



## Child Care Financial Assistance Options

The high cost of child care can often be a concern as parent's search for quality child care. Although we may hear from experts that the recession is officially over, many families are still feeling the lingering effects. Paying for child care is even more challenging as many family's budgets are shrinking.

The following financial assistance information lists various options that exist in our area for help in paying for child care.

1. 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 Services 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 your 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 might also be eligible for **Federal and State earned income tax credits**. More detailed information is can be found on the website 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.**

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