicate satisfaction with their ability to contact and the responsiveness of Child Care Management Agency staff, with more than 80% of all respondents reporting that they were either satisfied or highly satisfied with these issues.
- Child care providers overwhelmingly indicate satisfaction with the accessibility and effectiveness of provider training opportunities afforded them. More than 80% of all respondents report that they were either satisfied or highly satisfied with training opportunities.
- While questions about actual costs incurred by child care providers were included on the survey, many providers chose not to respond to these questions. Consequently, the data derived from this portion of the survey were unstable and were deemed to be unreliable.



## I. Introduction

Historically, providing for the care of children was not the major issue that it has become in our modern society. As recently as the 1960's, it was considered to be customary for mothers to stay at home following the birth of a child, and women were expected to continue this nurturing process until that time when the child left home as an adult. In an earlier era, extended family networks served to help mothers with their child care obligations. Grandmothers, aunts and other female relatives could step in to relieve the mother when the need arose. While extended family networks still exist today, particularly among certain cultural groups, their impact on child care is more limited than it was in the past. Moreover, economic pressures have impinged upon the family unit to the degree that most mothers no longer feel they can remain in the home and completely devote their lives to the rearing of children. The "stay-at-home" mother is no longer the norm, and most women participate in the labor force out of economic necessity. According to the 2000 census, 63 percent of the mothers with children under six in Alabama were members of the labor force, a percentage that is likely to continue to increase over time.

As mothers have increasingly entered the workforce over the last half-century, the number and variety of child care settings has grown accordingly. Although the growth of two-income households has pushed family incomes higher, the high cost-of-living in American society causes most parents to carefully consider the options when contemplating child care providers. In many Alabama communities, child care choices are limited and the problem of obtaining good care at an affordable price remains a vexing concern.

Finding quality, affordable child care is an especially great challenge for the state's low-income families, which constitute a significant percentage of the Alabama population. Most of these low-income families could not afford child care outside the home without the subsidies that are provided through the Alabama Department of Human Resources, Office of Child Care Subsidy (or "OCCS"). The OCCS is responsible for directing and approving the development, implementation and administration of all services authorized under the Child Care Subsidy Program in the State of Alabama. Funding for the program is provided through the federal Child Care and Development Fund and state general funds. The mission of the program is to provide Alabama's low-income families with equal access to affordable and quality child care services as they participate in work, education, and/or training activities.

The Child Care Subsidy Program is administered by five child care management agencies operating in nine Alabama regions. Each region serves from 5 to 12 counties. In July 2009, the program provided assistance with child care to 26,636 children. While the resources available through OCCS are limited, its goal is to provide as much support as possible to the state's economically disadvantaged families. Without this support, many parents (including a substantial number of single mothers) would not be able to work, to support their families, and to make quality contributions to the state's economy.

In an effort to ensure that quality care remains within the reach of families receiving child-care subsidies, the Child Care Bureau within the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, periodically requires OCCS to conduct market rate surveys of child care costs across the state. Prior to the present survey, the last market rate survey was completed in 2007. The results of the current survey will be used by OCCS to assess the need for adjustments in the state's child care support payments and as a planning tool for other

programs and offices within the Alabama Department of Human Resources (or “DHR”). It will also provide information to the public concerning child care costs throughout the state, allowing the comparison of rates in different geographic locales, across various categories of child care providers, and for different age groups of children.

The next two sections present information on the research methodology used for the market rate survey and a description of the survey participants. Those sections are followed by detailed analyses of the market rates for child care throughout Alabama, and the results of an inquiry into provider satisfaction with Child Care Management Agency services and training opportunities.

## II. Survey Design and Methodology

A questionnaire was developed by the Office of Child Care Subsidy (located in the Child Care Services Division of the Alabama Department of Human Resources) in collaboration with the Auburn University Montgomery Center for Government and Public Affairs for use in collecting 2009 market rate data from the state's 3,589 child care providers (see Appendix A on page 19 for the questionnaire). Only minor modifications were made to the questionnaire from the one used in the market survey conducted in 2007. Consequently, pretesting of the data collection instrument was limited to internal review by the Child Subsidy staff and the survey consultants, as previous assessments had confirmed the validity of the questionnaire. The questionnaire was designed to supply all information that was critical to evaluating the current cost of child care across the state for various categories of providers, but at the same time, it needed to be concise enough so that it would not seriously impact on the time constraints or patience of those completing the questionnaires.

Among other questions, those taking the survey were asked to indicate the type of child care facility that they operated (day care center, family day care home, group day care home, etc.) *and* the weekly charge for their child care services. "Types of child care facilities" were further classified into "licensed" and "exempt" facilities. Also, providers were asked to supply child care charges according to age groups served (i.e., under 1 year of age, 1 year olds; 2 year olds, 3 year olds, 4 year olds, and those 5 or more years of age). Although providers were asked to indicate the weekly child care rate charged to families, in some cases they reported a monthly rate instead. In those instances, the reported monthly rate was converted to a weekly rate using 4.333 as the dividing factor. Additionally, where weekly or monthly charges were reported in the form of a range (e.g., from \$100-\$125 per week), the higher value in the range was entered as the weekly or monthly rate.

In addition to identifying information (such as name of the facility and address), respondents were asked to supply the name of the Alabama county in which the facility was located. Because of the limited number of child care facilities in many Alabama counties, combined with the questionnaire response rate, it was not feasible to report child care rate data individually for all 67 counties. Thus, county-level information was aggregated into "child care management regions" (of which there are nine in Alabama) for detailed analysis and evaluation.

The Office of Child Care Subsidy maintains a database that includes information on family and group daycare homes, licensed centers and exempt from licensure facilities. A mailing list of all facilities appearing on this database was prepared and a postcard was mailed to the operator of each facility asking them to complete the 2009 market rate survey online at a designated web address. The postcard included a short message from the Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Human Resources indicating the purpose of the survey and the importance of participating. Additionally, the Office of Child Care Subsidy sent a letter to provider professional associations to request their assistance in publicizing and encouraging their membership to complete the survey. This strategy, in conjunction with the multiple wave research design employed for the online survey, was intended to maximize the number of providers completing the questionnaire. The online questionnaire resulted in 785 useable surveys. Those providers not completing the online survey were then mailed a paper copy of the questionnaire in the second wave of the research design. The paper version of the questionnaire

was accompanied by a return envelope that was self-addressed and stamped, along with a more detailed letter from the Commissioner urging providers to complete the survey and stressing the importance of a timely response.

Of the 3,589 market survey forms that were mailed, 1,511 (or 42.1 percent) useable surveys were returned. Although a high response rate is always desirable, no patterns were observed in the responses that would indicate the presence of significant bias. Data provided in the survey indicates broad participation across the state and among all categories of child care providers.

While the Office of Child Care Subsidy coordinated the development of the mailing list, the mailing of the questionnaires, and questionnaire collection, the Center for Government and Public Affairs (Auburn University Montgomery) was responsible for the compilation of the data, data analysis, and report preparation. Upon receipt of the completed questionnaires, a code key was developed and the resulting data were entered into an Excel spreadsheet. Coder checks were completed in order to ensure the accuracy of the data input from the paper questionnaire, and raw data were collapsed into new variables where appropriate. Following the completion of the data sanitizing/preparation process, the final database was exported into SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) for analysis.

### III. Description of the Survey Participants

Of the 1,511 facilities responding to the survey, the majority (or 67.2 percent) were classified as “day care centers.” Within the “day center” category, 57.4 percent were licensed day care centers and 42.6 percent were exempt. Approximately half (or 47.5 percent) were for-profit centers and one-third (32.4 percent) were church-affiliated centers. These were followed by child care centers in educational facilities (10.1 percent) and “all other centers” (9.9 percent). Church-affiliated day care centers may either choose to be exempt from licensure or decide to be licensed. Of the 325 church-affiliated centers responding to the survey, 78 percent were in the exempt category.

Approximately 21 percent of all facilities responding were “family day care homes,” with “group day care homes” comprising nearly 11 percent of the respondents. For DHR purposes, a “day care center” is defined as “a facility licensed by the Department, or otherwise legally authorized, which receives more than 12 children during the day or night.” A “family day care home,” on the other hand, is “an individual who is licensed by the Department to provide care as the sole caregiver in a private residence, other than the eligible child’s residence, for no more than six children during the day or night.” Finally, the Department defines a “group day care home” as “an individual licensed by the County Department to provide care in a private residence, other than the eligible child’s residence, for at least seven, but not more than 12, children during the day or night.

Of the 1,511 child care facilities that were surveyed, 1,278 indicated that they offered services for children below 2½ years of age. Comparatively, the number of facilities providing services for children aged 2½-5 years was 1,289, and those providing services for school-age children was 1,024. For all facilities, approximately 77 percent offered child care services to all age categories.

