



CHILD CARE SOLUTIONS

navigating the way to high quality child care

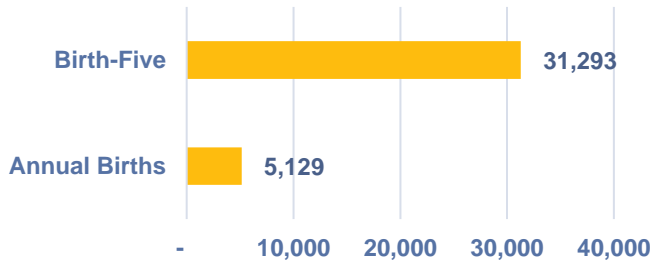


Child Care in Onondaga County

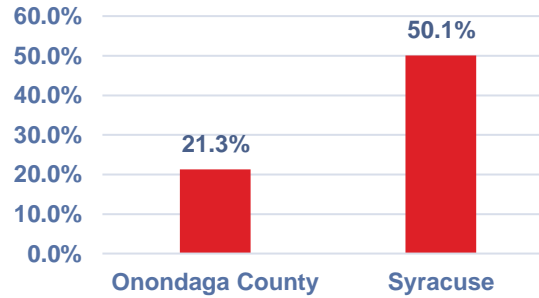
FOCUS Greater Syracuse
July 16, 2021

Onondaga County's Early Childhood System

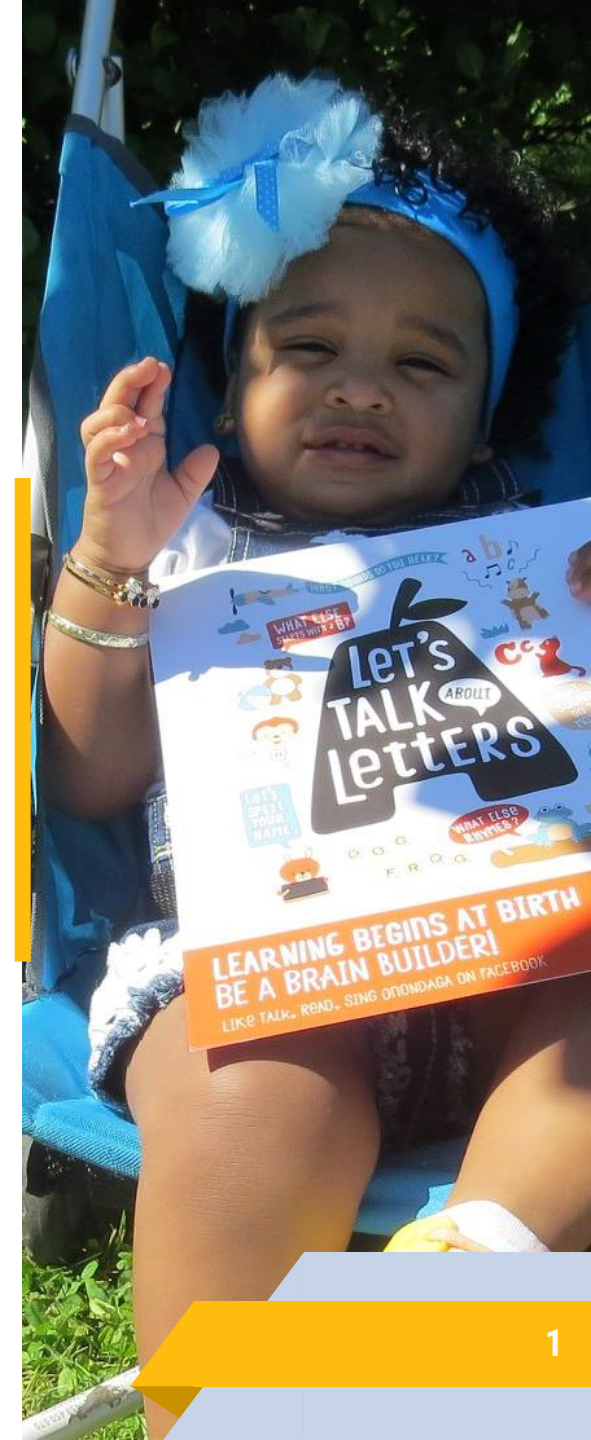
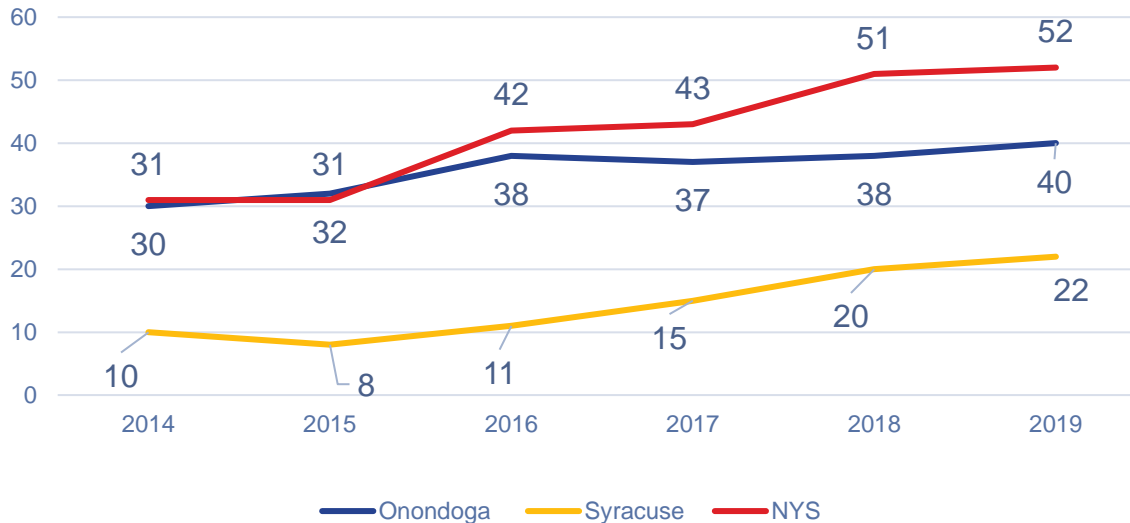
Children Birth Through Five Onondaga County



