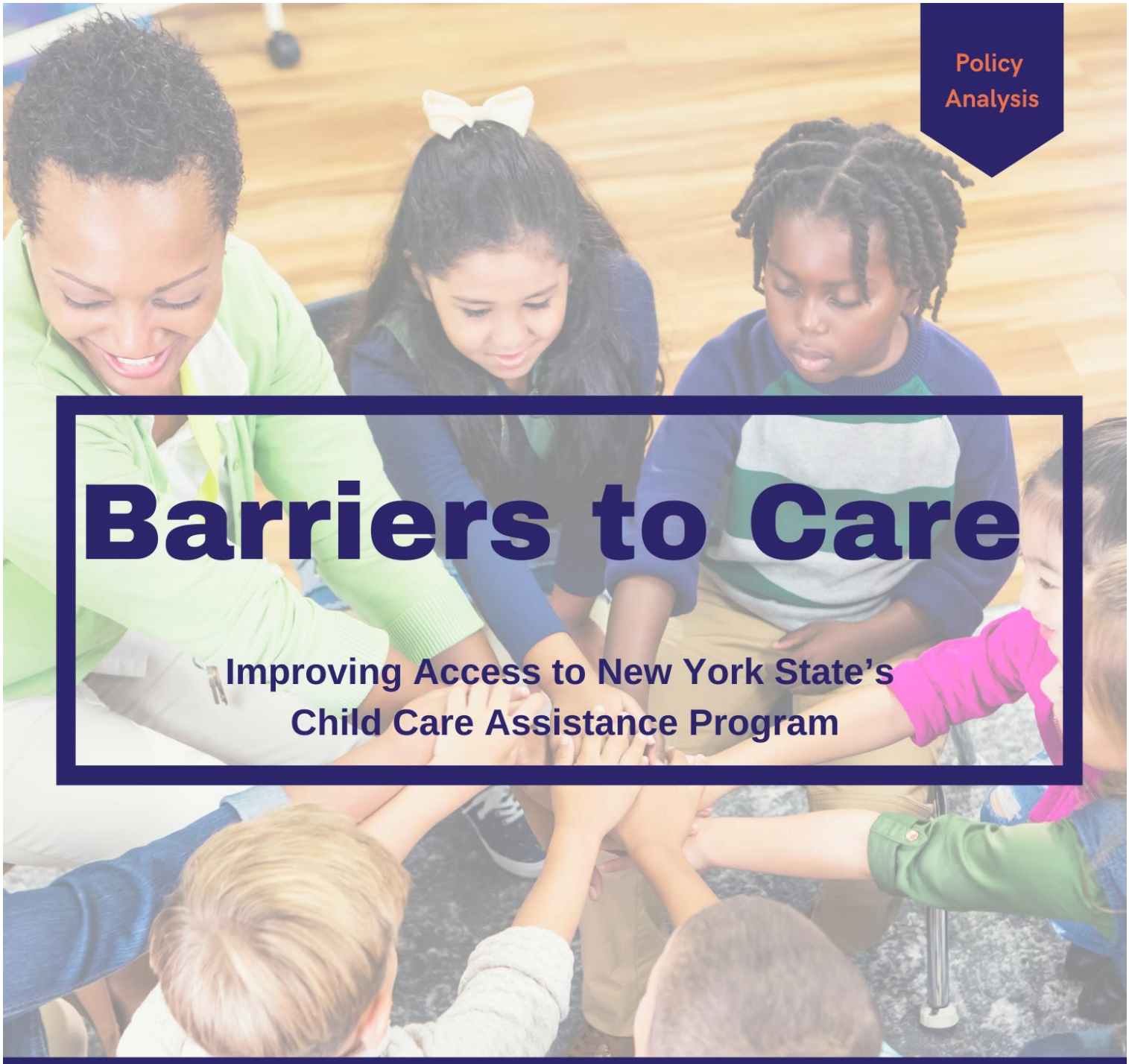

Policy Analysis

Barriers to Care

Improving Access to New York State's Child Care Assistance Program

TheChildren'sAgenda

Smart Choices. Bold Voices.

www.thechildrensagenda.org

January 2022

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Executive Summary

PROBLEM

The child care assistance system in New York does not make information on eligibility and applications readily available to parents. A systematic review of the 58 counties outside of New York City found that more than half of websites did not include any of the elements The Children's Agenda identified as essential and only three included all of the elements. Our goal as a state should be to increase the number of families receiving critical support for accessing quality, affordable care.

CONTEXT

In recent years, many counties have been unable to spend all of their child care assistance funds despite the majority of parents of young children being concerned about the lack of affordable, high quality care.

IMPORTANCE

Readily available child care helps parents remain in the workforce, contributes to economic growth, and expands the labor force for employers. It also ensures that children get off to the best possible start in life.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Children's Agenda recommends that New York State:

- Require that standardized information about child care assistance be posted on county websites.
- Develop an online child care assistance application that is used statewide.
- Fund child care assistance navigation services.

IMPACT

Implementation of these recommendations will make child care assistance more readily available to families in need and eliminate wide variations from one county to another that leave some families unserved simply because of where they live.

Introduction

Affordable, safe, high quality, and nurturing child care is essential for the immediate and future success of New York State. Our goal as a state should be to increase the number of families receiving this critical support, and we should fund services that help us achieve that goal. Readily available child care helps parents remain in the workforce, contributes to economic growth and expands the labor force for employers. It also ensures that children get off to the best possible start to life.

After years of neglect, New York's child care system is poised for transformation in 2022. There are multiple state-level child care bills that show great promise, along with a groundswell of support from federal legislators for making the cost of child care affordable. Regardless of which bills are enacted, there is no doubt that there is public and political will for transformative change.

Readily available child care helps parents remain in the workforce, contributes to economic growth and expands the labor force for employers. It also ensures that children get off to the best possible start to life.

The legislative activity aims to build upon investments made to strengthen the child care system over the past year. The FY 2021-22 state budget included agreements to reduce parent co-payments throughout the state, standardize and increase income eligibility levels for child care assistance enrollment statewide, and establish a uniform standard to reimburse providers for a limited number of child absences. These were the most significant reforms to the state's child care subsidy system in recent memory.

