

# ENRICHING THE COMMUNITY

A monthly publication for friends of Family Enrichment Network

## **CHILD CARE STABILIZATION GRANTS**

Child care programs have experienced financial issues for years, but the pandemic enhanced the problems and brought them to the forefront on the national level. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 allocated funding to states to provide child care stabilization grants for financial relief to child care providers due to the pandemic. The goal was to stabilize operations so they may continue to provide child care.

Family Enrichment Network CCR&R worked with New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) to assist child care programs in Broome, Chenango, and Tioga Counties to apply for the first grant, called Stabilization Grant 1.0, throughout August to November 2021. Significant payments were distributed over six months. A total of 169 programs received funding totaling \$7 million in payments to our local community. This funding was able to help programs cover the increased costs of cleaning and sanitizing, supplies and equipment needed for social distancing of children, staff to limit group sizes, and loss of revenue for quarantines and children not in care.

In July 2022, OCFS released the application for Stabilization Grant 2.0 for Workforce Supports. This next round of stabilization grants will continue to support the infrastructure and workforce of child care programs. To support the workforce, the money must primarily be used for staff wages, bonuses and/or benefits, including health insurance, retirement plans, and education costs.

For more information on the Stabilization Grants or the child care programs in the community, contact CCR&R Director, Jenn Perney, at [jperney@familyenrichment.org](mailto:jperney@familyenrichment.org) and (607)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.*