

Removing Child Care Barriers = A Stronger, More Equitable Westchester

2024 Budget Ask:

Continue Westchester Works with \$3 million for awards + increase to operational funding

The Westchester Works Child Care Scholarship Program has provided much-needed relief for 420+ hardworking families who are just over-income for child care assistance.

Who “Westchester Works” helped in 2023

- 551 children in 423 Westchester families so far this year
- 80% single parent households; mean income of award recipients was just under \$78k
- Parents who work in healthcare, government and education (top 3 sectors)

A New Rochelle resident making just \$8K above the Child Care Assistance threshold: *“A parent should not have to choose between not working (in order to gain other benefits), paying their rent, or buying groceries. Unfortunately, I was faced with this decision a few months ago when I had my 2nd child 13 years after having my first. I have been working since the age of 16 and take pride in doing so. This scholarship has helped me to maintain my job, my housing, my own well-being and that of my family. Thank you so much for all that you do and provide. You are literally saving lives.”*

A teacher with two children in Pelham: *“This year I became a single mom of two girls, ages 1 and 3. With no help financially, I’ve been doing everything on my own. It has been one of the most difficult years of my life. The child care scholarship program has taken a significant financial burden from me, which I am truly grateful for because I don’t know how I would have gotten through these past months without the help. Thank you to the Westchester County Administration and Board of Legislators for considering continuing this for the 2024 year.”*

A working class family in Yonkers: *“It provides us the opportunity to work to support our family and also feel confident that our children are well taken care of. Unfortunately, our work shifts end after the children are done with school. Before obtaining the scholarship, we were struggling thinking about how we were going to be able to pick them up on time. The children truly enjoy going to after school, doing fun academic activities and playing with their new friends. Without this scholarship and the high cost of living in NY, my children would not be able to attend after school. Thank you so much for giving us this opportunity.”*

How “Westchester Works” helps children and families

Awards cover about 60% of child care costs, about \$700/month, which:

- allows families to get/keep housing, and afford groceries, transportation and healthcare
- enables parents to work and advance their education
- keeps children safe and promotes critical early learning and development

Why child care scholarships are critical

- Child care is often the biggest bill in Westchester households
- Most families cannot afford the cost of child care, especially if they have more than one child
- The average cost of Westchester center-based infant care is over \$24k/year
- The U.S. Office of Child Care states that families should not pay more than 7% of household income for child care

More than 125 parents, child care providers, nonprofit leaders and business executives attended our virtual Child Care Advocacy Half Hour on Friday, October 13th. Watch it: <https://youtu.be/T-QuSRUeTOI>