Survey responses were received from facilities in all 67 of the state’s counties, ranging from one response in sparsely-populated Wilcox County to 222 responses from Jefferson County (by far, the most populous county in the state). The county-level data were collapsed into OCCS’s nine “child care management regions” (which range from 5 to 12 counties). The Birmingham region (at 21.4 percent of all facilities responding) was most highly represented, followed by Mobile (16.0 percent), Huntsville (14.7 percent), Montgomery (12.0 percent) and Dothan (8.6 percent). Responses from facilities in the Ft. Payne, Tuscaloosa, Talladega and Opelika regions each were in the 6 to 7 percent range in terms of representation in the survey.

Licensed providers (totaling 70.6 percent of those responding) are much more highly represented in the study population than exempt providers (28.7 percent). However, there are over twice as many licensed facilities in the state as exempt facilities. Additionally, there is some likelihood that facilities licensed by DHR may treat the receipt of a survey from the Department more seriously than their exempt counterparts (hence, be characterized by a higher response rate).

More than two-thirds (or 69.5 percent) of the responding facilities said that they received either full or partial reimbursement for child care costs through the DHR Child Care Subsidy Program. Of the respondents whose clients were receiving subsidies, 33.4 percent reported that at least half of the children they served were receiving a child care subsidy.

In summary, the number of responses (i.e., at 1,511) is large enough to provide relatively extensive analysis of the data, including cross-tabulations and the examination of data for regions within the state. All areas of the state (i.e., counties and regions) are represented in the study population, with no significant bias detected relative to those who chose to respond to the survey.

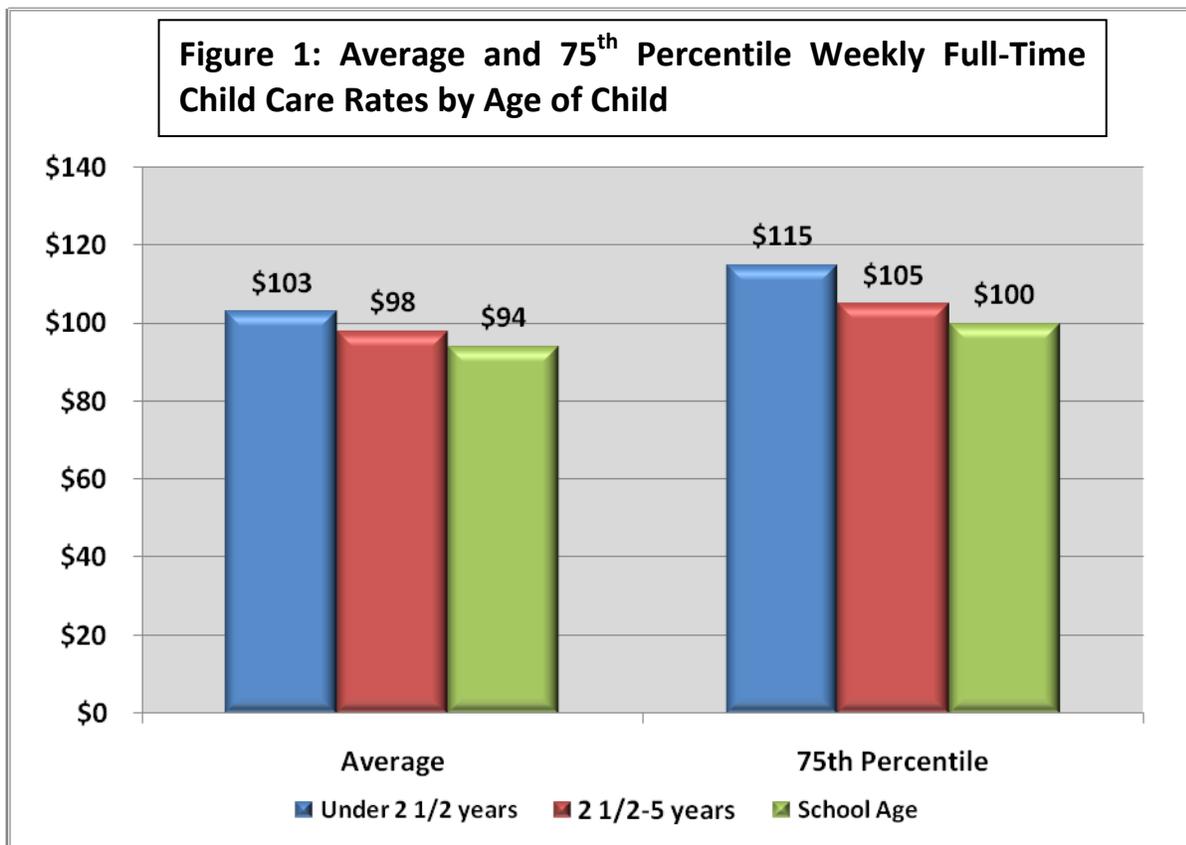
## IV. Market Survey Results

### Statewide Child Care Rates

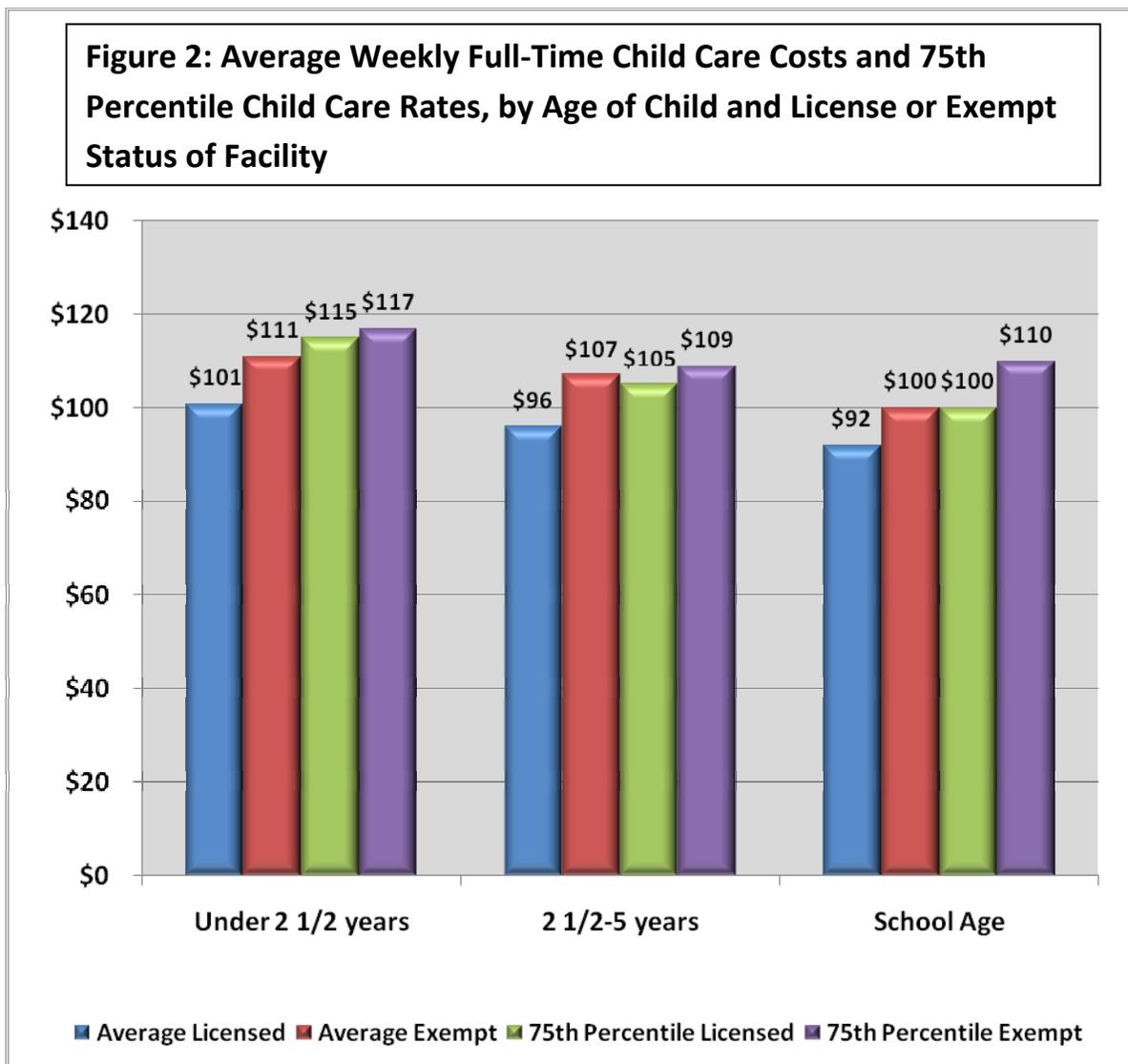
#### 1. All Child Care Facilities Combined

According to the 2009 market survey (see Figure 1 below), average full-time child care rates for all facilities combined in Alabama (i.e., day care centers, family day care homes, and group day care homes, whether licensed or exempt) were just under \$103 per week for children under 2½ years of age, \$98 per week for children aged 2½-5 years, and \$94 per week for children of school age. Thus, child care costs decline with the age of the child, with average full-time weekly costs for school-age children only about 91 percent of those for children under 2½ years of age.

