

**New York State Office of Children and Family Services**

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**OCFS ANNOUNCES OVER \$1 MILLION TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE  
CHILD CARE***Promotes Innovative Initiatives and Safety, Creates 163 New Child Care Slots*

New York State Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS) Commissioner Gladys Carrión, Esq., today announced the award of \$1,061,758 in grants to expand and improve New York's child care facilities. The grants will enhance safety at existing child care facilities; create 163 new child care slots for New York's families; and support innovative approaches to improving child care across the state.

"Quality, safe and reliable child care is essential to all parents and caregivers," said Commissioner Carrión. "These grants will help provide for safer and healthier environments in which children across New York State can learn and grow."

The grants are being awarded to 38 organizations in the following categories: Day Care and School Age Child Expansion; Health and Safety grants in excess of \$15,000 for day care centers and school age child care programs; Health and Safety grants under \$15,000 for day care centers and school age child care programs; and innovations to promote the quality, accessibility and affordability of child care.

Two of the programs funded are part of the Innovative Program Initiative. This initiative helps awardees implement creative new approaches to emerging needs in child care. Past awardees have used this funding to conduct research and development initiatives that may someday lead to improvements in the quality of child care throughout the state, especially in areas where, traditionally, there has been a shortage of quality child care services. These programs also work to research public-private partnerships and assess, analyze, and respond to the emerging needs of unique populations.

The Child Care Resources of Rockland's innovative proposal will test several approaches to shared services that can help child care businesses succeed. They will work to develop a range of shared fiscal, management, human resource, and support services to help child care programs operate more efficient businesses and reach economies of scale.

Family Health Network of Central New York's innovative proposal will partner with the Cortland Area Child Care Council, Cortland Child Development Center, and Cortland YWCA in offering an on-site mobile health clinic at each of four child care centers in Cortland. The health clinic will spend one day a week at each center. The clinic staff will provide health services for the children, training for the child care staff in the centers, and pre-employment physicals for new hires to help them start their jobs more quickly.

Choosing child care is a very important decision to families. To help parents with child care selection, OCFS produced the "As you think about child care..." parent education materials that feature a general information brochure and three checklists designed to help parents and other caregivers better understand what to look for when selecting safe, quality child care. The very practical and easy-to-read materials provide parents and other caregivers with suggestions and tips for evaluating child care providers when visiting and comparing programs. The three different checklists are geared toward infants/toddlers, 3- to 5-year-olds, and school-age children.

The general information brochure and three age-appropriate checklists are available from OCFS by calling 1-800-345-KIDS, or by visiting [www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/publications](http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/publications) and scrolling down to Child Day

Care Services. The general information brochure and day care checklists are available on the website in the Spanish, Chinese, Russian and Arabic languages. The child care parent education materials also are available through local child care resource and referral agencies and local social services districts.

Governor Spitzer recently announced several strategic initiatives that aim to place the health and well-being of children and families as a top policy priority. On April 20, Governor Spitzer announced his Children's Agenda, a comprehensive strategy to ensure that all of New York's children are given an equal opportunity for success. On June 14, Governor Spitzer announced an Executive Order establishing his Children's Cabinet, an ongoing task force of high-level state officials to advance programs and policies to benefit children. The Governor's Children's Cabinet priorities include helping to ensure the successful implementation of the Governor's plan for providing health insurance coverage for currently uninsured children and offering high quality pre-kindergarten programs to young children.

Health and Safety, Expansion, and Innovative awardees are listed below by County:

<b>County/Program</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Type</b>
<b><i>Albany County</i></b>		
Trinity Institute-Homer Perkins Center	\$6,582	H & S under
Sunny Days Day Care	\$9,347	H & S under
<b><i>Bronx County</i></b>		
MARK After-School Program	\$13,800	H & S under
<b><i>Broome County</i></b>		
Whitney Point Preschool	\$14,999	H & S under
<b><i>Cattaraugus County</i></b>		
Project Head Start	\$14,999	H & S under
<b><i>Cortland County</i></b>		
Family Health Network of Central NY	\$103,686	Innovative
SUNY Cortland Childcare Center	\$133,600	Expansion (28 slots)
<b><i>Delaware County</i></b>		
Delaware Opportunities	\$4,711	H & S under
<b><i>Erie County</i></b>		
New Life Center	\$14,951	H & S under
Operation Hope-Helping Our People Excel	\$11,399	H & S under
Edukids	\$6,220	H & S under
<b><i>Jefferson County</i></b>		
Benchmark Family Services	\$11,650	H & S under
<b><i>Kings County</i></b>		
Yeled V'Yalda Early Childhood Center	\$43,950	H & S over
The Salvation Army-Brownsville GAINS	\$47,415	H & S over
Yeshivath Kehilath Yakov	\$175,500	Expansion (135 slots)
<b><i>Lewis County</i></b>		
Benchmark Family Services	\$14,900	H & S under
<b><i>Monroe County</i></b>		
Jack n Jill Childcare	\$12,511	H & S under
Care A Lot Child Care of North Greece	\$12,269	H & S under
<b><i>Nassau County</i></b>		
Kids Quarters	\$15,000	H & S under
<b><i>Onondaga County</i></b>		

James Square Child Care	\$14,282	H & S under
<b><i>Orange County</i></b>		
The Salvation Army-Newburgh LIFE	\$19,668	H & S over
YMCA of Orange County	\$14,298	H & S under
<b><i>Rensselaer County</i></b>		
Unity House of Troy	\$8,280	H & S under
Sunshine Day Nursery and Day Care Center	\$2,421	H & S under
<b><i>Rockland County</i></b>		
Child Care Resources of Rockland	\$150,000	Innovative
<b><i>Schenectady County</i></b>		
Schenectady Day Nursery	\$14,875	H & S under
Parsons Child and Family Center	\$12,477	H & S under
<b><i>Schuyler County</i></b>		
Dundee Children's Center	\$5,530	H & S under
<b><i>Suffolk County</i></b>		
Brookhaven Horizons	\$14,190	H & S under
TTO	\$15,000	H & S under
Kiddle Academy of Greenlawn	\$14,999	H & S under
MMTD	\$15,000	H & S under
Kiddy Academy of Flowerfield	\$15,000	H & S under
Kiddie Academy of E. Setauket	\$15,000	H & S under
<b><i>Tioga County</i></b>		
Abide in the Vine Childcare Center	\$14,968	H & S under
<b><i>Tompkins County</i></b>		
Happy Way Childcare Center	\$3,581	H & S under
<b><i>Ulster County</i></b>		
The Alphabet Tree Clubhouse	\$14,100	H & S under
<b><i>Westchester County</i></b>		
Saint Peter's Childcare Center	\$30,600	H & S over
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,061,758</b>	

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