



Pro Action Child Care Council

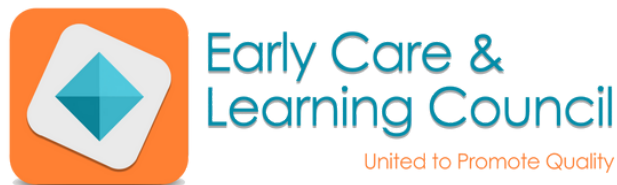
Steuben County Child Care Report

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.





Thank you for your support!

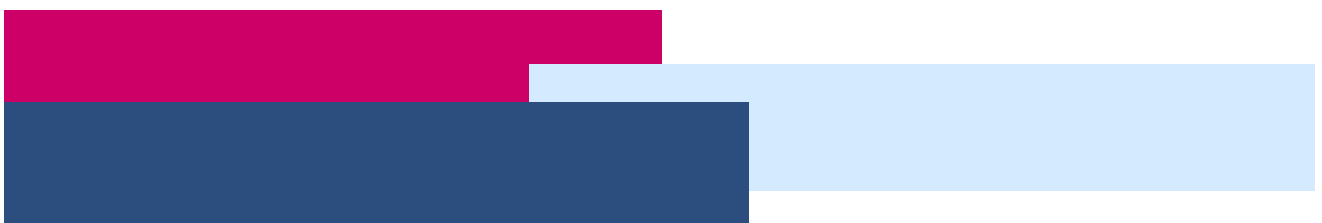


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Dear Reader,

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 Steuben County, 11 Family Day Care (FDC) and Group Family Day Care (GFDC) programs closed, while 6 opened. In some cases, the FDC closed so the provider could open a larger GFDC, so the net was a gain of 12 slots. Three new School Age programs opened, and none (thankfully) closed, for a net gain of 185 slots. A new large Day Care Center opened and a small one closed, for a net gain of 128 slots in Day Care Centers. This is good news for our communities, but our work is not done! We still have so many parents, especially of infants and toddlers, calling our referral specialist and not enough programs with openings to accommodate them. 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.

We 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 815 Steuben County children per month had access to quality child care because of the Child Care Assistance Program last fiscal year, an increase of 29% over the prior year average of 632 children per month. And the numbers of children accessing care continues to grow this year. Our Parent Education Counselor and CCAP team are here to help families get enrolled in this valuable program, saving 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

Steuben County Profile

Square Miles

1,391.6



Population

92,162



Race/
Ethnicity

White or
Caucasian
94%

Asian 2%

Some Other
Race 1%

Hispanic or
Latino 2%



Under Age 5

5,080



Age 5-9

5,296



Age 10-14

6,159



Bachelor's
Degree or
Higher

24.9%



Unemployment
Rate

4.3%



Median Household
Income

\$77,719



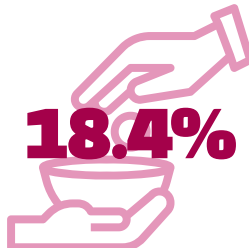
Children < Age 18
with a Disability

7.1%



Child Poverty

18.4%



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 Steuben County, Head Start is facilitated through Pro Action and operates on a school calendar schedule with children in attendance five days per week for the same hours as the local school district daily schedule.

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 Steuben County schools receive funding for UPK. Some Steuben County 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 must be 4, in some cases 3, years old depending on district offering. 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.*

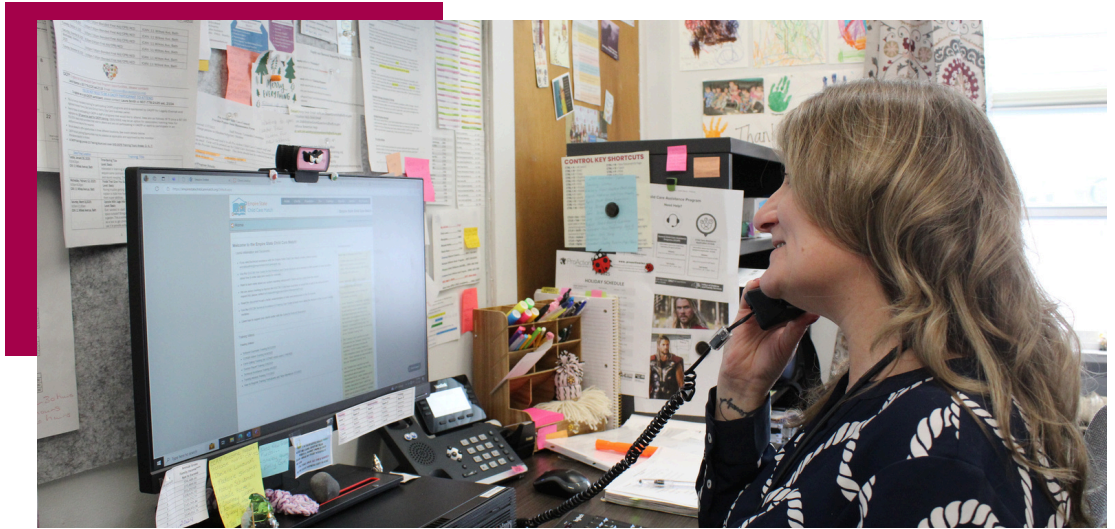
Legally Exempt Group Child Care Settings

