



Pro Action Child Care Council

Schuyler County Child Care Report

Child Care Starts Here

Our Mission:

Pro Action works to build a community of resilient individuals and families who can meet their basic needs, overcome adversity, and prosper.





Office of Children
and Family Services



Schuyler County
New York



Early Care &
Learning Council
United to Promote Quality



Community Partner

Thank you for your support!

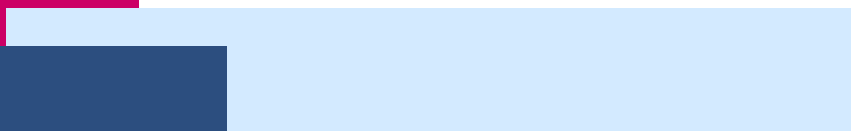


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Dear Reader,

Thank you for your interest in the state of child care in our county. Sometimes, the more things change, the more they stay the same. There is still not enough child care in our communities, yet efforts made -- including generous grant support from New York State -- have moved the needle somewhat.

We continue, with regret, to say goodbye to long-time child care providers embarking on their retirement years or other adventures, while welcoming new providers into this profession that is so vital to our communities. In Schuyler County, 1 Family Day Care (FDC) and 1 Group Family Day Care (GFDC) programs closed, while 1 FDC opened, resulting in a net loss of 16 slots of child care. There is an extraordinary need for caring, competent adults to consider the child care profession! Our Registration and Legally Exempt Enrollment teams are ready to help any prospective provider get registered or enrolled.

Counties have also seen exceptional growth in the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), again thanks to generous funding introduced by Governor Kathy Hochul and approved by the NYS Legislature. With this growth in the state's investment in child care, an average of 133 Schuyler County children had access to quality child care because of the Child Care Assistance Program last fiscal year, an increase of 3% over the prior year average. Our Parent Education Counselor will help Schuyler County families get connected to this valuable program, which can save them on average \$714 per child per month!

Across the State, Child Care Resource & Referral programs like ours re-branded as Child Care Resource Centers (CCRC), with a tagline, "Child Care Starts Here." Although not every CCRC is alike, we remain the community's number one child care resource for families, providers and employers. Our Parent Education Counselor makes every effort to connect families with child care programs that meet their needs, and helps connect them to Child Care Assistance. Our Health, Nutrition and Provider Education teams are ready to assist prospective and new providers to develop health care plans, access food reimbursement, receive ongoing professional development and get one-on-one support for program quality and business success. Through our Operations and Data Coordinator, we can assist employers with data needed for decision making. And, our statewide network developed and launched a Business Navigator Toolkit to support employers with strategic decisions about child care. Across our entire CCRC, our professionals possess a wealth of collective expertise to support all aspects of child care -- supply, access, quality and policy. Indeed, child care starts here!

Margie Lawlor, Associate Director

Pro Action Resilient Children & Families Community Based Services

Population

17,898



Diversity



Square Miles

342.33



Under Age 5

845



Age 5-9

824



Age 10-14

1,067



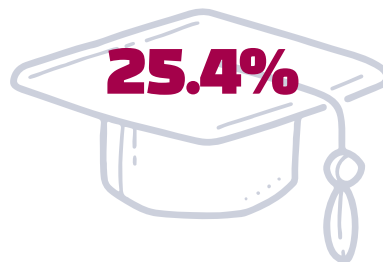
Median Household Income

\$65,625



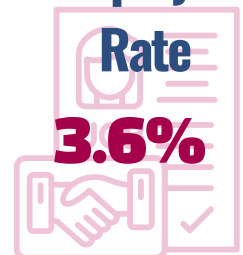
Bachelor's Degree or Higher

25.4%



Unemployment Rate

3.6%



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

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.

(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 (OCFS) 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.

(D) Group Family Day Care Center

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 (OCFS).

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. Head Start classrooms not operated within a school district building must be licensed by the Office of Children and Family Services. In Schuyler County, Head Start operates a stand-alone center at the Human Services Complex in Montour Falls and one classroom in Watkins Glen.

