



New York State Fiscal Analysis Model for Early Childhood Services

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ECAC Early Childhood Cost Estimation Model: The Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) Finance Work Group developed a model that provides policy makers with an analytical tool that will gauge the impact of changes in access, quality, and funding levels for early childhood programs; provide the information necessary to maximize existing resources to support the goals of a coordinated and comprehensive service system; and support efforts to identify new financing strategies for increasing access to and the quality of early childhood services as they apply across the ECAC's four focus areas—Healthy Children, Strong Families, Early Learning, and Coordinated and Responsive Systems.

The firm of Augenblick, Palaich and Associates, Inc. (APA) was the contractor that developed the model. APA has extensive experience analyzing the financing of early childhood programs and has developed an early childhood estimation models for the states of Colorado and Ohio.

Data Collection and Analysis: For each program, data on current funding or expenses, child or participant enrollment, and costs per child or participant were collected. When possible, the data was disaggregated into categories. Funding was disaggregated into source (federal, state, or other), and current enrollment was disaggregated into age and income brackets. With the exception of some programs, actual expenditures were provided and used in the cost estimation model. However, when programs were not able to provide unit costs, an estimate was developed by dividing the total funding by the enrollment in the most recent year that both values were available.

Why is this important to New York State?: The ECAC developed this model to be a useful tool for policy makers to support the current efforts across the state to develop a comprehensive system of supports and services for children birth to five and their families. The model draws upon information from several state agencies that administer and provide early childhood education, prenatal and maternal health programs, and family support services such as home visiting and parenting education. It identifies current funding and population served as it relates to the four ECAC focus areas. In addition, it estimates the funding to support the expansion and modifications of programs and services provided to the children and families of New York.

The New York State Fiscal Analysis Model for Early Childhood Services provides enough information to:

- Identify costs related to policy changes;
- Develop fiscal analysis of existing and proposed programs, services, and policies;
- Maximize existing resources; and
- Recognize funding and budgeting strategies.

With this information, policy makers can determine the need to change, expand, eliminate and/or create new programs to better serve an ever changing population in the state.