

What is the MCDHS Upstate Revitalization Initiative Child Care Subsidy program?

The upstate revitalization initiative (URI) <https://www.ny.gov/programs/upstate-revitalization-initiative> Child Care (CC) Subsidy program is part of \$4.75M early childhood initiative <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-475-million-expand-three-early-childhood-initiatives-rochester> involving three components:

1. A 6-week summer learning program serving 300 pre-K children;
2. A home visitation program, and
3. Child care subsidies for families working toward self-sufficiency.

The third component of the early childhood initiative is designed to fill the gap in child care subsidy eligibility. Many residents in Monroe County who are engaged in a training program with young children cannot afford CC. There is limited CC funding available for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and low income working parents but there is a lack of funding for non TANF adults engaged in training. The URI CC funding allows non TANF parents to enroll in approved training programs and qualify for CC funds while they complete the training.

What are the goals of the program?

The goals of the URI CC program are to increase enrollment in training programs targeted toward individuals who are living in poverty; reduce training program dropout rates, decrease poverty through increased educational attainment and reduce the gap in child care assistance for non-TANF families enrolled in training.

How is this subsidy different than child care under state low income guidelines?

The URI child care (CC) subsidy funding targets low income individuals residing in Monroe County and who are enrolled in an approved training program. The state low income guidelines provide assistance for those families in receipt of public benefits. The URI CC subsidy provides assistance to families where a household member is enrolled in an approved training program and is NOT receiving public assistance.

Who qualifies for the URI CC program?

The enrollee must not receive a TANF child care guarantee for training participation nor otherwise be eligible for income eligible day care (IEDC) through the normal criteria. Training

participants must have at least one dependent child under age 13, have household income of less than 275% of the federal poverty level and be enrolled in any identified/approved training programs that are expected to lead to full time employment in a sector currently in demand and/or supported by other Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council target or priority projects.

Who determines eligibility and how many individuals will be served by the program?

Project eligibility will be determined by the Monroe County Department of Human Services (MCDHS) with the goal of reaching 300 families. MCDHS will approve care based on average monthly cost with rolling admission into the program, it is anticipated that there will be an average of 176 participants in the program at any point and time. Verification of continued attendance in the training program will be required monthly, with a 6-month authorization period. Interested applicants can call (585) 753-6960 to obtain additional information or for an application for enrollment.

Where do I go to find help with my child care needs?

If you are looking for child care, the Child Care Council <https://childcarecouncil.com/> is a great place to start. They are able to offer a list of providers that most closely meet your needs. Remember, the list will be a starting point you will need to contact the provider to see if they have space for your child and you will want to visit the child care provider to make sure for yourself that this is the right match for you.

To obtain more information about these subjects, please visit the [Child Care](#) section of the Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) website.

How can I get help paying for child care if I receive TANF or am low income?

In general, families are eligible for financial assistance if they meet the state's low income guidelines and need child care to work, look for work, or attend employment training. You are guaranteed child care if you are on public assistance and need child care in order to meet any work participation requirements. You are also guaranteed assistance in paying for child care for one year after leaving public assistance if you left public assistance for a job and need child care to go to work. Monroe County Department of Social Services determines family eligibility based on income, reasons for needing day care, and your child's age and individual needs.