

CHILD CARE

the Family Life Issue in New York City



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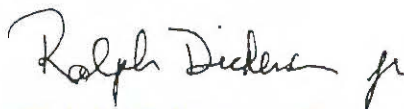


May 2000

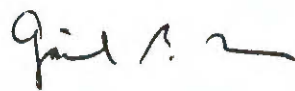
Last year, United Way of New York City (UWNYC) created a Targeted Needs Fund focusing on three human service areas that directly affect people's ability to become and remain self-sufficient. Child care is one of the those Targeted Needs.

United Way was pleased to provide funding to Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, Inc. (CCC) to conduct an in-depth needs assessment of New York City's child care system to determine the availability of child care slots and calculate estimates of need for child care. United Way felt that supporting CCC is an investment that can make a clear and major difference in addressing pressing child care priorities in the city.

CCC developed a reliable estimate of child care need and capacity data in New York City neighborhoods to assist government and program providers in planning, facility development and resource allocation decisions. We offer this Child Care Guide to policymakers, child care providers and concerned New Yorkers to learn more about the urgent demand for child care and take action to ensure that every young child receives a quality early learning experience.



Ralph Dickerson, Jr.
President



Gail B. Nayowith
Executive Director

Child Care: *the* Family Life Issue in New York City

A NEW YORKER'S GUIDE TO CHILD CARE EXPANSION

Quality child care provides stability for working parents, and provides children with a positive early learning experience that can have an enduring impact on their learning potential and later employment opportunities. However, child care in New York City is in such high demand that parents' ability to find a quality early childhood program is next

to impossible. The pressures of welfare reform and the increasing numbers of families in which both parents work are significant factors contributing to the growing demand.

Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, Inc. (CCC) recently analyzed the supply of and demand for child care in order to fully understand the city's child care crisis. CCC esti-

mates that over 100,000 New York City children ages 0-5 are eligible, but do not currently receive child care subsidies. Providing child care for these young children will come with a hefty price tag—\$674 million per year in subsidies alone.

We have good reason to believe that our numbers are conservative. Recent reports by the Urban Institute estimate that nearly 76% of children under age five with employed parents are cared for by someone other than their parents during the work day and new data from the federal government show an increase in birth rates. The urgent demand for child care and dramatic shortages in New York City neighborhoods have a growing number of New Yorkers calling for a bold, multi-year planning and program development effort to close the child care gap.