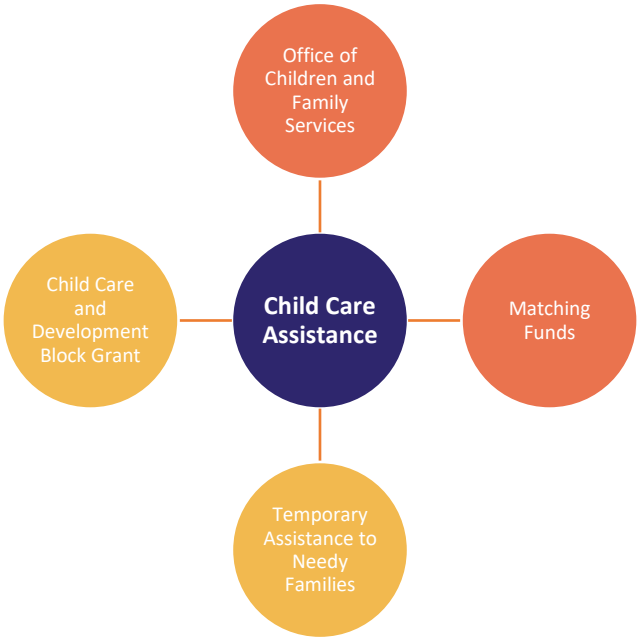
Wide variations from one county to another leave some families unserved simply because of where they live.

While advocates and policymakers have understandably focused on policies that improve funding and access to subsidized child care, far less attention has been paid to the actual administration of the assistance system. The task of enrolling families in the child care assistance program is entirely delegated to county governments in New York, and information about how to access assistance is often difficult for families to find. Additionally, the wide variations from one county to another create a patchwork approach that leaves some families unserved simply because of where they live. Relying on county social services offices to enroll families for child care assistance, with no standards in how eligibility information and applications are made available, must change. **Without minimum necessary information being easily available, many New York families will continue to fall through the cracks.**

Structure of New York State's Child Care Assistance System

Child care assistance in New York State is governed by the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) and funded by federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCBDG) funds, state matching funds, and a portion of the state's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) allocation, and local government. Child care assistance is primarily structured as an extension of public assistance, supporting parents' progress toward greater economic security through work. Families receiving Temporary Assistance are automatically eligible for child care subsidies and the assistance continues for one year after leaving the program. "Income eligible" subsidies are available to families who are not receiving public assistance but who meet other eligibility guidelines related to their income, employment and other factors. Parents in the Income Eligible program contribute a "parent co-pay." Counties are required by New York State to provide matching local funds, referred to as "Maintenance of Effort." The amount of each county's Maintenance of Effort is based on a formula from the 1990s.

The federal government sets policies for the use of the child care funds, giving New York and other states significant latitude in determining how to use their allocations. Similarly, New York State distributes the funds in the form of a block grant to the state's 58 social service districts (New York City and all counties outside the city[1]), and gives them broad parameters to determine how best to use these limited resources within federal guidelines.



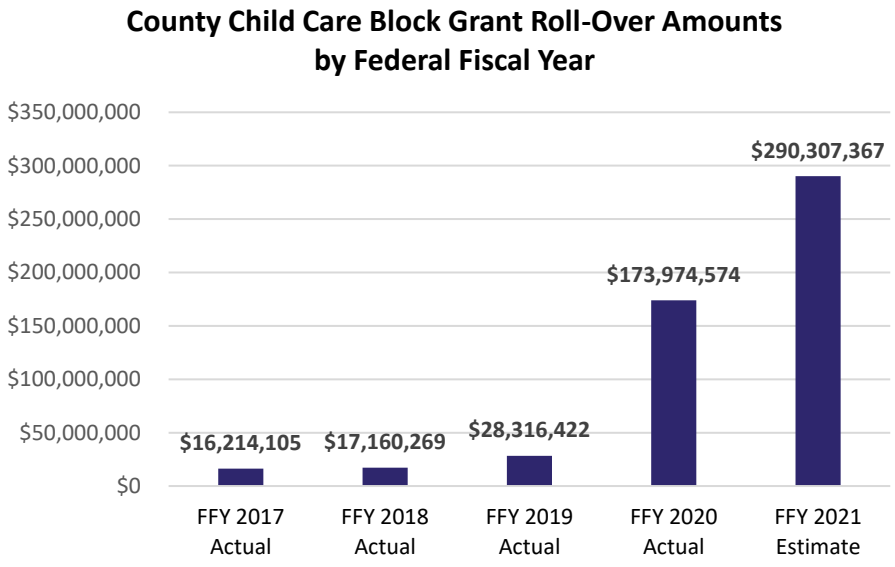
[1] Because the general public is more familiar with county divisions, in this report, the term "county" will be used to refer to social service districts. It is intended to include all counties plus New York City.

In New York, a family of more than four people that makes $53,000 or less per year qualifies for child care assistance.

The FY 2021-22 New York State budget set uniform eligibility levels at 200% of the federal poverty threshold ($53,000 for a family over 4). However, the state still delegates considerable discretion to localities in determining non-income eligibility criteria that a family must meet to qualify for subsidies. For example, counties determine whether to extend eligibility to parents attending vocational or education programs, families experiencing homelessness, to victims of domestic violence, to unemployed parents seeking work, and dozens of other criteria. **These variations create major discrepancies from one county to another in who is eligible for child care assistance. Those variations undermine the goal of assisting all New York families who have financial need.**

In recent years, many counties have been unable to spend all of the child care assistance funds they receive from state and federal sources.

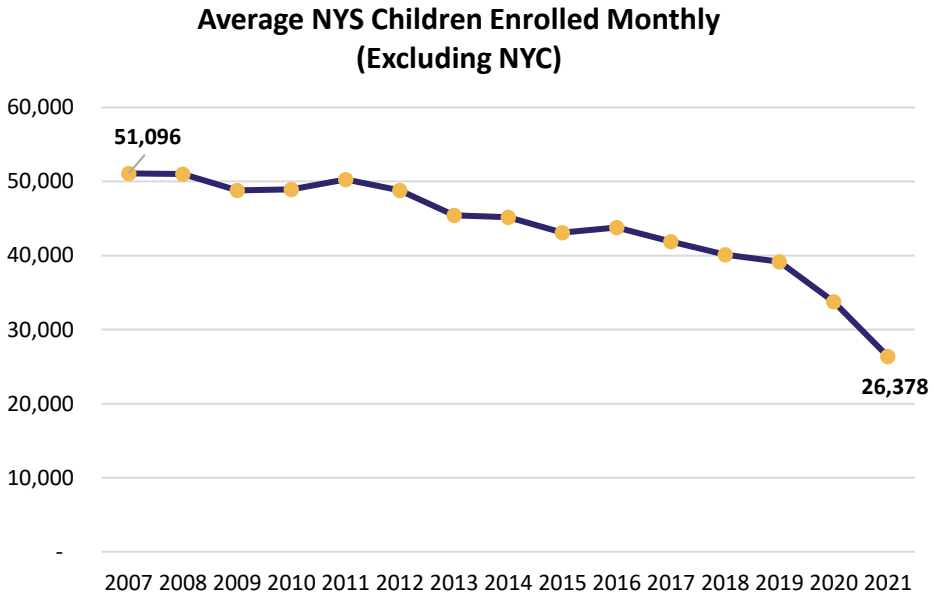
Historically, child care funds have been scarce, and many counties had restrictive eligibility standards, high parent co-pays, and often were not even actively enrolling families. However, that is not currently the case. Recent increases in federal child care funding, along with fewer families enrolling in the program (exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic), have changed that dynamic. Instead of being short on funds, **many counties in recent years have been unable to spend all of the child care subsidy dollars they receive from the state and federal governments.** This is evidenced by the amount of funding they roll over from one fiscal year into the next.



