

**MEETING THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF
PRESCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN**

**A DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION
PROGRAMS IN NEW YORK STATE**

**Prepared for the
State Education Department
by
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Program	Child Care Resource and Referral Program
Administrative Agency/Organization	NYS Child Care Coordinating Council
Mission/Purpose	<p>Child Care Resource and Referral programs have three major purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide information and referral services to families seeking early care and education programming for their children (special emphasis on low-income families). • To provide technical assistance to individuals and organization seeking to develop early care and education programs • To provide training and educational opportunities for programs and individuals/
Target Population/Eligibility	All families
Specific Services/Activities Provided	<p>Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) programs serve as community coordinating and planning agencies for local child care services and offer a variety of supports to child care providers, parents, businesses and local governments. CCRR programs increase the supply of quality child care by providing a broad range of support services to providers and help families make informed decisions about available child care services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assists families by providing a highly visible, centralized source of information for child care consumers (data base of homes and facilities) • Identifies sources of financial aid to help families pay for their child care choices • Improves the quality of available services by providing training and TA to providers as well as other tangible supports • Expands the supply of child care by recruiting and training new providers • Educates parents about what constitutes quality child care and how to evaluate their child care arrangements on an ongoing basis • Encourages businesses to support child care services and provide family friendly work places
Number of projects/Geographic Areas Covered	There are 4 local agencies that provide coverage in all counties.

Major funding source(s) and annual appropriations for New York State	NYS OCFS, USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program and other local funding sources
Any major program evaluation efforts/findings	Economic Impact Study of Child Care in NYS Quality Assurance process of local CCRRs is underway
Program Contact	Executive Director www.nysccccc.org
Linkages/Coordination with other initiatives	Local CCRRs act as coordinating hubs for child care issues in their service areas. The NYS Child Care Coordinating Council is co convener for the statewide Child Care that Works Campaign; the Winning Beginning initiative
Assessment of major strengths and weaknesses – Consider: ➤ Availability ➤ Accessibility ➤ Affordability ➤ Quality ➤ Effectiveness ➤ Outreach/Coverage ➤ Inclusion of high-risk populations ➤ Governance ➤ Workforce ➤ Sustainability	Child care resource and referral programs are a critical resource for families looking for early care and education programming for their children and for supporting the early education system in their communities.

Program	Child Care
Administrative Agency/Organization	<p>NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) administers the Child Care Block Grant, which supports child care subsidies for low-income families and quality improvement initiatives. OCFS also licenses and registers family and group child care programs statewide and center-based programs in areas of the state outside of New York City. The New York City Department of Health licenses center-based programs in New York City.</p>
Mission/Purpose	<p>New York State regulations define child care as care for a children on a regular basis provided away from a child's residence for less than 24 hours per day by someone other than the parent, step parent, or other close relatives. These regulations do not refer to summer day camps, religious education classes, day treatment facilities, or programs for children three years of age or older operated by a public school district or nursery schools/preschools that care for children less than three hours a day.</p> <p>There are five regulated types of child care providers: Child care centers, which serve six or more children; Small child care centers, which serve three to six children in a licensed facility and not a residence); Family Child Care, which is provided in a providers residence and serves no more than eight children. Family child care providers can serve no more than two children under the age of two at any one time. When any child who is less than two years of age is present, the maximum capacity is five. When all children present are at least two years of age, maximum capacity is six. An additional two children who are of school-age may be provided care if they attend kindergarten or a higher grade. Group Family Child Care, which is provided a providers residence with, in addition to the provider, at least one assistant and serving no more than 14 children. There must be at least one caregiver for every two children under the age of 2 years. When any child who is less than 2 years of age is present, the maximum capacity is 10. When all children present are at least 2 years of age, maximum capacity is 12. An additional 2 children who are of school-age may be cared for if the children attend kindergarten or higher grade.</p> <p>In addition to regulated child care providers there are child care providers who are exempt from licensing. An exempt family child care home describes care on a regular basis for no more that two non-relative children or care for more children not on a regular basis.</p>

