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!