*A decade ago **50,000** children per month were supported by child care assistance.*

*In 2021 only **26,000** children per month were supported.*

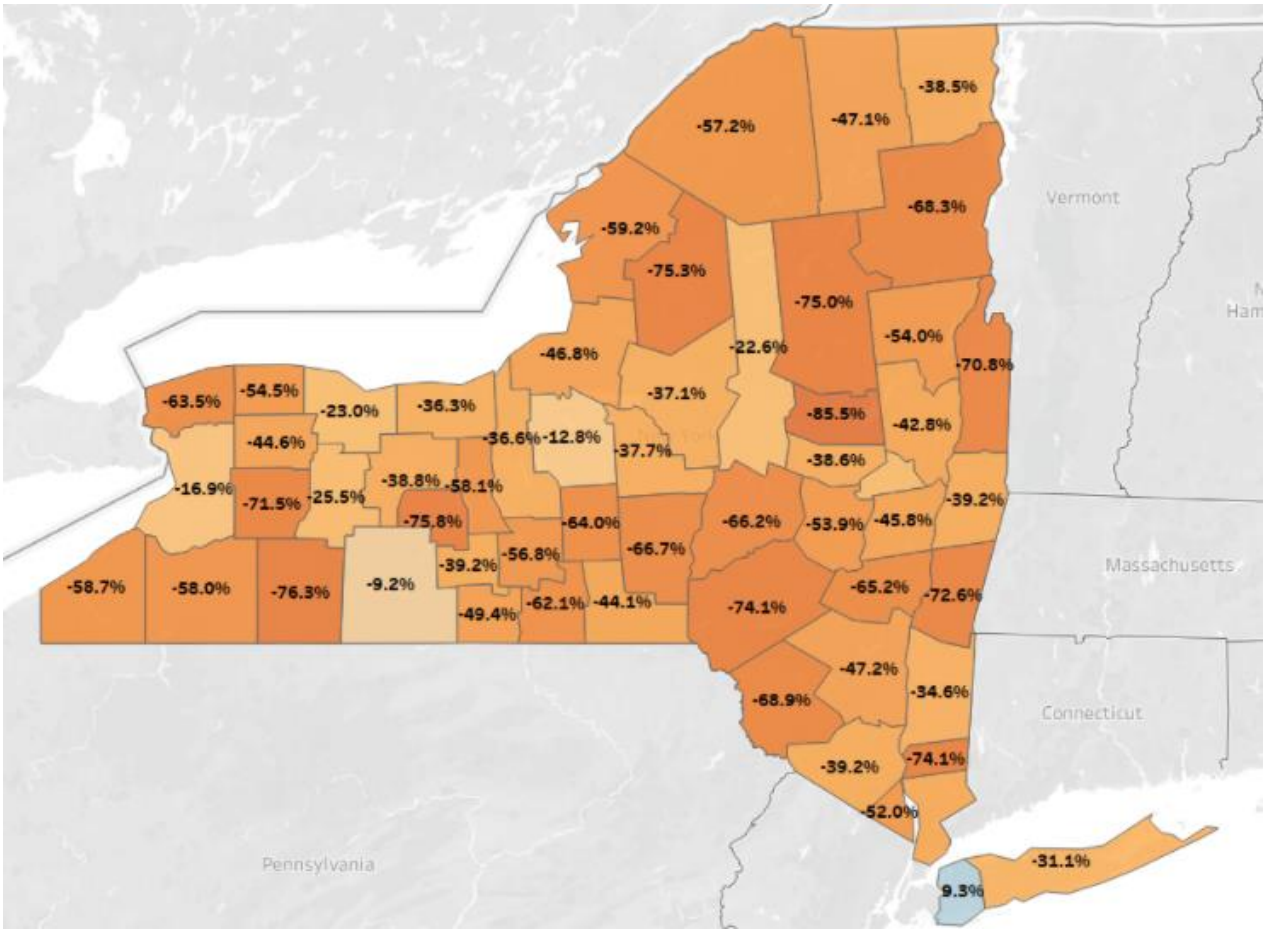
Despite the availability of funds, enrollment in child care assistance programs statewide has declined over the past ten years. According to the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), the number of children receiving subsidized care in counties outside New York City dropped from over 50,000 per month a decade ago to just under 26,378 in 2021.[2] While the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted child care throughout the state, the decline of subsidized child care in New York clearly preceded that public health and economic crisis. Pre-COVID factors such as universal Pre-K and implementation of a rising state minimum wage likely contributed to the reduced demand for child care assistance. Yet it was widely acknowledged for many years that New York's child care assistance programs reached a fraction of eligible families. Changes in administration and promotion of subsidies would have brought new families into the system, but the child care subsidy system was unresponsive to the need to adapt.



The decline in enrollment occurred throughout the state, as all counties except one (Nassau) served fewer children through their subsidy system in 2020 than in 2011.

[2] New York City's child care system differs considerably from the Rest of New York's, and state-level child care subsidy system enrollment data for NYC does not reflect all children receiving publicly funded child care in the City.

Children Receiving Child Care Subsidies in 2020 (% change from 2011)



The decline in children enrolled in child care assistance programs does not, however, mean families no longer need assistance. The decline occurred despite clear evidence that families throughout New York struggle to identify and afford child care. A 2021 poll by the Raising New York coalition found that 76% of parents of young children were concerned about the lack of affordable, high quality care for their families, and 60% reported limited access to child care.

76%

of parents of young children are concerned about the lack of affordable, high quality care

60%

of parents report limited access to child care

Raising New York

Another state initiative during 2021 also demonstrated the pent-up demand for child care assistance in New York. In June 2021, the Office of Children and Family Services unveiled a 12 week "essential worker scholarship," funded through $25 million in federal COVID relief funds. With no advertising and a limited pool of eligible families (essential workers making less than 300% of the federal poverty threshold), the program was flooded with applications. After approximately 3 weeks, enrollment was closed because funds were exhausted. **Almost 36,000 families enrolled in the scholarship program during that**

span. That is more than the average monthly enrollment in the entire non-NYC child care assistance system in 2020 or 2021.

