

Increasing the **SUPPLY** of Infant & Toddler **CARE**



The Challenge: The Absence of Safe, Regulated Care Creates Tremendous Barriers to Employment & Impedes Economic Growth

Many parts of New York State have little regulated care and thus very limited options for parents. This is particularly true of rural counties across New York. In order to increase supply, recruiting family and group family providers is essential. The current capacity issue, coupled with the loss of seats for infants and toddlers has created a child care crisis in New York State.



“Finding licensed child care for infants and toddlers is extremely challenging. Even if just half of the infants and toddlers in these states required child care, on average, there would still only be enough licensed capacity for 1 in every 3 children.”

- Center for American Progress, Oct 2018 report: Understanding Infant & Toddler Child Care Deserts.

A Look at the Unmet Need of Infant Toddler Seats Across New York State

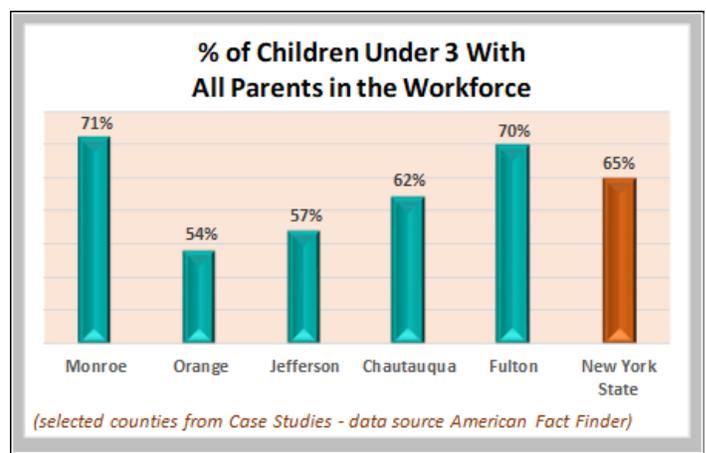
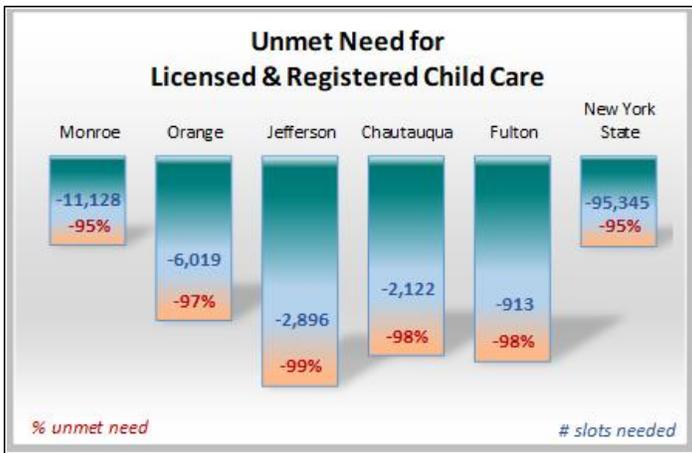
A selection of diverse counties from 5 of the 7 OCFS regions across the state, representing both rural and urban demographics.

		Monroe	Orange	Jefferson	Chautauqua	Fulton	NY STATE
1	0-3 Population	24,291	14,729	5,757	4,177	1,570	687,819
2	Percentage of birth to 3 with all parents in the workforce (per US census)	71%	54%	57%	62%	70%	65%
3	Estimate of children 0-3 needing care	17,247	7,954	3,281	2,590	1,099	447,082
4	2018 Total Capacity	5,562	1,759	350	425	169	143,670
5	Estimated Unmet Need	(11,685)	(6,195)	(2,931)	(2,165)	(930)	(303,412)
6	Percentage of Unmet Need	-95%	-97%	-99%	-98%	-98%	-95%

The Early Care & Learning Council (ECLC) is a statewide, not-for-profit membership organization that represents the 35 Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) programs across New York State.

In 2002, The Early Care & Learning Council developed the Infant Toddler Project. Delivered through our statewide network of CCR&Rs, the Project provides support when it can have the greatest impact - during the first 3 years of life.

Our Infant Toddler Project reaches out to communities, child care providers, and families to promote safe, nurturing environments for the youngest New Yorkers. It emphasizes high-quality early care that's essential to long-term social, emotional, and intellectual development. That in turn has a positive ripple effect on schools, businesses, and communities across New York State.



“While child care shortages for infants and toddlers exist everywhere, they are especially pronounced in rural areas and counties with lower median family incomes. There are nine children under 3 for every child care slot in completely rural counties, compared with five per slot in mostly urban counties.”

- Center for American Progress, Oct 2018 report: Understanding Infant & Toddler Child Care Deserts.

700,000 The approximate number of *Infants and Toddlers* across *New York State*, according to available Census Data

500,000 Nearly *500,000* of *New York’s* children under the age of three whose parents are in the work force, will spend some time in child care outside the home

95,956 The number of existing *Infant and Toddler seats* in *licensed and registered* settings across *New York State*

7:1 There are *7 Infants or Toddlers* who may be in need of care for *every 1 seat of licensed & registered care* that is available across New York State

19,757 *Requests for Infant and Toddler Care* made to *CCR&Rs*: in a 12-month period between July of 2017 and June of 2018, 35 Child Care Resource and Referral agencies across New York State received 19,757 requests from parents and families for infant and toddler child care

90% With nearly *90%* of all *Infant and Toddler child care seats filled*, parental requests to CCR&Rs for Quality Infant & Toddler care across New York State outweighs availability

A Strategic Solution to Increasing the Supply of Infant & Toddler Care

The following strategy paves a pathway to increased earnings and self-sufficiency for individuals who opt to work from home caring for children. As they advance to registered or licensed status, providers can earn more money by serving more children, receiving higher reimbursement rates, and increasing the available supply of quality care for infants and toddlers.

- Outreach, recruitment and informational sessions by targeted CCR&Rs
- Technical assistance throughout the application process, during the start-up phase and as needed to promote financial viability and quality for registered family child care
- Free/subsidized in-person training for up to 15 hours in required areas
- Small equipment and modest new provider start-up grants
- Enhanced reimbursement rate to incentivize providers to move from the legally-exempt system to registered family child care