

Pro Action Child Care Council

Steuben & Schuyler's most trusted child care resource.

2023 Schuyler County Child Care Report



Our Mission:

Pro Action Child Care Council empowers the development of high-quality environments for children, ensuring families have access to affordable and secure child care.

The 2023 Schuyler County Child Care Report is funded by the Office of Children and Family Services.



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Dear Reader:

Child care continued to receive extraordinary investment during 2023. Notably, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) awarded Workforce Retention grants to child care workers, both self-employed and working in centers, throughout the state. In addition, the Office raised the income eligibility threshold for Child Care Assistance Program again, this time to 85% of the State Median Income. In 2023, OCFS also issued the Request for Application for Child Care Resource and Referral program services, in which it provided a funding increase to allow CCR&Rs to offer a Business Support service for child care programs. Highlights of these investments follow.

- In 2023, \$1,317,000 in Workforce Retention Grants went straight to 439 childcare workers in Steuben County. In addition, \$657,716 went to programs for additional needs.
- In 2023, over \$5.4 Million in Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) funds supported access to child care for Steuben Children, compared with about \$2.9 Million in 2022, an 88% increase in the local investment in child care (which translates to savings for families). Despite a waiting list disruption due to delayed funding in June and July of 2023, CCAP served 47% more children and 39% more families than it served in 2022 thanks to increased funding, regulatory changes and eligibility changes.
- As of October 1, 2023, the eligibility threshold for families to receive CCAP for their children was raised to 85% of the State Median Income, from 200% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL). This change expands the program to serve many more working families. Since the change was implemented, the number of children served by CCAP has gone up by 13%, from 698 to 787.
- In 2023, CCR&Rs received funding increases from OCFS, allowing us to stabilize staffing levels. With its Request for Applications for a new 5-year CCR&R contract, OCFS announced further funding to CCR&Rs to support child care providers in their business success.

We are very grateful for our New York State leaders who prioritized the state's investment in child care once again in 2023. Based on the sheer numbers of children gaining access to care, the dollars flowing to providers, and the savings to families, it is easy to see that this investment is making a huge impact in reducing long-standing barriers to access and affordability of child care.



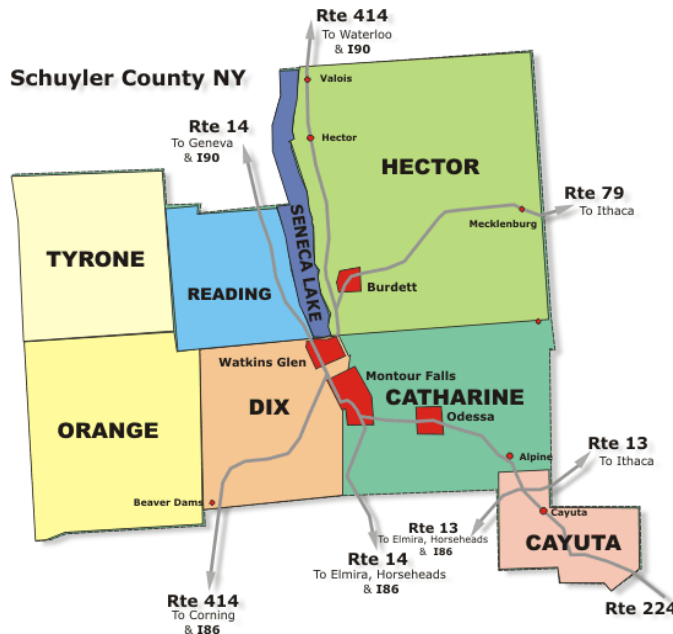
Margie Lawlor, Associate Director
Resilient Children & Families Community Based Services

Introduction

Pro Action Child Care Council is pleased to present this report detailing the state of child care in Steuben County. Due to the constantly changing environment, provider data for this report is not a yearlong

cumulative total; rather it is a snapshot from the month of September 2023. For example, data presented regarding the number of child care programs and capacity for each changes on a regular basis. This is caused, in part, by the opening and closing of programs, as well as business decisions made by the owners of the programs for various reasons.

Schuyler County Facts



Square Miles

- Square miles= 342.33

Total Population /Households

- Total Population = 17,920
- The total number of estimated children 14 years old and younger in Schuyler County = 2,775

Levels of Education:

- Population 25 years and older no high school diploma = 4.6%
- Population 25 years and older high school graduate or equivalent = 35%
- Population 25 years and older some college, no degree = 19.5%
- Population 25 years and older associates Degree = 12%
- Population 25 years and older bachelor’s degree = 13.1%
- Population 25 years and older graduate degree or professional degree= 11.2%

Source: ACSDP5Y2020.DP05 Table

Child Care Types and Definitions

Registered/Licensed Programs as defined by the Social Services Law 390

1. (c) "Child day care center" shall mean any program or facility caring for children for more than three hours per day per child in which child day care is provided by a child day care provider except those programs operating as a group family day care home as such term is defined in paragraph (d) of this subdivision, a family day care home, as such term is defined in paragraph (e) of this subdivision, and a school-age child care program, as such term is defined in paragraph (f) of this subdivision.

