



early care &
Learning COUNCIL
New York's child care resource network

A Foundation for Tomorrow

2014 Annual Report



For all families

A note from Jan Barbieri and David Voegelé



2014 was a year of reflection, renewal, and reengagement for the 35 member agencies of the Early Care and Learning Council. As a result, our network of Child Care Resource & Referral programs (CCR&Rs) completed 2014 on even more solid footing than the year before. The CCR&R network began 2015 better positioned to promote higher quality early learning services for the State's youngest residents, who represent New York's Foundation for Tomorrow.

2015 marks the 40th anniversary of the Early Care and Learning Council. Late in September we will be officially celebrating that event, but it's important that we take note of it now. Because of new opportunities before us, we cannot afford to be shy about what we have accomplished.

- For 40 years we have been serving the children, families, and communities of New York, through the amazing work of our Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) programs.
- For 40 years we have been a prominent state-wide voice advocating for quality and affordable early learning services for all families.
- For 40 years we have been an innovator, idea-generator, and coalition-builder, as evidenced by the design and launching of Winning Beginnings New York, Quality Stars New York, NY State Standards of Excellence for CCR&Rs, Infant- Toddler Resource Centers, Business Leaders Engagement Project, and NY For Our Babies.

2015 is a year to celebrate 40 years of accomplishments – and the year we will be laying our own Foundation for

Tomorrow. Over the past 18 months the 35 CCR&R network that is ECLC has been preparing for this year, through the efforts of various member-driven work groups addressing areas for growth and development, including: Diversity & Inclusion; Branding & Marketing; Legally-Exempt Providers; Quality Improvement, and Visioning.

The efforts of these work groups will be completed over the next few months, culminating in an ambitious but attainable 3-5 year vision, our Foundation for Tomorrow. I have no doubt the central theme of that vision will be how, we as a network, will continue to strive to improve the quality and affordability of early learning services across New York – for all families.

In tribute to the founders at this celebratory juncture of 40 years, let us come together in celebration of the accomplishments of this agency. The recent reauthorization of CCDBG is great cause to celebrate and yet another great challenge for us. If there was ever a time for the field to be joining forces to build a unified system, its NOW! Here's to a successful 40th Anniversary Celebration!

David Voegelé
Executive Director

Jan Barbieri
2014-15 Chair, Board of Directors

2014-2105 Board of Directors

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NYS Council on Children and Families

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Day Care Council of New York, Inc.

Lynn Sickles
Southern Adirondack Child Care
Network

Mary Ellen Towne
Skidmore College Early Childhood
Center

Janet Walerstein
Child Care Council of Suffolk, Inc.

Strong futures start with high quality child care.



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Financial Summary

Statement of receipts, expenditures and net assets for Fiscal Year ended December 31, 2014 (unaudited)

Receipts

Contracts	1,058,840.00
Gifts and Grants	154,935.14
Membership	80,301.87
Rentals	23,298.21
Staff Consulting	13,489.41
Special Events	42,155.00
Interest Income	320.56
<u>Other</u>	<u>525.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$1,373,865.19

Expenditures

Personnel	933,864.51
Consultants	94,264.43
Contracted Services	54,807.85
Special Events	37,597.24
Fixed Operating Expenses	130,424.09
<u>Non-Fixed Operating Expenses</u>	<u>125,039.10</u>
Total Expenditures	\$1,375,997.10
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Net assets, beginning of year	\$246,376.11
Net assets, end of year	\$139,244.08



New York State welcomes 250,000 new babies each year.

This is a cause for celebration and also highlights the **great need for high quality child care options**. In New York, where there are more than 1,180,000 children under the age of five, most parents are working parents whose effectiveness in our workforce depends, in part, on their confidence that their children are receiving quality early learning services.

Forty-six percent of child care requests in New York are for infants and toddlers, whose child care expenses typically exceed that of a single parent's income (minimum wage), so it is *essential* that community groups work together to make healthy development for New York's kids a possibility while supporting our working families, local economies and skilled workforce.

To continually have resources needed to meet the needs of our communities in all of New York's 62 counties, the vast network of New York Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (CCR&Rs) continues to grow and expand in order to **remain relevant to the population they serve**.

