

**New York Union Child Care Coalition  
(A Committee of the NYC Central Labor Council & NYS AFL-CIO)**

**Bronx/Yonkers Facilitated Enrollment Project**

**Overview**

The purpose of the facilitated enrollment projects is to increase working families' access to child care subsidies by increasing income eligibility for working families to 275% of poverty (\$50,600 for a family of four) and by changing the way families can apply for subsidies. The New York Union Child Care Coalition (NYUCCC) and the project administrator, the Consortium for Worker Education (CWE) have worked collaboratively with the NYC Administration for Children Services (ACS) to develop processes that have streamlined the access and administration of child care subsidies for working families.

Enhancements to how working families are accessing subsidies include:

1. Condensing the 10 page application into a 2-page application
2. Designating discrete ACS staff to determine final eligibility
3. Allowing families to call to be prescreened for eligibility
4. Allowing families to fax and mail-in applications
5. Conducting enrollment hours on weekends and evenings at venues familiar and comfortable for working families e.g., work-sites, community based organizations.

**Bronx**

The Bronx facilitated enrollment project targeted to families who live in eight designated zip codes within the Bronx started in March 2003, and through the end of the year we had enrolled **585** children for child care subsidies through the program. The following summarizes some important aspects of the enrollments to date.

**Breakdown of enrollments by family income:**

Family income below 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) 58%  
Family income between 200 percent and 275 percent FPL 42%

**Breakdown in care by type:**

Center Care 37%  
Family Child Care 26%  
Informal Care 37%

**Breakdown in care by children's age group**

Infants and Toddlers 36%  
Preschoolers 31%  
Schoolage Children 33%

**Breakdown of Union and Non-Union Families**

Union 51%  
Non-Union 49% (child care centers, community based organizations, small business)

- Average annual cost per subsidy to date is approximately \$4600. This ranged from an average of \$2800 for informal care to \$4850 for family child care and to \$6300 for center care.
- Across all types of care parents co-payment fees average a little more than \$30 per week or \$1600 annually, which equals approximately 26 percent of the cost of the care.
- The total subsidy funding committed through December 2003 for subsidies in the Bronx is estimated to be between \$2.7 and \$3.0 million.
- For the remainder of the Bronx project zip code eligibility will include 10457, 10470 and 10472.
- It is anticipated that the project will be completed March 31, 2004.

**Westchester**

The Westchester facilitated enrollment project targeted 50-100 families who live in two designated zip codes within Yonkers started in May 2003, and through the end of the year we have enrolled **55** children for child care subsidies. Cluster, a Yonkers community based organization was sub-contracted to work with the outreach team and enroll families and the Westchester County Child Care Council provided resource and referral services.

**Breakdown of enrollments by family income:**

Family income below 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) Pending Westchester DSS

Family income between 200% and 275% of FPL Pending Westchester DSS

**Breakdown in care by type:**

Center Care 65%

Family Child Care 0%

Informal Care 35%

**Breakdown in care by children's age group**

Infants and Toddlers Pending Westchester DSS

Preschoolers Pending Westchester DSS

Schoolage Children Pending Westchester DSS

**Breakdown of Union and Non-Union Families**

Union Pending Cluster Data

Non-Union Pending Cluster Data

Note: We do not anticipate a significant union enrollment due to the high co-pay.

- Average annual cost per subsidy to date is approximately \$3000. More work needs to be done to determine co-pays and average cost of care for the two modalities chosen: family and group day care centers.

- The total subsidy funding committed through December 2003 for subsidies in the Westchester is estimated to be \$147,900.

## **Reaching Families**

Outreach for the Bronx facilitated enrollment project is conducted by a team comprised of two paid staff (one recently hired in September 2003) and a volunteer core of union activists and community based organizations, e.g. day care centers, community boards, schools and parent coordinators. The team brings the enrollment service to the community by organizing Saturday child care information fairs, lunch time and evening worksite and community based enrollments.

The fairs have been held in community based organizations and work-sites where families enroll for the project and get information on child care resources within their community. Child Care Inc. is an integral part of these events as well as organizations like the Bronx House, Mosholu Community Center, HYPA Beacon after-school program, child care centers.

