



ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

NOTICE OF HEARING

SUBJECT: Child Care Assistance for Low-Income Families

PURPOSE: To examine the impact of child care subsidies provided for in the SFY 2015-16 budget and the effect of the upcoming reauthorization of the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant on access to quality child care

Hearing Room C, Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY
Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2015
11 a.m.

Child care subsidies provide low-income families with access to quality child care necessary to maintain employment and self-sufficiency. These subsidies are funded primarily by the state's Child Care Block Grant (CCBG), which was increased by \$5 million in the SFY 2015-16 budget. The additional dollars are intended to enable local social services districts to provide more eligible families with child care assistance, thereby providing them with crucial work support and ensuring their children are cared for in safe environments.

A major source of funding for the CCBG comes from federal dollars provided by the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG). In November 2014, President Obama reauthorized the CCDBG, making significant policy changes to the program, including amending the health and safety requirements for child care providers, establishing more family-friendly guidelines for eligibility policies, and enhancing parents' access to information regarding options for available child care providers. The federal Administration for Children and Families stated that these changes represent "a historic re-envisioning of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program."

With the reauthorization and policy amendments to the CCDBG several positive advancements to New York's child care system will occur, such as improvements to the quality of childcare and added stability to families receiving childcare subsidies. However, despite these advancements, New York State faces significant fiscal obstacles to make these modifications to our system. The New York State Division of Budget has estimated a \$90 million dollar impact for operating expenses in SFY 2016-2017, and is uncertain of the fiscal obligations that will be required in order to maintain the current number of child care subsidies that are provided statewide. Additionally, there is an anticipated increase in costs to providers to implement quality and training components of the CCDBG reauthorization.

The purpose of this hearing is to examine the use of child care subsidies authorized by the SFY 2015-16 budget in the context of the federal reauthorization of the CCDBG. The Committee on Children and Families is interested in learning how the funding for child care assistance has met the needs of eligible families and how such families, as well as the child care providers who serve them, may be impacted by the proposed changes to the CCDBG.

Persons wishing to present pertinent testimony to the Committee at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form at least twenty four hours prior to the commencement of the hearing. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to 10 minutes. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committee will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to Committee staff as early as possible. In the absence of a request, witnesses will be scheduled in the order in which reply forms are postmarked.

Ten (10) copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk.

In order to further publicize these hearings, please inform interested parties and organizations of the Committee's interest in hearing testimony from all sources.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the New York State Senate and Assembly have made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Senate and Assembly facilities and activities.

Donna Lupardo
Member of Assembly
Chair
Committee on Children and Families

HEARING REPLY FORM

Persons wishing to participate in the hearing on Child Care Assistance for Low-Income Families are requested to complete this reply form at least 24 hours before the commencement of the hearing and mail, email or fax it to:

Logan Hardy
Committee Assistant
Assembly Committee on Children and Families
Room 442 - Capitol
Albany, New York 12248
Email: hardyl@assembly.state.ny.us
Phone: (518) 455-4371
Fax: (518) 455-4693

I plan to attend the following hearing on Child Care Assistance for Low-Income Families to be conducted by the Assembly Committee for Children and Families and the Committee on December 16, 2015.

I plan to make a public statement at the hearing. My statement will be limited to 10 minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise. I will provide 10 copies of my prepared statement.

I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

I do not plan to attend the above hearing.

I would like to be added to the Committee mailing list for notices and reports.

I would like to be removed from the Committee mailing list.

I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:** _____

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX TELEPHONE: _____