Demographics: The CNY REDC serves Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga and Oswego Counties. The US Census ACS 2019 estimates there are 106,016 children under the age of 11 years in the CNY region; 19.3% are living below the federal poverty level.

Child Care: There are 614 regulated child care programs in the CNY region with a maximum capacity to serve 20,085 children (15% of children residing in the region). Maximum capacity for infants is only 2,074 – 10% of total capacity.

Priorities for Child Care Deserts funds in the Central New York REDC region: The region consistently has a need for high-quality infant care. The pandemic has left parents with limited options for school aged children. Major industries in the region create a need for non-traditional hours of care including weekends and evenings. The region also has a significant need for sustainable home-based Family or Group Family child care in rural areas that are 15 miles or more outside of the city centers.