

Child Care Subsidy Fact Sheet



FOR OUR CHILDREN

- 85% of a child's brain development, which includes the child's intellect and social skills, develops before age 5. ⁽¹⁾
- Access to high-quality early childhood programs have long lasting positive effects including: greater school success, higher graduation rates, lower juvenile crime and lower adolescent pregnancy rates. ⁽¹⁾ They also experience fewer anxiety or impulse control issues, fewer arrests, less drug use, and higher future earnings. ^(2,3)

FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- Buffalo's children remain the third-poorest in the nation among cities with populations greater than 245,000; 48.9% of children in Buffalo lived in poverty in 2015. ⁽⁴⁾
- The facilitated enrollment subsidy supports families that fall through the cracks and make too much money to qualify for child care subsidies (below 200% FPL) but can still barely afford child care, to keep them in the workforce.
- Access to child care assistance allows families to better focus on their job responsibilities and performance thereby increasing their work hours, advancing their positions and ultimately earning more. ⁽⁵⁾

DID YOU KNOW?

- In 2014, only 17% of NYS families eligible for child care subsidies received them. ⁽⁷⁾
- According to federal regulations set forth by the DHS Administration for Children and Families, families should be paying a maximum of 7% of their income towards child care costs. ⁽⁸⁾
- In Erie County, center-based child care for an infant costs \$12,792 per year, while a year of tuition at a public college only costs \$6,470.22. ⁽⁹⁾



FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- In order to support the economic growth Buffalo is experiencing, we need people ready and able to work. Child care is a barrier to working for many low-income families. People are forced to turn down jobs due to their inability to secure child care.
- For every \$1.00 spent on child care, nearly \$2.00 of activity is generated in the local economy. ⁽⁶⁾
- An estimated 262,000 to 427,000 additional mothers would be employed if a federal policy provided child care subsidies for *all* working families with children age 3 and under earning at or below 200% FPL. ⁽¹⁰⁾

(1) Assembly Child Care Workgroup. (2013). *Child care in Crisis: A Report from the Assembly Child Care Work Group*. [http://assembly.state.ny.us/comm/Child care/20131220/index.pdf](http://assembly.state.ny.us/comm/Child%20care/20131220/index.pdf) (2) Morrissey, T.W., & Warner, M.E. (2007). Why Early Care and Education Deserves as Much Attention, or More, than Prekindergarten Alone. <http://s3.amazonaws.com/mildredwarner.org/attachments/000/000/055/original/106-6ea94867.pdf> (3) Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy. (2012) *Quality: What It Is and Why It Matters in Early Childhood Education*. http://www.scaany.org/documents/quality_earlyed_scaapolicybrief_sept2012.pdf (4) U.S. Census Bureau. *Children Characteristics, Buffalo, NY, 2011-2015 America Community Survey 5-year Estimates* (5) Shellenback, K. (2004) Child Care and Parent Productivity: Making the Business Case. <http://s3.amazonaws.com/mildredwarner.org/attachments/000/000/074/original/154-21008542.pdf> (6) Watson, S. (2011). Mobilizing Business Champions for Children: A Guide for Advocates. *The Pew Charitable Trusts*. Philadelphia, PA. (7) Winning Beginning NY Executive Agenda 2017-18. http://www.childcarewestchester.org/pdf/WBNY_Exec_Ask_2017_Final_2.pdf (8) Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program. 45 CFR Part 98 (2016). <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-09-30/pdf/2016-22986.pdf> (9) Drury, Tracey. "Child care costs in NY among nation's worst." Buffalo Business First, 25 Feb. 2016. (10) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Issue Brief. January, 2017. <https://aspe.hhs.gov/system/files/pdf/255471/ChildCareBrief.pdf>