

# ENRICHING THE COMMUNITY

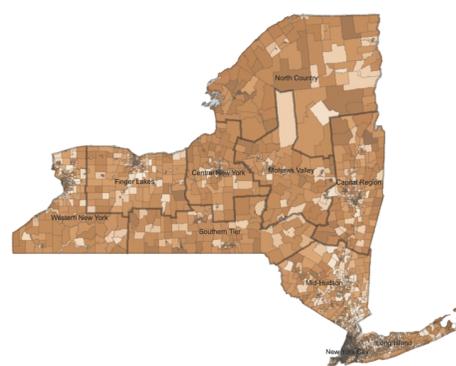
A monthly publication for friends of Family Enrichment Network

## Child Care Deserts Grant

Over the last ten years, the availability of child care has decreased immensely. Family Enrichment Network CCR&R has been tracking the number of programs throughout Broome, Chenango, and Tioga counties and the number of child care “slots” available for different ages. The number of family child care programs registered with NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) has decreased by 2/3 since 2010.

Parents who are looking for child care, specifically for infants and toddlers, find this to be true. Finding a high quality child care environment for young children can be extremely hard for parents. When they do find a spot, it is so expensive. The cost of child care is more than the cost of college. The impact is parents, mostly mothers, are not returning to the workforce.

The Center For American Progress issued a report in 2017 called, “*Mapping America’s Child Care Deserts.*” Their definition for a child care desert was a ratio of more than three young children for every licensed child care slot. That means there is 1 regulated child care slot for every three or more children. Almost our entire region is included in a child care desert.



In response, New York State is investing federal ARPA funds to address this issue across the state. “*Invest in New York—Child Care Deserts Grant*” applications will be available on April 11, 2022 through May 19, 2022 for programs interested in opening a registered/licensed child care program. The full Request for Application (RFA), requirements, and information can be found on the OCFS website at [www.ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/deserts/](http://www.ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/deserts/). You can also access the interactive child care deserts map to see where your location falls.

Family Enrichment Network CCR&R can help new programs through the steps of the registration/licensing process. Opening a child care program can be a lengthy and involve more than most people think, but we can assist by providing resources and training to open a successful child care business.

To learn more about the need for child care or opening a program, contact our CCR&R Director, Jennifer Perney at 723-8313, ext. 872



For more information about Family Enrichment Network Programs, please visit us at [www.familyenrichment.org](http://www.familyenrichment.org) or call (607) 723-8313.

*The mission of Family Enrichment Network is to provide supportive services for the optimal development of children and families. We believe in coordinating children and family services using a comprehensive and collaborative approach to improve their quality of life while ensuring the greatest value for our investment in child, adult, and parent development.*