<p>Target Population/ Eligibility</p>	<p>Services - A child care program may provide care for children six weeks through 12 years of age; for children 13 years of age or older who are under court supervision; for children 13 years of age or older who are incapable of caring for themselves when such inability is documented by a physician, psychiatrist or psychologist; and in extenuating circumstances, for children under six weeks of age when prior approval has been obtained from the regional child care licensing office. Children who attain the maximum age allowed during the school year may continue to receive child day care through the following September 1st or until they enter school for the following year.</p> <p>Subsidies - Low-income working families who meet income guidelines (200 percent of poverty or below) and need child care to work, look for work, or attend employment training are eligible for subsidies to help them pay for care. Parents in receipt of Public Assistance, who need child care in order to meet any work participation requirements are guaranteed child care subsidies. Parents are also guaranteed assistance in paying for child care for one year after leaving Public Assistance if they left Public Assistance for a job and need child care to go to work.</p>
<p>Specific Services/Activities Provided</p>	<p>Appropriate planned activities that encourage cognitive, social, emotional, physical, and language development; sufficient materials and play equipment; appropriate eating and resting arrangements; supervision of children; nutrition program; discipline guidelines written and practiced; and health and infection control. Some center-based programs provide transportation, but that is relatively rare.</p>
<p>Number of programs/Geographic Areas Covered</p>	<p>In New York State there are 17,807 regulated child care providers serving 479,585 children ages 6 weeks to 13 years of age. Of these, there are 1,893 child care centers serving 138,673 children; 8,427 family day care providers serving 63,846 children; 5,038 group family child care programs serving 68,695 children and 2,448 school-age child care centers serving 208,095. There is 1 small day care center serving 6 children.</p>
<p>Major funding source(s) and annual appropriations for New York State</p>	<p>New York State Child Care and Development Block Grant - \$830million</p>
<p>Any major program evaluation efforts/findings</p>	<p>There have been numerous national and regional studies on the quality of child care programs. Quality is largely due to the education of the staff and varies from program to program.</p>

Program Contact	The director of the child care center of the family child care provider
Linkages/Coordination with other initiatives	Varies according to program. Relationships with school districts also vary from program to program; there is little or no linkage with SED unless the program provides UPK.
Assessment of major strengths and weaknesses –	<p>Programs operate year around and are typically open from as early as 6:00am to 6:00pm Monday through Friday. Family child providers are sometimes willing to provide care on night and weekends. Child care programs are not restricted to a particular age group.</p> <p>Despite the large number of programs there remain shortages in some areas of the state particularly in New York City where building costs make it extremely difficult to address supply issues. This is especially true of infant and toddler care which is the most expensive type of care to provide due to increased staff/child ratios. The quality of services is affected by the ability of families to pay the true costs of care. While there has been a significant increase in the availability of subsidy dollars, many low-income working families still struggle to meet the costs of care. As a result, program fees are structured to address parent' ability to pay not what is costs to provide high quality services. Many programs have waiting lists, but typically will do what they can to serve those most in need.</p>

Program	Early Head Start
Administrative Agency/Organization	US Office of Head Start, Administration for Children and Families. All center-based Early Head Start programs in New York City are licensed by the NYC Department of Health. Center-based programs in the rest of the state are licensed by the Office of Children and Family Services provided they serve children for more than two and a half hours a day, five days per week. Home-based programs are not licensed.
Mission/Purpose	To promote healthy prenatal outcomes, enhance the overall development of young children, and promote healthy family functioning, with the overall goal of promoting school readiness of young children in low income families
Target Population/Eligibility	Low income pregnant women and families with incomes at or below the federal poverty level (currently \$13,690 for a family of 2 and \$20,650 for a family of four) with children birth to three years of age. The recently signed Head Start Reauthorization bill raises eligibility levels to 130 percent of poverty.
Specific Services/Activities Provided	Early Head Start was established under the 1994 Head Start Reauthorization Act to serve low-income pregnant women and families with infants and toddlers. It is a two-generation program designed to provide high-quality child and family development. The program is family centered, community based and designed to enhance children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development. As with Head Start, which serves children 3-5 years of age and their families, Early Head Start provides child development services through center-based, home-based, and a combination of program options. While the vast majority of Head Start programs offer center-based services, approximately half of all Early Head Start programs provide services based on a home visiting model. Services include: high quality early education in and out of the home; family support services; home visits; parenting education; comprehensive health and mental health services, including services for pregnant and post-partum women; nutrition; child care; and ongoing support for parents through case management and peer support.
Number of projects/Geographic Areas Covered	Of New York's 39 programs, 13 are located in New York City and 29 are located in the rest of the state. The sponsoring organization for the 39 Early Head Start programs include 18 Community Action Agencies and 21 other community-based non-profit organizations. New York's Early Head Start programs have 3,808 slots and served 5,805 pregnant