Table I

Child Care Capacity Gap by Borough: 2000

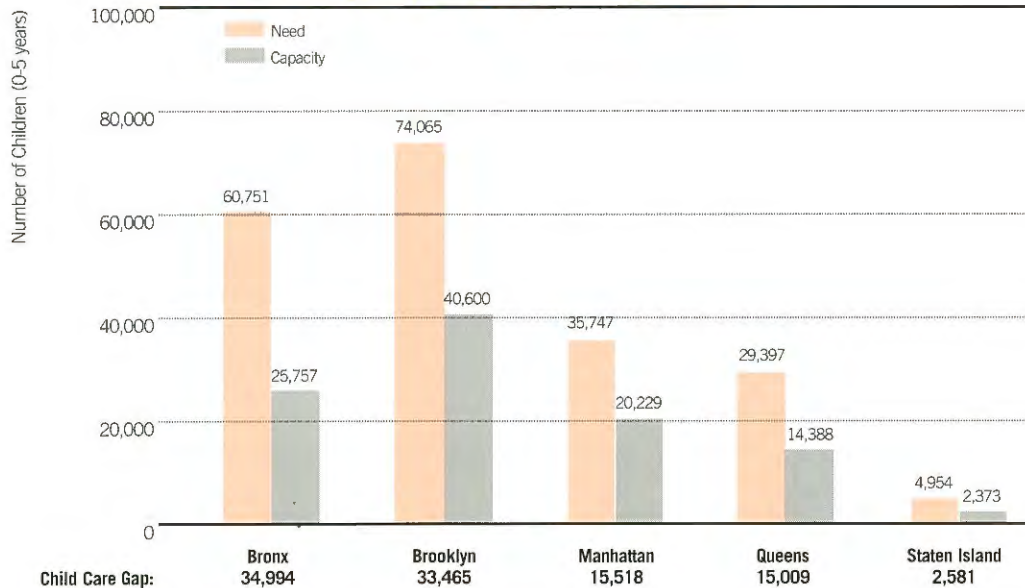
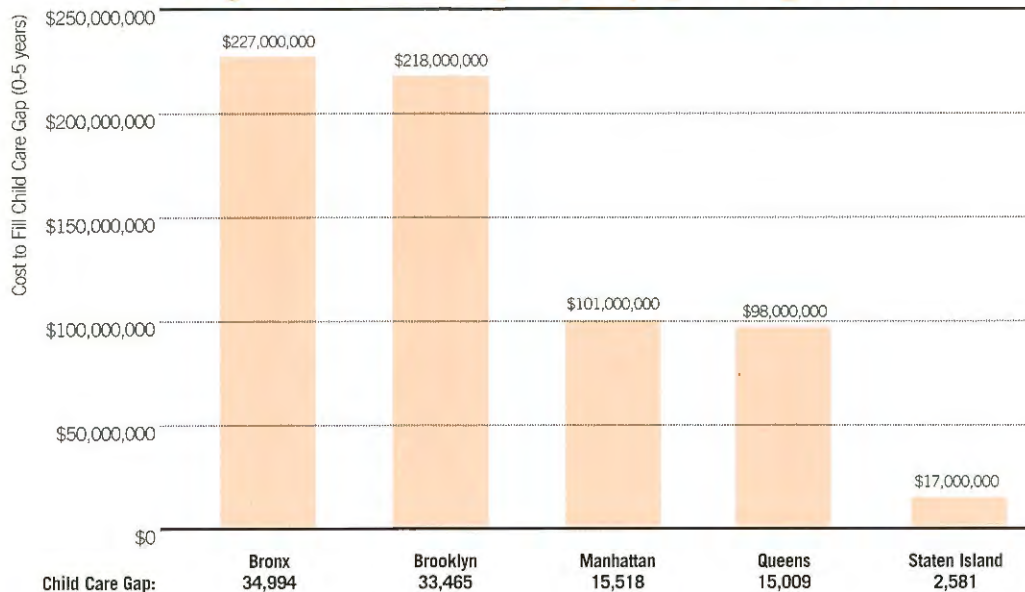


Table II

Filling the Child Care Capacity Gap by Borough: 2000



HOW THE GUIDE IS ORGANIZED

CCC assessed the unmet need for child care for children ages 0-5 in New York City by borough and in each of the city's 59 community districts. Currently, families earning less than 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) are eligible to receive child care subsidies in New York City. New federal guidelines expand eligibility to include families earning up to 275% FPL, but New York State has not adopted these new rules. We also estimated the cost to provide all eligible children with child care subsidies. This Guide includes the following child care information: (1) a table detailing the need for subsidized child care in New York City and the city's ability to meet the need (Table V); (2) a table and a map ranking need across the city's 59 community districts (Tables III and IV) and; (3) charts showing the child care capacity gap by borough and the cost to fill that gap (Tables I and II).

COMMUNITIES WITH THE HIGHEST NEED

There are twelve neighborhoods with an extremely high need for child care, ranging from 2,835 to 6,240 children under age five. These neighborhoods include University Heights (B05), Concourse/Highbridge (B04), Fordham (B07), Unionport/Soundview (B09), East Tremont (B06), and Morrisania (B03) in the Bronx; Bushwick (K04), Brownsville (K16), East New York (K05) and Bedford Stuyvesant (K03) in Brooklyn; and Washington Heights (M12) and Central Harlem (M10) in Manhattan. According to CCC's *Keeping Track of New York City's Children*, these communities also pose many risks to child well-being because of high rates of poverty, overcrowded and rundown housing and schools, and limited open spaces for children to play. Finally, a borough comparison shows the Bronx with the largest child care capacity gap, followed by Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island.

THE TIME IS RIGHT TO EXPAND QUALITY CHILD CARE

A \$1 investment in quality preschool education can return \$6 in lower costs of later special education, public assistance and crime programs. Child care is clearly a cost-effective and important service for children, families and employers. New York State has recently made substantial investments in child care subsidies, facilities, and quality initiatives, allocating new funding for this purpose. With these new funds, New York City now has the unique opportunity to address the child care crisis and build capacity in underserved communities. This Guide provides city leaders with the information building blocks they need to develop a coherent plan for child care capacity expansion. Now, advocacy is needed to ensure that New York City takes advantage of this new funding opportunity.