The essential worker scholarship program was administered through a state website. Notably, the program included:

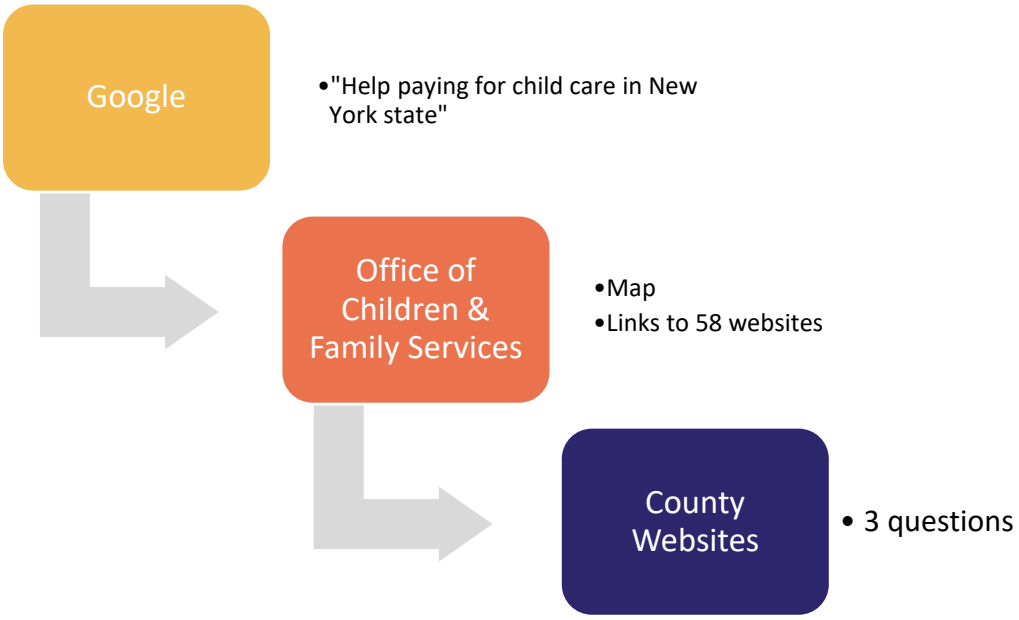
- ✓ **A straightforward application process**
- ✓ **Clear income eligibility guidelines**
- ✓ **Information about other programmatic eligibility criteria**

Providing this minimum necessary information appears to have facilitated families being able to access the scholarships. With that in mind, **The Children's Agenda set out to understand how the 58 counties outside of New York City make that type of information available to families so they can apply for and receive assistance with paying for child care.**

Method

The Children's Agenda approached this assessment by taking on the perspective of a parent struggling to afford child care who turns to an internet search to find assistance. We went to Google.com and entered the search term "Help paying for child care in New York." The top result was the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) website. As noted above, because New York delegates the administration of child care assistance to county governments, the state website did not provide any direct links to learn about or apply for assistance. Instead, it directed users to a map of New York, instructing them to select their county.

We then reviewed the links provided through the OCFS website to the 58 counties in New York State. Several links were broken (although we eventually navigated to the appropriate page), but most took the user to a county's social services homepage.



The Children's Agenda used three yes/no questions to assess the extent to which information was available on county websites:

1. **Does the website detail income eligibility levels by household size, allowing a parent to gauge their eligibility?**
2. **Does the website contain detailed information about non-income related eligibility requirements to help parents assess their eligibility and does the website reflect district-specific policies as laid out in the county's child care plan on file with OCFS?**
3. **Is the child care assistance application available for download?**

Affirmative answers to all three questions would indicate that a county provided the minimum necessary information a parent looking for assistance would need in order to apply. A parent visiting that website would be able to determine whether their income was below the level necessary to receive assistance and whether their particular work or educational circumstances would likely qualify them for assistance. They would also be able to download the application and determine what information was necessary to apply.

As our review was limited to information publicly available through county websites, we were not attempting to evaluate the perceived experience of families applying for child care assistance throughout New York. We did not explore how eligible families become aware of potential assistance, nor the quality of navigation services that families might receive from county staff.

Findings

The majority of linked websites contained references to the child care assistance system, although the level of detail varied considerably throughout the state. **More than half of websites did not include any of the three elements The Children's Agenda had identified as essential. None of the websites included an application for assistance that could be completed online.**

Essential Elements

Strikingly, 59% of counties (34 of 58) in New York did not contain any of the three essential elements. They did not list income eligibility levels by household size, describe other eligibility criteria, or contain a link to the application for child care assistance. Seven websites did not even mention the child care assistance system, and there was no indication that a person could apply for child care assistance by contacting that county social services office. **Only 3 (5%) of counties included all three of the essential elements.**

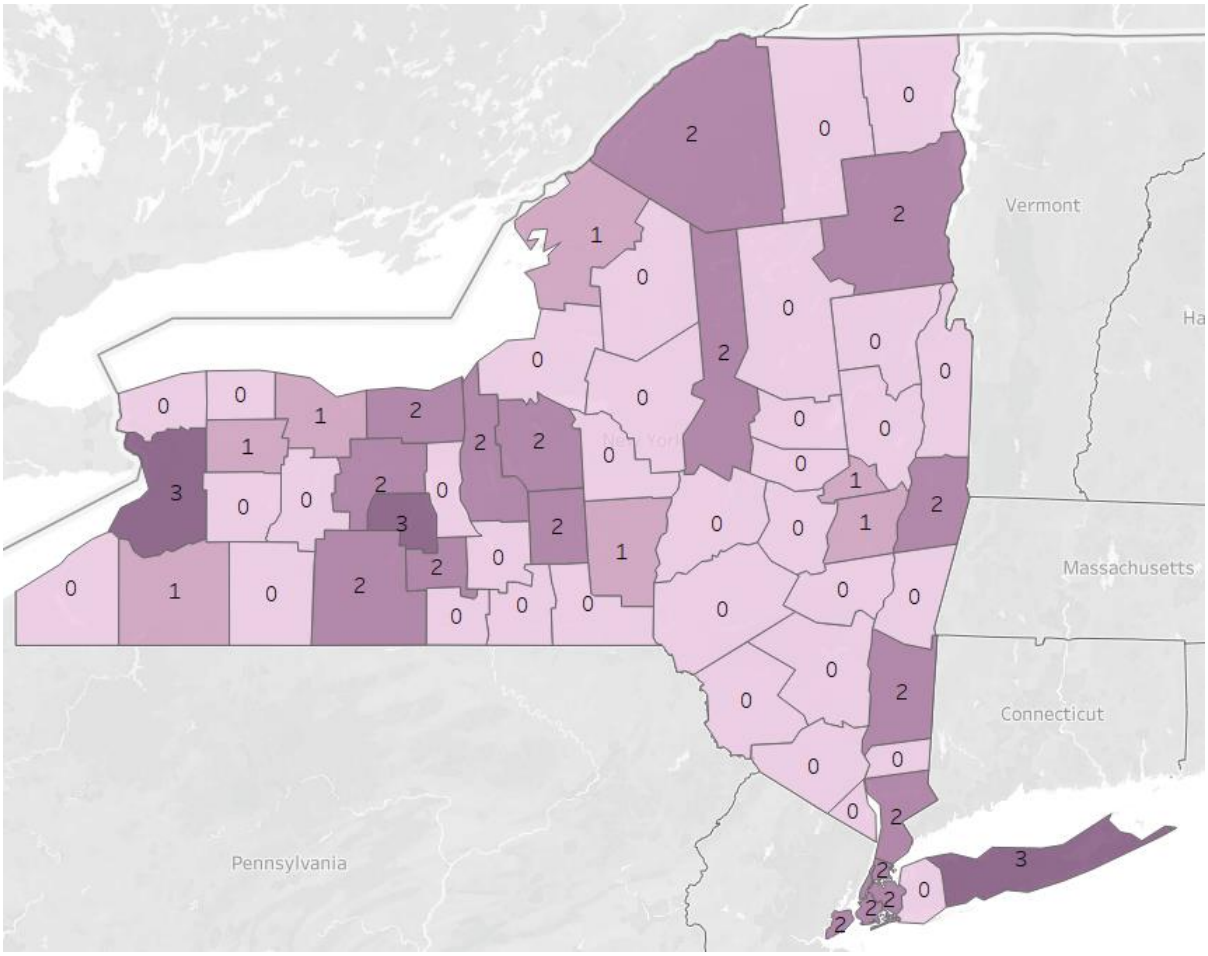
# of Elements Included	# of Counties	% of Counties
0	34	59%
1	7	12%
2	14	24%
3	3	5%
Total	**58**	**100%**