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.

Child Care Resource and Referral



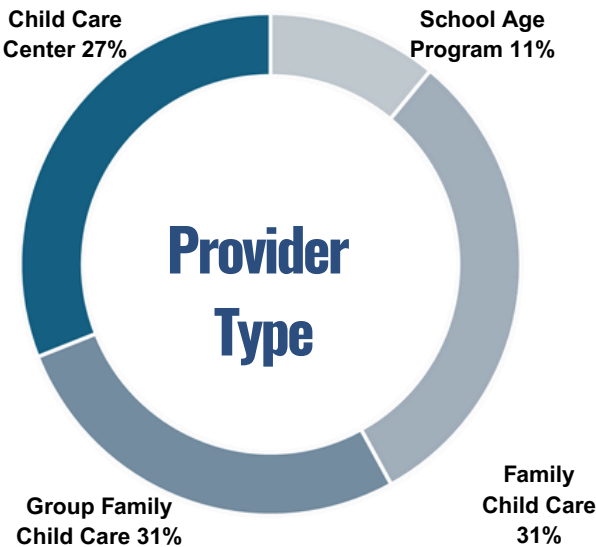
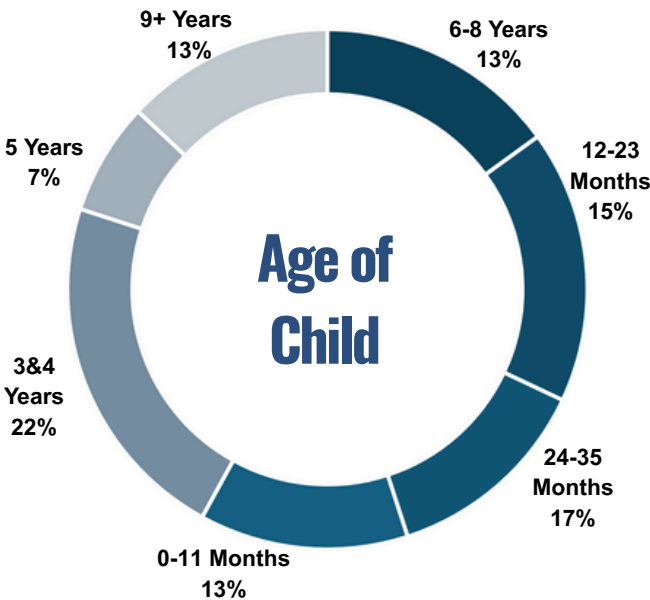
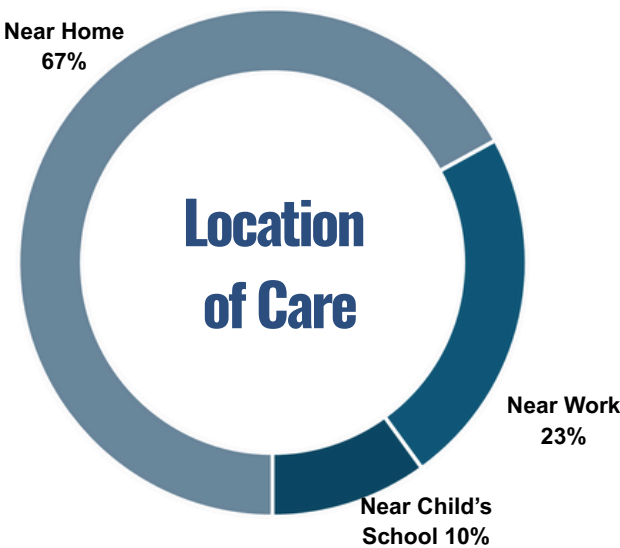