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

Prekindergarten

State funding is available through the New York State Department of Education for prekindergarten programs which are known as Universal Prekindergarten (UPK). All Schuylar County schools receive funding for UPK. Some school districts contract with community-based organizations, such as Head Start, for the provision of UPK services. Additionally, some school districts directly operate UPK classrooms. The UPK classrooms operate 5 days per week and follow school district calendars. Children attending UPK may be 3 or 4, depending on district offerings. Children must attend the UPK program located in the school district where the child resides. There is no fee to attend.

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 to 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 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.



Cindy Horton, Parent Education Counselor

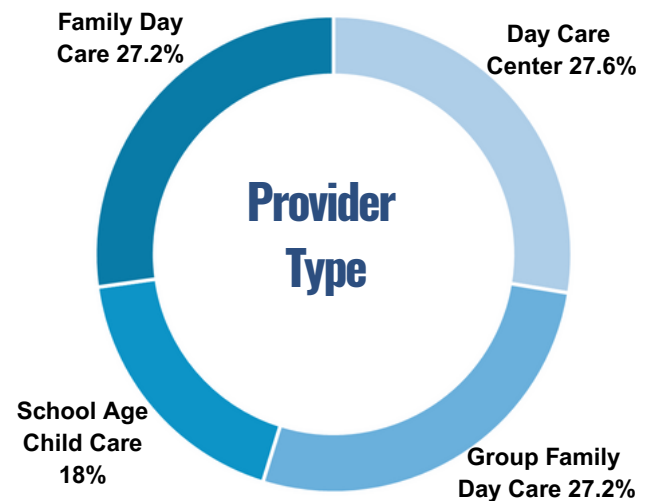
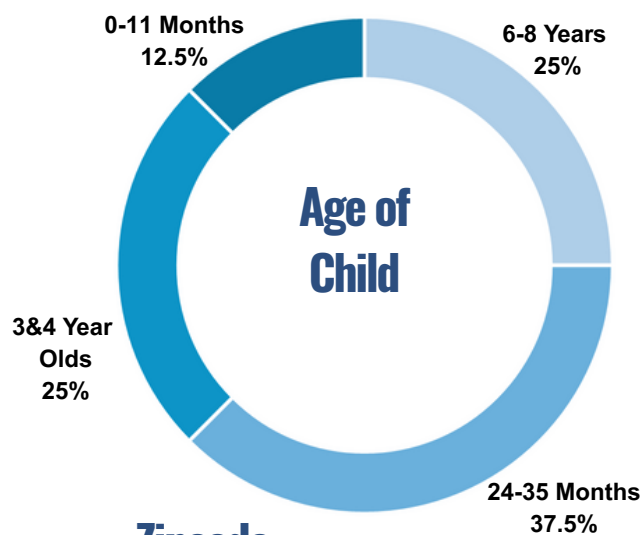
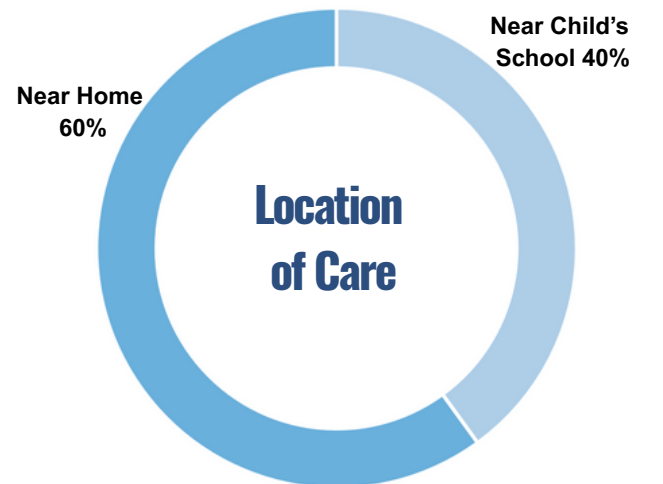
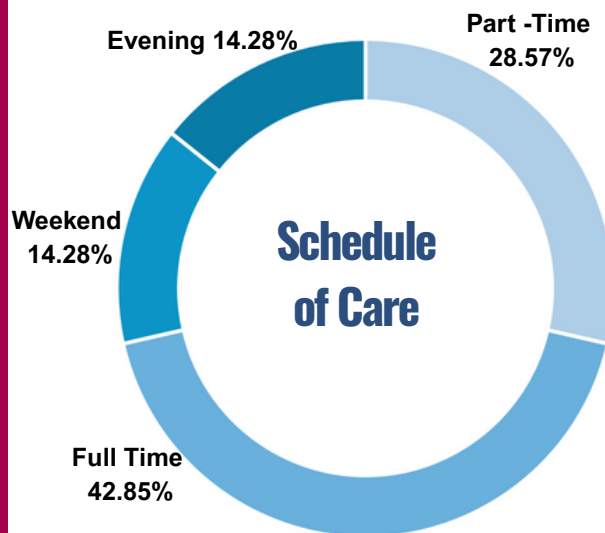
Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies all over America, Canada and Europe assist families in finding child care that meets their family's unique and complex needs. Referral agencies, such as Pro Action Child Care Council, help families with their search for child care by:

- Providing education on the variety of child care options and informing families about what constitutes quality care
- Customized 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
- Providing counseling and resource materials that support families to raise healthy children and maintain positive child care relationships
- Directly linking families to child care assistance when eligible

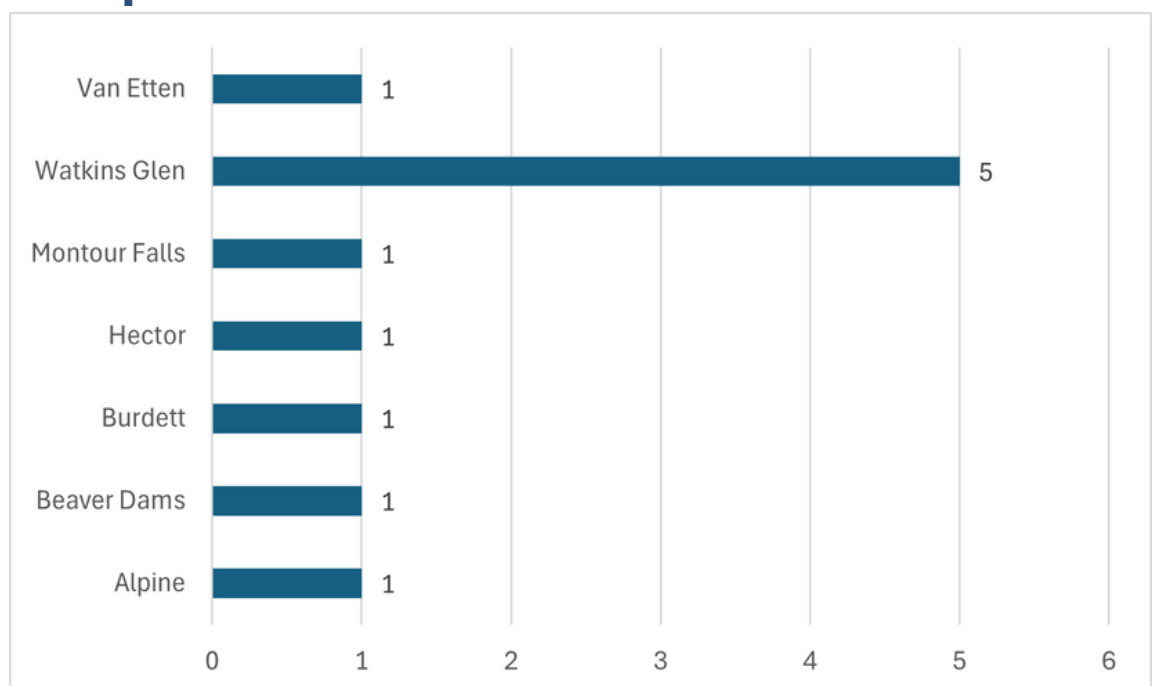


Child Care Demand

Requests By...



Zipcode



The Empire State Child Care Match (referral) database is only for regulated providers and does not include legally exempt provider requests. Provider data for this report is not a yearlong cumulative total; rather it is a snapshot from the month of September 2024.

The following charts reflect the maximum capacity for regulated child care programs.