The table below details the number of county websites that included each essential element. **The information included the least frequently was income eligibility by family size. The most frequently included information was availability of the application.**

Element on Website	# of Counties	% of Counties
Income Eligibility	9	16%
Other Eligibility Criteria	15	26%
Application Available	20	34%

The amount of information available on county websites varied considerably across the state. **The websites of more populous counties tended to contain more information about the child care subsidy system and the application process than smaller districts, but not uniformly so.**

Number of Essential Elements Found on County Websites



*Only **3** county websites included all three essential elements*

Only 3 of the 58 county websites met all three categories of information: Erie, Suffolk, and Yates. Because these were the only districts to provide the minimum necessary information, The Children's Agenda took a closer look at them to learn more about their approaches.

Suffolk County's approach to communicating information about their child care assistance program was the most comprehensive of the 58 counties. Not only did the website contain the three indicators used in our review, it also included additional information, including:

- ✓ Parent **co-pays**
- ✓ Applicant **rights and responsibilities**
- ✓ A "Child Care Eligibility Wizard" **screening tool** (see box below)

Together, these resources provide a parent with the information they need to reasonably determine whether they should go through the trouble of applying for assistance and what will be required of them if they qualify for and accept assistance.

Child Care Eligibility Wizard

Step 1 | **Step 2** | **Step 3** | **Step 4**

Thank you for your interest in subsidized child care.

Subsidized child care services are ONLY available for children who are citizens or legal residents of the United States.

To receive subsidized child care, your family must document an approved reason for needing child care and meet income eligibility criteria.

If your spouse OR the second parent OR another person legally responsible for the child(ren) in need of child care is residing with you, this person must also document an approved reason for needing child care and his/her income must be included when determining whether your family meets the income eligibility criteria.

For each question, answer Yes or No

○ **No** ○ **Yes** Is at least one child who is in need of subsidized care a legal resident of the United States ?

○ **No** ○ **Yes** Are you residing with a spouse OR the second parent OR other person legally responsible for the child(ren) in need of child care ?

○ **No** ○ **Yes** Are you in receipt of Temporary Assistance **AND** at least one of the following statements are true?

- You are employed.
- You are participating in an approved work activity.
- You are participating in an approved school program.
- You are participating in an approved vocational program.

NOTE: Temporary Assistance includes Cash Assistance, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families(TANF) or Safety Net Assistance to Families(SNFA). Please check "**No**" if you are **ONLY** receiving Medicaid and/or Food Stamps (SNAP).

Reset Form

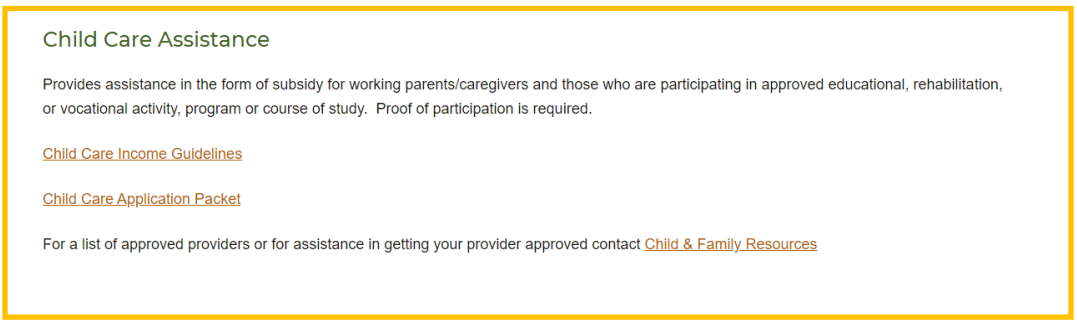
Submit

Erie County's social services website contained a wealth of information about eligibility requirements for families as well as detailed guidance about how to apply for assistance. While Erie County lacked Suffolk County's eligibility wizard, it included most other elements found on Suffolk's website. It explained the county's policies in plain language and included links and references to important community partners like Help Me Grow WNY. Erie County also listed a comprehensive set of links to help families and providers understand the child care subsidy program in that community (see box below).

More Information:

- Manual on Child Care Policy, Procedures and Billing
- Individual Application for Child Care Assistance
- Day Care Application Instructions and other information
- Child Care Payment Questionnaire
- Day Care Providers
- Eligibility Guidelines & Payment Procedures
- 2020 Program Income Limits and Federal Poverty Guidelines
- FFY 2021 85% NYS Median Income

Yates County demonstrates that smaller districts also have the capacity to communicate information about the child care assistance system to potential applicants in their community. While Erie and Suffolk counties are large, Yates is the third smallest county in New York State. Yates employed a simple approach. It listed a minimum of information on their social services website. It then included additional information through two separate links (see box below). The documents Yates County linked to communicated, in clear terms, the eligibility requirements for potential applicants. Unfortunately, Yates County was an outlier in this regard. Most small counties contained very little information about the child care assistance system.



