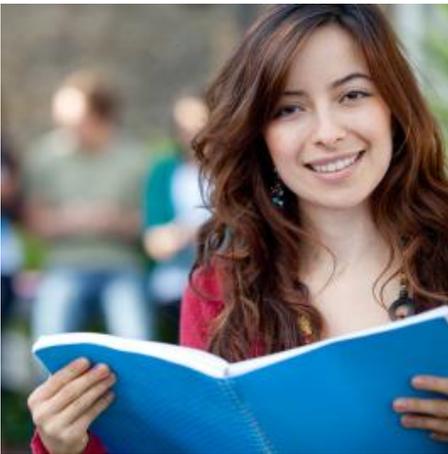


SUNY Campus Child Care

Community Colleges

EMPOWER

parents to create better futures for themselves and their children.



Student parents generally have less income than their non-parent peers.

Therefore, they are more likely to have to work to support their families while paying for college and those who don't have access to child care often end up dropping out.

BUILD

a foundation of learning and healthy social emotional growth for young children.



Young children's brains develop 700 synapses—neural connections that support learning and skills—every second. 85% of brain growth happens by age 3. Children of college graduates are more likely to attend college themselves. If we want to our future college students to arrive ready, we should set that path now.

LEAD

communities in improving the quality of care offered to all of New York's children.



48% of SUNY's community college child care centers are NAEYC accredited, the nation's highest standard of quality in early care and education programs. Less than 10% of OCFS regulated centers across the state can claim this accomplishment.

Currently, there are 33 child care centers serving 29 SUNY community colleges. The primary purpose of all of these centers is to serve children of community college students. Many centers also serve children of college employees and members of the community. Approximately just 28% of the centers' total capacity is being utilized by SUNY community college students, yet there are waiting lists. Students and their children are being turned away, at almost all of the centers due to limited funding. Funding for SUNY child care comes from an operating grant from SUNY and a tuition and quality reimbursement grant through the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant. Some colleges offer their child care centers additional support through funding and in-kind services. Three community colleges – Monroe, Rockland and Erie- were recently award a Child Care Access Means Parents In School Program (CCAMPIS) grant, which will allow more parents to attend college in the 2013/2014 year at those schools.

Funding:

SUNY Child Care Operating Grant – community colleges

2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014 Still pending
951,050	1,001,000	1,574,100	1,588,900	1,588,900

The SUNY Child Care Operating Grant funds saw an increase in the 2011-2012 year. This was a legislative add after several years steady reduction in funds leading up to 2010. While the restoration of those funds was helpful, centers still struggle to meet their financial needs. The SUNY Child Care Operating Grant funds are used for center operating costs, including salaries, fringe benefits, supplies, equipment, and meals for children. These funds are also used for costs associated with maintaining NEAYC accreditation as well as health and safety costs. As with any small business, operating costs continue to rise.

Examples of rising costs:

- The Statewide Central Register (SCR) Database Check used to be done at no cost to child care providers, but as of 2011, it costs \$25 per person. This must be done for all potential hires. A person cannot be alone with children until they have been cleared by the SCR.
- Increase in cost of food and other daily needs - For example, the cost of a gallon of milk in Albany in 2009 was \$2.52. In 2012, it was \$3.02. Children drink a lot of milk and consume and use a number of other items, the costs of which continue to rise.
- Personnel costs - Child care center employees are historically underpaid. Directors and boards must continually seek the balance between affordability, programmatic quality, and staff compensation. With a rise in minimum wage on the horizon, this will be even more of a financial consideration.

SUNY Child Care & Development Block Grant – community colleges

2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
1,990,286	1,483,500	1,106,500	1,090,919	1,090,919

The Child Care Block Grant provides tuition reimbursement for children of students attending SUNY schools. Reimbursements are set at market rate (market rate is determined by OCFS). NAEYC accredited centers can be reimbursed at 15% above market rate, although a few centers do not take advantage of this as it could mean serving fewer children. As shown above the amount of money made available to centers for tuition reimbursement has seen a decrease, as the need for child care services continues to increase.

88% of community college child care centers do not receive enough Block Grant Funding to meet the needs of all income eligible parents on their campus

There are currently over **700** income eligible community college students state-wide who were turned down for child care subsidies due to limited funding. Some of these parents were not able to stay in school because of this.

Closing the achievement gap:

Many community colleges students come from low-income families. There is an achievement gap between lower and higher income children that starts BEFORE kindergarten. But high quality child care can help close the gap.

