



Early Education Partnership Vision Statement

The Day Care and Child Development Council of Tompkins County and the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce are working with a host of community leaders to develop innovative approaches to finance the high costs of early child care. The aim is to create a new funding stream for child care which is supported by multiple sectors of the community – families, government, large and small businesses, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations.

This public-private partnership in our county will effectively address the early education needs of families, businesses, and the community. Problems such as the shortage of care during non-standard work hours or the cost of child care for low- and middle-income parents can be addressed through community-based alliances. Innovative finance strategies that link public subsidies with private investment can improve the quantity and quality of child care.

A community early education fund will provide a single point of entry to make financial assistance universally accessible to both low- and middle-income families. By reducing the stigma of public assistance, the fund will encourage low-income parents to access under-utilized public subsidies and bring them into the formal licensed day care system. It will also make private funds available for middle-income parents who currently pay some of the highest rates for day care.

The Early Education Partnership incorporates the following principles:

- Every family should have access to quality affordable child care.
- Child care staff should not have to subsidize the cost of care through unacceptably low wages.
- The Partnership will help all families pay for child care through a universal system which combines public, private, and charitable funds.

This public private partnership is bringing together the stakeholders, skills and resources necessary to develop lasting and effective funding solutions for early education in Tompkins County.

The Early Education Partnership is a project of
The Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce and Day Care and Child Development Council

This document can be accessed at <http://government.cce.cornell.edu/doc/pdf/VISION.pdf>

www.daycarecouncil.org (607) 273-0259
-quality child care affordable to all-