



**Office of Children
and Family Services**

**Around the Next Bend:
An Update on Child Care Issues
in New York State**

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Jim Hart, Director of Regional Operations

What's New?

- Issued Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan
- Began planning for implementation of Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCBDG)
- Website changes
- Launched Child Care Options Campaign



Overview of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan

- The CCDF Plan = the agreement between the lead agency and the federal government as to how CCDF programs will be administered
- Lead agency = OCFS
- 2 ½ year plan: FFY 2016-2018 (for the period June 1, 2016 – September 30, 2018)



Timeline

- **Draft Plan** is posted to the OCFS website
- **Public Hearings:**
 - Rensselaer, January 26
 - Rochester, January 27
 - New York City, January 29
- **Comments integrated** into draft Plan
- **Final draft** submitted to the federal Office of Child Care on March 11
- Plan will be approved by June 1, 2016



The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014

- The CCDBG Act of 2014 reauthorized the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) for the first time since 1996
- Passed in Congress on Nov. 7, 2014 and was signed into law by President Obama on Nov. 19, 2014
- The CCDF is a **\$5.3 billion block grant** that provides funding to States to improve the quality of child care and provide access to low-income families
- In 2015, NYS's CCDF allocation was **\$309 million**
- CCDBG reauthorizes the CCDF through FY 2020



Sections of the Plan

- Part 1: Leadership and Coordination
- Part 2: Family Engagement
- Part 3: Financial Assistance to Families
- Part 4: Equal Access
- Part 5: Health and Safety Standards and Monitoring
- Part 6: Child Care Workforce
- Part 7: Quality Improvement
- Part 8: Program Integrity



Family Engagement

- Child care financial assistance availability and application process
- Consumer and provider education information/website for consumer education
- Information about the quality of child care providers



Website for Consumer Education

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Division of Child Care Services

Resources For Families

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

CACFP provides aid to child and adult care institutions and family or group day care homes for the provision of nutritious foods that contribute to the wellness, healthy growth, and development of young children, and the health and wellness of older adults and chronically impaired disabled persons. For more information go to the United States Department of Agriculture website at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/child-and-adult-care-food-program> or the New York State Department of Health website at <http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/nutrition/cacfp/aboutcacfp.htm>.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Temporary help for needy men, women, and children. If you are unable to work, can't find a job, or your job does not pay enough, temporary assistance may be able to help you pay for your expenses. Families that need information about Temporary Assistance (TA) should visit their local department of social services or go the New York State Office of Temporary Disability Assistance (NYSOTDA) website at <http://otda.ny.gov/workingfamilies/>

Head Start and Early Head Start Programs

Head Start and Early Head Start are comprehensive child development programs. Head Start serves children ages 3 to 5 and their families. Early Head Start serves pregnant women and their families and children birth to age 3 and their families. Families looking for Head Start and Early Head Start Programs should visit the New York State Education Department website at <http://eservices.nysed.gov/countymap/index.html> and search for your county.

http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/Resources_for_Families.asp



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Child Care Options Videos

Welfare Prevention Juvenile Justice Domestic Violence Commission for the Blind Adult Protective Services

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Find Child Care

Choosing child care is an important decision. You can learn about choices in the short [Child Care Options](#) video. Safe and positive child care sets the stage for healthy growth and development. It takes time, patience and understanding of what to look for when selecting child care. You know the needs of your child and family. However, you may need assistance in matching those needs to available resources. That is why OCFS is proud to share with you the supports that we have put in place to assist you in making this important decision.

Search for Child Care Programs

If you would like to start your search on your own, the [Child Care Facility Search page](#) will bring you to a search window that will allow you to search the entire database of regulated child care providers in New York State (**with the exception of day care centers in New York City**). This search engine will allow you to look up a specific provider by name, or all the providers in a particular county or even zip code. It also lets you search by different types of care, such as family day care or day care centers. You will see information on the program including contact information, address, capacity, when it first opened and the current status of its license or registration.