How do we make this happen? As the membership hub for the CCR&Rs, ECLC works with all 35 agencies to strengthen the quality and accessibility of child care across New York State, as it has since 1975. It provides direct training and technical assistance to CCR&Rs so they can support **20,000+ child care providers in New York State** to provide safe child care environments that will best prepare children for school and ensure healthy development.

Many of ECLC's 2014 activities illustrate this deep collaboration. For example, more than 390 hours were dedicated to maintaining the New York Standards of Excellence and Child Care Aware of America Quality Assurance Standards. We provided thirty-eight workshops for child care center directors, training more than 315 directors across the state.

More than 35 site visits from ECLC staff provided training in **data collection** for reporting, research and evaluation, needs assessments, theory of change planning for twenty-

four **infant toddler specialists**, and **capacity building** to generate adequate resources to maintain quality programming through fundraising, marketing, social media outreach and enhancing visibility throughout the state. **The Infant Toddler Network provided more than 5,200 hours of training and 2,000 hours of technical assistance across the state.**

ECLC provided ongoing professional development opportunities, including its 2-day leadership summit, **Educate, Engage, Empower**, as well as its annual meeting and luncheon, **Dream, Believe Achieve**, which honored early childhood champions **Assemblyman Richard Hanna, Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, Heritage Christian Services, and Mark Eagan of the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce.**

We saw progress. Advocacy initiatives in 2014 focused on securing more funding for quality child care programs. ECLC and CCR&Rs successfully obtained increased funding for additional child care subsidies statewide, and deepened policy partnerships with state and national organizations. ECLC served as a sponsor of the *What's Great in Our State* Children's Mental Health Awareness Day and participated on the Winning Beginning NY Steering Committee, as well as the NYS Breastfeeding Coalition Board of Directors.

Through generous foundation grants, ECLC facilitated the creation and kickoff of three, fully engaged **Business Leader Workgroups** in the Finger Lakes, Long Island and Mohawk Valley regions. They convene and educate corporate leaders to become champions for high quality, accessible child care, **a benefit to their current and future skilled workforce, as well as the New York State economy.**

Lending support to early learning and development initiatives in New York isn't just for those of us in the field. It is everyone's business, from the corporate CEO concerned with attracting and maintaining a skilled workforce, to teachers, colleges, law enforcement, and the military, to name just a few. Today's young children are the foundation of New York's future and *they need a strong start.*

Business leaders have become the "surprise messengers" advocating for quality child care. Economists tell us that the early years represent an important window of opportunity to provide young brains with developmentally appropriate education because it is the moment of greatest leverage.

- Dana Wiser
Community Playthings



We're not just talking about our kids. We're talking about our future workforce.

- Kevin Law
President & CEO, Long Island Association



Businesses benefit from affordable, high quality child care in two ways: a working parent who has appropriate child care can be solely focused on his or her work and, in the long term, children in high quality child care programs are better educated and prepared to be future employees.

- Heather C. Briccetti, Esq.
President & CEO, The Business Council of New York State, Inc.



2014 Supporters



The Early Care & Learning Council re-branded its annual giving program in 2014, now called *Strong Start NY*. Generous contributions from CCR&Rs, community supporters, our Board of Directors, ECLC staff, as well as foundations and businesses, ensure that ECLC can maintain the quality of its services and programs for the community. Please visit www.strongstartny.org for more information on our annual campaign, special events, and how you can get involved today!

Individuals

Explorer

Jon Pinkos

Bookworm

Kathy Halas

Lorraine Kinney-Kitchen

Margaret Liuzzi

Jessica Mansmith, MNA

Building Blocks

Saima Akhtar

Catherine Brodeur

Jane Brown

Paula D'Amico

Lisa Friesen

Carla Hibbard

Jessica Klos Shapiro

Abbe Kovacic

Dianne Meckler

Jennifer Perney

Bonnie Roll

Janet Walerstein

Sitting Up

Marcia Brogan

Mary Ellen Towne

Fannie Glover

Karen Harkness

Frank Mahar

Bonnie Malakie

Janice Molnar

Cynthia Pearson

Lynn Sickles

David Voegelé

First Smile

Angela Burns

Rhonda Carloss-Smith

Kevin Helems

Alan Jones

Tammy Parsons

Sharifa E. Perry

Cathy Stenfeldt

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Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce

Albany Law School

Albert F. Stager, Inc.