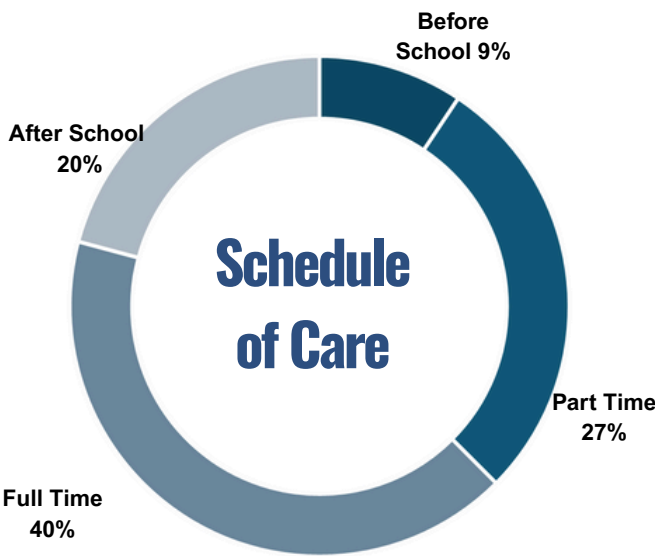
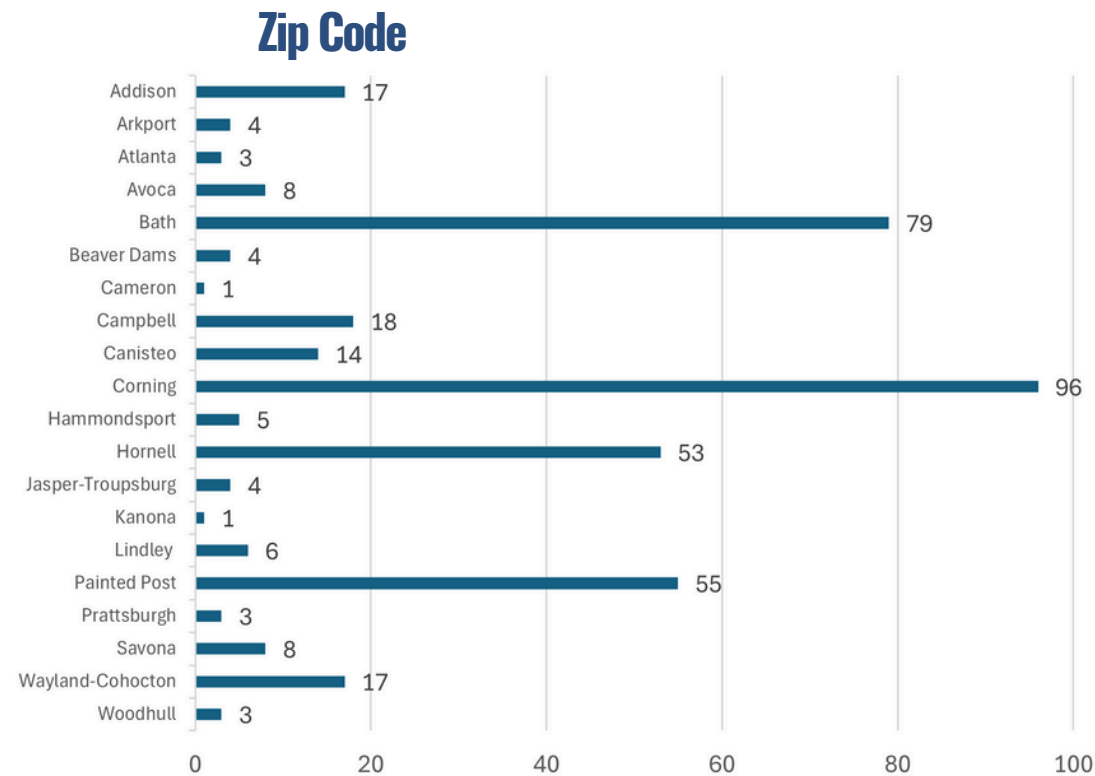
Cindy Horton, Parent Education Counselor

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



Requests By...