(d) "Group family day care home" shall mean a program caring for children for more than three hours per day per child in which child day care is provided in a family home for seven to twelve children of all ages, except for those programs operating as a family day care home, as such term is defined in paragraph (e) of this subdivision, which care for seven or eight children. A group family day care provider may provide child day care services to four additional children if such additional children are of school-age and such children receive services only before or after the period such children are ordinarily in school or during school lunch periods, or school holidays, or during those periods of the year in which school is not in session. There shall be one caregiver for every two children under two years of age in the group family home. A group family day care home must have at least one assistant to the operator present when child day care is being provided to seven or more children when none of the children are school-age, or nine or more children when at least two of the children are school-age and such children receive services only before or after the period such children are ordinarily in school or during school lunch periods, or school holidays, or during those periods of the year in which school is not in session. This assistant shall be selected by the group family day care operator and shall meet the qualifications established for such position by the regulations of the Office of Children and Family Services.

(e) "Family day care home" shall mean a program caring for children for more than three hours per day per child in which child day care is provided in a family home for three to six children. There shall be one caregiver for every two children under two years of age in the family day care home. A family day care provider may, however, care for seven or eight children at any one time if no more than six of the children are less than school-age and the school-age children receive care primarily before or after the period such children are ordinarily in school, during school lunch periods, on school holidays, or during those periods of the year in which school is not in session in accordance with the regulations of the office of children and family services and the office inspects such home to determine whether the provider can care adequately for seven or eight children.

(f) "School-age child care" shall mean a program caring for more than six school-age children who are under thirteen years of age or who are incapable of caring for themselves. Such programs shall be in operation consistent with the local school calendar. School-age child care programs shall offer care during the school year to an enrolled group of children at a permanent site before or after the period children enrolled in such program are ordinarily in school or during school lunch periods and may also provide such care on school holidays and those periods of the year in which school is not in session.

Head Start is a federally funded, comprehensive program for 3-5 year old children from income-eligible families. All services are provided at no cost to the family. All Head Start programs operate in classrooms licensed by the Office of Children and Family Services.

Pre-Kindergarten State funding is available through the New York State Department of Education for pre-kindergarten programs which are known as Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK). Children must be 4 years old and attend the UPK program located in the school district where the child resides.

Legally-Exempt Care

Legally-Exempt Family Child Care is child care provided outside the child's own home in a residence and is not regulated, but must meet all state and local health and safety requirements. This caregiver is chosen and monitored by the child's parent/guardian. This type of care includes relative care, which by Federal definition is a grandparent, great-grandparent, sibling that lives in a separate residence, and aunt or uncle; and non-relative care for up to 2 children. The maximum capacity for Family Child Care (FCC) programs is no more than eight children who may be in care at any given time. When non-related children are also in care, you may not care for more than two non-related children simultaneously for more than three hours total per day.

Legally-Exempt In-Home Child Care is child care provided in the child's own home by a caregiver who is chosen and monitored by the child's parent/guardian and is not regulated but must meet all state and local health and safety requirements. *This type of care requires the child's parent/guardian to provide the caregiver with all employee benefits required by the State and Federal law and pay the caregiver at least minimum wage.* There is no capacity limit for In-Home Child Care when ALL children reside in the home.

Legally-Exempt Group Child Care Settings

Nursery Schools/ Pre-School Programs serve children ages 3-5 years old in a variety of settings including: public and private schools, churches, community centers and home residences. Programs meet anywhere from one to five days per week for less than three hours per session and often follow the school year calendar.

Camp Programs are day or overnight recreational programs that operate when school is not in session. Camp programs are regulated to some degree by New York State Department of Health.

The Legally-Exempt programs above must accept child care assistance program. If serving at least one child whose care is subsidized by the county, the program must adhere to Social Services Law 415; Legally Exempt Health and Safety Requirements.

Illegal Programs

The Social Services Law 390 states that an individual may not watch more than 2 children in the individual's home, for more than 3 consecutive hours, if the children are not related to them in the 3rd degree of consanguinity, without being registered or licensed.

In addition, if an unregistered program is operating and meets all the criteria listed below, it is considered a School-age Child Care Program (SACC) and must be registered in the State of New York with the Office of Children and Family Services. If it fails to meet even one of the criteria below, it is not a SACC program. These criteria are:

- a. The program provides care on a regular scheduled basis.
- b. The program serves an enrolled group of children.
- c. The program provides care to seven or more children under 13 years of age.
- d. The program only serves school-age children. School-age children includes: (1) those enrolled in school, including kindergarten or a higher grade; and (2) those at least six years of age. A program caring for younger children may be required to be licensed with the Office of Child and Family Services as a child day care center. (See policy 16-2: *Enrollment of Prekindergarten Child in School-Age Child Care Programs*).
- e. The program is located at a non-residence.
- f. The program operates only during non-school hours (i.e., before and/or after school, during school lunch periods, on school holidays, and/or during summer vacations).
- g. The program operates for more than one purpose.