Alliance for Quality Education

Alliance of New York State YMCAs

The Anderson Group

Bryant & Stratton College

The Business Council of New York State

Child Care Aware® of America

Community Playthings

Council on Children and Families

Council for a Strong America

CSEA Local 1000 AFSCME, AFL-CIO

Discount School Supply Dupli

Early Childhood Advisory Council

Families Together in New York State

Hagedorn Foundation

Head Start Collaboration Project

Lakeshore Learning Supply

Marcia C. Brogan Insurance

National Alliance on Mental Illness New York State

New York State Association for the Education of

Young Children

New York State Council on Children & Families

New York State Department of Health

New York State Office of Children and Families

New York State Office of Mental Health

Niagara Awards

NutraMetrix

Omni Agency

Pinnacle Human Resources

ReadyNation

Rauch Foundation

Seeds of the Earth

Siena College

Silpada

Skidmore College

SUNY Albany

Troy Web Consulting

Whole Foods Albany

Winning Beginning NY

All of the Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (listed on the back) generously support ECLC. **Thank you!**



Our membership of 35 Child Care Resource and Referral agencies throughout New York State make it possible to promote excellence in early care and education with equal access for all families.

Adirondack Community Action Programs, Inc.
Essex County

Allegany County Community Opportunities and Rural Development, Inc. (ACCORD)
Allegany, Cattaraugus and Wyoming Counties

Capital District Child Care Council, Inc.
Albany, Fulton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady Counties

Center for Children's Initiatives
Child Development Support Corporation
Chinese American Planning Council, Inc.
Committee for Hispanic Children & Families, Inc.
Day Care Council of New York, Inc.
Bronx, Kings, New York, Richmond and Queens Counties

Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.
Chautauqua County

Chemung County Child Care Council, Inc.
Chemung County

Child and Family Resources, Inc.
Ontario, Seneca and Yates Counties

Child Care Aware® of Steuben and Schuyler
Steuben and Schuyler Counties

Child Care Coordinating Council of the North Country, Inc.
Clinton and Franklin Counties

Child Care Council, Inc.
Livingston, Monroe and Wayne Counties

Child Care Council of Cornell Cooperative Extension
Herkimer, Madison and Oneida Counties

Child Care Council of Dutchess & Putnam, Inc.
Dutchess and Putnam Counties

Child Care Council of Nassau, Inc.
Nassau County

Child Care Council of Orange County, Inc.
Orange County

Child Care Council of Suffolk, Inc.
Suffolk County

Child Care Council of Westchester, Inc.
Westchester County

Child Care Resource Network
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Rockland County

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Child Development Council of Central New York, Inc.
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Genesee and Orleans Counties

Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County, Inc.
Jefferson and Lewis Counties

Delaware Opportunities, Inc.
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Family Enrichment Network, Inc.
Broome, Chenango and Tioga Counties

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Columbia, Greene and Ulster Counties

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Oswego County

Niagara Community Action Program, Inc.
Niagara County

Schoharie County Community Action Program, Inc.
Otsego and Schoharie Counties

Southern Adirondack Child Care Network, Inc.
Hamilton, Warren and Washington Counties

St. Lawrence Child Care Council, Inc.
St. Lawrence County

Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc.
Sullivan County



STAFF

David Voegele, Executive Director

Ryan Belak, Community Engagement Coordinator

Helen Benton, Development Coordinator,
Siena College AmeriCorps VISTA Fellow

Melissa Dobbs, Executive Support Coordinator

Donna Fredlund, Data Administration Coordinator

Fannie Glover, Business Leader Engagement Director

Abbe Lynn Hahn Hook, Programs & Services Director

Karen Harkness, Technical Assistance Coordinator

Jessica Klos Shapiro, Public Policy Director

Frank Mahar, Director of Finance & Administration

Jessica S. Mansmith, MNA, Director of Development & Community Engagement

Tammy M. Parsons
Administrative Services Coordinator & Bookkeeper

Brooke Ricci, Program Specialist

Special thanks to former staff members Evelyn Efinger, Rebekah Widrick and Donna Hercules, as well as interns Elizabeth Casline, Sierra Koniowka, Bani Sarang, Jamie Miles, and Rebecca Hiciano for their excellent work.