



Monroe County Legislature

CARRIE M. ANDREWS
ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC LEADER

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Governor David A. Paterson
New York State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Paterson:

As you are aware, New York State will receive approximately \$100 million in Child Care Block Grant funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. I would like to take this opportunity to request that you use a portion of these funds to conditionally restore Monroe County's child care allocation to a level that will permit an increase in the income eligibility threshold from the current 125% of the federal poverty level to at least 165%, but preferably to 200%, of the federal poverty level.

Over the past year Monroe County has seen its State child care allocation decreased due to the County Executive's inappropriate multi-year accumulation of unspent child care monies resulting in rollover funds. As a result of the decrease in State funds the County Executive lowered the income eligibility threshold from 165% to 125% of the federal poverty line. The County Executive also made several significant changes in the way it contracts with child care providers and increased the parents' contribution for child care.

These changes negatively impact many working families in our County, with projections of over 900 children to lose child care subsidies as a result. Compounding my concern is that even the 165% threshold was a lowered threshold in this County from what it used to be and from what appears to be the standard threshold for Counties: 200%. According to a 2007 report from the Center for Governmental Research (CGR), in our County there are 12,000 children aged 0-12 in need of child care but not receiving subsidized child care. In its report, CGR recommended increasing the County's income eligibility threshold to 200%.

Given that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's prime purpose is to create and retain jobs and stimulate economic growth, it is critical that we in government provide families with the support they need to achieve gainful, self-sustaining employment, while at the same time directly increasing employment in the field of child care providers. As such, I respectfully request that you use a portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

funds to restore Monroe County's child care allocation to a level that will allow a return to a higher income eligibility threshold. I would also request that your administration require that, as a condition prior to a child care funding increase, Monroe County increase the income eligibility threshold back to 200% of the federal poverty level and require that Monroe County maintain the quality differential paid to accredited child care providers.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carrie M. Andrews".

Carrie M. Andrews
Assistant Democratic Leader

cc: Commissioner Gladys Carrión, Esq