

The 4-1-1 on Child Care

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Why....

Is child care so important????

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 \$55,500/year**

Child Care Subsidy Payments

For Infants:

- **\$1524.25/month**
- **\$352.02/week**
- **\$70.40/day**
- **\$8.80/hour for an 8 hour day**

And there are consequences for both funding sources

Supply v. Demand

Child care in NJ:

- **3,977 Licensed child care centers**
- **1203 Registered family child care homes**

How Many Children are Served by Subsidy?

As of 12/2021

- **45,311- Total number of children of all ages receiving subsidy**
- **10,417-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: Many problems**
- **Good news: More stable funding through subsidy payments**
- **Staffing remains a huge issue**

What's Happening NOW?

- **Cost of doing business remains high**
- **In the midst of a staffing crisis**
 - **Federal dollars helped, but they were temporary**
- **BBB did not become law**
- **Minimum wage increases every year**
- ***Thriving by Three* signed into law**
- **Package of bills**

The Role of Parents

Let Your VOICE be Heard!

- **TALK TO AND ORGANIZE other parents**
- **Contact key policymakers**
- **Testify at hearings**
- **Write letters to your local newspapers**
- **Become an “advocacy nudge”**

One More Thing: Some additional advocacy tips....

- **Be patient**
- **Be persistent**
- **Stay informed**
- **Keep your colleagues informed**
- **Be open to different ideas**
- **DON'T GIVE UP!**



In Closing...

- **Child care was essential long before the pandemic**
- **Should be considered a “public good”**
- **And treated that way!**
- **Parents have an important role to play!**