To view the entire Policy Statement 16-1 What Constitutes a School-age Child Care Program, please visit the Office of Children and Family Services website: www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/



Child Care Demand**Parent Requests Per Child**

A review of the requests Pro Action Child Care Council received in the last year reveals some interesting statistics regarding local demand for child care. The Empire State Child Care Match (referral) database is only for regulated providers and does not include legally exempt provider requests.

Referrals by Provider Type (41 Requests)

Numbers indicate what type of care parents are seeking for each child.

**Note: Figures below reflect multiple preferences selected by parents.*

Day Care Center	12
Family Child Care	13
Group Family Child Care	13
School-age Child Care	3

Requests by Age of Child (31 requests)

Numbers indicate the ages of children for whom parents are seeking care.

Infants	8
Toddlers	4
Pre-School	1
School-age	11

Schedule Type Requests (11 requests)

Numbers indicate the schedule for which parent needs care per child.

Full-time	9
Part-time	2
Both	0

Extra Care Requests (2 requests)

Numbers indicate the times for which parents need care per child.

**Note: Figures below reflect multiple preferences selected by parents.*

Before School	0
After School	2

Request Preference for Medical Administration (0 requests)

NYS Approved to Administer Medication 0

Special Needs (0 request)

Numbers indicate what type of special needs a child may have.

**Note: Figures below reflect multiple preferences selected by parents.*

Additional Care Services (1 requests)

Numbers indicate the schedule for which parents need care per child.

**Note: Figures below reflect multiple preferences selected by parents.*

Evening 1

Location of Care (11 Requests)

Numbers indicate the location for which parents need care per child.

**Note: Figures below reflect the cities where parents are living and looking for care near home.*

Parents living in cities outside of Schuyler County, but using our services, are not reflected below.

Alpine	1
Beaver Dams	2
Burdett	1
Cayuta	1
Millport	1
Montour Falls	1
Odessa	2
Watkins Glen	2

Based on the parent referral requests, the information below is a summary of the data collected:

- a preference for Family Day Care and Group Family Day Care setting
- a high demand for school age care
- a high need for full-time care
- a high demand for care in these locations: Watkins Glen, Beaver Dams, and Odessa

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

NYS Office of Children and Family Services

NYS Department of Health Child Adult Care Food Program

Schuyler County Department of Social Services

Current Child Care Slots by Type

The following chart reflects the maximum capacity for regulated child care programs

Family Day Care and Group Family Day Care

Type of Care (Schuyler County)	# of Providers	Total Slots
Family Day Care	3	23
Group Family Day Care	2	32

Source: Child Care Facility System (CCFS) as of September 2023

Disclaimer: A typical Family Day Care can care for a total of 8 children depending on the ages of the children in care. Refer to page 5, Social Services Law 390 1(e) for more information on Child Care Types and definitions regarding capacity.

Note: While typically registered Family Day Care can care for to 8 children, there may be cases where the Office of Children and Family Services has deemed a lower capacity because of space issues.

Disclaimer: A typical Group Family Day Care can care for a total of 16 children, depending on the ages of the children in care. Refer to page 5, Social Services Law 390 1(d) for more information on Child Care Types and definitions regarding capacity.

Note: While typically licensed Group Family Day Care can care for to 16 children, there may be cases where the Office of Children and Family Services has deemed a lower capacity because of space issues.

Day Care Center and School-aged Child Care

Though Head Start programs are licensed, Head Start numbers are not included in these numbers. (Please see Head Start data on page 14.)

Type of Care (Schuyler County)	# of Providers	Age (0-up to 2)	Age (2-up to 3)	Age (3-up to 5)	School-aged Child Care (5 – 12)	Total Slots
Day Care Center	1	6	24	18	15	63
School-aged Child Care	1	0	0	14	80	94

Source: Child Care Facility System (CCFS) as of September 2023

Legally-exempt Providers by Type

Type of Legally-exempt	Providers = 17	# of children served = 37
LE Family Child Care	15	22
LE In-home	2	15
LE Group	0	0

Source: Child Care Facility System (CCFS) as of December 2023.

Child Care Slots Offered by Type and Geography

Below is information on the availability of child care in different regions of Schuyler County by type of care. It presents the number of slots provided in the different types of regulated care, categorized by the age of the child. The information was collected as of September 2023 and is subject to change. Child care providers of all types below have the option of enrolling any number of children into their programs as long as they do not exceed their maximum capacity. The following chart reflects regulated providers’ total capacity of slots. Head Start and other Pre-Kindergarten figures are included directly following this chart.

Family Child Care and Group Family Child Care Slots by Location

Disclaimer: Refer to page 5 Social Service Law 390 1(e) and 1(d) for more information on child care types and definition regarding capacity.