Please note that day care centers in New York City are regulated by the New York City Department of



<http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/looking.asp>



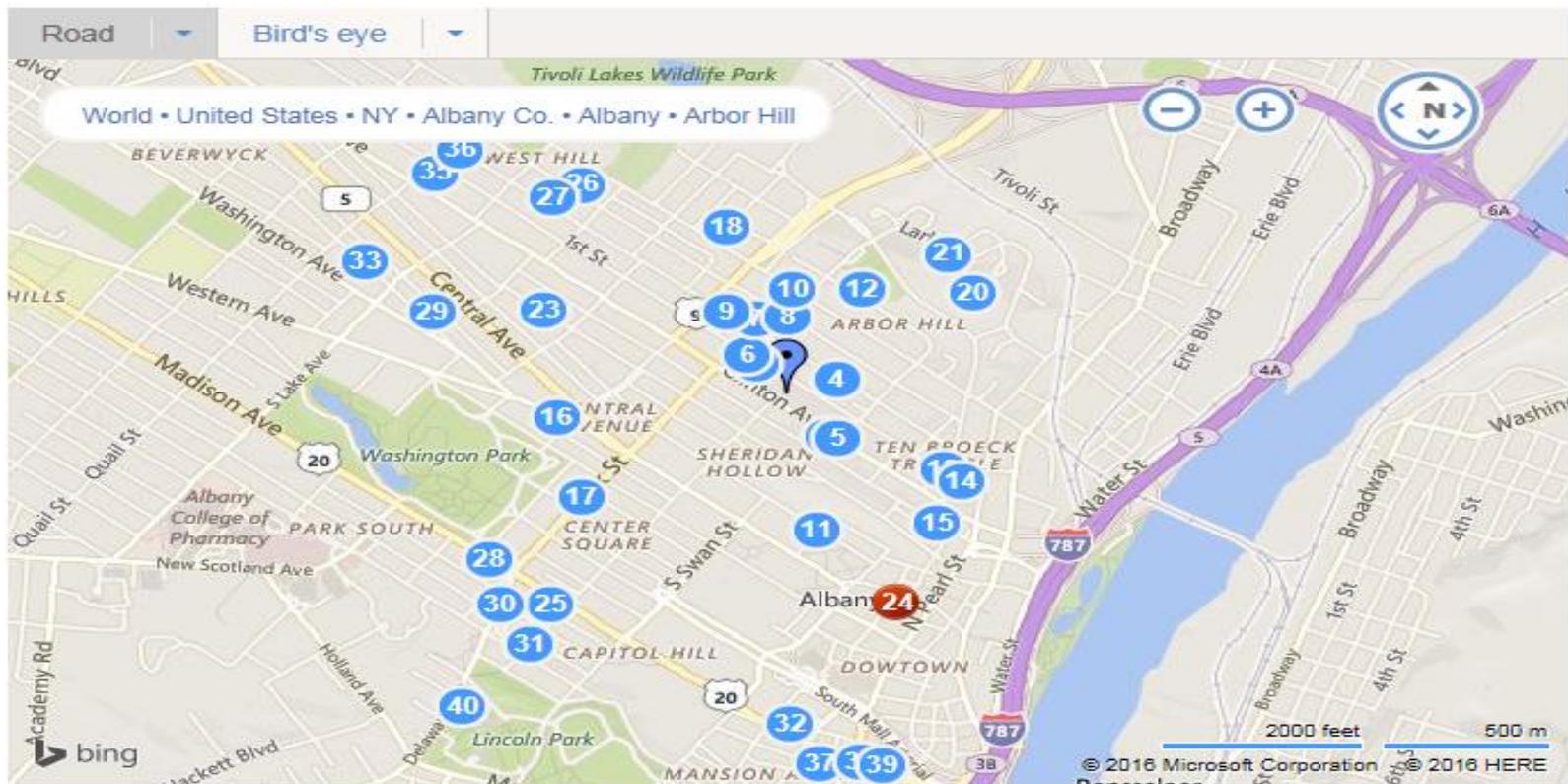
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Find day care within One mile from



Albany, NY 12210

Go



Programs appearing with a red icon are currently subject to enforcement action by this Office