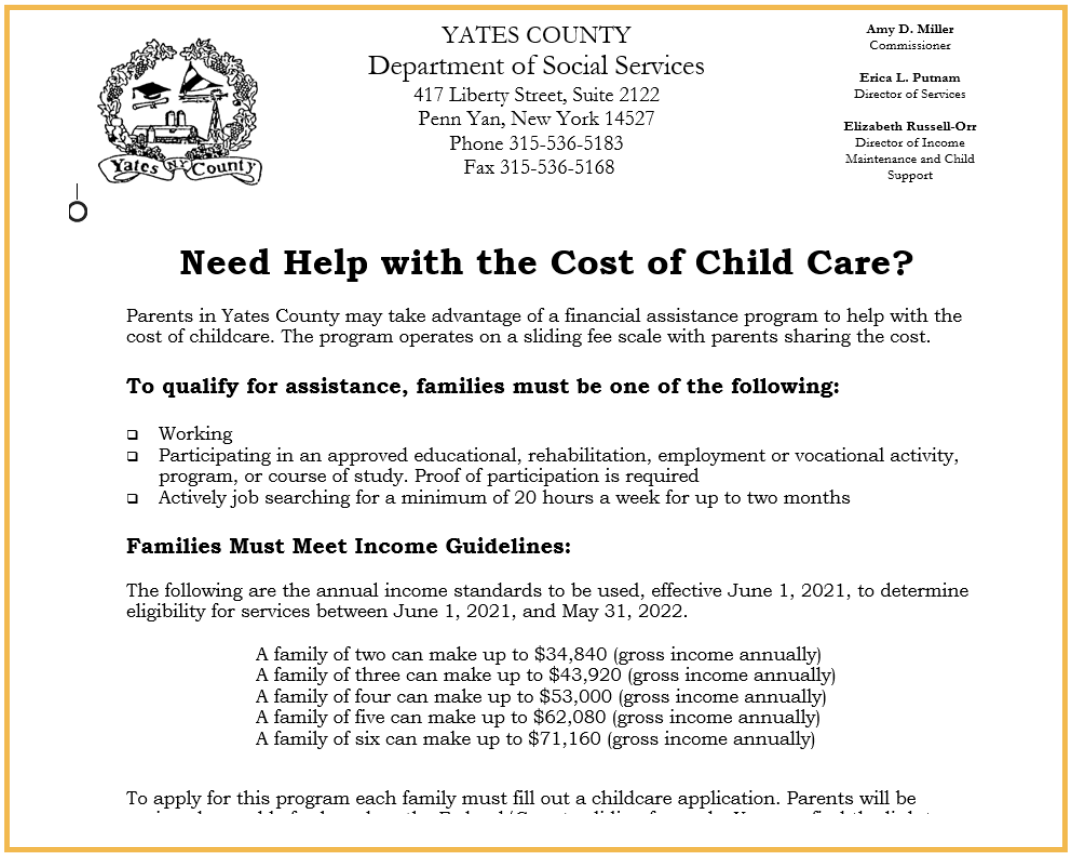
Child Care Assistance

Provides assistance in the form of subsidy for working parents/caregivers and those who are participating in approved educational, rehabilitation, or vocational activity, program or course of study. Proof of participation is required.

Child Care Income Guidelines

Child Care Application Packet

For a list of approved providers or for assistance in getting your provider approved contact Child & Family Resources



YATES COUNTY
Department of Social Services
417 Liberty Street, Suite 2122
Penn Yan, New York 14527
Phone 315-536-5183
Fax 315-536-5168

Amy D. Miller
Commissioner

Erica L. Putnam
Director of Services

Elizabeth Russell-Orr
Director of Income Maintenance and Child Support

Need Help with the Cost of Child Care?

Parents in Yates County may take advantage of a financial assistance program to help with the cost of childcare. The program operates on a sliding fee scale with parents sharing the cost.

To qualify for assistance, families must be one of the following:

- Working
- Participating in an approved educational, rehabilitation, employment or vocational activity, program, or course of study. Proof of participation is required
- Actively job searching for a minimum of 20 hours a week for up to two months

Families Must Meet Income Guidelines:

The following are the annual income standards to be used, effective June 1, 2021, to determine eligibility for services between June 1, 2021, and May 31, 2022.

A family of two can make up to $34,840 (gross income annually)
A family of three can make up to $43,920 (gross income annually)
A family of four can make up to $53,000 (gross income annually)
A family of five can make up to $62,080 (gross income annually)
A family of six can make up to $71,160 (gross income annually)

To apply for this program each family must fill out a childcare application. Parents will be

Note about New York City

New York City is the largest social service district in New York State by a significant margin, and has a greater population than all but 12 states in the United States. The City's size and administrative capacity allow it to develop and manage programs at a scale that would be unrealistic for other counties in New York. The City uses two complementary approaches to child care assistance:

- **Contracted child care model**, called EarlyLearnNYC, is administered by the City's Department of Education and braids funding from Head Start, UPK, and child care to provide a high quality early childhood education to eligible families living within the city.

- **Child care subsidies** are available through the Administration for Children's Services and provides vouchers similar to the counties outside of New York City

For this review, we evaluated whether either the contract care or voucher system met our criteria. Neither system clearly articulated income eligibility levels for assistance by household size. Therefore, **New York City only met two of our three identified criteria.**

New York City does have a thorough tool for screening eligibility for benefits called Access NYC. The tool includes screening potential applicants for child care assistance eligibility. It requires families seeking the child care subsidy application to go through that screening process before they can download the application.

The City's websites indicated that enrollment in the voucher system is closed right now due to a shortage of funds, and that families should register on a wait list. This is surprising given that New York City recently reported to OCFS that they project rolling over $192.4 million in federal child care funds from Federal Fiscal Year 2021 to 2022.

Comparison with Other NYS Benefit Programs

The child care assistance system in New York operates in a remarkably antiquated manner. Nowhere in New York can a family apply for assistance online. Instead, families need to complete a lengthy paper application, often by calling and setting up an appointment with a caseworker to begin the process or by calling and requesting that the county mail a paper application. **The offline nature of New York's system for assisting families with child care compares unfavorably to New York's other public benefit programs, which all have some online presence.**

Every public benefit program in New York has some online presence – except for child care assistance.

MyBenefits covers many other programs that support families – but does not include child care assistance.

More than a decade ago, New York introduced an online application for benefit programs operated by the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), called "myBenefits." The platform covers programs including the state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance, and Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). Users can:

- Apply for assistance
- Track the status of their application
- Recertify benefits
- Submit verification documents
- Report changes to their status
- Determine if their household may be eligible for Medicaid or other subsidized forms of health insurance
- Determine eligibility for an array of tax credits and other supports for income eligible New Yorkers that are not operated by OTDA

MyBenefits does not, however, screen for child care assistance eligibility, nor does it provide any other information about child care assistance.