Children Under 5 Years Below Poverty Level - 2018

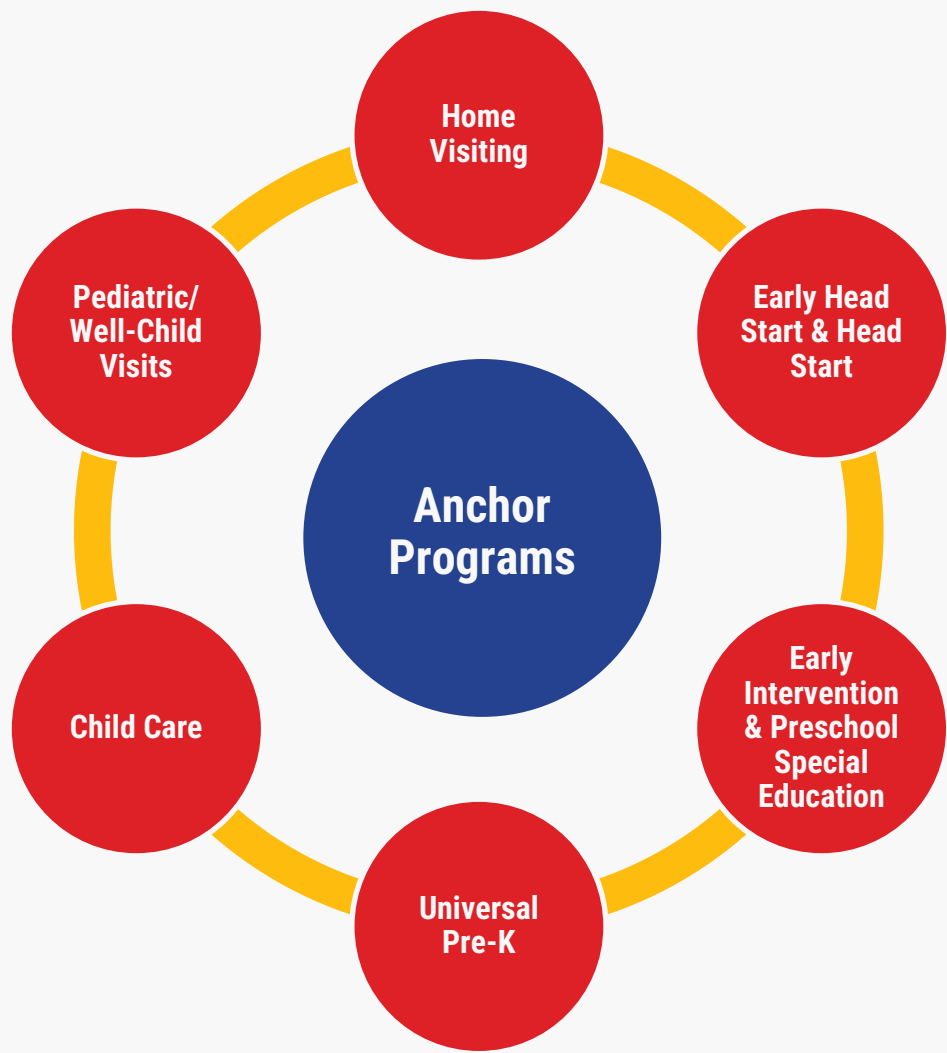


% of students meeting NYS 3rd Grade ELA Standard

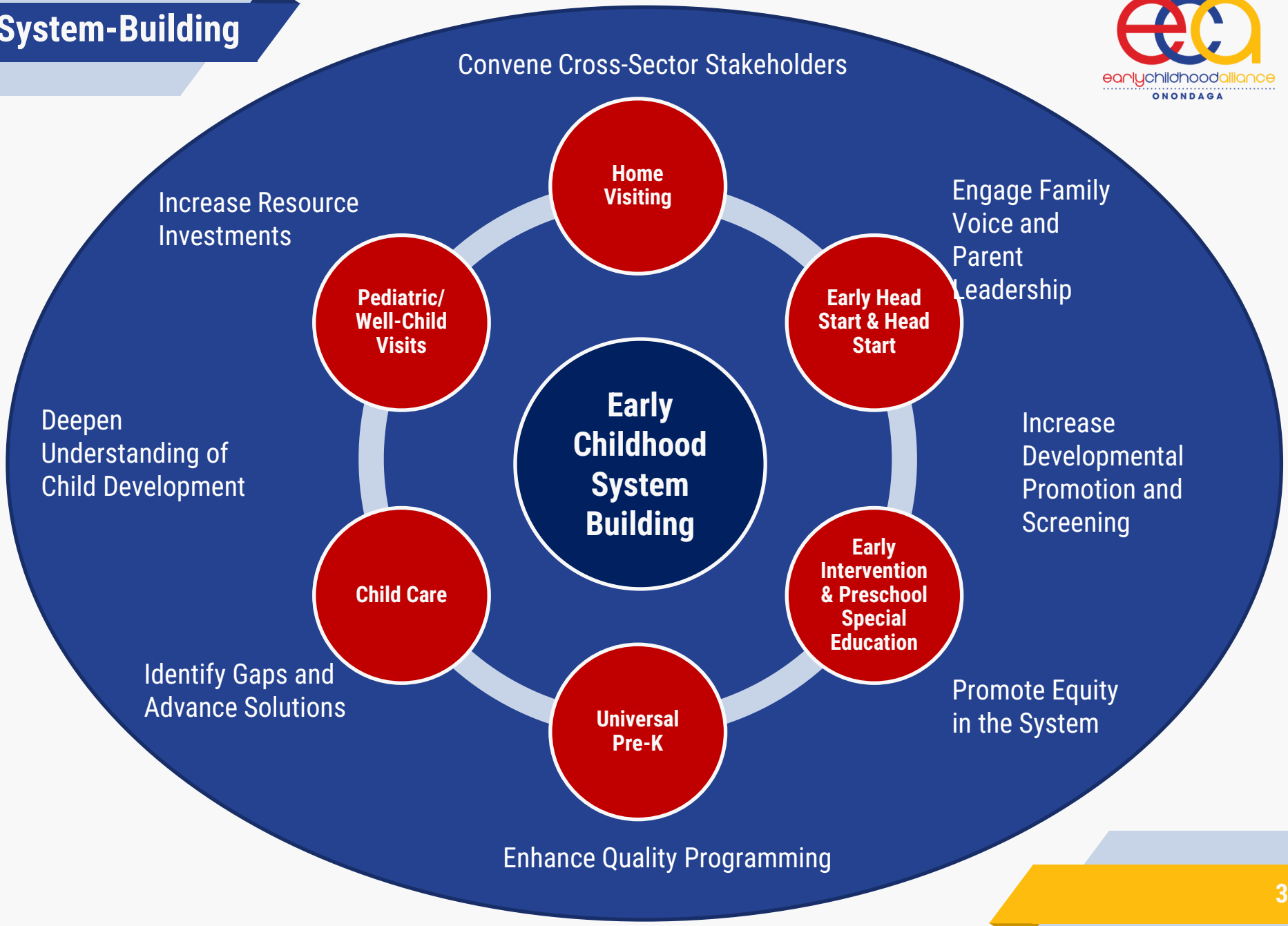


Let's Talk Letters
 ABOLLI
 WHAT ELSE SPEAKS WITH F-B?
 WHAT ELSE SPEAKS WITH R-B?
 LET'S SPEAK TO THE HAT!
 DOG
 FROG
 WHAT ELSE SPEAKS WITH B-B?
 LEARNING BEGINS AT BIRTH
 BE A BRAIN BUILDER!
 LIKE TALK, READ, SING ONONDAGA ON FACEBOOK