Family Engagement - Still to Come

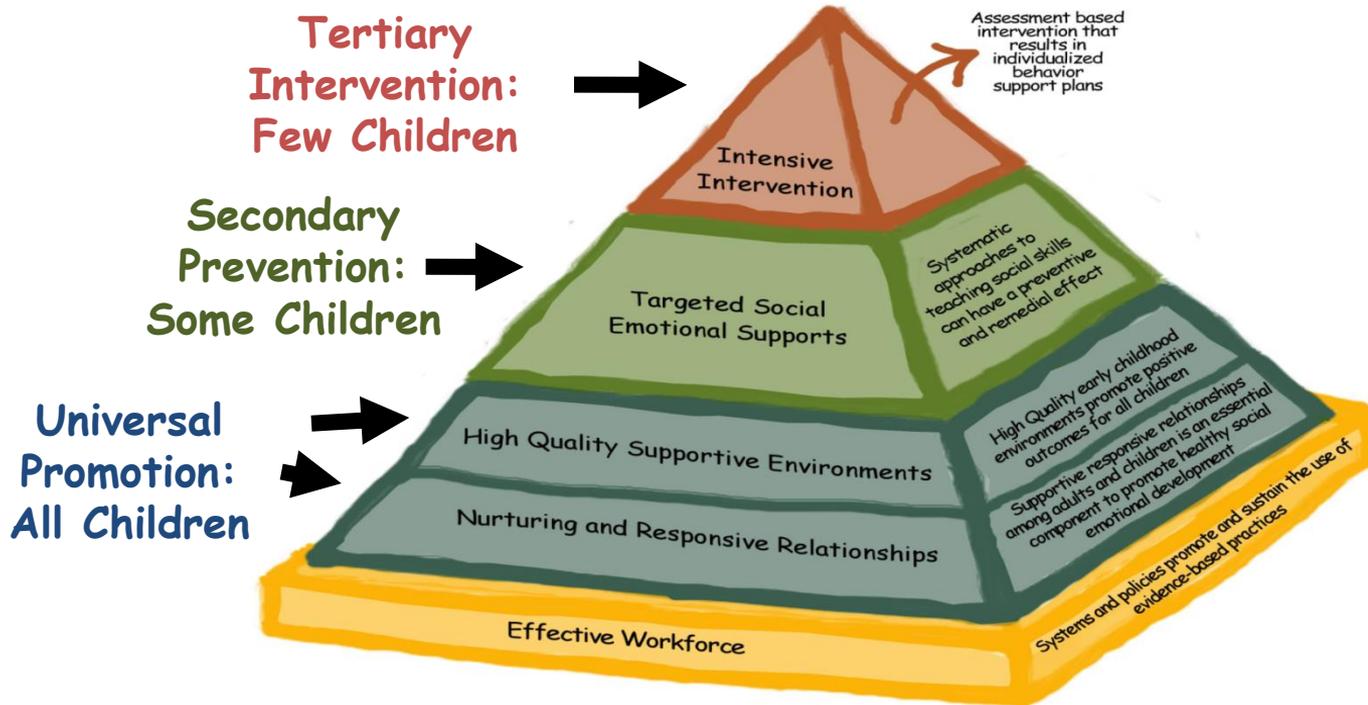
- Research and best practices
- Policy on expulsion
- Access to developmental screenings
- Consumer Education Website



Social and Emotional Development

The Pyramid Model:

Promoting Social and Emotional Competence and Addressing Challenging Behavior



<http://bit.ly/NYpyramid>



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Developmental screenings

Progress to Date

OCFS continues to partner with the NYS Department of Health, Division of Family Health to:

- Develop communication to child care providers on the importance of developmental screening
- Issue a guidance document to early childhood providers on the importance of early identification and early intervention services
- Implement a set of quality indicators to be incorporated in OCFS licensing visits



Financial Assistance to Families

- Increasing access for vulnerable children and families
- Protection for working parents
- Family contribution to payment



Still to Come

- 12-month eligibility
- *Graduated phase-out*



Improving access to homeless children and families

Plan of action:

- *Expand definition of protective services*
- Provide child care subsidies to support families for at least three months of job search
- *Waive family fee for homeless families.*
- Revisit the enhanced subsidy rate for providing child care during non-traditional hours,
- New enhanced subsidy rate to incentivize providers to serve children who are homeless
- Broaden the scope of one of the milestones of our performance-based contracts with CCR&Rs to allow them to do targeted outreach to homeless shelters