In Alabama, the weekly child care rate at the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile for children under 2½ years of age was just under \$115, according to the 2009 market survey (Figure 1). This means that 75.0 percent of the state's child care facilities charged \$115 or less per week for child care for children under 2½ years, while 25.0 percent of the facilities charged more. The 75<sup>th</sup> percentile rate value was just over \$105 for children aged 2½-5 years and \$100 for children of school age.



There is wide variation in the weekly child care rates for licensed versus exempt facilities (Figure 2). On average, exempt facilities charge a higher rate for child care across all age categories, with the difference ranging from \$8 to \$11 dollars. The 75<sup>th</sup> percentile rates for exempt facilities are also higher, although the difference is not as great, suggesting that there is greater variation in rates among licensed facilities when compared to exempt facilities.



## 2. Types of Child Care Facilities

The examination of aggregated data for the type of child care facility can mask important differences that may exist in child care rates from one facility type to another. Certainly, the

structure of child care facilities vary widely in Alabama. Some facilities are designed more formally as stand-alone, for-profit businesses. Others are much less formal, with many of these operated out of homes (varying in size by the number of children served). Still others are affiliated with churches and/or other non-profit agencies.

Child care facilities participating in the 2009 market cost survey were subdivided into the three major categories: day care centers (facilities serving more than 12 children, including for-profit centers, churches, non-profit agencies, educational facilities, etc.); family day care homes (serving 6 children or fewer), and group day care homes (serving from 7 to 12 children). The data contained in Table 1 (below) indicate that child care rates vary significantly among these three categories. As can be seen from this Table, average weekly, full-time rates are several dollars more at all three age levels for children enrolled in day care centers as opposed to those receiving care in family day care homes and group day care homes. The lowest weekly child care fees are charged by group day care homes. Family day care homes, on average, charge slightly more than group day care homes, but less than day care centers. Day care centers charge significantly higher rates than other types of facilities, with anywhere between a \$6 to \$15 difference in their rates compared to those of family day care centers, depending on the age of the child.

	Under 2 1/2 Years		2 1/2 to 5 Years		School Age	
	Average	75 percentile	Average	75 percentile	Average	75 percentile
<b>Day Care Centers</b>	\$109	\$122	\$103	\$110	\$97	\$105
<b>Family Day Care Homes</b>	\$94	\$102	\$92	\$100	\$91	\$100
<b>Group Day Care Homes</b>	\$89	\$100	\$86	\$98	\$83	\$90

## Regional Child Care Rates

### 1. All Child Care Facilities Combined

Just as child care costs vary according to “type of facility,” one can also expect to encounter regional variations in the rates that are charged. These variations reflect differences in the socioeconomic status levels of the state’s population, competitive forces within the market place, and various other factors (such as the mix of facility types within a given region). Table 2 (found on page 14) presents data for OCCS’s nine child care management regions, including the average market rates and the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile rates charged by all child care providers combined. As in other sections of the report, data are disaggregated according to the age of the child.

The data indicate that child care rates are perceptively higher in the Huntsville, Mobile, Birmingham, and Montgomery regions than in the other regions of the state. Child care rates are typically highest in the Birmingham region, followed by the Huntsville region, Mobile region, and Montgomery region. Of the other five child care management regions, rates are generally lowest in the Dothan region. The regions with the highest rates contain the state’s largest cities, while those with lower rates reflect smaller cities and a more rural orientation.

Regional variations in child care rates can readily be observed when the range of costs is examined. Thus, the average market rate for children under 2½ years of age in the Birmingham region is \$34 higher than the average rate for that age group in the Dothan region (or 40 percent higher). It is \$30 more for children aged 2½-5 years in the Birmingham region than in the Dothan region, and \$28 more for school-age children in the Birmingham region than in the Dothan region. Similar variations also emerge when 75<sup>th</sup> percentile rates are examined.

	Under 2 1/2 Years		2 1/2 to 5 Years		School Age	
	Average	75 percentile	Average	75 percentile	Average	75 percentile
<b>Region 1: Huntsville</b>	\$110	\$123	\$104	\$110	\$96	\$105
<b>Region 2: Mobile</b>	\$108	\$123	\$102	\$112	\$98	\$106
<b>Region 3: Birmingham</b>	\$119	\$128	\$112	\$123	\$106	\$125
<b>Region 4: Montgomery</b>	\$102	\$118	\$96	\$103	\$92	\$100
<b>Region 5: Opelika</b>	\$97	\$110	\$94	\$105	\$90	\$100
<b>Region 6: Tuscaloosa</b>	\$90	\$100	\$89	\$100	\$88	\$100
<b>Region 7: Fort Payne</b>	\$92	\$95	\$88	\$94	\$83	\$90
<b>Region 8: Talladega</b>	\$86	\$95	\$84	\$90	\$90	\$95
<b>Region 9: Dothan</b>	\$85	\$92	\$82	\$89	\$78	\$85

## 2. Family Day Care Homes, Group Day Care Homes, and Day Care Centers

Table 3 (found on page xx) provides detailed market rate data for all nine child care management regions according to the type of facility (day care centers, family day care homes, and group day care homes). This Table is presented for reference and informational purposes for those who desire more in-depth information concerning child rate data and current market rates at the regional level. Generally, these data suggest that regional variations in child care costs continue to hold irrespective of the age of the child and the types of facilities in which children are enrolled.

However, it should be noted that day care centers appear to account for much of the large discrepancy found between the higher rates found in some regions. For example, Birmingham has an average rate for day care centers that is \$39 higher than the rate for Dothan for children under 2 ½ years of age. The Birmingham region also has an average day care center rate that is \$35 higher for children between 2 ½ and 5 years of age and \$33 higher for school age children than the Dothan region. This pattern holds for the other more populous regions as well. Comparatively, the discrepancy between the Birmingham and Dothan regions is much smaller for family day care and group day care homes. For family day care homes, the Birmingham region has average weekly rates that are only between \$19 and \$23 dollars higher than the Dothan region, depending on the age of the child. Likewise, group day care homes in the Birmingham area have rates that are between \$23 and \$30 higher than those in Dothan, dependent upon the age category for the child. Again, this pattern is maintained for Huntsville, Mobile and Montgomery as well.

**Table 3: Average and 75th Percentile Weekly Full-Time Child Care Rates for Day Care Centers, Family Day Care Homes, and Group Day Care Homes, by Age of Child and Child Care Management Region**

DAY CARE CENTERS						
	Under 2 1/2 Years		2 1/2 to 5 Years		School Age	
	Average	75 percentile	Average	75 percentile	Average	75 percentile
Region 1: Huntsville	\$116	\$130	\$107	\$118	\$102	\$110
Region 2: Mobile	\$116	\$131	\$106	\$117	\$100	\$114
Region 3: Birmingham	\$126	\$142	\$117	\$129	\$109	\$121
Region 4: Montgomery	\$110	\$126	\$98	\$105	\$93	\$100
Region 5: Opelika	\$106	\$120	\$102	\$109	\$95	\$105
Region 6: Tuscaloosa	\$101	\$107	\$97	\$102	\$94	\$100
Region 7: Fort Payne	\$89	\$95	\$85	\$92	\$83	\$90
Region 8: Talladega	\$87	\$98	\$83	\$90	\$81	\$90
Region 9: Dothan	\$87	\$94	\$82	\$88	\$76	\$85
FAMILY DAY CARE HOMES						
	Under 2 1/2 Years		2 1/2 to 5 Years		School Age	
	Average	75 percentile	Average	75 percentile	Average	75 percentile
Region 1: Huntsville	\$97	\$111	\$95	\$109	\$94	\$104
Region 2: Mobile	\$103	\$123	\$99	\$120	\$99	\$120
Region 3: Birmingham	\$104	\$122	\$98	\$110	\$99	\$110
Region 4: Montgomery	\$96	\$102	\$94	\$100	\$93	\$100
Region 5: Opelika	\$96	\$110	\$95	\$110	\$95	\$110
Region 6: Tuscaloosa	\$84	\$90	\$82	\$90	\$82	\$90
Region 7: Fort Payne	\$77	\$80	\$75	\$81	\$75	\$80
Region 8: Talladega	\$79	\$86	\$77	\$86	\$75	\$85
Region 9: Dothan	\$81	\$87	\$79	\$85	\$78	\$83
GROUP DAY CARE HOMES						
	Under 2 1/2 Years		2 1/2 to 5 Years		School Age	
	Average	75 percentile	Average	75 percentile	Average	75 percentile
Region 1: Huntsville	\$94	\$110	\$87	\$95	\$83	\$88
Region 2: Mobile	\$97	\$110	\$93	\$104	\$89	\$100
Region 3: Birmingham	\$109	\$127	\$105	\$123	\$101	\$120
Region 4: Montgomery	\$92	\$100	\$89	\$100	\$81	\$100
Region 5: Opelika	\$83	\$90	\$82	\$89	\$80	\$85
Region 6: Tuscaloosa	\$71	\$77	\$71	\$76	\$70	\$76
Region 7: Fort Payne	\$76	\$85	\$75	\$81	\$75	\$83
Region 8: Talladega	\$81	\$85	\$81	\$85	\$81	\$85
Region 9: Dothan	\$79	\$85	\$79	\$83	\$78	\$81