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
Bath	1	91
Corning	7	428
Hornell	1	100
Painted Post	4	347
Wayland	1	85
Total	14	1,051

Family Day Care	# of Providers	Total Slots
Addison	1	8
Bath	4	32
Canisteo	2	16
Campbell	3	24
Corning	7	56
Hornell	6	48
Lindley	1	8
Painted Post	3	24
Prattsburgh	1	8
Savona	6	48
Total	34	272

Legally Exempt	# of Providers	# of Children Served
LE Family Child Care	59	125
LE In-Home	78	161
LE Group	78	161
Total	215	447

Group Family	# of Providers	Total Slots
Addison	5	80
Arkport	1	16
Avoca	1	16
Bath	4	64
Canisteo	1	16
Cohocton	1	16
Corning	7	112
Hammondsport	1	16
Hornell	2	32
Painted Post	2	32
Prattsburgh	1	16
Wayland	2	32
Total	28	448

School Age	# of Providers	Total Slots
Addison	1	56
Arkport	1	179
Avoca	1	60
Bath	1	124
Canisteo	1	118
Corning	5	760
Hammondsport	1	42
Hornell	2	122
Painted Post	4	392
Prattsburgh	1	80
Savona	1	85
Wayland	1	42
Total	20	2,060

3-Year-Old Universal Prekindergarten	# Half Day Slots	# Full Day Slots
Addison	0	28
Bath	0	32
Hornell	51	18
Total	51	78

There are 0 slots for 3 year olds half or full day in Arkport, Avoca, Bradford, Campbell-Savona, Canisteo-Greenwood, Corning-Painted Post, Hammondsport, Jasper-Troupsburg, Prattsburgh & Wayland-Cohocton.

4 year old Universal Prekindergarten	# Half Day Slots	# Full Day Slots
Addison	44	20
Arkport	18	0
Avoca	22	0
Bath	50	58
Bradford	19	0
Campbell-Savona	9	27
Canisteo-Greenwood	21	23
Corning-Painted Post	64	214
Hammondsport	20	0
Hornell	80	0
Jasper-Troupsburg	21	0
Wayland-Cohocton	58	20
Total	426	362

Child Care Assistance Program

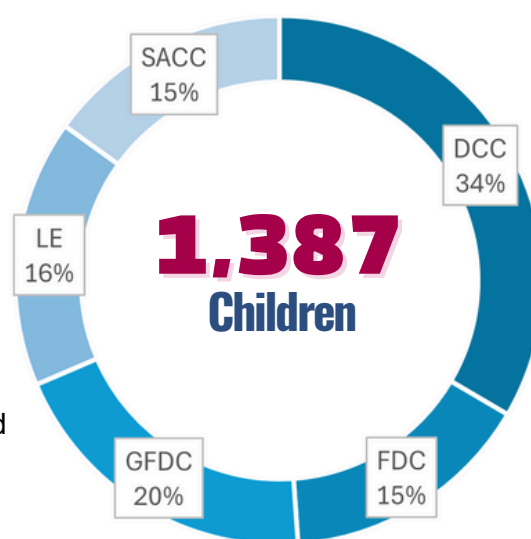
The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) offers families child care assistance based on eligibility at **85%** of the State Median Income. Steuben County Department of Social Services administers the program in partnership with Pro Action Child Care Council.

Cases Open as of January 1, 2024	Total spent for Child Care Services in 2024	Parent Fees Paid in 2024
897 children	CCDBG and Title XX: \$6,263,122.41	\$107,478.78
Cases Open as of December 31st, 2024	TANF and Transitional: \$10,921.60	Payments deducted from provider reimbursements to CSEA VOICE
1,258 children	Percentage Increase from 2023	\$12,358.51
Total Increase in 2024	16%	
40.25%		

Through a contract supported by Child Care and Development Block Grant funds, Steuben County Department of Social Services (DSS) partners with Pro Action Child Care Council (PACCC) to administer the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). PACCC continues to promote CCAP especially when eligibility levels change. When the State Median Income rose in June of 2024, our staff directly called families who had requested applications but not submitted them. As word spread about the expanded eligibility, our case management staff were steadily very busy opening and re-certifying cases for families.

PACCC functions include program promotion, processing and making monthly payments to regulated and legally exempt providers for eligible children, along with facilitated enrollment for parents. PACCC assists with determinations, applications and recertifications, fraud detection and referrals to the DSS fraud unit, assistance in meeting the additional standards for legally exempt provider enrollment, issuance of 1099s, union dues calculations and payment to CSEA/VOICE and provider training. Final approvals are made by the Steuben County Department of Social Services.