The events are promoted through union mailings and phone banks, newspaper articles, announcements and grassroots community outreach e.g. distributing postcards, handing posters. The project also receives broadcast news coverage from Bronx 12 News and is posted on its community calendar.

## **Lessons Learned**

- In order to maximize our reach, facilitated enrollment projects should serve families who live or work within a community. For example work-site enrollments conducted at Jacobi hospital, a high need area, could only serve those families who live in the eligible zips. We will pilot serving families who live or work as part of the Liberty Zone project.
- Families needed education and reassurance that they could qualify for this project because of past subsidy application experiences where they may have been deemed ineligible due to income guidelines. Our message was framed to communicate that this is a new pilot project.
- Evening events located in schools and work-site/community evening events yield greater enrollments than Saturday community based events.
- Turnout is greater when labor and management collaborate to organize work-site enrollment events.
- There is potential to broaden our reach and further expedite the application process through a train-the-trainer model, where union staff and community based organizations received an introductory training on pre-screening and the application process. Participants felt that the training increased understanding about facilitated enrollment, but they would need additional training on pre-screening and the application in order to feel confident enough to share with constituents.
- Follow-up with families re: their application and being available to answer questions expedites the enrollment process.
- Informal Providers are sometimes reluctant to sign-on to the project e.g. not wanting to provide social security numbers. We will work to develop an informal provider training.

January 22, 2004

**\*Summary of Subsidy Enrollments by Care Type and Age Groups**

		FT/PT	Average Daily Rate	Average Weekly Rate	Avg. Parent Co-payment	Average Weekly Subsidy	Avg. Annual Subsidy
<b>GDC - Infant</b>	21	21 F/T	\$40.39	\$201.96	\$27.81	\$174.15	\$8,994
<b>GDC - Toddler</b>	18	18 F/T	\$43.81	\$219.04	\$50.56	\$168.49	\$8,732
<b>GDC- Preschool</b>	90	89 F/T; 1 P/T	\$33.54	\$167.69	\$40.41	\$127.28	\$6,583
<b>GDC- School-Age</b>	38	38 P/T	\$14.89	\$74.46	\$15.71	\$58.75	\$3,038
<b>GDC-total</b>	<b>167</b>						<b>\$6,311</b>
<b>Informal- Infant</b>	63	62 F/T; 1 P/T	\$19.01	\$95.03	\$41.27	\$53.76	\$2,742
<b>Informal- Preschool</b>	23	22 F/T; 1 P/T	\$17.13	\$85.67	\$45.04	\$40.62	\$2,112
<b>Informal- School-age</b>	87	6 F/T; 81 P/T	\$13.90	\$69.49	\$10.86	\$58.63	\$3,009
	<b>173</b>						<b>\$2,792</b>
<b>FDC - Infant</b>	22	22 F/T	\$25.23	\$126.16	\$40.73	\$85.43	\$4,195
<b>FDC- Preschool</b>	7	6 F/T; 1 P/T	\$21.63	\$108.14	\$25.71	\$82.43	\$3,647
<b>FDC- School-Age</b>	17	1F/T; 16P/T	\$15.94	\$79.71	\$18.06	\$61.65	\$3,206
	<b>46</b>						<b>\$3,746</b>
<b>GFDC - Infant</b>	33	33 F/T	\$30.25	\$151.24	\$39.55	\$111.70	\$5,808
<b>GFDC- Preschool</b>	20	19 F/T; 1 P/T	\$27.07	\$135.35	\$26.20	\$109.15	\$5,676
<b>GFDC- School-Age</b>	9	1F/T; 8P/T	\$16.01	\$80.06	\$7.00	\$73.06	\$3,799
	<b>62</b>						<b>\$5,474</b>
<b>SCCP- Infant</b>	5	5 F/T	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$49.00	(\$24.00)	\$6,334
<b>SCCP - Preschool</b>	3	3 F/T	\$15.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$5,919
	<b>8</b>						<b>\$6,178</b>
<b>All Family Child Care</b>	116						<b>\$4,837</b>
<b>All FE Subsidies</b>	456						<b>\$4,601</b>

\*Summary of Subsidy Enrollments by Care Type and Age Groups represents the Bronx only.

January 20, 2004