Table 4: Average Market Rates, 75th Percentile Rates and DHR Reimbursement Rates for Weekly Full-Time Child Care for Day Care Centers, Family Day Care Homes, and Group Day Care Homes by Child Care Management Region

DAY CARE CENTERS									
	Under 2 1/2 Years			2 1/2 to 5 Years			School Age		
	Average	75 percentile	DHR Reimbursement Rate 10/1/09	Average	75 percentile	DHR Reimbursement Rate 10/1/09	Average	75 percentile	DHR Reimbursement Rate 10/1/09
Region 1: Huntsville	\$116	\$131	\$101	\$106	\$117	\$92	\$100	\$114	\$87
Region 2: Mobile	\$116	\$131	\$101	\$106	\$117	\$91	\$100	\$114	\$85
Region 3: Birmingham	\$126	\$142	\$111	\$117	\$129	\$102	\$109	\$121	\$94
Region 4: Montgomery	\$110	\$126	\$95	\$98	\$105	\$83	\$93	\$100	\$79
Region 5: Opelika	\$106	\$120	\$91	\$102	\$109	\$87	\$95	\$105	\$80
Region 6: Tuscaloosa	\$101	\$107	\$86	\$97	\$102	\$82	\$94	\$100	\$79
Region 7: Fort Payne	\$89	\$95	\$74	\$85	\$92	\$70	\$83	\$90	\$68
Region 8: Talladega	\$87	\$98	\$73	\$83	\$90	\$70	\$81	\$90	\$70
Region 9: Dothan	\$87	\$94	\$75	\$82	\$88	\$73	\$76	\$85	\$69
FAMILY DAY CARE HOMES									
	Under 2 1/2 Years			2 1/2 to 5 Years			School Age		
	Average	75 percentile	DHR Reimbursement Rate 10/1/09	Average	75 percentile	DHR Reimbursement Rate 10/1/09	Average	75 percentile	DHR Reimbursement Rate 10/1/09
Region 1: Huntsville	\$97	\$111	\$91	\$95	\$109	\$86	\$94	\$104	\$79
Region 2: Mobile	\$103	\$123	\$88	\$99	\$120	\$84	\$99	\$120	\$84
Region 3: Birmingham	\$104	\$122	\$89	\$98	\$110	\$83	\$99	\$110	\$84
Region 4: Montgomery	\$96	\$102	\$81	\$94	\$100	\$79	\$93	\$100	\$78
Region 5: Opelika	\$96	\$110	\$81	\$95	\$110	\$80	\$95	\$110	\$80
Region 6: Tuscaloosa	\$84	\$90	\$69	\$82	\$90	\$67	\$82	\$90	\$67
Region 7: Fort Payne	\$77	\$80	\$63	\$75	\$81	\$60	\$75	\$80	\$60
Region 8: Talladega	\$79	\$86	\$64	\$77	\$86	\$62	\$75	\$85	\$60
Region 9: Dothan	\$81	\$87	\$66	\$79	\$85	\$64	\$78	\$83	\$63

Table 4 Continued

## GROUP DAY CARE HOMES

	Under 2 1/2 Years			2 1/2 to 5 Years			School Age		
	Average	75 percentile	DHR Reimbursement Rate 10/1/09	Average	75 percentile	DHR Reimbursement Rate 10/1/09	Average	75 percentile	DHR Reimbursement Rate 10/1/09
<b>Region 1: Huntsville</b>	\$94	\$110	\$93	\$87	\$95	\$86	\$83	\$88	\$75
<b>Region 2: Mobile</b>	\$97	\$110	\$82	\$93	\$104	\$78	\$89	\$100	\$74
<b>Region 3: Birmingham</b>	\$109	\$127	\$94	\$105	\$123	\$90	\$101	\$120	\$86
<b>Region 4: Montgomery</b>	\$92	\$100	\$77	\$89	\$100	\$74	\$81	\$100	\$66
<b>Region 5: Opelika</b>	\$83	\$90	\$68	\$82	\$89	\$67	\$80	\$85	\$65
<b>Region 6: Tuscaloosa</b>	\$71	\$77	\$64	\$71	\$76	\$63	\$70	\$76	\$63
<b>Region 7: Fort Payne</b>	\$76	\$85	\$67	\$75	\$81	\$65	\$75	\$83	\$64
<b>Region 8: Talladega</b>	\$81	\$85	\$81	\$81	\$85	\$66	\$81	\$85	\$66
<b>Region 9: Dothan</b>	\$79	\$85	\$64	\$79	\$83	\$64	\$78	\$81	\$65

Regional data concerning current DHR subsidy levels (as of 10/1/2009) for the various age groups of children and types of child care facilities (i.e., day care centers, family day care homes, and group day care homes) are presented in Table 4 (found on page 18). An examination of the reimbursement rates listed in Table 4 reveals that the DHR reimbursement rate is now within \$15 or less of the market rate average in all nine child care management regions for all age groups of children and all categories of providers. This figure is the same as it was for the 2007 market survey. While, in most instances, qualifying parents will be called upon to finance at least part of their child care costs because of the differential that exists between current DHR reimbursement levels and the rates charged by providers, in the current economic slowdown, at least the gap between cost and reimbursement has not widened.

## Child Care Management Agency Services and Provider Training

### 1. Satisfaction with Services and Training Opportunities

In addition to the market rate segment of the survey, providers were also asked to indicate their satisfaction with their ability to contact and the responsiveness of staff from the Child Care Management Agency (CMA), as well as their assessment of accessibility and effectiveness of training opportunities made available to child care providers. Table 5 presents the results of providers' satisfaction with the accessibility and responsiveness of CMA staff by child care management region.

Table 5: Provider Satisfaction with Ability to Contact and Responsiveness of CMA Staff by Child Care Management Region				
Satisfaction with ability to contact CMA Staff when needed				
	Highly Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Highly Satisfied
Region 1: Huntsville	3.2%	5.4%	58.4%	33.0%
Region 2: Mobile	3.7%	11.5%	58.6%	26.2%
Region 3: Birmingham	12.3%	22.5%	54.0%	11.2%
Region 4: Montgomery	4.6%	9.9%	54.6%	30.9%
Region 5: Opelika	2.4%	9.4%	61.2%	27.1%
Region 6: Tuscaloosa	3.4%	3.4%	56.3%	36.8%
Region 7: Fort Payne	4.3%	2.1%	67.0%	26.6%
Region 8: Talladega	4.8%	7.2%	50.6%	37.3%
Region 9: Dothan	2.9%	8.7%	61.2%	27.2%
Satisfaction with the responsiveness of CMA Staff				
	Highly Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Highly Satisfied
Region 1: Huntsville	2.7%	5.4%	57.6%	34.2%
Region 2: Mobile	3.2%	10.5%	60.0%	26.3%
Region 3: Birmingham	13.0%	26.1%	50.0%	10.9%
Region 4: Montgomery	5.3%	9.3%	54.7%	30.7%
Region 5: Opelika	2.3%	5.8%	66.3%	25.6%
Region 6: Tuscaloosa	2.3%	2.3%	60.9%	34.5%
Region 7: Fort Payne	1.1%	6.4%	67.0%	25.5%
Region 8: Talladega	3.7%	9.8%	50.0%	36.6%
Region 9: Dothan	2.0%	2.0%	68.6%	27.5%

As can be seen from Table 5, the overwhelming majority of respondents indicated a high level of satisfaction for both their ability to contact and the responsiveness of staff. For almost all regions, 80% or more of those surveyed responded that they were either satisfied or highly satisfied with the accessibility of CMA staff. The lone exception to that trend was the Birmingham region, where only 60-65% responded favorably to these questions.