Onondaga County's Early Childhood Programs

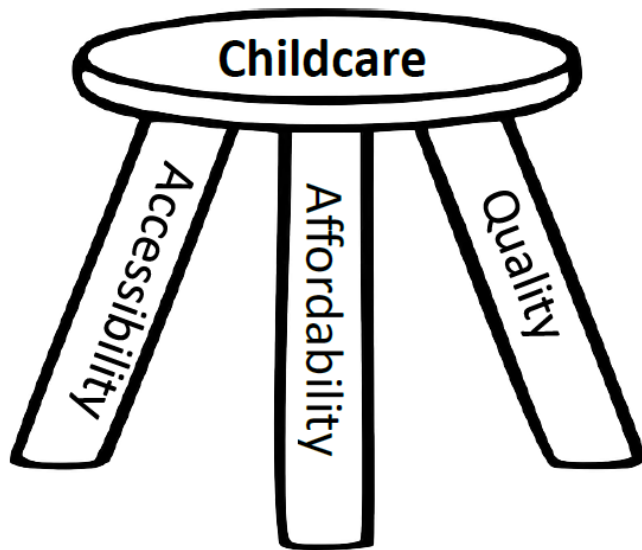


System-Building



Child Care in Onondaga County

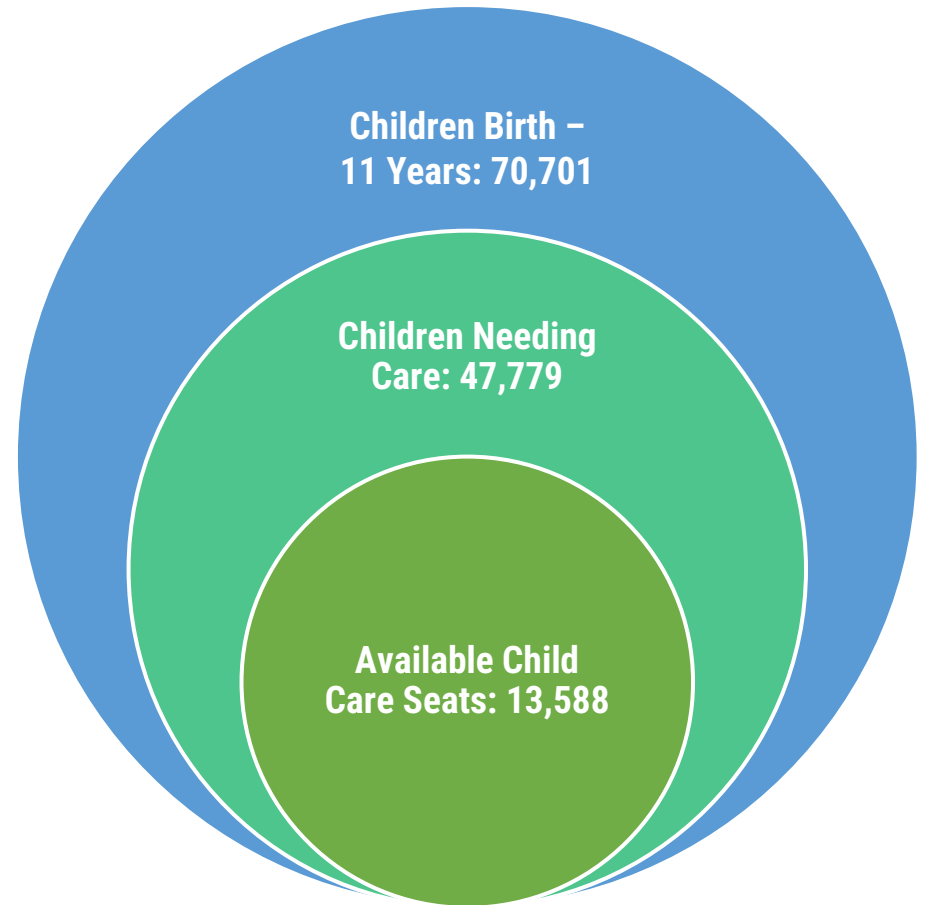
A system within the early childhood system



- ↓ Accessibility: Supply does not meet needs
- ↓ Affordability: Cost exceeds family's ability to pay
- ↓ Quality: High quality care is expensive; it depends upon a well-trained and fairly-compensated workforce

