



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

For Immediate Release

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BROOKS EXPANDS DAY CARE PROGRAM

Increased State day care funding allows eligibility rate to return to 165% of the poverty level; will benefit nearly 1,000 local children

County Executive Maggie Brooks today announced that Monroe County will expand its subsidized day care program by returning the eligibility rate to 165% of the poverty level. This change follows an announcement yesterday by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services that an increased Child Care Block Grant (CCBG) allocation to Monroe County, supplemented by temporary federal stimulus dollars, will increase funding to local subsidized day care by almost \$8 million.

“Monroe County is strongly encouraged by the State’s increase in our Child Care Block Grant allocation and the new stimulus funding,” said **Brooks**. *“As a result of this action, we will now be able to direct the increased funding to the children and families that need it most by returning subsidized child care eligibility thresholds to their previous high levels. The new funding will also reinforce our commitment to ensuring that low income families in our community have access to high-quality, affordable day care.”*

In addition to the State’s \$4.8 million increase in CCBG funding for State fiscal year 2009/2010, Monroe County will also receive \$2.9 million in federal stimulus funding that could be applied to the subsidized child care program. While the Federal Government has not yet shared guidelines for monies provided through this stimulus funding source, the County expects that the funds can be used to bolster child care programs and plans to apply the \$2.9 million to return the local eligibility threshold to 165% of the poverty level.

“I would like to thank Governor Paterson and the members of our State Assembly delegation, in particular Assemblyman David Gantt and Assemblywoman Susan John, for recognizing the immediate need to assist low income families in our area,” concluded **Brooks**. *“Their commendable work will allow Monroe County to restore child care subsidies for nearly 1,000 children and provide parents with affordable day care options so they can work and continue down the path to financial independence.”*

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Brooks was joined this morning by Sandra Parker, President and CEO of the Rochester Business Alliance; Dawn Borgeest, Senior Vice President and Chief of Corporate Affairs for United Way of Greater Rochester; Jennifer Leonard, President and Executive Director of the Rochester Area Community Foundation; and Dr. Jeffrey Kaczorowski, Executive Director of the Children's Agenda.

“We are delighted to see this funding approved, since supporting child care for low-income families was identified as a priority on the 2009 Rochester Community Coalition Agenda,” said Rochester Business Alliance CEO, Sandra Parker. *“On behalf of the coalition’s 22 member organizations, the Rochester Business Alliance thanks our legislative leaders for their efforts to secure this funding, which will bring great relief to many working parents with low incomes who can now put their children in affordable, quality care. It’s a win for these families, their employers and the entire community.”*

The increased eligibility rate will take effect on Monday, May 11, 2009. Monroe County is the leading provider of day care for low income working families outside of New York City. Last year, over 8,500 children and thousands of families benefitted from the County’s day care program. As it is meant to serve the working poor, the County sees subsidized day care as a vital component in its efforts to allow local families to reach their highest possible level of self-sufficiency.

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