



## Child Care Council Public Policy Agenda, 2014

We believe that all children deserve access to safe, affordable, high-quality child care. We believe in the value of the work of child care providers as they play a critical role in preparing our next generation for life. We believe in the partnership between child care providers and parents as they support the healthy development of children. We believe in the importance of investing in children by investing in child care. Below are our key public policy agenda items and related resources and partners.

### **Affordability**

Child Care Council believes in promoting affordable child care. Affordable means different things to different families. For some families, receiving a subsidy will make child care affordable. For other families, having access to tax credits will make child care affordable. Many families may have to make difficult career and family choices because of the cost of child care.

#### Increase Subsidy

Child Care Council supports increased access to child care subsidies for low-income working families. For more on this work: [www.thechildrensagenda.org](http://www.thechildrensagenda.org)

#### Improve Family Leave

Child Care Council supports The FAMILY Act, which includes paid family leave for childbirth or other family needs. <http://www.nationalpartnership.org/research-library/work-family/paid-leave/family-act-fact-sheet.pdf>

#### Increase Child Care Wages

Child Care workers are among the lowest paid workers and yet their work is critical for our economy to thrive. To view a 2007 NYS Dept. of Labor Analysis of Child Care: [http://www.labor.ny.gov/stats/cen/child\\_care.shtm](http://www.labor.ny.gov/stats/cen/child_care.shtm)

#### Increase Child Care Tax Credits

Support the *American Opportunity Agenda*, which would increase child care tax credits and deductions for working families, as well as address other key issues facing families.

### **Quality**

Child Care Council believes in the importance of high-quality child care. Quality child care is different for different types of care which is why we support training, accreditation, and any other initiatives that offer funding to increase access to quality improvement. This includes UPK, accreditation, Quality Rating Improvement System, training for all modalities, and technical assistance.

Types of Care: <http://childcarecouncil.com/for-parents/types-of-care/>

Evaluating Quality: <http://childcarecouncil.com/for-parents/evaluating-child-care/>

Accreditation: <http://childcarecouncil.com/for-providers/program-accreditation/>

Training/Professional Development:

*Training:* <http://childcarecouncil.com/for-providers/training/>

*CDA:* <http://childcarecouncil.com/professional-development/child-development-associate/>

*Infant/Toddler Resource Network:* <http://childcarecouncil.com/professional-development/infanttoddler/>

*Technical Assistance:* <http://childcarecouncil.com/professional-development/>

## **Parent Choice**

Child Care Council believes that only parents know what is best for their children. We believe in the value of informed choice about quality child care. Every family's needs are different; every child's needs are different. We believe in sharing information about all child care options, quality child care, safety, and cost, and supporting a parent's decision. We believe that, regardless of modality, all types of care have the potential to be high-quality. This is why we continue to advocate for Legally Exempt Child Care. Legally Exempt enrollment allows a family receiving a child care subsidy to choose an unregulated caregiver for their children. Parents know their family's needs best, and if that need is best met by a grandparent, or a cousin, or a neighbor, parents should be supported in that choice regardless of income.

## **Safer Environments**

Child Care Council believes in the importance of keeping children safe, both at home and in care. This is one of the reasons the Council has actively supported the Child Safe Products Act two years in a row. The CSPA passed the Assembly in 2013 but was not brought to the Senate floor for a vote in 2014, in spite of strong bi-partisan support. For more information on children's environmental issues and our involvement:

Child Safe Products Act: <http://open.nysenate.gov/legislation/bill/S4614-2013>

Clean and Healthy NY: <http://www.cleanhealthyny.org/#!stronger-laws/c1mqp>

Environmental Working Group: [www.ewg.org](http://www.ewg.org)

## **Be Heard!**

Child Care Council believes in the importance of being heard by our representatives and other stakeholders. Located in Rochester, NY, we are reminded of the long, hard fight for the right to vote faced by women and minorities. We believe in the importance of exercising that right by registering to vote, understanding how to contact representatives, and how to let our voices be heard. One of the best ways to advocate for children and for high-quality early care and education is to become a registered, active voter.

NYS Board of Elections: <http://www.elections.ny.gov/>

Voter Registration Form: <http://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingRegister.html>

## Who are my representatives?

### County Government

Livingston County: <http://www.co.livingston.state.ny.us>

Monroe County: <http://www.monroecounty.gov/>

Wayne County: <http://www.co.wayne.ny.us/>

### State Government

NYS Assembly: <http://assembly.state.ny.us/>

NYS Senate: <http://www.nysenate.gov/>

### Federal Government

United States House of Representatives: <http://www.house.gov/>

United States Senate: <http://www.senate.gov/>

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