Day Care Center	# of Providers	Total Slots
Watkins Glen	1	63
Total	1	63

Family Day Care	# of Providers	Total Slots
Odessa	1	8
Total	1	16

Legally Exempt	# of Providers	# of Children Served
LE Family Child Care	19	21
LE In-Home	9	19
LE Group	0	0
Total	28	40

Group Family	# of Providers	Total Slots
Odessa-Montour	1	8
Total	1	8

School Age	# of Providers	Total Slots
Watkins Glen	1	94
Total	1	94

	3PK/Head Start	4PK/Head Start
Odessa-Montour	10	12
Watkins Glen	0	18
Total	10	30

Child Care Assistance Program

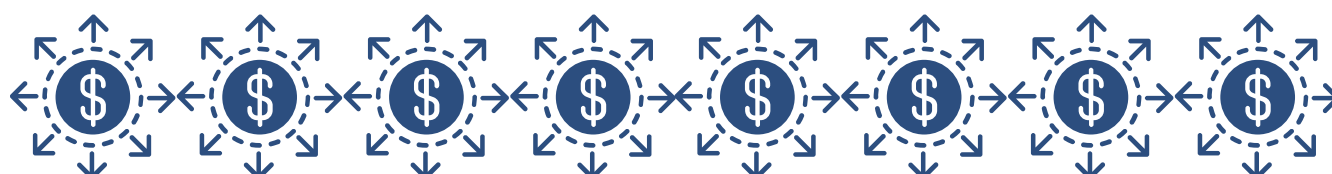
The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) offers families child care assistance based on eligibility at **85%** of the State Median Income.

Children Served in 2024	Allocations for 2024	Families Served in 2024
133	\$1,005,660	83
Percentage Increase from 2023	# of Regulated Providers Receiving Payment	Percentage Increase from 2023
8%	17	3%
	# of LE Providers Receiving Payment	
	13	

Pro Action Child Care Council continues to promote CCAP especially when eligibility levels change. When the State Median Income rose in June of 2024 our staff developed social media campaigns to spread the word throughout the region. Pro Action does not administer CCAP in Schuyler County, but our staff continue to promote it and connect families with the Schuyler County Department of Social Services to be served by the program.

Average Weekly Full-Time Fees for Child Care

Modality	6 weeks-35 mos.	3-12 years
Family Day Care	\$217	\$201
Group Family Day Care	\$246	\$226
Day Care Center	\$307	\$241
School Age Child Care	N/A	\$186



Registration

Registration 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.



Cassandra Cummings and Lindsey Burns, Senior Registrars

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 hours, if the children are not related to them in the 3rd degree of consanguinity, without being registered or licensed.

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.ny.gov

Complaints

If you have concerns about Family Day Care or School-Age programs or if you think a program is operating without a proper license or registration certificate, call (607) 776-2125 and your call will be transferred to the Manager of Child Care Assistance Program & Registration.

If you have concerns about licensed programs (Group Family Day Care or Centers), call New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) at 1-(800) 732-5207.

Health Care Consultant Services

Pro Action Child Care Council (PACCC) ensures that child care programs promote a strong healthy environment. PACCC employs a Registered Nurse who provides health consultancy services that support child care providers throughout Steuben and Schuyler Counties.

Services Include



Assisting providers and programs in complying with regulations pertaining to the OCFS Health Care Plan requirements for the administration of medications.



Providing training, which enhances a program's ability to meet the unique health needs of all children



Acting as a resource person for questions regarding the growth and development of infants and toddlers and for the care of mildly ill children.

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation



The NYS Early Care and Learning Council Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) Project continues to be a top priority for supporting child care programs with addressing social and emotional development of the staff and children. Consultants work collaboratively with adults in child care programs to address social and emotional development, challenging behaviors, and help grow adult capacity to respond effectively to a variety of stressors and challenges in the classroom and program. They support programs holistically and collaboratively identify goals and strategies with the providers they support.

The mental health consultant provided outreach services to 2 Schuyler County Child Care programs in 2024. Additionally, the consultants facilitated a collaborative event with the Infant and Toddler Specialists that focused on empowering child care staff with Learning Self Care when Addressing Challenging Behaviors.