Town Name	Type of Care	# of Providers	6 Weeks-12 Years
Alpine	Family Day Care	1	8
	Group Family Day Care	0	0
Burdett	Family Day Care	0	0
	Group Family Day Care	0	0
Dundee	Family Day Care	1	7
	Group Family Day Care	0	0
Montour Falls	Family Day Care	0	0
	Group Family Day Care	0	0
Odessa	Family Day Care	1	8
	Group Family Day Care	2	32
Trumansburg	Family Day Care	0	0
	Group Family Day Care	0	0
Town Name	Type of Care	# of Providers	6 Weeks-12 Years
Schuyler County (Totals)	Family Day Care	3	23
	Group Family Day Care	2	32

Source: Child Care Facility System (CCFS) as of as of September 2023

The following towns do not currently have Family Day Care or Group Family Day Care:

Beaver Dams, Catharine, Cayuta, Dix, Hector, Orange, Reading, Tyrone, and Watkins Glen.

Day Care Centers and School-aged Child Care Slots by Location

Disclaimer: Refer to page 5 Social Service Law 390 1(c) and 1(f) for more information on child care types and definitions regarding capacity.

Town Name	Type of Care	# of Providers	Age (0-up to 2)	Age (2-up to 3)	Age (3-up to 5)	School-aged Child Care (5-12)	Totals
Odessa	Day Care Center	0	0	0	0	0	0
	School-age Child Care	0	0	0	0	0	0
Watkins Glen	Day Care Center	1	6	24	18	15	63
	School-age Child Care	1	0	0	14	80	94
Schuyler County (Totals)	Day Care Center	1	6	24	18	15	63
	School-age Child Care	1	0	0	14	80	94

Source: Child Care Facility System (CCFS) as of September 2023.

The following towns do not currently have Day Care Centers or School-aged Child Care:

Alpine, Beaver Dams, Catharine, Cayuta, Dix, Hector, Montour Falls, Orange, Reading, and Tyrone.

Schuyler Head Start

Funded for 68 Head Start and 22 Early Head Start

Odessa is eligible for 6 half day UPK and 27 full day UPK.

Watkins is eligible for 50 half day UPK.

Note- Schuyler Head Start, is a Community Collaborator, with the Watkins Glen and Odessa-Montour school districts to serve a percentage of their UPK slots. Neither of the districts have responded with their UPK enrollment numbers.

Child Care Resources

Child Care Resource and Referral

Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies all over America, Canada and Europe assist parents in finding child care that meets their family's unique and complex needs. Referral agencies, such as Pro Action Child Care Council, help parents with their search for child care by:

- Providing consumer education on a variety of child care options and informing parents about what constitutes quality care, enabling parents to make the best child care choice;
- Customizing referrals from a continually updated provider database;
- Working with community stakeholders and businesses to develop more care options to meet traditional and non-traditional demands for child care in every community;
- Providing counseling and resource materials that enable parents to raise healthy children and maintain positive child care relationships, and
- Directly linking parents to child care assistance which helps eligible families pay child care fees when funds are available.

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

The high cost of child care forces many families to make difficult choices. Parents bear the majority of expenditures for child care (and families with lower incomes spend a significantly larger fraction of their income on child care). To assist parents with child care costs, New York State, through the Federal Child Care Development Block Grant, offers Child Care Assistance to low-income families whose income is less than 300% of the State Income Standards, those who are TANF eligible, and those transitioning from TANF to work. Counties can set the income guidelines up to 300% based on their allocation. In Schuyler County, Child Care Assistance reimbursement is paid directly to child care providers. Families with low income receiving Child Care Assistance are required to pay a portion of their child care, which is considered a parent fee. The parent fee is based on 1% of the parent's income. Child Care Assistance payment amounts are established by the state, at a market rate, based on the age of the child, type of provider, and a statewide market survey of child care fee rates. This is performed every two years; a survey was completed in 2021 and implemented in June of 2022. Schuyler County encourages child care providers to assess the actual cost of doing business and set their fees accordingly, up to the maximum allowable state market rate.

According to the Local Commissioners Memorandum effective 10/16/2023 the Child Care Assistance allocation for Steuben County is **\$510,991 from April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024**. In 2023, these funds paid portions of child care for a high of 123 children on behalf of **80** families. The Child Care Assistance Program was able to serve more than 40% more children and nearly 50% more families than it served in 2022 thanks to increased funding, regulatory changes and eligibility changes. Child Care Assistance reimbursement payments were paid on average to **19** regulated and **17** legally exempt providers.

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Average Weekly Full-time Fees for Child Care in Schuyler County

The figures below are the average weekly fees parents pay for child care in Schuyler County.

Modality	Ages: 6 weeks- 23 mos.	Ages: 24-35 mos.	Ages: 3-4 yrs.	Ages: 5-12 yrs.
Family Day Care	\$266	\$252	\$250	\$225
Group Family Day Care	\$167.5	\$165	\$162.5	\$160
Child Day Care Center	\$311	\$296	\$278	\$0
School-age Child Care	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$90

Child Care Program Quality

“High-quality early care and education requires secure and nurturing relationships with adults who know how to support children’s development and learning. Children who have these relationships with adults tend to be more self-confident, better at interacting with others, and more effective learners. Neither nurturing children nor teaching them is enough by itself for optimal learning. The two work in tandem.”(National Academy of Sciences, 2020) These facts have been proven in studies over the years and continue to ring true. Quality early education is the foundation of children’s future success.