Table 6: Provider Satisfaction with Accessibility and Effectiveness of Provider Training by Child Care Management Region				
	Satisfaction with the accessibility of Provider Training			
	Highly Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Highly Satisfied
<b>Region 1: Huntsville</b>	5.6%	12.4%	53.4%	28.7%
<b>Region 2: Mobile</b>	4.3%	10.2%	57.2%	28.3%
<b>Region 3: Birmingham</b>	9.8%	11.0%	64.0%	15.2%
<b>Region 4: Montgomery</b>	3.3%	8.0%	42.7%	46.0%
<b>Region 5: Opelika</b>	1.2%	7.1%	65.9%	25.9%
<b>Region 6: Tuscaloosa</b>	6.8%	12.5%	44.3%	36.4%
<b>Region 7: Fort Payne</b>	3.2%	8.5%	56.4%	31.9%
<b>Region 8: Talladega</b>	7.2%	6.0%	47.0%	39.8%
<b>Region 9: Dothan</b>	3.0%	6.9%	55.4%	34.7%
	Satisfaction with the effectiveness of Provider Training			
	Highly Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Highly Satisfied
<b>Region 1: Huntsville</b>	5.1%	8.5%	56.5%	29.9%
<b>Region 2: Mobile</b>	4.3%	5.4%	59.2%	30.4%
<b>Region 3: Birmingham</b>	7.1%	8.3%	67.6%	17.0%
<b>Region 4: Montgomery</b>	1.9%	3.2%	47.4%	47.4%
<b>Region 5: Opelika</b>	1.2%	3.5%	68.2%	27.1%
<b>Region 6: Tuscaloosa</b>	1.9%	9.3%	45.3%	43.0%
<b>Region 7: Fort Payne</b>	1.1%	6.5%	54.8%	37.6%
<b>Region 8: Talladega</b>	2.5%	6.2%	50.6%	40.7%
<b>Region 9: Dothan</b>	2.0%	5.9%	57.4%	34.7%

Table 6 presents the results of providers' responses to their level of satisfaction with the accessibility and effectiveness of provider training for each of the child care management regions. Again, the vast majority of those surveyed responded positively to these questions, with roughly 80% or more of respondents from all regions indicating that they were either satisfied or highly satisfied with the training offered.

## Providing Child Care Services

### 1. Child Care Provider Costs Incurred

As part of the survey, child care providers were asked to answer a series of questions about actual costs incurred in delivering child care services. Unfortunately, only 42% of our respondents chose to answer the child care cost questions. Moreover, the data on costs derived

from those providers responding to these questions was unstable, ranging from a low figure of \$20 per child to a high of \$10,059 per child. Because of the high proportion of respondents choosing not to answer these questions, and the extreme variation in cost estimates for those who did respond, it was determined that these data were unreliable, and consequently, no results are reported here.

## **2. Billing and Information**

Respondents were also asked about their preference for submitting DHR billing and receiving child care information electronically through the Internet. Of those responding to the question about submitting DHR billing (EAV-Enrollment Attendance Verification Form) and other information from DHR or the CMA via e-mail and the Internet, 48% indicated that they would prefer to handle submissions in that fashion. Likewise, of those responding to the question about receiving child care information from DHR or the CMA through e-mail and the Internet, 45% indicated that they would be amenable to that form of communication. Interestingly, this pattern of less than 50% of respondents indicating a preference for electronic billing and information dissemination held regardless of whether or not the child care facility was in an urban or rural area – thus Internet availability did not seem to be the reason for this finding.

## V. Summary and Conclusions

This report has presented the major findings from the 2009 market rate survey of child care providers conducted by the Office of Child Care Subsidy, Alabama Department of Human Resources. These findings are based on responses to a market survey questionnaire designed to determine the child care rates charged by various providers throughout Alabama. All known child care providers across the state were contacted for the survey, including both licensed and exempt facilities, day care centers, family day care homes, and group day care homes. Of the 3,589 known providers, 1,511 responded to the survey, yielding a response rate of 42.1 percent.

Survey responses were received from all of the state's 67 counties and from all nine of the child care management regions that are administered by the Office of Child Care Subsidy. Of the facilities that responded, 67 percent were classified as "day care centers," 21 percent as "family day care homes," and 11 percent as "group day care homes." Of the 1,511 providers who responded to the survey, 1,278 indicated that they offered services to children under 2½ years of age. The number of facilities providing services to children aged 2½-5 years was 1,289, while 1,268 providers offered services to school-age children. Licensed providers totaled 71 percent of all respondents, with exempt facilities comprising 29 percent of the sample. An examination of the survey response patterns did not indicate any identifiable areas of bias regarding those who returned questionnaires as opposed to those who did not.

The survey results indicate that the average full-time weekly rate (all facilities combined) for children under 2½ years of age in Alabama is currently just under \$103. The average weekly rate is slightly lower for children aged 2½-5 years (\$98) and lower still (\$94) for school-age children. Substantial differences were found in the weekly child care rates charged by licensed and exempt facilities across all age categories. On average, those facilities classified as exempt charge between \$8 and \$11 more per child than licensed facilities, depending upon the age of the child.

Child care rates also vary by the type of provider, with day care centers characterized by the highest average weekly fees, followed by family day care homes, and group day care homes. Additional analysis also revealed that average weekly costs are lower for all day care homes combined (i.e., family day care homes and group day care homes together) than for all other licensed facilities.

Child care rates also vary by region of the state. The results indicate that average weekly fees are higher in the Huntsville, Mobile, Birmingham, and Montgomery child care management regions than the other five regions (Opelika, Dothan, Ft. Payne, Tuscaloosa, and Talladega), irrespective of the age category of the children who are served or the type of provider. Average weekly rates for children under 2½ years in Birmingham, for example, are 40 percent (or \$34) higher than the average weekly rate in the Dothan region.

In examining DHR reimbursement rates for qualifying, low-income families vis-à-vis prevailing market rates, the data reveal that DHR rates are now within \$15 or less of the market rate average in all nine of the state's child care management regions for all age categories of children and for all types of providers (i.e., day care centers, family day care homes, and group day care homes). While, in most instances, DHR subsidies do not cover the full cost of child care for qualifying families, current rates (effective 10/1/2009) remain close to the market average.

The results of 2009 DHR Market Rate Survey will be used by the Office of Child Care Subsidy in assessing child-care subsidy rates and for policy review and program planning activities within OCCS. Likewise, it will be utilized by other offices within DHR, as well as other public and private entities across the state, to evaluate the status of child care delivery policy for the low-income. In that this report will also be made available to child care consumers, it provides information regarding what one can expect to pay for child care in the current market context, as well as variations in the cost of child care according to such factors as location and type of facility. The goal of OCCS is to provide financial support to qualifying low-income families who wish to work but who cannot afford the full cost of child care. The results of 2009 Market Rate Survey will provide direction in achieving that goal.

## Appendix A: Child Care Market Rate Survey Questionnaire

### Alabama Department of Human Resources CHILD CARE MARKET RATE SURVEY



Page 1 -

Please complete a separate survey for each Center/Home you operate by clicking on the URL link located on the Department of Human Resources website.

Question 1

Please complete the following information about your Child Care Center/Home:

- Facility Name \_\_\_\_\_
- Facility Address \_\_\_\_\_
- City \_\_\_\_\_
- Zip \_\_\_\_\_
- County \_\_\_\_\_
- Phone \_\_\_\_\_
- Email \_\_\_\_\_

Page 2 - Question 2

Indicate the type of child care program operated in this facility.

- Licensed- Day Care Center
- Licensed- Family Day Care Home
- Licensed- Group Day Care Home
- Exempt- Church Affiliated Day Care Center
- Exempt- Mother's Day Out Program
- Exempt- YWCA/YMCA
- Exempt- Boys and Girls Club
- Exempt- Government Facility (Military)
- Exempt- Educational Facility (Public or Private School)
- Other. Please describe (Ex: Licensed- ... or Exempt- ...).

Page 3 - Question 3

Indicate the type of rate you publish and charge the general public for child care.

- Weekly
- Monthly

Page 3 - Question 4

Indicate that weekly or monthly rate (Ex: \$120.00) you publish and charge the general public for child care for each of the following age groups. NOTE: The full time rate for 5 years + refers to the rate charged for full week care provided to school age children during the summer and school holidays.

- Up to 1 year \_\_\_\_\_
- 1 year old \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 years old \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 years old \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 years old \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 years + \_\_\_\_\_

Page 4 - Question 5

Indicate how many of the children you currently serve that have their child care fees fully or partially subsidized through the Child Care Subsidy Program?

