

Child Care Resource and Referral 2016 Policy Agenda Broome, Chenango, & Tioga Counties



New York State needs to invest \$190 million in child care.

- \$90 million to support New York's implementation of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (CCDBG) requirements which promote children's safety and well-being and improved child care program quality.
- 100 million in additional subsidy funding to reach an additional 13,000 children in NYS, who live in income-eligible families and are waiting for subsidies.

The recently reauthorized federal Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (CCDBG) contains health, safety, and quality requirements. These regulations protect children and increase the safety and quality of New York's child care for working families and their children, but there is a cost.

Strengthened investment in child care will allow Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&Rs) to provide consumer education and critical family supports to currently underserved parents across New York State and to assist the child care professionals as they work to improve the quality of their programs.

CCDBG: The costs of implementing only the health and safety components that are federally required will exceed \$90 million in the early years of implementation.² The implications of meeting the new requirements while maintaining the number of children served AND the quality of the services provided, are daunting. New York will need to take significant fiscal, legislative and administrative actions to meet several CCDBG provisions.

As the new and strengthened components of the law are implemented and parents continue to seek access to child care of high quality that is affordable and supports their child's healthy growth and development, NY State's Child Care Resource and Referral Network plays a critical role as providers of:

- Professional Development/Training
- Consumer Education
- Family Engagement
- Technical Assistance
- Infant and Toddler Services

To thousands of parents, child care providers and employers throughout New York State, CCR&Rs are a key component to the complex child care delivery system.

Subsidy: \$100M is needed to serve an additional 10% of eligible children. The vast majority of children in working families in New York who are eligible for childcare subsidies are unserved due to insufficient funding. Without an increase in the state's investment, parents' ability to provide financial stability for their family and a supportive learning environment for their children is being seriously undermined.

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Contact your
legislators
today to let
them know
about these
issues and
how they
affect you!

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Tips for Talking with your Elected Official

- Be prompt and patient. Expect to wait.
- Be prepared. Write down some notes to help you remember to stay on track. Know your legislator and issue.
- Be a good listener too. Do not debate with your legislator.
- Try to make a personal connection. Does he or she have children or grandchildren?
- Take a picture. You will want a memory.
- Say thank you and follow-up with a thank you note. Include a copy of your picture.

Remember, do not be intimidated. You are a constituent. He or she works for you!