At Pro Action Child Care Council, we consistently focus on providing professional development opportunities that focus on the whole child. We expose child care programs to the tools and education to meet the diverse needs of each child while preparing them to be on track for school.

Professional Development

All registered and licensed child care programs are required to meet and remain in compliance with the New York State Child Day Care Regulations that requires all staff to take 30 hours of training every two years. The 10 topics include:

1. Principles of child development
2. Nutrition and health needs of infants and children
3. Child day care program development
4. Safety and security procedures
5. Business record and maintenance management
6. Child abuse and maltreatment identification and prevention
7. Statutes and regulations pertaining to child day care
8. Statutes and regulations pertaining to child abuse and maltreatment
9. Education and information on the identification, diagnosis and prevention of shaken baby syndrome/abusive head trauma (SACC programs are excluded from this training)
10. Adverse childhood experiences, focused on understanding trauma and on nurturing resiliency

Schuyler County providers reported participation as follows in 2023:

4	Child Development Associate coursework assistance/participation
63	Onsite intensive technical assistance reported implementation of new knowledge gained
53	Professional development plan assistance
12	Professional development opportunities conducted
98	Participants at professional development opportunities
63	Quality Improvement Plan development

Effective Workforce Development

The New York State Training and Technical Assistance Professional Credential provides a standard to assure the quality of Early Learning Trainers. Additionally, it represents a level of professional achievement for trainers. The title of “trainer” is the field-accepted term used to indicate a person who educates, instructs, coaches, and/or mentors other adults in knowledge and quality practices for professional development.

The T-TAP Credential formally recognizes the value and specialized knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for those who provide community-based training to early care and education programs and providers. The trainer’s education, experience and competencies are categorized by four knowledge base areas including: knowledge of content, instructional design and development, presentation skills, and professionalism. These are reviewed and verified by New York Association for the Education of Young Children (NYAEOYC). If an individual meets all criteria, the credential is awarded and requires ongoing professional development to meet the renewal requirement. In 2023, Pro Action Child Care Council had 1 credentialed trainer and 3 verified trainers on staff. For more information on the credentialing process, visit <http://nyaeyc.org/ttap-credential/> or The Aspire Registry, New York State’s Registry for early childhood and school-age professionals at <https://nyworksforchildren.org/professional-growth/pd-providers/>.

NYAEOYC coaching credential is a designation one can achieve in the field of Early Care and Learning. This designation is for individuals who provide coaching, which is defined as a relationship-based process led by an expert with specialized adult learning knowledge and skills, who often serves in a different professional role than the recipient(s). PACCC had 1 credentialed coaches in 2023 that served as an additional resource for quality programming (<http://nyaeyc.org/coach/>).

In 2023, child care providers invested in their professional development by utilizing the SUNY Early Childhood Education and Training Program (ECETP) Educational Incentive Program (EIP) and CSEA/VOICE to assist with their associated cost of enrollment and attendance. Both of these programs require trainers to be credentialed, verified, or employed by an approved training agency that has an active agreement with their organization. Live, virtual instruction has become an approved method of training when provided by trainers that are verified or credentialed through NYAEOYC.

QUALITYstarsNY

QUALITYstarsNY (QSNY) is New York State’s 5-star Quality Rating Improvement System for child care programs. Currently, this is a voluntary program designed to provide supports to programs to help them achieve a 5-star rating, as well as communicate quality options to the families exploring enriching environments. Through recruitment efforts by the local QSNY Quality Improvement Specialist and Pro Action Child Care Council, 2 Schuyler County child care programs/classrooms were recruited and/or continued to be active participants in 2023. Participation in QSNY is a requirement for recipients of NYS Child Care Desert grants. If you would like to learn more about QSNY, visit their webpage at <http://qualitystarsny.org/> or contact PACCC at 607-776-2125 ext. 7107.

