

Community Action of Orleans and Genesee Public Policy Statement related to Child Care

The mission of Community Action of Orleans & Genesee, Inc. is “To provide services, with dignity and respect that help people become self-sufficient”. Childcare is a major part of families becoming self-sufficient. It is our belief that all families should have access to affordable, quality child care. Through membership in different organizations, we have current up-to-date information and opinions on many important issues. We work with these state and national organizations to advocate for quality child care. We are members of the following organizations:

- National

1. Child Care Aware® of America- “The nation’s leading voice for child care. We work with more than 600 state and local Child Care Resource and Referral agencies to ensure that families in every local community have access to quality, affordable child care. To achieve our mission, we lead projects that increase the quality and availability of child care, offer comprehensive training to child care professionals, undertake groundbreaking research, and advocate for child care policies that positively impact the lives of children and families.” Contact information: <http://www.naccrra.org/> or
Child Care Aware of America
1515 N. Courthouse Rd, 11th fl
Arlington, VA 22201
Phone: 703-341-4100
Fax: 703-341-4101

- State

1. Early Care and Learning Council-High quality early care and learning programs are critical to the healthy development of children and to the economic health of communities. The Early Care & Learning Council is a statewide organization that works to increase the quality, affordability and capacity of the early care and learning field and does so through training and technical assistance, data management and advocacy initiatives. Our programs are provided to and in partnership with our network of local Child Care Resource & Referral programs across New York State. Contact information: <http://www.earlycareandlearning.org> or
Early Care & Learning Council
230 Washington Avenue Extension, Albany, NY 12203
Phone: (518) 690-4217 or
Toll Free: (855) 293-0783
Fax: (518) 690-2887
2. Winning Beginning NY - A statewide coalition working to inform policy makers and the public about the many benefits of early care and learning including home visiting, child care and Pre-K. The coalition aims to build a broad-based constituency to make investment in quality early care and learning a top public priority in New York State. **Winning Beginning NY** is co-convened by the Center for Children's Initiatives, the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy, the Early Care & Learning Council, and the New York State Association for the Education of Young Children. Contact information: <http://winningbeginningny.org/>

By contacting the above agencies you can find information about many different issues, laws, and concerns about quality child care. Information is available to providers, parents and businesses.

You are encouraged to advocate for the areas that are important to you and help you find the care and services needed.

In addition, it is important for you to know who to contact locally as your representatives in government. The following are representatives in our areas:

US Senators:

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand - <http://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/>

Senator Charles E. Schumer - <http://www.schumer.senate.gov/>

Representatives in Congress:

Kathy Hocu- 26th District- <http://hochul.house.gov/>

Louise Slaughter 28th District- <http://www.louise.house.gov/>

New York Senators:

George D. Maziarz - 62nd District - <http://www.nysenate.gov/senator/george-d-maziarz>

Michael H. Ranzenhofer- 61st District - <http://www.nysenate.gov/senator/michael-h-ranzenhofer>

Members of State Assembly:

Stephen Hawley - 139th District - <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/stephen-hawley>

Daniel J. Burling – 147th District - <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/daniel-j-burling>

Community Action of Orleans and Genesee’s Board of Directors includes representatives from both Genesee and Orleans Legislatures (see Board of Directors under the “about” tab on the agency home page. The links to the county legislatures are as follows:

Genesee County - <http://www.co.genesee.ny.us/departments/legislature/index.html>

Orleans County - <http://orleansny.com/government/legislature.aspx>

You can advocate for your children/family by using the resources listed above.

CCR&R will continue to keep parents, providers and businesses informed about laws or policy changes related to quality care for children. The following are links about important laws:

- Amanda’s Law: <http://www.amandaslaw.org/>
- Megan’s Law: <http://www.klaaskids.org/pg-legmeg.htm>
- Kiernan’s Law: <http://crime.about.com/od/prevent/a/kiernanslaw.htm>
- Anti- Bullying: http://www.bulypolice.org/ny_law.html

The Resources tab on the agency website provides additional contacts and information related to public policy issues. We encourage all consumers to make their voice known about issues that are of importance to them.