Professional Development to improve access to homeless children and families

- Develop a statewide live videoconference training for providers in trauma-informed approaches to supporting child development for children who are homeless or experiencing other traumatic events
- Offer relevant Head Start training (both online and in-person) to child care providers serving children who are homeless



Still to Come

- *Payment practices*
 - *Paying for absences and program closure days*
 - Provider cash flow needs
 - Child Care Time and Attendance (CCTA)
- Minimum wage increase
 - Impact on market rates
- Enhanced payments for training



Health & Safety Standards and Monitoring

- Licensing and monitoring policies and practices
- Criminal background checks
- Progress made toward EcoHealthy child care



Progress to Date

- Pre-licensure inspection (already NYS practice)
- Child Care standards address appropriate ratios between the number of children and the number of providers and group size
- Required qualifications for providers are appropriate to each type of setting
- Policies and practices to ensure that providers for children receiving assistance and their facilities comply with applicable state or local licensing and health and safety requirements



Still to Come

- Require licensing inspectors to perform one unannounced inspection
- Annual monitoring visit of license-exempt CCDF providers
- Ratio of licensing inspectors
- Annual, unannounced **full** inspections of all facilities (including legally-exempt)
- Inspection results posted publicly online
- Online information regarding major substantiated complaints; number of deaths, serious injuries, and instances of substantiated child abuse



Criminal Background Checks

- National Crime Information Center
- FBI fingerprint check
- National Sex Offender Registry
- State criminal and sex offender registry in each state applicant has resided in over the *past 5 years* (including NYS)
- Child abuse and neglect registry in each state applicant has resided in over the *past 5 years* (including NYS)



Child Care Workforce (cont'd)

- Building and physical premises safety
- Prevention of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma
- Emergency preparedness and response planning for emergencies resulting from a natural disaster, or a man-caused event
- Handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants
- Precautions in transporting children (if applicable)
- First aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Include ongoing, annual training and a progression of professional development
- Training requirements include legally exempt providers



Progress to Date

- Training and professional development requirements for regulated providers and programs
- Policies and practices to strengthen provider's business practices
- Early learning and development guidelines appropriate for children from birth to kindergarten entry



Quality Improvement

- Activities to improve the quality of child care services
- Quality rating and improvement system
- Improving the supply and quality of child care programs and services for infants and toddlers
- Child Care Resource and Referral
- Facilitating compliance with state standards
- Evaluating and assessing the quality and effectiveness of child care programs and services
- Accreditation support
- Program standards
- Other quality improvement activities



Progress to Date (cont'd)

4. Supporting compliance with state requirements for licensing, inspection, monitoring, training, and health and safety .
5. Supporting providers in the voluntary pursuit of accreditation through the Educational Incentive Program.
6. Supporting the development or adoption of high-quality program and regulatory standards related to health, mental health, nutrition, physical activity, and physical development.



Progress to Date (cont'd)

Developing a system of quality indicators for regulated child care programs

- Dr. Richard Fiene, Director, Research Institute for Key Indicators
- Differential monitoring – using the key indicator methodology process to identify the strongest predictors of full regulatory compliance



Increased Focus on Quality Improvement

- Phases in an increase in minimum quality set-aside spending from 4% to 9% over a 5-year period (NYS already meets this req.)
- Begins in federal FY 2016
- *In addition*, requires states to spend a minimum of 3% to improve the quality of care for infants and toddlers
- States must establish outcome measures and evaluate progress of quality activities



New List of Quality Activities

States must spend quality funds on at least one of the following Quality Activities:

- **Training and professional development**
- Early learning and development guidelines
- **Improving quality of services for infants and toddlers**
- **Child care resource and referral services**
- **Accreditation**
- **Licensing and health and safety requirements**
- Quality evaluation
- **Program standards**
- Other measurable quality activities as determined by the State
- Tiered quality rating system (QUALITYstarsNY)



The Road Ahead



- Requested waivers and extensions to some of the CCDBG requirements
- New federal regulations expected in the summer



Questions???



Thank you!



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Provider Appreciation Day is May 6, 2016

Thank you!!



Anatomy of a
Child Care Provide

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For information about
Child Care in
New York State
visit:

<http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/childcare/default.asp>