	women and children during the 2005-06 program year.
Major funding source(s) and annual appropriations for New York State	Approximately \$42 million (10% of the overall Head Start budget for New York State)
Program Contact	Program Director or Family Services Coordinator.
Any major program evaluation efforts/findings	National, prospective rigorous evaluation of both implementation and effectiveness of Early Head Start programs. Evaluation found wide array of small but positive outcomes including child developmental outcomes and parent-child interaction.
Linkages/Coordination with other initiatives	Many, on a program-by-program basis. No specific relationships with school districts and State Education.
Assessment of major strengths and weaknesses	<p>Comprehensive, evidence-based program model to meet needs of low- income families with young children. All Early Head Start programs must adhere to Head Start Program Performance Standards which helps ensure quality. Some programs have transportation, others serve families in their homes and could serve them in programs.</p> <p>Reaches only a small portion of eligible families in New York State. There are usually wait lists to get in. Some provide child care, but it is not the focus of the program.</p>

Program	Head Start Program
Administrative Agency/Organization	Federal Office of Head Start, Administration on Children and Families. The NYC Department of Health licenses all Head Start programs in New York City. The Office of Children licenses programs in the rest of the state and Family Services provided they serve children for more than two and a half hours a day, five days per week.
Mission/Purpose	Established in 1965 by Congress, Head Start is an educational and family support program designed to serve low-income 3 and 4-year old children and their families.
Target Population/Eligibility	3-5 year old children from families living at or below the federal poverty level (currently \$13,690 for a family of 2 and \$20,650 for a family of four). Head Start programs must serve most in need first, but ten percent of their enrollment can be over the income eligibility guidelines. A minimum of ten percent of Head Start enrollment should be children with disabilities. However, most programs exceed that percentage. The recently signed head Start Reauthorization bill raises eligibility levels to 130 percent of poverty.
Specific Services/Activities Provided	Head Start programs provide early education, parent education, and family support services to low-income three and four-year olds and their families. The overall goal of Head Start is to increase school readiness of children through the delivery of comprehensive services to children and their families. These comprehensive services include: research-based early childhood programming, health screening and follow up services, services for children with disabilities, family involvement services, and the linking of community resources to meet family and child needs. The majority of programs provide services through a center-based model, although some programs provide home-based services and many provide a mix of home and center-based programming.
Number of projects/Geographic Areas Covered	The 181 Head Start programs in New York State have a funded capacity of 45,745 slots and served 53,146 children during the 2005-06 program year. Of these children, at the time of enrollment, 22,125 were 3 years of age, 29,153 were four, and 1,574 were 5 years old.
Major funding source(s) and annual appropriations for New York State	NYS Head Start programs receive approximately \$428.5 million per year in federal funding. This amount does not include funds for the technical assistance network, contract management and administration, or the system of program review and monitoring (PRISM). The federal government directly funds organizations that offer Head Start programs. In most counties, there is a single grantee agency that is

	<p>typically a not-for-profit community-based organization. In 43 counties, the grantee agency is a community action agency. In some areas, the grantee agency will sub contract with another organization to provide services in a particular area or for a specific population. In New York State, one grantee and two delegate agencies are school districts. In New York City, the super grantee is the NYC Administration for Children Services, which provides no direct services and subcontracts with 81 delegate agencies. In addition, there are 17 additional grantee agencies in NYC. Of these, 11 also are ACS delegate agencies.</p>
<p>Any major program evaluation efforts/findings</p>	<p>Head Start and Head Start-like programs (Perry Preschool Program) have been repeatedly evaluated and shown to have a positive effect in preparing children for school and supporting families' efforts to parent their children. Some evaluations have shown that the positive effect that children receive from Head Start diminishes overtime. Other studies, such as the ongoing Perry Preschool evaluation show long-lasting effects on employment, reliance on public benefit programs, criminal involvement, and other social indicators.</p>
<p>Program Contact</p>	<p>Program Director/Family Services Coordinator</p>
<p>Linkages/Coordination with other initiatives</p>	<p>Head Start programs typically coordinate service provision with a variety of child and family service programs. These collaborations vary on program-by-program basis. Head Start programs develop collaborations with school districts to ease the transition of children from the Head Start program to school and ensure that children with disabilities receive appropriate and effective preschool special education and related services. Many Head Start programs offer Universal Prekindergarten programs.</p>
<p>Assessment of major strengths and weaknesses –</p>	<p>Comprehensive, evidence-based program model to meet needs of low- income families with young children. All Head Start programs must adhere to Head Start Program Performance Standards which helps to ensure quality.</p> <p>The program is offered free to eligible families. However, it reaches only a portion of the eligible families in New York State. A minimum of ten percent of the children served by Head Start has disabilities and many programs target recent immigrant and other high-risk populations including homeless families. Some programs provide transportation and many offer child care services in addition to Head Start.</p> <p>Parents are actively involved in the governance of Head Start. Each program must establish a policy council, which is comprised of at least 50 percent parent representatives.</p>