- None
- Less than half
- Half or more

Page 4 - Question 6

Indicate your cost per child for providing child care services (including costs for such items as salaries/wages and benefits, facilities, supplies, and other operating expenses) based on the following age groups. Answer each that apply to your facility.

- Up to 1 year \_\_\_\_\_
- 1 year old \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 years old \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 years old \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 years old \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 years + \_\_\_\_\_

Page 5 - Question 7

To better serve you, please also give us your opinion on these other important matters regarding Child Care Management Agencies (CMA) and Provider Training. Indicate your level of satisfaction with the following:

	H i g h l y D i s s a t i s f i e d	D i s s a t i s f i e d	S a t i s f i e d	H i g h l y S a t i s f i e d
Your ability to contact CMA Staff when needed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The responsiveness of CMA Staff	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The accessibility of Provider Training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The effectiveness of Provider Training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page 5 - Question 8

Would you prefer to submit DHR billing (EAV-Enrollment Attendance Verification Form) and other information to DHR or the CMA via the Internet?

- Yes
- No

Page 5 - Question 9

Would you prefer to receive child care information from DHR or the CMA via email and the Internet?

- Yes
- No

Page 5 - Question 10

Please provide the name and title of the person completing this survey.

Thank You Page

Thank you for completing the survey!

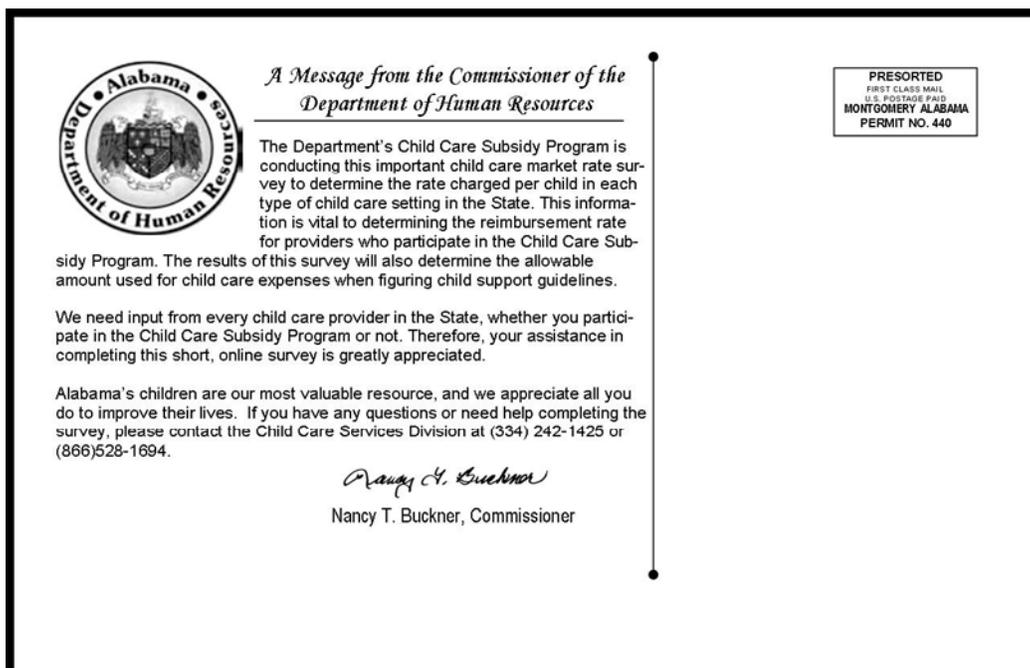
If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact the Child Care Service Division at (334) 242-1425 or (866)528-1694, Alabama Department of Human Resources.

## Appendix B – Survey Request Postcard

### Postcard Front



### Postcard Back



## Appendix C – Paper Version of Questionnaire



Alabama Department of Human Resources  
**2009 CHILD CARE MARKET RATE SURVEY**  
*A Message from the Commissioner of the  
 Department of Human Resources*

The Department's Child Care Subsidy Program is conducting this important child care market rate survey to determine the rate charged per child in each type of child care setting in the State. This information is vital to determining the reimbursement rate for providers who participate in the Child Care Subsidy Program. The results of this survey will also determine the allowable amount used for child care expenses when figuring child support guidelines.

We need input from every child care provider in the State, whether you participate in the Child Care Subsidy Program or not. Therefore, your assistance in completing this short survey is greatly appreciated. **To complete this survey online go to [www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov) and click the 2009 Child Care Market Rate Survey link or mail the survey to Child Care Services Division, P.O. Box 304000, Montgomery, AL 36130 or fax the survey to (334) 353-1491. Please submit this survey no later than May 29, 2009.**

Alabama's children are our most valuable resource, and we appreciate all you do to improve their lives. If you have any questions or need help completing the survey, please contact the Child Care Services Division at (334) 242-1425 or (866) 528-1694.

Nancy T. Buckner, Commissioner

**Please submit this survey no later than May 29, 2009. Complete a separate survey for each facility you operate.**

1. Please complete the following information about your Child Care Center/Home.

Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Facility Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Indicate (X) the type of child care program operated in this Center/ Home.

Facility	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Licensed- Day Care Center
<input type="checkbox"/>	Licensed- Family Day Care Home
<input type="checkbox"/>	Licensed- Group Day Care Home
<input type="checkbox"/>	Exempt- Church Affiliated Day Care Center
<input type="checkbox"/>	Exempt- Mother's Day Out Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Exempt- YWCA/YMCA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Exempt- Boys and Girls Club
<input type="checkbox"/>	Exempt- Government Facility (Military)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Exempt- Educational Facility (Public or Private School)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Please Describe)

3. Indicate (X) the type of rate you **publish and charge** the general public for child care.

Weekly: \_\_\_ Monthly: \_\_\_

Continue to next side



4. Indicate that weekly or monthly **rate** (Ex. \$120.00) you **publish and charge** the general public for child care for the following age groups. NOTE: The full time rate for **5 years +** refers to the rate charged for full week care provided during the summer and school holidays.

Age Group	Full-Time Weekly/Monthly Rate
Up to 1 year of age	\$
1 year old	\$
2 years old	\$
3 years old	\$
4 years old	\$
5 years +	\$

5. Indicate (X) how many of the children you currently serve that have their child care fees **fully or partially** subsidized through the Child Care Subsidy Program?

None: \_\_\_ Less than half: \_\_\_ Half or more: \_\_\_

6. Indicate your cost per child for providing child care services (including costs for such items as salaries/wages and benefits, facilities, supplies, and other operating expenses) based on the following age groups. Answer each that apply to you facility.

Age Group	Cost of Providing Child Care Services
Up to 1 year of age	\$
1 year old	\$
2 years old	\$
3 years old	\$
4 years old	\$
5 years +	\$

7. **To better serve you, please also give us your opinion on these other important matters regarding Child Care Management Agencies (CMA) and Provider training.**

Indicate (X) your level of satisfaction with the following:

Item	Highly Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Highly Satisfied
Accessibility of CMA staff				
Responsiveness of CMA staff				
Accessibility of provider training				
Effectiveness of provider training				

8. Would you prefer to submit DHR billing (EAV-Enrollment Attendance Verification Form) and other information to DHR or the CMA via the Internet? Yes:\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

9. Would you prefer to receive child care information from DHR or the CMA via email and the internet? Yes:\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_

Please provide the name and title of the person completing the survey

Name:\_\_\_\_\_ Title:\_\_\_\_\_

Signature:\_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for completing this survey!**

For questions regarding the survey, contact the Alabama Department of Human Resources, Child Care Services Division at (334) 242-1425 or 1 (866) 528-1694.

## Appendix D – Family Group Association Letters



**BOB RILEY**  
Governor

### State of Alabama Department of Human Resources

S. Gordon Persons Building  
50 Ripley Street  
P.O. Box 304000  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130  
334.242.1310  
www.dhr.alabama.gov



**Nancy T. Buckner**  
Commissioner

April 15, 2009

Lee County HCCA  
Margaret Jackson  
232 Lee Rd. 22  
Auburn, AL. 36830

Dear Ms. Jackson:

During the week of April 20<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Human Resources (DHR), Child Care Services Division will mail notices regarding the biennial Market Rate Survey. Please publicize the Market Rate Survey among your Home Child Care Association membership. This year we will ask providers to complete the survey online. **Providers will be able to access the survey from the DHR website at [www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov). Surveys must be completed no later than May 22, 2009.** The Department will mail postcards to providers that will give the web site address. This year the survey will include questions to gain providers input on service delivery in the area of subsidy, training and managing information. There will also be a question related to the costs for providing services at each age level.