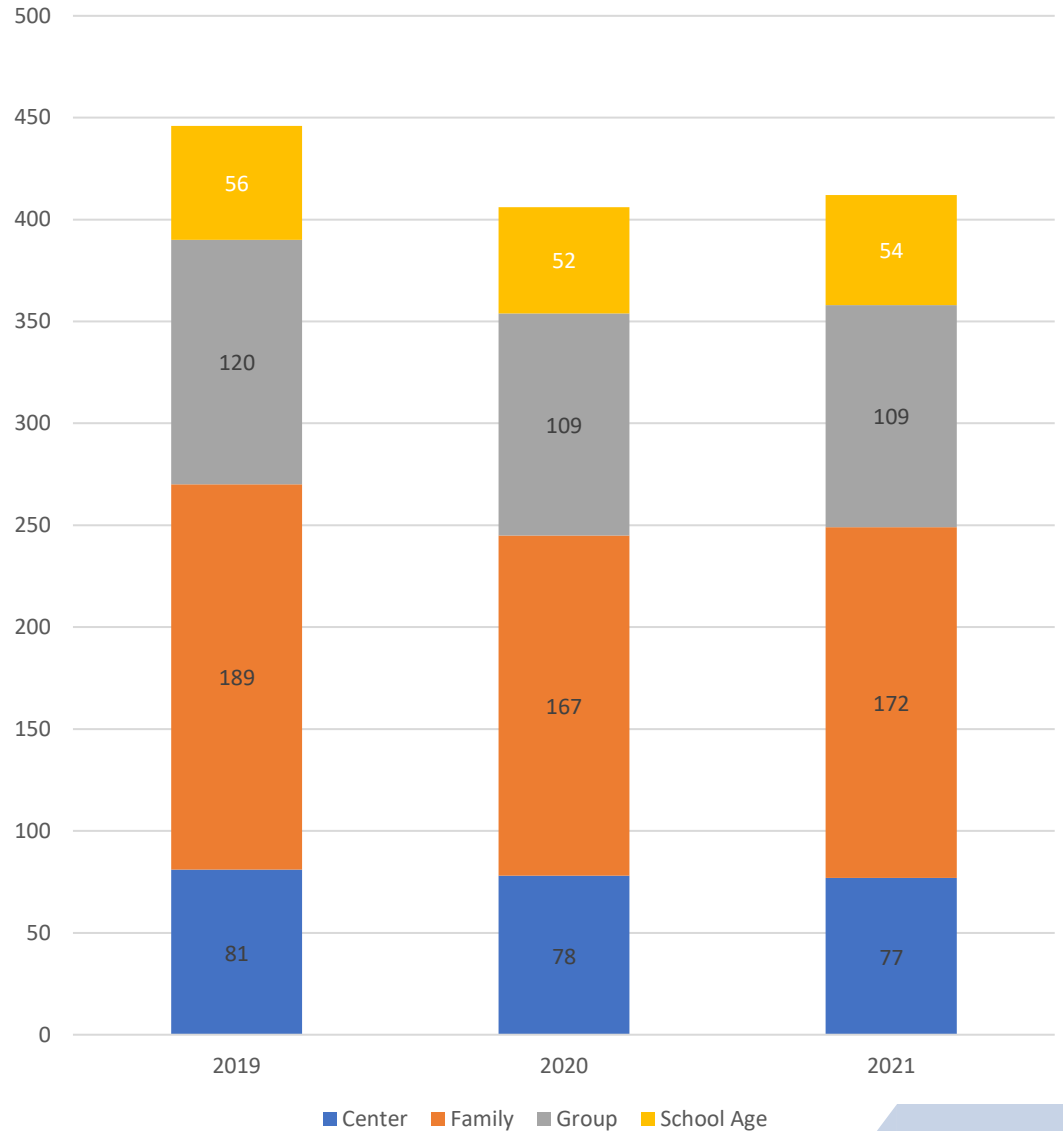
Child Care Accessibility

- Available registered or licensed child care only meets **28%** of need
- More than **3** children need care for every available regulated child care seat
- There are only **769** seats available for infants, for the approximately 5,263 babies born each year to Onondaga county residents



Accessibility: Change in Child Care Programs

There are 34 fewer programs than in 2019, however there are 6 more than in 2020.



Accessibility: Change in Child Care Capacity

Despite the additional 6 programs, there were still 845 fewer seats than in 2019.



Affordability: Child Care As Percent of Median Family Income

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends that affordable child care not exceed **7%** of family income.
- The average cost of care for an infant and a toddler in a child care center is **\$24,336** annually in Onondaga County.
- A Married Couple in Onondaga County earning the median family income of **\$61,359**, with an infant and a toddler would pay **40%** of the household income on child care.
 - Based on 2019 US Census, Onondaga County data

Affordability:

Essential Worker Scholarships

From 10/25/2020 through 6/25/2021, Child Care Solutions administered childcare scholarships for essential workers earning up to 300% of the Federal Poverty guidelines

155 children (106 families) in Onondaga County received Essential Worker Scholarships

69 child care programs in Onondaga County received stable income by serving children with Essential Worker Scholarships

NYS released new Essential Worker scholarships on June 28, 2021; all families and caregivers must re-apply through the OCFS website: <https://ocfs.ny.gov>

Quality:

Child Care Quality Improvement Pilot

Beginning in January 2020, Onondaga County provided funds to pilot a 3-year quality improvement project with 3 Child Care Centers and 10 Family Child Care Homes

Participants receive training and coaching to support implementation of Creative Curriculum to fidelity; and stipends to increase pay and reduce staff turnover

Quality:

Child Care Quality Improvement Pilot Impact

3 Directors, 4 Assistant Directors, 12 Teachers, 10 Assistant Teachers and 10 Family Child Care providers improved the quality of their care