Comparison with Other States

The Children's Agenda also reviewed the websites of 10 other states to compare how they administer their child care assistance programs against New York's approach. In particular, we sought out states that:

- **Detail clear eligibility guidelines**, including income levels by household size and non-income eligibility criteria
- Structure their online child care subsidy application with a **single ID system** to allow families to access multiple benefit programs across state agencies
- **Provide multi-lingual** options for families applying for assistance
- Offer an **online application** for child care assistance

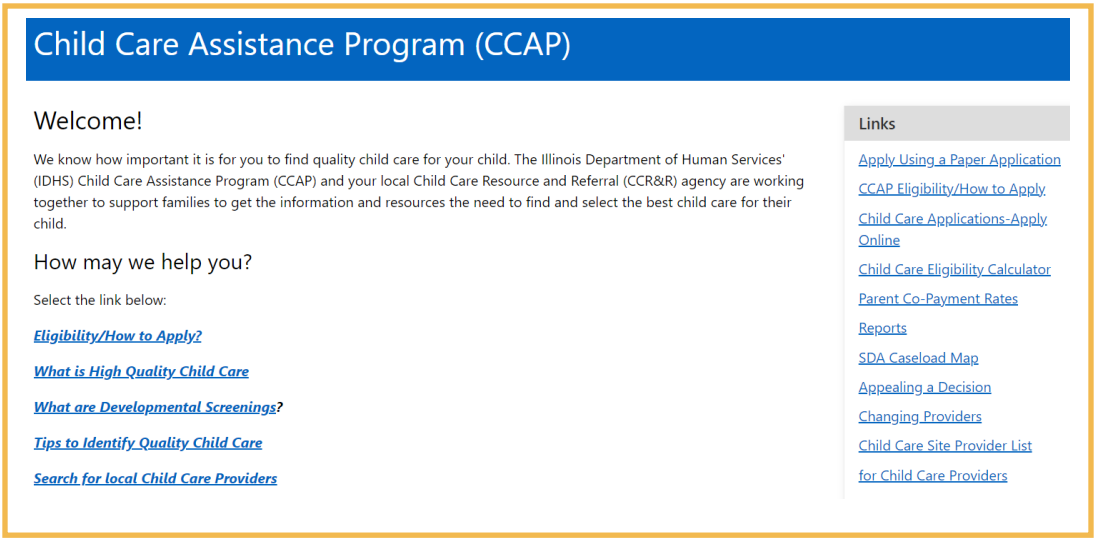
Three states stood out as examples of what New York's child care assistance programs could look like if the state modernized its approach to helping families access affordable care.

Illinois

Illinois' Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) website:

- ✓ Contains a **wealth of information** about how to apply for help affording the cost of care
- ✓ Is written in **plain language**
- ✓ Is available in **English and Spanish**
- ✓ Includes an **eligibility calculator**
- ✓ Has both **online and paper** application options

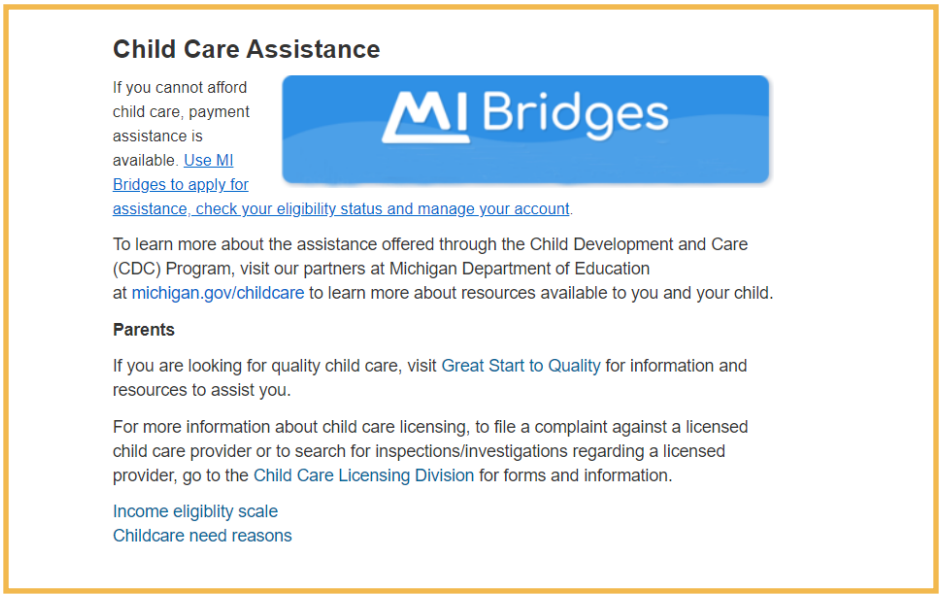
However, Illinois does not appear to link its child care application process to other potential benefits through a single ID system. It is notable that, instead of going through a social services office as in New York, families enroll for child care assistance directly with their child care provider or a Child Care Resource & Referral agency.



Michigan

Michigan's child care assistance program is called the Child Development and Care (CDC) program and is managed through the state's Department of Education. Their website, called "MI Bridges":

- ✓ Is available in **English, Spanish and Arabic**
- ✓ Is included in the states' **single ID** benefit application
- ✓ Allows families to apply for and manage benefits **across state systems and agencies**
- ✓ Has both **online and paper** application options



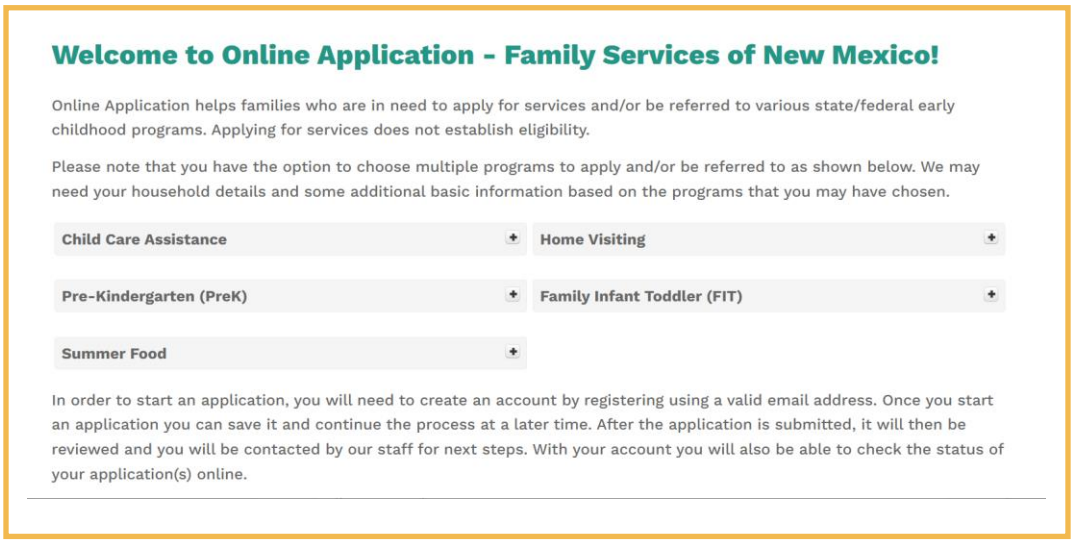
New Mexico

New Mexico's Child Care Assistance program website:

- ✓ Contains **highly detailed, accessible** information about program eligibility
- ✓ Includes an "Am I Eligible" **screening tool** that helps families assess whether they may qualify for assistance before going through the entire application process
- ✓ Clearly explains **eligibility** and parent **co-pays**
- ✓ Outlines what **materials** families need to provide to be approved for assistance
- ✓ Is in both **English and Spanish**
- ✓ Has an **online application and a paper version**

The online application is through a shared early childhood benefits program that also includes home visiting services, Pre-K, Early Intervention, and Summer Meals. New Mexico also advertises the availability of navigation services to help families apply for assistance. There are 23 Child Care Bureau office locations dispersed throughout New Mexico where families can get help applying for assistance, a

significant figure in a state of just over 2 million people. By comparison, to achieve that same ratio of office locations to residents, New York would need to have 213 enrollment locations across the state.