QUALITYstarsNY Impact on Program Quality

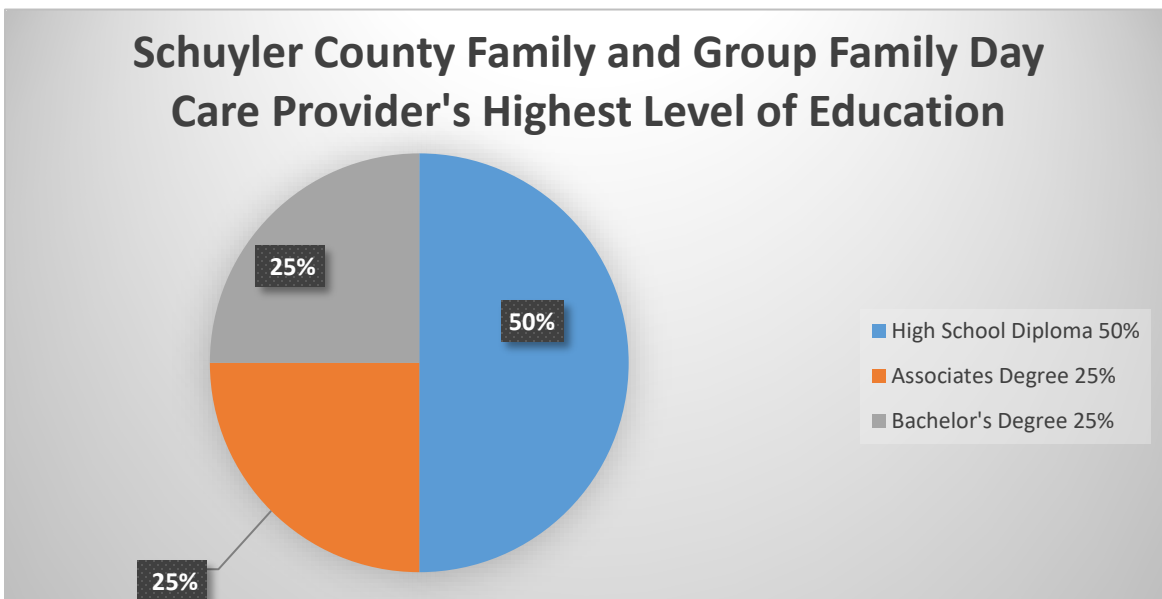
By participating in QUALITYstarsNY, all programs are on a path to excellence. The QUALITYstarsNY Standards provide the framework for the elements of a high-quality early childhood program—and participants receive the support and resources to put them into practice.

The data on participating programs that have been rated multiple times demonstrates that QUALITYstarsNY proven model of continuous quality improvement is helping to increase and sustain the quality of early learning opportunities available to New York’s children and families.

77% of re-rated programs increased their Star Rating or sustained a high-quality rating of 3, 4, or 5 Stars.

Significant strides are being made by programs that earned 1-2 Star Ratings when they initially started working with QUALITYstarsNY. After spending three years engaging in continuous quality improvement, and accessing QUALITYstarsNY’s support and resources:

- 66% of programs initially rated 1- and 2-Stars are now high-quality programs with a rating of 3-5 Stars.
- Among programs that earned a 1-Star rating, 83% increased their Star rating by one to three Star levels when re-rated.



Infant and Toddler Services

Pro Action Child Care Council, is a member of The Office of Children and Family Services Region II Infant and Toddler Network. The network provides support services to child care programs based on the Ten Components of Quality Infant Toddler Care through Florida State University, WestEd’s Program for Infant and Toddler Care (PITC), Pyramid Model and PACCC *Early Literacy Connections*® curriculum.

PACCC continued to provide Infant and Toddler Mental Health Consultant services through a state and regionally managed project. PACCC Consultant engaged in a variety of training experience to ensure they had professional tools to assist programs in providing an environment that supports positive mental health strategies for all children present. One child care center program utilized the

services of the mental health consultant to support staff with implementing programming that met the identified needs of individual children.

Schuyler County providers reported participation in infant and toddler specialized services in 2023. (may represent participation in multiple programs)

19	Participated in Specialized Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
3	Participated in basic and intensive technical assistance related to Infant and Toddler care.

Additional Resources:

- Office of Children and Family Services: www.ocfs.ny.gov*
- Professional Development Program: www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu*
- Corning Community College: www.corning-cc.edu*
- Empire State College: www.esc.edu*
- Head Start/Early Head Start/Universal Pre-K: <https://schuylerheadstart.org/>*
- Zero to Three: <http://nyztt.org>*
- Early Care and Learning Council: <http://www.earlycareandlearning.org/>*
- Region II Infant and Toddler Technical Assistance Center: <https://childcarecouncil.com/professional-development/infanttoddler/>*
- Early Childhood Trainer Credential: www.nyaeyc.org*
- Program for Infant and Toddler Care (PITC): www.pitc.org*
- Council for Professional Recognition: www.cdacouncil.org*

Child Care Health Consultant Services

Pro Action Child Care Council employs a Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC) that is a NYS Registered Professional Nurse. The CCHC’s basic function is to prevent harm and promote optimal health in child care programs, in compliance with all NYS child care regulations. The health consultant works with child caregivers to identify, implement, and evaluate strategies to achieve high quality childcare. In addition, the health care consultant establishes basic health and safety operational guidelines and plans for the child care program and provider; and serves in a liaison capacity to other health professionals and community organizations.

Health Consultant Services include the following:

- Medication Administration Training (MAT). The MAT course is a skill-based training to teach providers how to administer medications safely in their programs. The course is 8 hours long (with a skills demonstration) and gives an overview of medication effects and ways to give medication safely for both over-the-counter and prescription medications. Providers are taught how to handle, store and safely dispose of medications. Instruction also includes how to obtain proper consent and what the requirements are for preparation and administration of medications. Emergency care and special situations like asthma, seizures and severe allergic reactions are also covered in the course.