Table III

Many Young Children Need Child Care: 2000

Ranking New York City's Estimated Child Care Need by Community District (see map)

COMMUNITY DISTRICTS	Unmet Need Children (0-5 years)		Total Number of Children (0-5 years)
	< 200% FPL \$28,300	<275% FPL \$38,912	
University Heights (B05)	6,240	6,740	13,721
Washington Heights (M12)	6,234	6,891	19,576
Bushwick (K04)	4,952	5,477	12,079
Concourse/Highbridge (B04)	4,739	5,177	15,023
Brownsville (K16)	4,424	4,725	10,910
Fordham (B07)	4,229	4,784	12,144
Unionport/Soundview (B09)	3,873	4,626	14,637
Central Harlem (M10)	3,555	4,003	10,179
East Tremont (B06)	3,452	3,619	9,086
East New York (K05)	3,065	3,609	18,606
Morrisania (B03)	2,901	3,068	9,466
Bedford Stuyvesant (K03)	2,835	3,417	15,758
Crown Heights North (K08)	2,667	3,429	9,373
Astoria/Long Island City (Q01)	2,608	3,168	11,714
Sunset Park (K07)	2,521	3,043	9,591
Coney Island (K13)	2,515	2,680	6,151
Manhattanville (M09)	2,359	2,714	9,283
Hunts Point (B02)	2,342	2,527	5,051
Flatbush/Midwood (K14)	2,322	3,362	13,781
East Harlem (M11)	2,297	2,539	11,054
Willowbrook (S01)	2,075	2,331	13,346
Mott Haven (B01)	2,024	2,212	11,105
East Flatbush (K17)	1,900	2,575	15,057
The Rockaways (Q14)	1,839	2,110	8,996
Williamsbridge (B12)	1,708	2,404	11,522
Riverdale (B08)	1,598	1,792	5,471
Jackson Heights (Q03)	1,581	2,287	10,440
Jamaica/St. Albans (Q12)	1,401	2,529	17,864
Williamsburg/Greenpoint (K01)	1,399	1,672	17,079
Pelham Parkway (B11)	1,283	1,640	8,726
Crown Heights South (K09)	1,259	1,890	10,611
Ridgewood/Glendale (Q05)	1,254	1,530	10,345
Flushing (Q07)	1,245	1,590	15,152
Lower East Side (M03)	1,195	1,735	10,994
Sunnyside/Woodside (Q02)	1,155	1,531	7,167
Elmhurst/Corona (Q04)	1,147	1,602	10,398
Canarsie (K18)	1,069	1,293	12,523
Howard Beach (Q10)	1,066	1,358	7,596
Bensonhurst (K11)	924	1,206	11,130
Fort Greene/Brooklyn Hts (K02)	911	1,428	7,405
Woodhaven (Q09)	885	1,137	9,245
Throgs Neck (B10)	604	853	4,797
Queens Village (Q13)	517	1,021	14,421
Park Slope (K06)	427	662	7,620
Sheepshead Bay (K15)	356	539	10,555
South Beach (S02)	311	508	9,503
Fresh Meadows/Briarwood (Q08)	227	480	9,236
Tottenville (S03)	196	258	11,159
Chelsea/Clinton (M04)	190	266	2,547
Upper West Side (M07)	165	333	10,117
Bay Ridge (K10)	138	251	9,042
Bayside (Q11)	130	183	6,819
Midtown Business District (M05)	(17)	59	2,753
Upper East Side (M08)	(38)	(32)	8,889
Rego Park/Forest Hills (Q06)	(46)	48	5,012
Battery Park/Tribeca (M01)	(92)	34	1,917
Murray Hill/Stuyvesant (M06)	(117)	(8)	3,383
Greenwich Village (M02)	(214)	(90)	3,724
Borough Park (K12)	(219)	32	14,962