Welcome to Online Application - Family Services of New Mexico!

Online Application helps families who are in need to apply for services and/or be referred to various state/federal early childhood programs. Applying for services does not establish eligibility.

Please note that you have the option to choose multiple programs to apply and/or be referred to as shown below. We may need your household details and some additional basic information based on the programs that you may have chosen.

- Child Care Assistance
- Home Visiting
- Pre-Kindergarten (PreK)
- Family Infant Toddler (FIT)
- Summer Food

In order to start an application, you will need to create an account by registering using a valid email address. Once you start an application you can save it and continue the process at a later time. After the application is submitted, it will then be reviewed and you will be contacted by our staff for next steps. With your account you will also be able to check the status of your application(s) online.

Recommendations

The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent economic turmoil deeply battered New York's child care system. Thousands of providers closed their doors during the pandemic, and an untold number are still operating below capacity due to insufficient staffing. **The Children's Agenda joins many other groups throughout the state in urging the Governor and legislature to make bold reforms to the state's child care system during the upcoming legislative session.** Expanding access to child care assistance and improving child care workforce compensation should be two top priorities. We also believe that state officials should endeavor to make significant structural changes to the administration of the child care system in New York State.

Specifically, we recommend:

- **Require that standardized information be posted on county websites –** The dearth of information about child care assistance programs on county websites is dismaying. In several instances, a visitor to that website would have no idea the county administers a child care assistance program. The state should require, at a minimum, that county websites contain links to the paper (and eventually online) application, that they clearly explain income eligibility guidelines by household size, and they communicate using plain language in relevant languages, about other eligibility criteria.

> *Every parent, no matter what county they live in, should be able to access essential information to apply for child care assistance.*

- **Develop an online child care assistance application –** Parents should be able to go online to a well-publicized website, complete a straightforward and intuitive set of forms, upload necessary supporting documents, and submit an application for assistance. As noted above, this is the practice in a number of other states and for other benefit programs in New York.

> *Applications for state-wide programs should be accessible through a common, state-wide source.*

- **Fund child care assistance navigation services** – The most comprehensive and user-friendly information about potential eligibility for child care assistance is not found on the OCFS website nor on any one of the 58 county websites. Instead, it is available on Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agency websites. These non-profit organizations, largely funded by New York State, exist to register providers, provide required training and business support to child care businesses, help families identify providers, and enroll legally exempt providers in the assistance system. They are not, however, funded or empowered across the state to enroll families in the child care assistance program

(although they are contracted to do so in several smaller counties in upstate New York). Families should be able to turn to CCR&R agencies (and potentially others, including community action agencies and other community non-profits) and receive help applying for child care assistance.

Help with navigating the state child care assistance system should be available in every community.

Conclusion

New York State has the opportunity to boldly transform our child care system in a way that supports families with young children, the state's economy, and the child care workforce. New York's Governor has made child care one of her top priorities since being elected Lt. Governor in 2015. The state has received unprecedented funds from the federal government over the past two years, and has the capacity to ensure that hundreds of thousands of working families can receive help paying for the high cost of care for the first time. Several state lawmakers have introduced bold plans to ensure that every family with young children in our state can find affordable child care.

Despite these opportunities, the actual process of enrolling families in child care assistance is stuck in a pre-internet era. Unlike every other statewide public benefit, families must apply for child care assistance through a paper application that is difficult to find in much of the state. Very little information about eligibility is available in most parts of the state, and some counties appear reluctant to even divulge that they are responsible for the administration of the child care subsidy program.

New York needs to pivot away from a framework of scarcity and instead embrace an effort to enroll as many families as possible in the state's child care assistance programs. Doing so will benefit young children and their families. It will also help the state's economy recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure that New York leads the nation in ensuring that high quality child care is universally accessible and affordable to every family. Currently, New York's child care assistance system is woefully unprepared to implement universal child care. Families must be able to access clear, easy-to-understand eligibility information and applications. Without corrective action, state programs will not reach the families who need help the most**. Our goal as a state should be to increase the number of families receiving this critical support, and we should fund services that help us achieve that goal.**

Appendix

Essential Elements by County with Links

County Name	Application Available for Download	Income Eligibility By Family Size	Other Eligibility Criteria
Albany	Yes	No	No
Allegany	No	No	No
Broome	No	No	No
Cattaraugus	No	No	Yes
Cayuga	Yes	No	Yes
Chautauqua	No	No	No
Chemung	No	No	No
Chenango	Yes	No	No
Clinton	No	No	No
Columbia	No	No	No
Cortland	Yes	No	Yes
Delaware	No	No	No
Dutchess	Yes	No	Yes
Erie	Yes	Yes	Yes
Essex	Yes	Yes	No
Franklin	No	No	No
Fulton	No	No	No
Genesee	No	No	Yes
Greene	No	No	No
Hamilton	No	No	No
Herkimer	Yes	No	Yes
Jefferson	Yes	No	No
Lewis	No	No	No
Livingston	No	No	No
Madison	No	No	No
Monroe	Yes	No	No
Montgomery	No	No	No
Nassau	No	No	No
New York City	Yes	No	Yes
Niagara	No	No	No

County Name	Application Available for Download	Income Eligibility By Family Size	Other Eligibility Criteria
Oneida	No	No	No
Onondaga	Yes	Yes	No
Ontario	Yes	No	Yes
Orange	No	No	No
Orleans	No	No	No
Oswego	No	No	No
Otsego	No	No	No
Putnam	No	No	No
Rensselaer	Yes	No	Yes
Rockland	No	No	No
Saratoga	No	No	No
Schenectady	No	Yes	No
Schoharie	No	No	No
Schuyler	Yes	No	Yes
Seneca	No	No	No
St. Lawrence	Yes	Yes	No
Steuben	No	Yes	Yes
Suffolk	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sullivan	No	No	No
Tioga	No	No	No
Tompkins	No	No	No
Ulster	No	No	No
Warren	No	No	No
Washington	No	No	No
Wayne	Yes	No	Yes
Westchester	Yes	Yes	No
Wyoming	No	No	No
Yates	Yes	Yes	Yes