Please encourage all your member providers to complete the survey. We need participation from all formal child care providers (centers and family/group daycare homes), including providers who do not participate in the Subsidy Program. Results of the survey will help us make decisions regarding reimbursement rates for providers who participate in the Child Care Subsidy Program. The results of this survey will also determine the allowable amount used for child care expenses when figuring child support guidelines.

If you would like to view results of the 2007 Market Rate survey you can access it online at [www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov). From the menu click on Services, Child Care Services, Subsidized Child Care. The 2007 Market Rate Survey is listed under "More Information".

If you have questions regarding the survey please contact Jeanetta Green or Clementine McGinnis at (334) 242-1425 or (866) 524-1694.

Sincerely,

Debbie Thomas, Director  
Child Care Services Division



**BOB RILEY**  
Governor

**State of Alabama**  
**Department of Human Resources**

**S. Gordon Persons Building**  
50 Ripley Street  
P.O. Box 304000  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130  
334.242.1310  
[www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov)



**Nancy T. Buckner**  
Commissioner

April 15, 2009

Jefferson County HCCA  
Pat Upton  
2160 Whiting Rd  
Hoover, AL. 35216

Dear Ms. Upton:

During the week of April 20<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Human Resources (DHR), Child Care Services Division will mail notices regarding the biennial Market Rate Survey. Please publicize the Market Rate Survey among your Home Child Care Association membership. This year we will ask providers to complete the survey online. **Providers will be able to access the survey from the DHR website at [www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov). Surveys must be completed no later than May 22, 2009.** The Department will mail postcards to providers that will give the web site address. This year the survey will include questions to gain providers input on service delivery in the area of subsidy, training and managing information. There will also be a question related to the costs for providing services at each age level.

Please encourage all your member providers to complete the survey. We need participation from all formal child care providers (centers and family/group daycare homes), including providers who do not participate in the Subsidy Program. Results of the survey will help us make decisions regarding reimbursement rates for providers who participate in the Child Care Subsidy Program. The results of this survey will also determine the allowable amount used for child care expenses when figuring child support guidelines.

If you would like to view results of the 2007 Market Rate survey you can access it online at [www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov). From the menu click on Services, Child Care Services, Subsidized Child Care. The 2007 Market Rate Survey is listed under "More Information".

If you have questions regarding the survey please contact Jeanetta Green or Clementine McGinnis at (334) 242-1425 or (866) 524-1694.

Sincerely,

Debbie Thomas, Director  
Child Care Services Division



**BOB RILEY**  
Governor

## State of Alabama Department of Human Resources

S. Gordon Persons Building  
50 Ripley Street  
P.O. Box 304000  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130  
334.242.1310  
www.dhr.alabama.gov



**Nancy T. Buckner**  
Commissioner

April 15, 2009

Madison County HCCA  
Earlene Mitchell  
2701 Oakdale Terrace  
Huntsville, AL. 35810

Dear Ms. Mitchell:

During the week of April 20<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Human Resources (DHR), Child Care Services Division will mail notices regarding the biennial Market Rate Survey. Please publicize the Market Rate Survey among your Home Child Care Association membership. This year we will ask providers to complete the survey online. **Providers will be able to access the survey from the DHR website at [www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov). Surveys must be completed no later than May 22, 2009.** The Department will mail postcards to providers that will give the web site address. This year the survey will include questions to gain providers input on service delivery in the area of subsidy, training and managing information. There will also be a question related to the costs for providing services at each age level.

Please encourage all your member providers to complete the survey. We need participation from all formal child care providers (centers and family/group daycare homes), including providers who do not participate in the Subsidy Program. Results of the survey will help us make decisions regarding reimbursement rates for providers who participate in the Child Care Subsidy Program. The results of this survey will also determine the allowable amount used for child care expenses when figuring child support guidelines.

If you would like to view results of the 2007 Market Rate survey you can access it online at [www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov). From the menu click on Services, Child Care Services, Subsidized Child Care. The 2007 Market Rate Survey is listed under "More Information".

If you have questions regarding the survey please contact Jeanetta Green or Clementine McGinnis at (334) 242-1425 or (866) 524-1694.

Sincerely,

Debbie Thomas, Director  
Child Care Services Division



**BOB RILEY**  
Governor

## State of Alabama Department of Human Resources

S. Gordon Persons Building  
50 Ripley Street  
P.O. Box 304000  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130  
334.242.1310  
[www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov)



**Nancy T. Buckner**  
Commissioner

April 15, 2009

Morgan County HCCA  
Marg Peterson  
335 Summerford Orr Rd.  
Falkville, AL. 35622

Dear Ms. Peterson:

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If you have questions regarding the survey please contact Jeanetta Green or Clementine McGinnis at (334) 242-1425 or (866) 524-1694.

Sincerely,

Debbie Thomas, Director  
Child Care Services Division



**BOB RILEY**  
Governor

## State of Alabama Department of Human Resources

S. Gordon Persons Building  
50 Ripley Street  
P.O. Box 304000  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130  
334.242.1310  
www.dhr.alabama.gov



**Nancy T. Buckner**  
Commissioner

April 15, 2009

Cullman County HCCA  
Glenda Alderhold  
1407 Goehler Rd. SE  
Cullman, AL. 35055

Dear Ms. Alderhold:

During the week of April 20<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Human Resources (DHR), Child Care Services Division will mail notices regarding the biennial Market Rate Survey. Please publicize the Market Rate Survey among your Home Child Care Association membership. This year we will ask providers to complete the survey online. **Providers will be able to access the survey from the DHR website at [www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov). Surveys must be completed no later than May 22, 2009.** The Department will mail postcards to providers that will give the web site address. This year the survey will include questions to gain providers input on service delivery in the area of subsidy, training and managing information. There will also be a question related to the costs for providing services at each age level.

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Sincerely,

Debbie Thomas, Director  
Child Care Services Division



**BOB RILEY**  
Governor

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**Nancy T. Buckner**  
Commissioner

April 15, 2009

Winston County HCCA  
Betty Horton  
3056 Co. Rd. 49  
Haleyville, AL. 35565

Dear Ms. Horton:

During the week of April 20<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Human Resources (DHR), Child Care Services Division will mail notices regarding the biennial Market Rate Survey. Please publicize the Market Rate Survey among your Home Child Care Association membership. This year we will ask providers to complete the survey online. **Providers will be able to access the survey from the DHR website at [www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov). Surveys must be completed no later than May 22, 2009.** The Department will mail postcards to providers that will give the web site address. This year the survey will include questions to gain providers input on service delivery in the area of subsidy, training and managing information. There will also be a question related to the costs for providing services at each age level.

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Sincerely,

Debbie Thomas, Director  
Child Care Services Division



**BOB RILEY**  
Governor

## State of Alabama Department of Human Resources

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50 Ripley Street  
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**Nancy T. Buckner**  
Commissioner

April 15, 2009

Blount County HCCA  
Lynn Brown  
432 Dallas Loop  
Trafford, AL. 35172

Dear Ms. Brown:

During the week of April 20<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Human Resources (DHR), Child Care Services Division will mail notices regarding the biennial Market Rate Survey. Please publicize the Market Rate Survey among your Home Child Care Association membership. This year we will ask providers to complete the survey online. **Providers will be able to access the survey from the DHR website at [www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov). Surveys must be completed no later than May 22, 2009.** The Department will mail postcards to providers that will give the web site address. This year the survey will include questions to gain providers input on service delivery in the area of subsidy, training and managing information. There will also be a question related to the costs for providing services at each age level.

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Sincerely,

Debbie Thomas, Director  
Child Care Services Division



**BOB RILEY**  
Governor

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**Nancy T. Buckner**  
Commissioner

April 15, 2009

DeKalb County HCCA  
Brenda Blansit  
261 C0 Rd. 611  
Valleyhead, AL. 35989

Dear Ms. Blansit:

During the week of April 20<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Human Resources (DHR), Child Care Services Division will mail notices regarding the biennial Market Rate Survey. Please publicize the Market Rate Survey among your Home Child Care Association membership. This year we will ask providers to complete the survey online. **Providers will be able to access the survey from the DHR website at [www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov). Surveys must be completed no later than May 22, 2009.** The Department will mail postcards to providers that will give the web site address. This year the survey will include questions to gain providers input on service delivery in the area of subsidy, training and managing information. There will also be a question related to the costs for providing services at each age level.

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Sincerely,

Debbie Thomas, Director  
Child Care Services Division



**BOB RILEY**  
Governor

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**Nancy T. Buckner**  
Commissioner

April 15, 2009

Baldwin County HCCA  
Geraldine Morris  
1407 Grove St.  
Mobile, AL. 36605

Dear Ms. Morris:

During the week of April 20<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Human Resources (DHR), Child Care Services Division will mail notices regarding the biennial Market Rate Survey. Please publicize the Market Rate Survey among your Home Child Care Association membership. This year we will ask providers to complete the survey online. **Providers will be able to access the survey from the DHR website at [www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov). Surveys must be completed no later than May 22, 2009.** The Department will mail postcards to providers that will give the web site address. This year the survey will include questions to gain providers input on service delivery in the area of subsidy, training and managing information. There will also be a question related to the costs for providing services at each age level.

