



Early Childhood Cost Estimation System

ECAC Early Childhood Cost Estimation System: The Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) Strategic Plan states the objective of the New York State Early Childhood Cost Model System is to “increase public-private investments in early childhood and blend existing investments to maximize impact”.

Year two overview: As we enter the second year of developing the New York State Early Childhood Cost Model System many state agencies that are administering early learning, prenatal and maternal care programs will have the opportunity to provide input on the program and services that should be included in the system. In addition, the ECAC Finance Work Group members and members of other ECAC work groups have also had the opportunity to provide input into the system. As a result of the efforts being made, a system model matrix is being developed which will serve as the foundation for the system. The firm of Augenblick, Palaich and Associates, Inc. (APA) has been contracted by the ECAC to develop the system. APA has extensive experience analyzing early childhood programs. This firm has developed the early childhood estimation system for the state of Colorado.

Why will the cost model system be useful?: The New York State Early Childhood Cost Model System will help identify funding and population served as it relates to the program and services that support early learning, healthy children, family supports and the coordination of governance. In addition, the system will:

- Assist policy makers by identifying the costs related to policy changes;
- Provide budget and financial analysis of existing and proposed programs, services, and policies;
- Maximize existing resources; and
- Recognize funding and budgeting strategies.

Why is this important to New York State?: In order for New York State to plan for the future of children and their families, a cost model system is needed. The cost model system will identify funding to support the expansion and modifications of programs and services provided to children and families of New York. The system will draw information from many state agencies that administer and provide early learning and care, prenatal and maternal health programs, and family support engagement. This system will be able to determine the utilization of the programs and services and change in costs associated with the programs and services being delivered. With this information, policy makers can determine the need to change, eliminate and/or create new programs to better serve an ever changing population in the state.

Early Childhood Cost Estimation System Infrastructure

Domains: The cost model has four domains: Early Learning, Strong Families, Healthy Children, and Coordinated and Responsive Systems.

Elements: Each domain consists of a set of elements. Each element represents a single program, or a type of program, and/or type of service. Below are the domains and elements that are included in the Early Childhood Cost Estimation system.

Domain	Element
Early Learning	Early Care and Learning
Early Learning	Early Learning Professional Development
Early Learning	Early Learning Quality Improvement
Early Learning	Early Learning Program Licensing and Regulations
Early Learning	Family Information and Referral Services
Strong Families	Family Allowance/Paid Family Leave
Strong Families	Family Risk Assessment
Strong Families	Parent Information and Education
Strong Families	Home Visiting
Healthy Children	Oral Health Care
Healthy Children	Mental Health Consultation
Healthy Children	Child Mental Health Assessment and Treatment
Healthy Children	Health Promotion
Healthy Children	Nutrition
Healthy Children	Maternal Depression Screening
Coordinated and Responsive Systems	Early Learning Program Governance
Coordinated and Responsive Systems	Data Systems
Coordinated and Responsive Systems	Program Evaluation and Research
Coordinated and Responsive Systems	Non-Early Learning Program-Based Educational Opportunities (children’s libraries, museums)

Early Childhood Cost Model Walk Through

For each element, the system will report the most recent funding level, the total funding that would be required to achieve a given level of service, and the “funding gap” (the difference between total funding and funding required to achieve a given level of service). Current funding is based on the most recently available data for each element and is based on twelve months of funding. Total funding is computed based on:

- Population (children, families, and mothers);
 - Population projected based on participant’s eligibility; and
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Let’s Walk it through.....

“Johnny Jones, who is 4 years old, goes to the Happy Kid Child Care Center (HKCCC) a licensed center. He is there all day. Let’s say (hypothetically) HKCCC has a four star rating (in QUALITYstarsNY). If we are looking at cost for Johnny, we need the unit cost for high quality early care and learning. To determine that cost, we would need to know expenses such as qualified staff, professional development, quality ratings, and so forth.

Let’s say we wanted to know how much it would cost for all the children in New York State age four to receive Early Learning. To do that, we will need to gather funding information on the following:

- Child Care (including all modalities)
- Universal Prekindergarten
- Professional Development
- Quality Rating

We would then apply Johnny’s cost for Early Learning to the total population of children age four in New York State as way to demonstrate the estimated cost of four year children.

Johnny Jones's Cost for Early Care and Learning

Domain	Cost Element	Programs/Services
Early Learning	Early Care and Learning	-Child Care (<i>All Modalities</i>) - Universal Prekindergarten
	Early Learning Quality Improvement	-QUALITYstarsNY
	Early Learning Professional Development	General Child Care Training Education Incentive Program (EIP) Scholarships

NYS Early Childhood Cost Estimation System User Development Webinar Schedule

Meeting Number	Topic	Date	Time
1	Model Overview and Organization	September 22, 2011	10:00 am -11:30 am Eastern Standard Time
2	Early Learning and the Cost of Quality	October 6, 2011	10:00 am -11:30 am Eastern Standard Time
3	Healthy Children (Health and Mental Health)	October 13, 2011	10:00 am -11:30 am Eastern Standard Time
4	Strong Families (Family Support)	October 20, 2011	10:00 am -11:30 am Eastern Standard Time

NYS Early Childhood Cost Estimation System Implementation Timeline

Phase 1: August 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010

- Coordination and discussions with New York-based cost model team
- Develop conceptual framework and finalize domain map
- In-person meeting with team in Albany (12/15)
- Develop and share work plan

Phase 2: January 1, 2011 - March 31, 2011

- Refine cost model parameters
- Address outstanding data and methodology questions
- Develop methodology
- Develop data map
- Begin data collection process, working closely with NYS staff
- Finalize cost model design with finance workgroup and key stakeholders

Phase 3: April 1, 2011 - June 30, 2011

- Continue data collection process, working closely with NYS staff
- Analyze and prepare data for inclusion in model
- Initial development of Web-based model
- Further discussions of reports needed from the model
- In person visits to Albany and New York City

Phase 4: July 1, 2011 - September 30, 2011

- Finish data collection process and review results with workgroup
- Develop New York City model and incorporate it into main model
- Present “beta” version of cost model to workgroup and identified key stakeholders
- Revise model as needed

Phase 5: October 1, 2011 -December 31, 2011

- Final adjustments to model
- Present final version of model
- Deliver final report and user guide
- User technical support

On-going Project Management (December 1, 2010 – December 31, 2011)

- Maintain close contact with workgroup leadership
- Host webinars every 4 to 6 weeks of the project for all interested workgroup members and their invited guests
- Maintain invoice records and appropriate accounting records
- Maintain efforts to keep the project on schedule