HIGHEST NEED

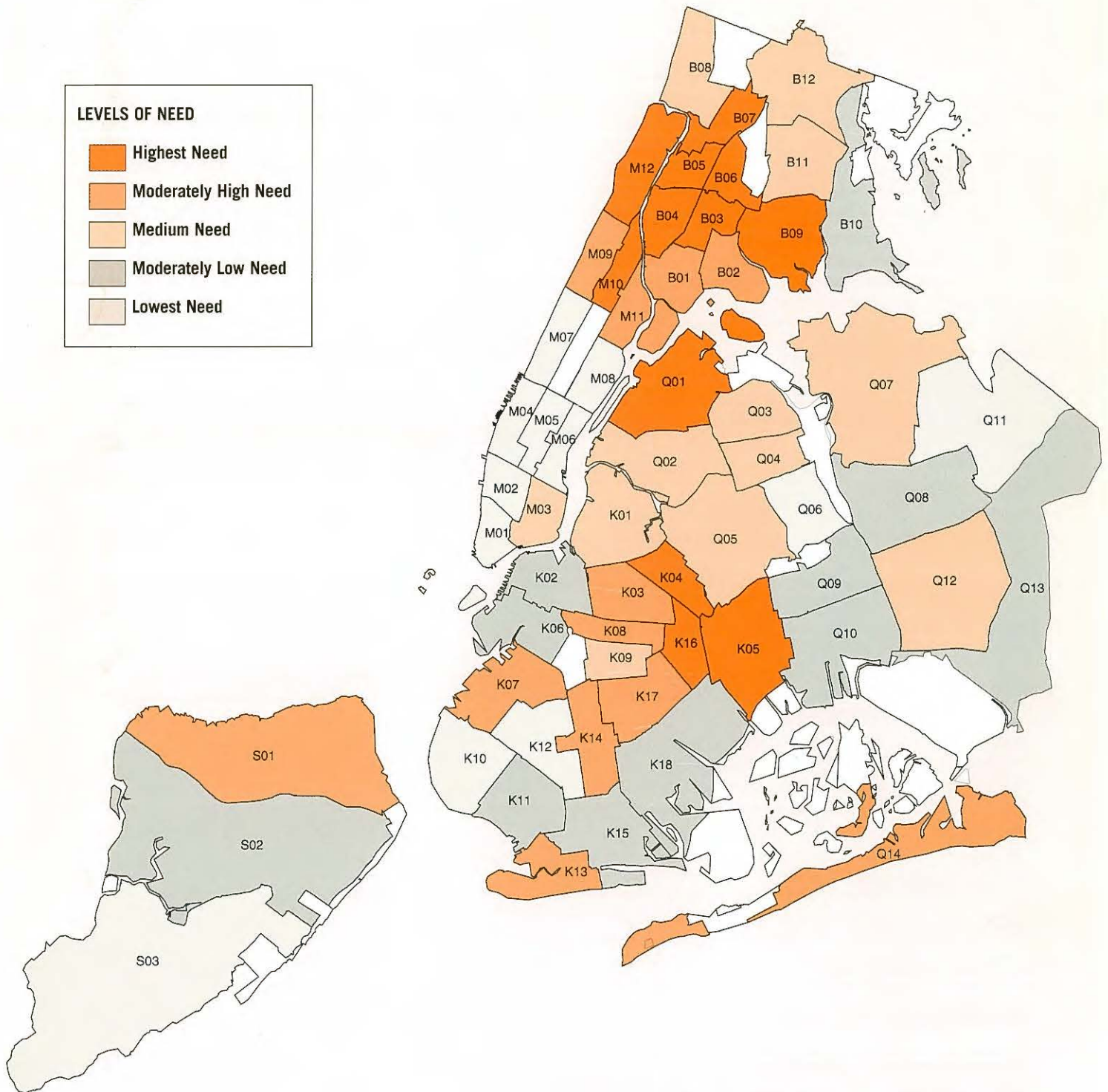
LOWEST NEED

Table IV

**Ranking New York City's
Estimated Child Care Need by
Community District**

LEVELS OF NEED

- Highest Need
- Moderately High Need
- Medium Need
- Moderately Low Need
- Lowest Need



HOW NEED, CAPACITY AND COST WERE CALCULATED

CCC recognized the need for a reliable estimate of child care need and capacity data in New York City neighborhoods for planning, facility development and resource allocation. With support from the United Way of New York City, CCC adapted an analysis, first developed by the National Association of Child Advocates (NACA), to take into account New York City's unique and complex child care service delivery system. The child care calculation consists of three components: need, capacity and cost to fill the capacity gap.