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Sincerely,

Debbie Thomas, Director  
Child Care Services Division



**BOB RILEY**  
Governor

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**Nancy T. Buckner**  
Commissioner

April 15, 2009

Covington County HCCA  
Florence Weaver  
18668 Enoch Rd.  
Andalusia, AL. 36421

Dear Ms. Weaver:

During the week of April 20<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Human Resources (DHR), Child Care Services Division will mail notices regarding the biennial Market Rate Survey. Please publicize the Market Rate Survey among your Home Child Care Association membership. This year we will ask providers to complete the survey online. **Providers will be able to access the survey from the DHR website at [www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov). Surveys must be completed no later than May 22, 2009.** The Department will mail postcards to providers that will give the web site address. This year the survey will include questions to gain providers input on service delivery in the area of subsidy, training and managing information. There will also be a question related to the costs for providing services at each age level.

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Sincerely,

Debbie Thomas, Director  
Child Care Services Division



**BOB RILEY**  
Governor

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**Nancy T. Buckner**  
Commissioner

April 15, 2009

Shelby County HCCA  
Tammy Lipham  
5632 Double Tree Circle  
Birmingham, AL. 35242

Dear Ms. Lipham:

During the week of April 20<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Human Resources (DHR), Child Care Services Division will mail notices regarding the biennial Market Rate Survey. Please publicize the Market Rate Survey among your Home Child Care Association membership. This year we will ask providers to complete the survey online. **Providers will be able to access the survey from the DHR website at [www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov). Surveys must be completed no later than May 22, 2009.** The Department will mail postcards to providers that will give the web site address. This year the survey will include questions to gain providers input on service delivery in the area of subsidy, training and managing information. There will also be a question related to the costs for providing services at each age level.

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Sincerely,

Debbie Thomas, Director  
Child Care Services Division



**BOB RILEY**  
Governor

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**Department of Human Resources**

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**Nancy T. Buckner**  
Commissioner

April 15, 2009

Montgomery County HCCA  
Lillie Hood  
1141 Oakbrook Dr.  
Montgomery, AL. 36110

Dear Ms. Hood:

During the week of April 20<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Human Resources (DHR), Child Care Services Division will mail notices regarding the biennial Market Rate Survey. Please publicize the Market Rate Survey among your Home Child Care Association membership. This year we will ask providers to complete the survey online. **Providers will be able to access the survey from the DHR website at [www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov). Surveys must be completed no later than May 22, 2009.** The Department will mail postcards to providers that will give the web site address. This year the survey will include questions to gain providers input on service delivery in the area of subsidy, training and managing information. There will also be a question related to the costs for providing services at each age level.

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Sincerely,

Debbie Thomas, Director  
Child Care Services Division



**BOB RILEY**  
Governor

## State of Alabama Department of Human Resources

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50 Ripley Street  
P.O. Box 304000  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130  
334.242.1310  
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**Nancy T. Buckner**  
Commissioner

April 15, 2009

Tuscaloosa Co. HCCA  
Sabrina Pruitt Roberts  
805 33rd. Ave.  
Tuscaloosa, AL. 35401

Dear Ms. Pruitt Roberts:

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Sincerely,

Debbie Thomas, Director  
Child Care Services Division



**BOB RILEY**  
Governor

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**Department of Human Resources**

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**Nancy T. Buckner**  
Commissioner

April 15, 2009

Alabama State Family Child Care Association  
Amy Waine  
4546 Little Ridge Dr.  
Birmingham, AL. 35242

Dear Ms. Waine:

During the week of April 20<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Human Resources (DHR), Child Care Services Division will mail notices regarding the biennial Market Rate Survey. Please publicize the Market Rate Survey among your Home Child Care Association membership. This year we will ask providers to complete the survey online. **Providers will be able to access the survey from the DHR website at [www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov). Surveys must be completed no later than May 22, 2009.** The Department will mail postcards to providers that will give the web site address. This year the survey will include questions to gain providers input on service delivery in the area of subsidy, training and managing information. There will also be a question related to the costs for providing services at each age level.

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Sincerely,

Debbie Thomas, Director  
Child Care Services Division



**BOB RILEY**  
Governor

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**Nancy T. Buckner**  
Commissioner

April 15, 2009

Dale Co. HCCA  
Evelyn Andrews  
855 W. Co. Rd. 36  
Ozark, AL. 36360

Dear Ms. Andrews:

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Sincerely,

Debbie Thomas, Director  
Child Care Services Division

## Appendix E – Center Association Letters



**BOB RILEY**  
Governor

### State of Alabama Department of Human Resources

S. Gordon Persons Building  
50 Ripley Street  
P.O. Box 304000  
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**Nancy T. Buckner**  
Commissioner

April 16, 2009

Sophia Bracy Harris, Executive Director  
Federation of Child Care Centers of Alabama  
P. O. Box 214  
Montgomery, AL. 36101

Dear Ms. Bracy Harris:

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Sincerely,

Debbie Thomas, Director  
Child Care Services Division



**BOB RILEY**  
Governor

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**Nancy T. Buckner**  
Commissioner

April 16, 2009

Melissa Werner  
Alabama Association for Young Children  
P.O. Box 1169  
Decatur, AL 35602

Dear Ms. Werner:

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Sincerely,

Debbie Thomas, Director  
Child Care Services Division



**BOB RILEY**  
Governor

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**Nancy T. Buckner**  
Commissioner

April 16, 2009

Deborah Preston, President  
Tennessee Valley AEYC  
P. O. Box 7  
Decatur, AL 35602

Dear Ms. Preston, President:

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If you have questions regarding the survey please contact Jeanetta Green or Clementine McGinnis at (334) 242-1425 or (866) 524-1694.

Sincerely,

Debbie Thomas, Director  
Child Care Services Division



**BOB RILEY**  
Governor

**State of Alabama**  
**Department of Human Resources**

**S. Gordon Persons Building**  
50 Ripley Street  
P.O. Box 304000  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130  
334.242.1310  
www.dhr.alabama.gov



**Nancy T. Buckner**  
Commissioner

April 16, 2009

Karen Sharpe  
AALECE  
P. O. Box 16211  
Mobile, AL 36616

Dear Ms. Sharpe:

During the week of April 20<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Human Resources (DHR), Child Care Services Division will mail notices regarding the biennial Market Rate Survey. Please publicize the Market Rate Survey among your provider membership. This year we will ask providers to complete the survey online. **Providers will be able to access the survey from the DHR website at [www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov).** **Surveys must be completed no later than May 22, 2009.** The Department will mail postcards to providers that will give the web site address. This year the survey will include questions to gain providers input on service delivery in the area of subsidy, training and managing information. There will also be a question related to the costs for providing services at each age level.

Please encourage all your member providers to complete the survey. We need participation from all formal child care providers (centers and family/group daycare homes), including providers who do not participate in the Subsidy Program. Results of the survey will help us make decisions regarding reimbursement rates for providers who participate in the Child Care Subsidy Program. The results of this survey will also determine the allowable amount used for child care expenses when figuring child support guidelines.

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Sincerely,

Debbie Thomas, Director  
Child Care Services Division



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[www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov)



**Nancy T. Buckner**  
Commissioner

April 16, 2009

Robin Mears, Executive Director  
Alabama Christian Education Association  
1810 Decatur Hwy. Suite 204  
Fultondale, AL 35068

Dear Ms. Mears, Executive Director:

During the week of April 20<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Human Resources (DHR), Child Care Services Division will mail notices regarding the biennial Market Rate Survey. Please publicize the Market Rate Survey among your provider membership. This year we will ask providers to complete the survey online. **Providers will be able to access the survey from the DHR website at [www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov).** **Surveys must be completed no later than May 22, 2009.** The Department will mail postcards to providers that will give the web site address. This year the survey will include questions to gain providers input on service delivery in the area of subsidy, training and managing information. There will also be a question related to the costs for providing services at each age level.

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If you have questions regarding the survey please contact Jeanetta Green or Clementine McGinnis at (334) 242-1425 or (866) 524-1694.

Sincerely,

Debbie Thomas, Director  
Child Care Services Division

**Prepared by:**

**The Center for Government and Public Affairs  
Office of University Outreach**

**AUBURN UNIVERSITY MONTGOMERY**

**Authored by:**

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**&**

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**OCTOBER 2009**