- Assist programs in complying with regulations pertaining to child health and the administration of medications.
- Regulatory requirements necessary for the administration of inhalers, nebulizers and emergency epinephrine auto-injectors (Epi-pens) by **non-MAT** approved providers.
- Trainings on the care and medications of children with specific health needs, such as seizure care, asthma, diabetes, g-tubes, etc.
- Ensure a system for communication among the child care provider, parent, and primary health care provider and consult when health issues arise.
- Perform on-site assessments of the child care environment and/or program operations.
- Assist child care providers in developing health related policy statements and an annual plan for the child care program (e.g., management of infectious diseases, fevers, and use of medications, and exclusion policies).
- Help child care providers obtain, understand, and use information about the health status of individual children and staff.
- Educate child care providers about child development, mental and physical health, safety, nutrition, and oral health issues.
- Link staff, families, and children with community health resources.
- Help identify and implement improvement plans.
- Educate and collaborate with licensing staff and policy makers to improve regulations, inspections, resources, and policies that promote safe and healthy child care.
- Phone and/or email consultation for all programs on matters related to health and wellness.
- Informal and/or formal training on topics like immunizations and infection control.
- Resource for other CCHC's (and their programs) who may or may not be employed by a CCR&R in order to help promote safety and wellness in the child care setting.

In 2023, the Child Care Health Consultant provided the following services:

- 1 Initial Health Care Plan Consultations for child care programs

Total number of MAT approved programs or sites that utilize a Health Care Consultant for additional support to ensure health and safety for infants and toddlers in 2023:

- 1 Group Family Day Care Program
- 1 Child Day Care Center
- 1 Head Start Program

Additional Resources:

Pro Action Child Care Council Website: <https://proactioninc.org/programs/rcf/about-us/>

WebMD: www.webmd.com

Steuben County Public Health <https://www.steubencountyny.gov/273/Public-Health>

Mayo Clinic: www.mayoclinic.com

NYS Department of Health: www.health.ny.gov

National Resource Center for Health & Safety in Child Care: nrckids.org

NYS Office of Children and Family Services <http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/default.asp>

Children's Nutrition Services

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federally funded program that provides child care providers a meal reimbursement for healthy meals and snacks served to children. Since CACFP participants' nutritional needs are supported on a daily basis, the program plays a vital role in improving the quality of child care and making it more affordable for families. Participation is open to all licensed and registered child care programs, as well as enrolled legally-exempt FCC programs who provide child care in their home.

In 2023, there were an average of **3** participating programs: **2** were regulated child care and **1** were legally-exempt programs. These programs provided CACFP approved meals and snacks to **16** children in Schuyler County. Child care centers and school-age child care (SACC) programs are sponsored directly through the NYS Department of Health.

Additional Resources:

NYS DOH Nutrition Website: www.health.ny.gov/prevention/nutrition/

Registration and Resource Development

Development of New Programs

The Registration and Resource Development Department is responsible for building the supply of child care providers in Schuyler County. When someone expresses the desire to become a registered family day care provider or to open a school-age child care program, technical support is offered to assist in this process. Once a program is registered, continued support is given. Inspections are conducted to assist providers in maintaining compliance with the New York State Child Day Care Regulations.

In addition, we act as a consultant for persons wanting to develop centers and group family day care homes that are licensed by the Office of Children & Family Services through the Rochester Regional Office.

Complaints

The Registration Department is also responsible for complaints on registered programs. When a complaint is made, a Registrar investigates the program to determine if they are in conformity with the regulations. If the program is considered out of compliance, we assist them in making the necessary changes to bring their program back into compliance. If you have concerns about family day care or school-age programs, call: (607) 776 -2126 and your call will be transferred to the Manager of Resource and Development.

If you have concerns about licensed programs (Group Family Day Care or Centers) New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) maintains a toll-free complaint line regarding day care programs in NYS. Call (800) 732-5207, normal business hours: M – F, 8:30am – 5:00pm, and a staff

person will take the information. The Office is required to investigate any possible violation of child care regulations.

If you think a program is operating without the proper license or registration certificate, this is also basis for making a complaint. Please call (607) 776-2126 and your call will be transferred to the Manager of Resource and Development.

Updates and Announcements:

On January 10, 2023 OCFS announced a recall on Fisher-Price Rock 'n Play Sleeper. On January 9, 2023 Fisher Price re-announced the recall of Rock 'n Play Sleepers after approximately 100 infant deaths were reported. The product was initially recalled in 2019 after 30 infants were reported to have died in the sleeper, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. 70 more deaths were reported since the initial recall. The reported deaths occurred when the babies rolled from their back to their stomach or side when not restrained.

On February 21, 2023 OCFS sent a "Dear Provider Letter" that contained important information about how Early Childhood Education and Training Program (ECETP) training certificates are tracked and shared. These updates have an impact on your child care program so please read this letter carefully.

