



Child Care Financial Assistance Options

The high cost of child care can often be a concern as parent's search for quality child care. The following financial assistance information lists various options that exist in our area for help in paying for child care.

- I. Your local Department of Social Services administers a federally funded **child care assistance subsidy program**. For eligible families, the county subsidizes the cost of child care. For more information on this program contact:
 - Warren County Child Care Unit: 518.761.6327
 - Washington County Child Care Unit: 518.746.2300 Extension 3397
 - Hamilton County Child Care Unit: 518.648.6131

Note that financial assistance for child care can also be provided to eligible families through the Department of Social Service's **Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program (TANF)**.

2. Another possible way to reduce child care expenses is to **claim a child care tax credit on both you federal and state income taxes**. More information on claiming the child care tax credit is found on the flip side of this document and /or by reading the IRS publication 503, child and dependent care expenses. You can also go to the New York State child care and dependent care website:

<http://otda.ny.gov/main/programs/taxcredit/#eitc>

You may also be eligible for **Federal and State earned income tax credits**. For additional information, refer to link above .

3. Some early care and learning programs are available at no charge.
 - a. **Head Start**- a comprehensive educational program (infants, toddlers, preschool)
 - Washington County: 518.747.2816
 - Warren County: 518.793.3624
 - b. **Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program (UPK)**. Many school districts in the area now offer full day pre-kindergarten programs. There is no charge for this program. For more information, contact the superintendent's office in your school district.
4. Other possible program discounts:
 - Some Centers offer **scholarships** based on need.
 - Some Centers and home-based child care programs have **sliding fee scales**
 - **Multiple children discounts** are often available when you have more than one child in a particular child care program/center.

Be sure to inquire if the program/center(s) you are considering, offer any of these options.