Our child care calculation includes children 0-5 years only. We excluded school-age children from the calculation since no

accurate capacity data is available. The Department of Youth and Community Development, Board of Education, Parks Department and other publicly-funded after school programs for school-age children are not tracked by the number of children served. Capacity data for these programs, which serve as alternatives to school-age child care, and are used by parents to fill in the gap between the school day and work day, are unavailable. The analysis relies on Census and Housing and Vacancy Survey data which do not reflect all changes in birth rates, migration or immigration patterns that affect the number of young children living in city

neighborhoods. The 2000 Census data will be an important source of information when it is completed.

In estimating the *need* for subsidized child care in New York City, we took the total number of children ages 0-5 whose families earn less than 200% FPL, as well as families earning under 275% FPL. We adjusted this figure to include children with parents who are employed. This figure was then recalculated by using a "take-up rate" to reflect children whose working parents would need and are likely to use child care. We then applied the same "take-up rate" to the number of children whose families receive

Table V

ESTIMATING THE NEED FOR SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE IN NEW YORK CITY: 2000		
A. % of federal poverty level (family of three)	Total <200% (\$28,300)	Total <275% (\$38,912)
B. Total # of children (0-5 yrs) ⁴	405,117	512,692
C. Total # of children (0-5 yrs) with parents employed ⁵	235,704	282,746
D. Total # of children (0-5 yrs) in working families who need and are likely to use paid child care ⁶	134,351	161,165
E. Total # of children (0-5 yrs) whose families receive welfare and are required to participate in a work related activity, and are likely to use paid childcare ⁷	70,563	70,563
F. Total # of children (0-5 yrs) in working families and welfare to work families who need and are likely to use paid child care ⁸	204,914	231,728
MEETING THE NEED FOR SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE IN NEW YORK CITY: 2000		
G. # of children currently receiving child care:		
OES/FIA ⁹		
Full Time	6,892	6,892
Part Time	753	753
OES/FIA Weighted Total ¹⁰	7,269	7,269
Head Start ¹¹		
Full Time	3,631	3,631
Part Time	13,253	13,253
Head Start Weighted Total ¹²	10,258	10,258
ACD		
Infants & Preschool Total ¹³	43,161	43,161
Universal Pre-K 4 Years Old ¹⁴	34,222	38,658
Universal Pre-K Weighted Total ¹⁵	17,111	19,329
Kindergarten 5 Years Old ¹⁶	34,064	38,487
Kindergarten Weighted Total ¹⁷	25,548	28,865
Total	103,347	108,882
Percentage of need met (to calculate divide F by G)	50.4%	47.0%
H. Children with an unmet need for child care for employed and WEP families (to calculate subtract Row G from Row F)	101,567	122,846
I. Required additional appropriation to meet child care gap (row H x average cost for child care subsidy \$6,500) ¹⁸	\$660,182,410	\$798,496,097

Please note that some numbers in this calculation have been rounded.

welfare, and are required to participate in a work-related activity to calculate the number who are likely to use child care. The two figures were combined to give an overall number of children in working families and welfare-to-work families who need and would likely use subsidized child care.

To estimate *capacity*, CCC obtained data on the number of children currently receiving care

in the following early care and education programs: Office of Employment Services/Family Independence Administration; Head Start; Agency for Child Development; Universal Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten. Based on this data, we estimated New York City's capacity to meet the need for subsidized child care. Each program was assigned a weighted value based on a full day of care. We totaled

the number of children served in each program type to calculate the overall number served in subsidized child care programs. To estimate *unmet need*, total capacity was subtracted from the overall need.

To estimate the *cost* to fill the capacity gap, we multiplied the number of children unserved by \$6,500, which is annual average cost of care per child.