150 infants and toddlers received higher quality child care

Staff turnover was reduced from 24% to 6% despite the pandemic

Quality: 2020 Child Care Grants Distributed



68 child care programs received \$83,512 in Reopening grants

\$50,138 was unspent

10 child care programs did not access any of the awarded reopening funds



36 child care programs received \$511,058 in Restructuring grants

\$293,693 was unspent

10 programs did not access any of the awarded restructuring funds

Governor's Child Care Availability Task Force



Supporting Families, Employers & New York's Future:

An Action Plan for a Strong and Equitable Child Care System

Final Report of the Child Care Availability Task Force

SUMMARY OF TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

1 CHILD CARE AFFORDABILITY

- 1.1 Set a statewide standard for affordability and enact a path to get there.
- 1.2 Adopt subsidy market rates that reflect the real cost of high-quality child care.
- 1.3 Make phase-in decisions based on racial equity and other equity priorities.
- 1.4 Maximize available funding across all sources.

2 EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CHILD CARE

- 2.1 End disparities caused by inequitable county-by-county fragmentation.
- 2.2 Increase provider capacity in order to eliminate "child care deserts."
- 2.3 Improve fiscal stability for child care providers to give families confidence and stability.
- 2.4 Eliminate policies that force children out of early childhood care.
- 2.5 Engage employers as a key partner in establishing an affordable and accessible high-quality child care system.

3 HIGH-QUALITY CHILD CARE

- 3.1 Support program quality and provide transparency to families.
- 3.2 Pay the early childhood workforce fairly.
- 3.3 Provide pathways for early childhood educators to advance in their careers and professional learning.

4 COORDINATED SYSTEMS

- 4.1 Publicly communicate the status and impact of the child care system and New York State's progress toward achieving the vision and steps proposed by the Task Force.
- 4.2 Develop a data system to support quality, efficiency, and transparency.
- 4.3 Streamline and coordinate across agencies to better serve families and child care providers.
- 4.4 Increase pre-kindergarten collaboration with community-based organizations.



The American Rescue Plan Act, 2021

- New York State was awarded approximately \$1.8 billion
- Categories of ARPA funding:
 - Supplemental discretionary Child Care & Development Fund (CCDF) dollars (~ \$702 million for NYS)
 - Additional baselined “Mandatory” CCDF funds (~ \$29M for NYS)
 - Child Care Stabilization Grants (~ \$1.1 billion for NYS)
 - 50% of these funds must be obligated (awarded) within 9 months of enactment
- \$1.1B of which are child care provider stabilization grants
 - **90% direct grants to child care providers**
 - Eligible providers: Licensed, registered, permitted, & enrolled legally-exempt group programs...
 - ...that were open and serving children as of March 1, 2020 and...
 - ...are open and available to provide child care services on the date they apply for a grant, or attest that they will be serving children by September 20, 2021.
 - 80%: Formula-driven based grant to be based on modality, 3 broad geographic regions, and maximum capacity
 - 20%: Supplemental funding for providers to incentivize different types of care

Stabilization Grants (cont'd.)

- Providers can spend their awards on:
 - Personnel costs
 - Rent/mortgage payments, utilities, insurance, facilities maintenance
 - PPE, cleaning and sanitation supplies and services, training and professional development related to health and safety practices
 - Purchases of or updates to equipment and supplies to respond to COVID-19
 - Good and services necessary to maintain or resume child care services
 - Mental health supports for children and employees

NYS Child Care Budget for SFY 2021-22

The Governor and the Legislature saw the new federal funds as the great opportunity we've been waiting for to effectuate transformational change in child care. The enacted budget included:

- Substantial resources for child care subsidy
- Stabilization grants for child care providers and money for supplies
- Continued support for essential worker scholarships
- Expansion of QUALITYstarsNY
- Funding to address child care deserts

Enacted Budget: Subsidy Provisions

- 12-month eligibility
- Cap of family co-pay at 10%
- Eligibility for families up to 200% Federal Poverty Level
- 24 paid absences in a 12-month period
- Additional funding for facilitated enrollment



THANK YOU!

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