

The 4-1-1 on Child Care

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Child Care Funding

- **Two ways to pay:**
 - Private tuition by parents
 - Child care subsidy

Child Care Subsidy Eligibility

- **Initial eligibility:**
- **Must be at 200% of the federal poverty level**
- **For a family of four to be eligible, they must make less than \$53,000/year**

Child Care Subsidy Payments

For Infants:

- **\$1024.25/month**
- **\$236.55/week**
- **\$47.31/day**
- **\$5.91/hour for an 8 hour day**

And there are consequences for both funding sources

Supply v. Demand

Child care in NJ:

As of 12/31/20

- **3,035 Licensed child care centers**
- **1,449 Registered family child care homes**

How Many Children are Served by Subsidy?

As of 12/31/20

- **40,951- Total number of children of all ages receiving subsidy**
- **9,051-Total number of infants/toddlers receiving a subsidy**

Child Care Availability

2017 ACNJ Report

- **More than 207,000 children under the age of 3 living in families where both parents work (Some kind of child care is needed)**
- **Licensed centers only have the capacity to serve 55,600 infants/toddlers**

Child Care and COVID-19

- **Was a crisis before the crisis**
- **Closed for 3 ½ months**
- **Reopened: low enrollment**
- **Good news: More stable funding through subsidy payments**

What's Happening NOW?

- **Cost of doing business skyrocketed**
- **In the midst of a staffing crisis**
 - Federal dollars helped, still not enough to compete
 - Minimum wage increases every year
- **Child care enrollment bill**
- **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding**

ARPA Child Care Funding

- **Two pots of child care funding**
 - **Approximately \$267 million for Supplemental Child Care & Development Funds**
 - **Approximately \$430 million for Child Care Stabilization funds**

How does NJ Plan to Spend the Funding?

- **Waiving parent copays in the child care subsidy program through the end of 2023**
- **Providing an additional \$300 per month per child for subsidy payments until the end of 2023**
- **Providing \$1,000 bonuses to help child care providers recruit new workers and retain existing staff**
- **Offering grants of \$20,000 - \$80,000 to center-based child care providers to help stabilize their operations, including increased wages and facilities improvements. Family child care homes are eligible for grants up to \$2,000**
- **Providing family child care providers enrolled in *Grow NJ Kids* (New Jersey's child care quality rating and improvement system) with increased subsidy reimbursements based on increased levels of quality**
- **Providing incentives to child care programs to offer evening, weekend and non-traditional hours of care**

Are the ARPA Child Care Dollars Enough?

- **\$1,000 recruitment and retention bonuses to help child care providers recruit new workers and retain existing staff**
- **Center-based grants of \$20,000 - \$80,000**
- **Providing incentives to child care programs to offer evening, weekend and non-traditional hours of care**