On February 13, 2023 the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) and our training vendor, The Professional Development Program (PDP), launched a new ECETP registration process for all child care programs. This new process includes the ability for OCFS and PDP to exchange training records automatically for OCFS licensed and registered child care programs.

How does this benefit your child care program?

The new registration process captures more specific demographic information.

Electronic exchange of ECETP training records for OCFS licensed and registered child care programs minimizes the burden of paper tracking.

Individual staff training records will be added to all programs they are associated with.

Regulators will be able to review ECETP training files electronically.

How do you and your staff participate?

Create or update your ECETP training account at: ecetp.pdp.albany.edu.

On May 1, 2023 OCFS announces valuable Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility (DEIA) Resources! OCFS has created a DEIA Toolkit to support child care programs and families. The Toolkit includes materials, available in a variety of languages to intentionally weave DEIA into your child care community. The Toolkit includes self-assessment activity, best programming practices tip sheet, ways to celebrate Diversity' flyer, materials lists and ideas for recommended learning areas, and a book list for children.

On June 29, 2023 the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) issued a recall of Canvas Baby Hammock Swing. The inclined sleeper is a banned hazardous product under the Safe Sleep for Babies Act since the product was marketed for infant sleep and has an incline angle greater than 10 degrees.

Infant fatalities have occurred in inclined sleepers after the infants rolled from their back to their stomach or side while unrestrained, or under other circumstances.

On September 12, 2023 OCFS sent a “Dear Provider Letter” regarding the 2023 Market Rate Survey for Child Care. The letter stated, “every few years, the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) conducts a survey of the price of child care across the state of New York. This information is very important. It helps us to update payment rates for the Child Care Assistance Program (formerly known as child care subsidy program), so they reflect local prices.” The Market Rate Survey Team sent all providers an electronic survey invitation by email that contained a link to the 2023 Child Care Market Rate Survey.

On November 13, 2023 the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and State Health Department prompted a health advisory for high blood lead levels in children consuming recalled cinnamon applesauce pouches. They urged consumers to heed FDE and CDC warnings regarding lead in certain apple puree and applesauce products. More information could be found on their websites.

On December 27, 2023 OCFS sent a “Dear Provider Letter” to clarify the current requirements regarding COVID19 and communicable disease reporting. All communicable diseases must be reported to the local health department in the county where the patient resides within 24 hours of diagnosis via mail. Programs must use form DOH-389 to report all communicable disease including COVID-19

Continuation of Career Pipeline

Begun in 2019, the Child Care Career Pipeline Project provides an opportunity to increase child care slots and enhance the quality of care provided to children in Steuben and Schuyler counties. The program also aimed to help individuals start-up their own business and establish a steady income. This initiative has been made possible through the following funding streams:

- Infant/Toddler
- Kay Hodge Memorial Fund
- Fund for Women
- United Way

In 2023, this initiative had shown to be successful, and was granted more funding for 2024. Continued funding will help individuals overcome the financial barriers of opening their own child care business.

Legally Exempt Services

On March 14, 2023, OCFS announced that Division Of Child Care Services (DCCS) has launched an Eligibility Questionnaire which is available on their website. You can access the questionnaire directly by going to: <https://hs.ocfs.ny.gov/CCAPeligibility/>. Or go to the OCFS CCAP website at: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/ccap/> and click on “Do I qualify for CCAP”.

Effective Oct. 1, 2023, the State also capped child care costs at 1% of total family income above the poverty line and increased the number of allowable annual absences for families receiving benefits under the Child Care Assistance Program.

LE Programs in 2023

Opened 19

Closed 8

Total Provider Gain 11

Summary

Pro Action Child Care Council has issued this report for many years. Employers, child care providers, elected officials, economic development and other community leaders can and should use this report to plan for the vital economy and thriving society that are our shared goals. As Steuben and Schuyler Counties' most trusted child care resource, Pro Action Child Care Council is always ready to collect, compile and interpret data to assist decision makers, whether they are prospective child care programs, employers or elected officials. We continually keep our finger on the pulse of child care trends affecting parents, providers and employers.

This year's Child Care report shows a continued unmet need for Infant & Toddler care and School-aged care. Parents express a preference for registered and licensed care, and many still seek options for non-traditional hours. Demand exceeds supply in our population centers of Bath, Corning-Painted Post and Hornell. Another unmet need is care for children with autism. These needs and preferences emerge consistently in our data, and are used to inform our work to expand child care supply and address challenges in access to child care.

Public investment in child care has grown and is making an impact. Through Child Care Desert grants, our community has seen a rise in child care seats. Through Workforce Retention grants, the workforce is stabilizing. With increased investment and eligibility changes in Child Care Assistance, more families can access quality care without undue financial strain.

Child care policy continues to move closer to a cohesive early childhood system that supports the full potential of the caregiving profession and the children it serves. We look forward to seeing this potential become a reality evidenced by children developing in healthy ways, caregivers being properly compensated, and families feeling a healthy balance between work and child-rearing. It's within our grasp.



2023 Referral Services Data Snapshot: Pro Action Child Care Council — Schuyler County