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), and Pyramid Model.

***Chart includes both Schuyler & Steuben County figures.**

31

Hours of specialized training in Infant and Toddler Programming

63

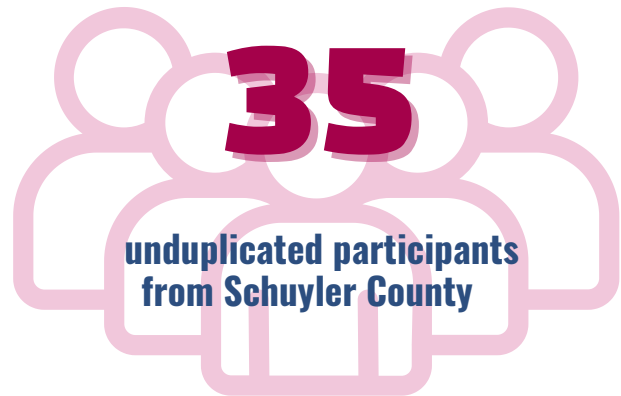
Program staff trained during specialized training events

18

Technical assistance interactions equaling 21 hours support

23

Intensive Technical Assistance visits



Pro Action Child Care Council consistently provides quality professional development opportunities that enhance the skills and knowledge of the child care providers that are directly impacting the lives of children and families. A variety of topics are offered that align with OCFS training requirements for compliance and state guidance tools such as Core Body of Knowledge and Early Learning Guidelines.

In 2024, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services increased funding to CCRCs to fund a full-time Business Support Specialist (BSS) dedicated to building and sustaining a supply of high quality child care programs in our communities. The BSS conducts site visits, technical assistance and professional development to help programs navigate the business side of child care. The PACCC Business Support Specialist started with Pro Action in October 2024. From October to December, the specialist completed 6 hours of Intensive Technical Assistance on quality business practices.

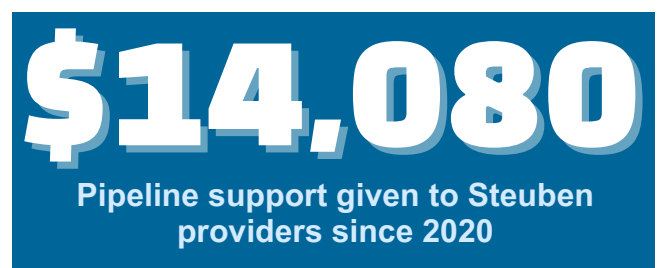
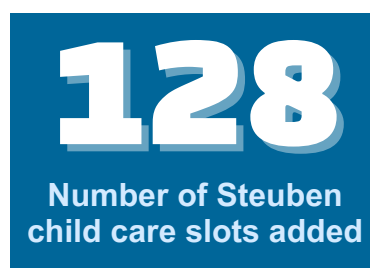
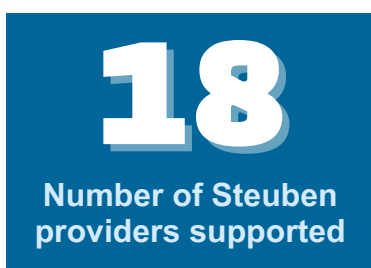
Child Care Career Pipeline

Through the generous support of the Kay Hodge Memorial Fund and Fund for Women of the Southern Tier, Pro Action Child Care Council and Chemung County Child Care Council have been able to support new and growing child care providers to meet training requirements. Plus, they acquired items needed to comply with Health & Safety regulations to open a child care business in their home. This program has been in operation since 2020.

Once the registration or licensing process is complete, providers receive Pipeline reimbursement for up to \$750 of their expenses to start or grow the program. They work with our Registrars to determine items that are eligible for reimbursement. These include small home updates such as railings and fences, as well as supplies such as radon detectors, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, first aid kits, radiator covers, changing tables, cribs, cordless blinds, baby gates, etc.. Health & Safety training and CPR / First Aid training are typically supported as well.

By the Numbers*

**Although available in Schuyler County, there are no numbers to report, so Steuben data is shown.*



Child and Adult Care Program (CACFP)



The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federally funded program that reimburses child care providers 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 Family Child Care programs who provide child care in their home.