	<p>The policy council is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the program. A significant portion of Head Start staff are former parents.</p> <p>Because Head Start is able to pay staff more than other early childhood programs, staff tend to be better-educated and turnover rates are not as high.</p> <p>Head Start programs must be fully enrolled at all times and most maintain waiting lists. Children have to be age eligible to participate.</p>
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Note: In addition, to the programs described above there is a also a Migrant Head Start program in New York State that operates 19 program sites serving children birth to 5 years of age and both the Mohawk and Seneca Nations operate Tribal Head Start programs.

Program	Universal Prekindergarten
Administrative Agency/Organization	The New York State Education Department administers the Universal Prekindergarten Program. Funding is allocated to local school districts to provide the service. Approximately 60 percent of Universal Prekindergarten programs are provided by community-based organizations (e.g., child care, Head Start, nursery schools/preschools, and preschool special education programs) to allow the program to be offered in a variety of options to meet family needs.
Mission/Purpose	To provide high quality preschool education to four-year old children to prepare them for success in school.
Target Population/Eligibility	When fully funded the Universal Prekindergarten Program will be available to all four-year old children in the state. Implementation of the program focused first on the school districts with the highest percentage of low-income children. During the 2007-08 school year, approximately 97,000 children were served by the program.
Specific Services/Activities Provided	The Universal Prekindergarten Program provides a quality preschool education program. Universal Prekindergarten is provided by schools and community-based organizations that offer both part-time and full-day programs. Some of the programs operated by these agencies provide services according to a school calendar, others operate year around.
Number of projects/Geographic Areas Covered	Beginning in the 2007-08 school year all 677 school districts in New York State were allocated funding to allow them to provide UPK. Of those, 452 school districts have chosen to participate in the program as of January 2009.
Major funding source(s) and annual appropriations for New York State	The Universal Prekindergarten program (\$451 million) is funded through state tax dollars.
Any major program evaluation efforts/findings	No
Program Contact	Early Childhood Coordinator at school district or the Program Director
Linkages/Coordination with other initiatives	Universal Prekindergarten programs are required to use at least 10 percent of their allocation for purchasing services from community-based organizations. However, approximately 60 percent of Universal Prekindergarten programs are offered though a collaborative agreement with these organizations.

Assessment of major strengths and weaknesses	<p>The Universal Prekindergarten Program provides high quality preschool education for predominantly low-income children preparing them for school. The amount of collaboration between school districts and community-based programs caused by the implementation of the Universal Prekindergarten program has had significant benefits to the quality of participating early childhood programs. It has also helped develop positive working relationships between the community-based providers of UPK programs and the sponsoring school districts.</p> <p>Program slots are generally fully enrolled by the beginning of the program year, but vacancies exist. There are no fees for UPK, but if provided as part of a child care program, fees for that program apply. Transportation is available for many school operated programs and some programs offered by community-based organizations.</p>
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Program	Even Start
Administrative Agency/Organization	NYS Department of Education Bureau of Early Childhood and Reading Initiatives
Mission/Purpose	The purpose of Even Start Family Literacy Programs is to help break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy by improving the educational opportunities of the Nation's low-income families by integrating adult, early childhood, and parenting education, and interactive literacy into a unified family literacy program.
Target Population/Eligibility	To be eligible for Even Start, a family must have at least one parent who is reading in English below a ninth grade level or attending a secondary school, and one or more of their children must be under 8 years of age. There are no income eligibility requirements, although programs are expected to target families living at or near the poverty level.
Specific Services/Activities Provided	<p>Even Start programs provide comprehensive family literacy services are defined as "services that are of sufficient intensity in terms of hours, and of sufficient duration to make sustainable changes in a family and that integrate all of the following activities: interactive literacy activities between the parents and their children,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • training for parents regarding how to be the primary teacher for their children and full partners in the education of their children, • parent literacy training that leads to economic self-sufficiency, • age-appropriate education to prepare children for success in school and life experiences. <p>Services are provided primarily through either home visits or through center-based programs or through some combination of the two modalities. Case management services are also provided.</p>
Number of projects/Geographic Areas Covered	During the 2007-08 school year there are 19 programs serving 670 families and 1,400 children.
Major funding source(s) and annual appropriations for New York State	US Department of Education provides approximately \$7 million for 2007-08.
Any major program evaluation efforts/findings	A longitudinal evaluation was conducted between 1997-2001. Program statistics show the program to be effective in preparing adults for employment and children for success

	in school.
Program Contact	Program Director
Linkages/Coordination with other initiatives	Each Even Start program is a partnership between a school and a community-based organization. Each partnership develops collaborative relationships with a wide array of agencies and organizations according to the needs of the families served.
Assessment of major strengths and weaknesses	Even Start is only available in 29 communities, many more high need communities could benefit from having family literacy services. The program is free for participating families. Even Start is seen as a highly effective anti-poverty service approach.

