



ENRICHING THE COMMUNITY

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR FRIENDS OF FAMILY ENRICHMENT NETWORK

Family Enrichment Network
24 Cherry Street
Johnson City, NY 13790
www.familyenrichment.org
(607) 723-8313



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Family Enrichment Network CARES

In September, New York dedicated \$20 million of the federal CARES Act funding for child care to support child care scholarships for children of essential workers. Essential workers include first responders such as health care providers, pharmaceutical staff, law enforcement, firefighters, food delivery workers, grocery store employees, and others who are needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Child care costs, up to the market rate, are covered for families of essential workers whose income is less than 300 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$78,600 for a family of four.

Starting October 26, 2020, eligible parents could apply for assistance paying for child care if they used a registered or licensed child care program. Family Enrichment Network CCR&R received 172 parent applications. Of those, 70 parents submitted the required paperwork and back-up documentation and were fully approved. Child care payments for 100 children have been distributed from October 26, 2020 through today. Total scholarship payments distributed to date is over \$163,000. We expect to distribute another \$40,000 to total over \$200,000 in child care scholarships helping parents in our area.

The program will end on February 21, 2021. These parents will resume paying for child care themselves, causing a financial burden on their families. The parents who have benefited from the program have been so grateful for this extra support to get them through this stressful pandemic. Here is a sampling of the emails we have received from parents:

“Thank you so much for opportunity. The program was very beneficial. I was able to focus on working and not worry about another bill. I’m hopeful that the program returns ;it was a savior for our family.”

“Thank you so much for offering this twice now since the start of the pandemic. This has helped me out tremendously! Being a single mom working full time and having to pay for daycare and other bills, this program has lifted weight off my shoulders and has given me relief especially with working the front lines! I greatly appreciate all the help!”

“Thank you so much. This program has been a very big help for me being a single mother and having to pay extra childcare. I do hope there will be another program offered at least until attending school goes back to normal.”

To learn more about how to support working parents and your employees with children, contact our CCR&R Director, Jennifer Perney, at 723-8313 ext. 872.

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.