ENDNOTES

1. *New Federalism, National Survey of America's Families*. The Urban Institute. Series B, No. B-12, March 2000. Births: Final Data for 1998. National Vital Statistics Reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Volume 48, Number 3, March 28, 2000.
2. FPL: Federal Poverty Level for a family of three (200%=\$28,300 and <275%=\$38,912 annual income) according to the 2000 Federal Poverty Guidelines
3. *Keeping Track of New York City's Children*. Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, 1999.
4. Public Use Micro-Sample, 1990 Census and 1996 Housing and Vacancy Survey, U.S. Bureau of the Census. The 1990 values for children under age 6 were compared to 1996 values using data from the Housing and Vacancy Survey showing the proportionate change in the number of households with children under 18 and income < 200% of poverty. Data compiled by INFOSHARE, Community Studies of New York, Inc. 1999.
5. Public Use Micro-Sample, 1990. The 1990 values for children under age 6 were compared to 1996 values using data from the Housing and Vacancy Survey showing the proportionate change in the number of households with children under 18 and income < 200% of poverty. Data compiled by INFOSHARE, Community Studies of New York, Inc. 1999.
6. These figures include a "take-up rate." This is the rate at which families are likely to use child care subsidies if offered. 57%, based on a 1994 GAO estimate, reflects the percent of families who are likely to work if offered a 100% child care subsidy.
7. New York City, Human Resources Administration. Welfare Management Systems PA. Food Stamps, MA Basis Files. Children on Public Assistance as of July 1, 1999. The total number of children 0-5 years whose families receive welfare and are required to participate in a work related activity was 123,794 as of July 1, 1999. These figures include a "take-up rate." This is the rate at which families are likely to use child care subsidies if offered. 57%, based on a 1994 GAO estimate, reflects the percent of families who are likely to work if offered a 100% child care subsidy.
8. These figures are calculated by adding Rows and D and E.
9. New York City Human Resources Administration, Office of Employment Services/Family Independence Administration provides child care for public assistance recipients only. Office of Employment Services data system; compiled for Child Care, Inc. by Barbara Ramirez, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, March 1998.
10. Based on the assumption that part-time care is valued at 50% of full-time care, the OES/FIA weighted total was calculated by multiplying part-time care by 0.5 and adding it to full-time care.
11. New York City Administration for Children's Services. Agency for Child Development. *Early Childhood Capacity by School District*. March 1998. Data converted into community districts from community school districts by INFOSHARE, Community Studies of New York, Inc. 1998.
12. Based on the assumption that part-time care is valued at 50% of full-time care, the Head Start weighted total was calculated by multiplying part-time care by 0.5 and adding it to full-time care.
13. These figures represent the budgeted capacity of ACD funded group day care and family child care programs for children 0-5 years of age. *Early Childhood Capacity by School District*. March 1998. Data converted into community districts from community school districts by INFOSHARE, Community Studies of New York, Inc. 1998.
14. These figures in Row F represent the sum of 4 year old who families need and are likely to use UPre-K in all 59 community districts are based on the assumption that by the year 2001 UPre-K will be available to all four year olds. Based on 1997 population estimates by Claritas, the percentage of 4 years old in each community district ranges from 15%-17%.
15. Based on the assumption that part-time care is valued at 50% of full-time care, the Universal Pre-K weighted total was calculated by multiplying the number of children served by Universal Pre-K by 0.5.
16. It is assumed, based on 1997 population estimates by Claritas, that 15%-17% of the children represented in Row F are five years old.
17. Based on the assumption that Kindergarten is valued at 75% of full-time care, the Kindergarten weighted total was calculated by multiplying the number of children in Kindergarten by 0.75.
18. Based on the average cost in New York City of center-based, family, and informal child care, Head Start, and Universal Pre-Kindergarten.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Every New Yorker who cares about children can take action to ensure that quality and affordable early care and education programs are available for every young child. We offer this Guide to help you learn more about the need for child care and take action to increase the availability of quality child care in neighborhoods where New Yorkers live, work and raise their children:

- Call the Borough Office of the Agency for Child Development to make an appointment to determine a family's eligibility and to get a referral for subsidized child care.

Bronx	(718) 401-2034/35/36
Brooklyn & Staten Island	(718) 488-5278/79/80
Manhattan	(212) 835-7715/18
Queens	(718) 523-6826/72

- Call the New York City Child Care Resource & Referral Consortium at 1-888-469-5999 for help in finding child care, to learn about child care tax credits, and to get advice about what to look for in choosing quality child care.
- Spread the word and help parents learn about new child care subsidies.
- Encourage informal care providers to become registered or linked to family child care networks.
- Tell licensed and registered center-based and family child care providers about new funds for subsidies, facility development and quality initiatives and encourage them to apply.
- Call Citizens' Committee for Children of New York at (212) 673-1800 for additional copies of this Guide or more information about how to advocate for the youngest New Yorkers to ensure that every child has access to quality, affordable child care.



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