- High-quality early care and education, especially for disadvantaged children, has been shown to:
 - Decrease special education placement by 49% and reduce grade retention by 50%;
 - Decrease child abuse and neglect by 51% and juvenile arrests by 33%;
 - Increase high school graduation by 31% and college attendance by more than 80%; and
 - Increase employment by 23%.⁵¹

Building a more vibrant community:

Research has shown that high quality early childhood programs have both immediate and long-term benefits to the larger society, not just the individual child. Children who experience high quality early care and education are more likely to stay in school, avoid teen pregnancy, stay out of jail, attend college, and have higher earnings.

Driving the Economy

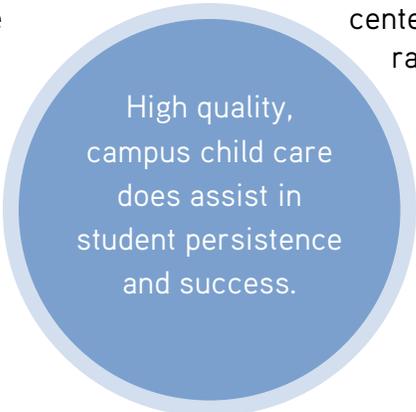
Research about campus child care shows:

- Graduation rates of student parents receiving campus child care are higher than campus counterparts.
- Student parents are more likely to remain in school and graduate in fewer years.
- They demonstrate higher rates of persistence.
- Student parents indicate availability of child care as critical to their decision to enroll in college.
- Their grade point average is higher.²

Student Retention:

The Richard M. Guon Child Care Center at Monroe Community College (MCC) worked with Institutional Research to analyze the student-parent retention and success rates at MCC. Student-parents using the child care center in the 2012/2013 year had a 73% persistence rate. MCC student-parents in general had a 52.6% persistence rate. MCC student-parents not using the child care center had a 15% success rate and those using the center had a 41.2% success rate.

Through the Opening Doors project, researchers from Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation conducted focus groups of community college students who confirmed that personal problems were a major impediment to their academic pursuits. Participants in the Opening Doors focus group discussions noted that child care was one of the “primary factors that influenced their decisions to attend or complete college;” however funding for child care centers is limited and insufficient to meet demand.³



High quality,
campus child care
does assist in
student persistence
and success.

¹ http://www.readynation.org/uploads//20120409_ReadyNationBusinessCaseLowRes.pdf

² <http://campuschildren.org/policy/fact.html>

³ <http://www2.ed.gov/PDFDocs/college-completion/04-student-support-services-at-community-colleges.pdf>

What directors are saying:

“Students start the semester but drop out because the cost of child care becomes overwhelming. There have also been students who use the minimum child care hours and leave the child with friends for other class times.”

“We had to turn away parents in need to give to parents from prior years. Those children are now in substandard care or the parent had to drop all of their courses.”

“Every parent states that if not for the grant, their schooling would be over.”

“Many of our students do not start college until they are sure they have a space for their child in the center. We receive calls daily from students asking for subsidized child care.”

“We had parents that did not take the spot when called, because of the price and no subsidy money to help them. We have parents that took out loans to pay for their child care...I use to receive \$80,000 about five years ago, but it has been reduced to half of that amount...I will run out of money in January and I am in the process of writing a letter to the parents on the Grant to notify them of the situation. I know I will probably lose a few children, because the parents won't be able to afford the full price.”

“There is a parent who has two children at the center. She joined last October, and was put on the waiting list for the block grant. I thought there would be sufficient funds for her to receive the grant this year, even though she was the last family to be added to the list. She was going to take more classes if she qualified so she could be finished with school sooner...This year, I was told that we could only serve a certain number of families, and that she could not get the grant. I had to tell her she would have to wait another year ...There are so many families who are trying to get their lives on track, and I wish we could help them all. It felt awful telling this single mother that she would not get the grant. Unfortunately, there are many stories like this - parents who want to improve their lives, but do not have the resources.”

“98% of our children are from families that are eligible for the grant. We can offer money to only 4 out of 32 plus families. Our center is small. We need funds to expand, as well, since we can only accommodate Toddlers and Preschoolers...each year we have families that wouldn't be in school if we were not on campus.”

“We have had many parents who are grateful for the grant and finished their education. And we have many this semester that are getting close to graduating and I hope they fill finish even though (the center) will be out of grant money.”

“Students who receive funding from the Block Grant subsidy have a distinct advantage and tend to succeed by staying in school. This subsidy is invaluable and should be increased so that all eligible students may benefit.”