

Child Care Resource and Referral 2019 Policy Agenda Broome, Chenango, & Tioga Counties



We need to make quality, affordable child care available now!

Children need high quality child care. Quality child care allows parents to go to work knowing their children are learning, safe and well-cared for. Quality early childhood experiences, particularly in the first three years of life, are crucial. Brain development is heavily impacted by early environmental factors, which can promote or hinder learning skills from adolescence through adulthood. A healthy and safe early childhood setting can also prevent cognitive and behavioral disorders later in life, some of which are irreversible. Investing in quality early child care whether home based or center based is a win-win scenario for families, businesses, workers, taxpayers, and for everyone who cares about the well-being of children.

Quality child care requires qualified providers!

In order to provide quality child care, you need qualified and quality providers (family child care providers, child care center teachers and other early educators.) In Broome, Chenango, and Tioga Counties, the average child care center assistant teacher earns minimum wage -\$11.10/hour, while a lead teacher with a college degree earns just above minimum wage—\$12.08/hour. Child care professionals often leave the field because of the low wages, but children need consistent caregivers.

Quality child care is hard to find!

Quality child care, specifically for infants and toddlers, is limited. Quality providers are especially needed in the outlying areas of both Broome, Chenango, and Tioga Counties.

Quality child care is expensive!

The yearly average cost of full-time child care for an infant is \$7,800 in family child care and \$10,400 for center based child care. The average cost of full-time child care for a preschool is \$7,800 in family child care and \$9,360 for center based child care. This is more than the cost of public college tuition in New York!

Child care subsidy payments through the Department of Social Services can help some families pay for child care, if they qualify, but it is not enough! Additional assistance is needed for those families not eligible for subsidy payments, but not able to afford the full cost of child care.

Child Care Resource & Referral funding is necessary!

The Child Care Resource & Referral at Family Enrichment Network is essential to have a strong child care delivery system to coordinate training, supply building (expanding child care capacity), planning and policy and education efforts on child care needs.

Contact us at:

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

For more
information
about local, state,
and federal
policy agendas
we support,
please visit our
website at
www.familyenrichment.cc



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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!