Children Served by Modality



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 Steuben 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 provided. 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 care 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 regarding the care of mildly ill children.

26

Programs approved to administer medication under the guidance and approval of a Health Care Consultant.



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 to identify goals and strategies with the providers they support.

The mental health consultant provided outreach services to **4** Steuben 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), Pyramid Model and PACCC Early Literacy Connections® curriculum.

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

31

Hours of specialized training in Infant and Toddler Programming

63

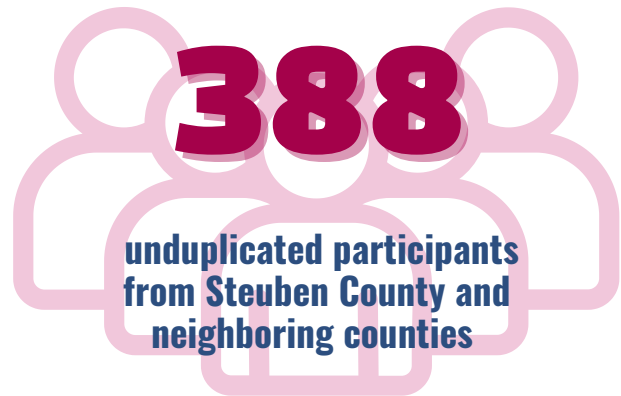
Program staff trained during specialized training events

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.

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. 43 Steuben 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.

Early Literacy Connections® is a professionally developed early literacy curriculum that is utilized in all modalities of care. It provides full lesson plans, teacher tips, plus accompanying materials and cross-disciplinary activities. Cross-disciplinary activities allow young children to explore subject content in science, math and social studies through stories, songs and play. Early Literacy Connections® was developed by a curriculum specialist to ensure it aligned with Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and New York State Early Learning Guidelines. Early Literacy Connections®, coupled with Pearson's Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning (DIAL™-4) and Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ®-3), enhances the teacher's capability to ensure the children in their care enter school ready to learn.

30 Programs/Classrooms trained in Early Literacy Connections® curriculum

84 Coaching/mentoring visits were conducted to support programs with the use of ELC®

3 Programs/classrooms were trained on how to use DIAL-4™ and ASQ®-3 as screening tools

249 Children, ages 2 months-5 years of age, were served in these programs

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

18

Number of Steuben providers supported

128

Number of Steuben child care slots added

\$14,080

Pipeline support given to Steuben providers since 2020



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.

54

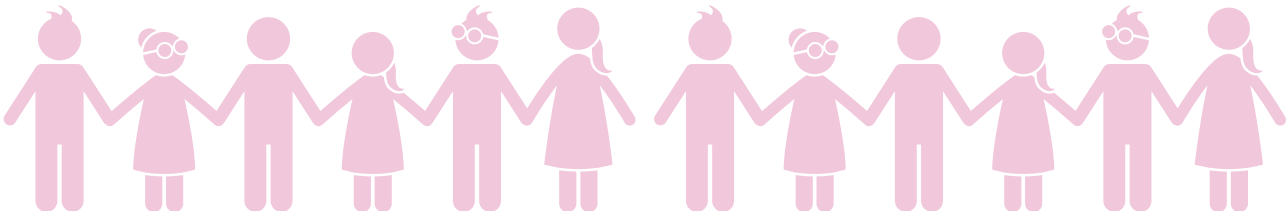
Average number of participating programs
19 GFDC, 32 FDC and
3 LE programs.

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

Kids on Track

Kids On Track Steuben

GOAL  School Readiness & Success		
 Build and support adult capabilities to foster child development Family and Parenting Support • Provided through Family Resource Centers and Home Visiting programs. • Single point of entry referral partnership Professional Development • CCRC shared focus on Pyramid Model for providers • Shared professional development among partners • Training on ACEs, Poverty, Mental Health First Aid available through CoSer for school partners	 Build and support quality, language-rich early learning settings Environmental Ratings • CCRCs use environmental rating tools with early childhood programs, develop quality improvement plans based on results, and provide technical assistance to build quality Tools for Families & Programs • Read To Me Steuben • Dolly Parton Imagination Library • Early Literacy Connections® for Child Care Programs	 Monitor child development and address suspected delays GROW Developmental Screening Program • Screening team holds events at Child Care Programs and Family Resource Centers to screen: ○ Height & Weight ○ Hearing ○ Vision ○ Dental ○ Motor Development ○ Ages & Stages® Questionnaire (parent) • Report to physician and follow up navigation





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/