Program	Early Intervention Program
Administrative Agency/Organization	NYS Department of Health Center of Community Health Division of Family Health
Mission/Purpose	The mission of the Early Intervention Program is to identify and evaluate as early as possible those infants and toddlers whose healthy development is compromised and provide for appropriate intervention to improve and family development.
Target Population/Eligibility	Statewide service delivery system for infants and toddlers (ages birth to three years) with disabilities and their families. All children in this age group who meet eligibility criteria established in state law and regulations (e.g. either a developmental delay or diagnosed physical or mental condition with a high probability of developmental delay) can receive services. A delay in one or more areas of development consistent with state definition of developmental delay (cognitive; physical; communication; social/emotional; or adaptive); or a diagnosed condition that has a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay.
Specific Services/Activities Provided	The Early Intervention Program (EIP) provides an array of therapeutic and supportive services including: service coordination, evaluation services, special instruction, speech-language therapy, physical therapy, family counseling and training, and nutrition services, and assistive technology devices and services.
Number of projects/Geographic Areas Covered	The 57 counties and New York City administer the public Early Intervention Program locally. The program is administered at the local level by the designated Early Intervention Officials and public agency.
Major funding source(s) and annual appropriations for New York State	Services are funded through a combination of Medicaid, commercial third party insurance, and state and local funds. Municipalities and the State share cost (50/50) not covered by Medicaid /commercial insurance. Approximately \$500million annually.
Any major program evaluation efforts/findings	The Early Intervention Program provides annual reports on program progress to the federal Office of Special Education (OSEP).
Program Contact	Early Intervention Official

<p>Linkages/Coordination with other initiatives</p>	<p>The Department of Health is required to maintain and convene a twenty-seven member Governor-appointed Early Intervention Coordinating Council (EICC) on at least a quarterly basis to advise and assist in the implementation of the EIP. The EICC has state agency commissioner representation from the Department of Health, State Education Department, Office of Children and Family Services, Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, Office of Mental Health, Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services, and the State Insurance Department .</p> <p>At the local level, Early Intervention provider organization coordinate service delivery with early care and education programs to provide services in natural settings.</p>
<p>Assessment of major strengths and weaknesses</p>	<p>State and local responsibility to administer the statewide Early Intervention Program components of the child find and public awareness system- to identify eligible children, engage children in primary health care where they will receive developmental surveillance and screening and inform the public about early intervention services and how to make a referral.</p>

Program	Preschool Special Education
Administrative Agency/Organization	NYS Education Department Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities
Mission/Purpose	Statewide Preschool programs provide special education services to children 3-5 years of age who have an identified disability that affects their learning. Services are provided in the least restrictive environment and are intended to support learning and to prepare children for kindergarten or other school-age programs.
Target Population/Eligibility	Preschool children three to five years of age with a disability.
Specific Services/Activities Provided	Special education and related services (i.e. speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, assistive technology, parent education and training, counseling) are provided in programs approved by State Education Department including special education itinerant teacher (SEIT), special class in an integrated setting, and special class by qualified professionals.
Number of projects/Geographic Areas Covered	Services are provided in all 681 school districts covering all areas of the state serving approximately 80,000 children and their families.
Major funding source(s) and annual appropriations for New York State	Federal Individual with Disabilities Act (IDEA); state, and county tax dollars. Approved expenditures for the program were approximately \$978 million in the 2005-06 year
Any major program evaluation efforts/findings	A Longitudinal Study of Preschool Special Education", commissioned by the NY SED and conducted from 2000 to 2007, found that preschool services made a difference in children's developmental progress, exceeding that of a matched group of students who received only school-age special education services.
Program Contact	Chairperson of the Committee on Preschool Special Education in each school district
Linkages/Coordination with other initiatives	Preschool special education providers collaborate with the full range of early childhood and family support programs in order to identify children in need of services and to provide services in the least restrictive environment.
Assessment of major strengths and weaknesses	Program provides high quality special education and related services in a variety of settings in order to meet the needs of the child and their family.