2

FDC Programs

3

Legally Exempt Programs

Child care centers and school-age child care (SACC) programs are sponsored directly through the NYS Department of Health.

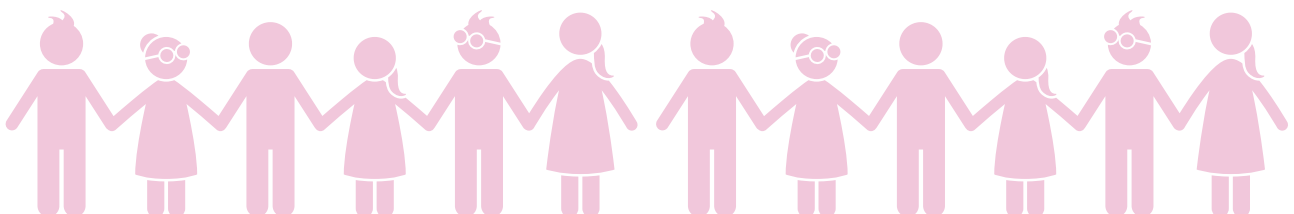
Early Childhood Coalition

The Early Childhood Coalition is a community work group that promotes existing resources and identifies gaps in services and systems that support children's growth, development, and educational readiness for all Schuyler County Families. The coalition meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Schuyler Human Services Complex and discusses Professional Development Opportunities in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension, Family Opportunities, Prevention/Advocacy and Parenting Education & Support Networking through the New York State Education Department Office of Special Education.

QUALITYstarsNY



A key partner of PACCC, **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. 3 Schuyler County child care programs/classrooms were recruited and/or continued to be active participants in 2024. 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.





As we look ahead to the coming program year, we are **filled with hope and determination** that support from Pro Action Child Care Council (PACCC) will result in *increased supply* and the *highest levels of quality* in local child care.

A new service we are excited to be adding is a **Staffed Family Child Care Network**. By coordinating this network, PACCC will have the opportunity to support child care businesses by offering a Child Care Management System to participating providers, as well as back office support for business functions such as enrollment, record-keeping and billing. With these services done through the network, providers can give their entire focus to the care and education of children, and save hours and hours of work they usually do when the child care is closed. Plus, statistics show that they will also make more money! *We are hopeful for strong participation from providers!*

There is also an exciting prospect for a state pilot of Substitute Pools for child care centers. This would be most welcome as staffing shortages can lead to program closures and disruption for children, families and employers. *We are looking forward to learning from the pilot.*

We promise to continue to do everything we can – working with community partners, providers and families – to address child care needs, grow child care assets and close gaps in child care services in our community. *Child care starts here!*

From left to right: Nadia Simpson, Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant, Cassandra Cummings, Senior Registrar, Kaitlin Pryslak, Child Care Assistance Processor, Cindy Horton, Parent Education Counselor, Ashley Dye, Data and Operations Coordinator, Lindsey Burns, Senior Registrar, Jodie Pierce, Child Care Assistance Case Manager, Jeannie Jones, Child Care Assistance Case Manager, Rachel Hurd, Nutrition and Legally Exempt Manager, Jenny Rethmel, Business Support Specialist



NYS Office of Children and Family Services: www.ocfs.ny.gov

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

Professional Development Program: www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu

Corning Community College: www.corning-cc.edu

Empire State University: Sunyempire.edu

Head Start/Early Head Start/Universal Pre-K: <https://proactioninc.org/programs/rcf/head-start/>

Early Intervention/Special Children's Services: <https://www.steubencountyny.gov/387/Early-Intervention-Program>

New York Zero-to-Three Network: www.zerotothree.org

Early Care and Learning Council: <http://www.earlycareandlearning.org/>

Region II Infant and Toddler Technical Assistance Center: <https://childcarecouncil.com/professional-development/infanttoddler/>

New York Association for the Education of Young Children: Nyaeyc.org/credentials

Program for Infant and Toddler Care (PITC): www.pitc.org

Council for Professional Recognition: www.cdacouncil.org

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

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

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

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

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