

## LEGAL SERVICES

### Quality of Life

*The resources necessary to increase capacity, such as transportation, jobs, development capital, government, medical services, and social service infrastructure, are scarce in rural communities. And so are the resources necessary to provide basic access to legal services for the rural poor.*

*Those especially vulnerable are Family Farmers, Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers, Reservation Residents, and Rural Battered Women. Pertinent issues include access to services, transportation barriers, cultural differences, childcare, and privacy concerns.*

### About the Indicator

#### Local Socio-Economic Impact

*According to the American Bar Association, impoverished persons living in rural areas are often overlooked in the delivery of legal services, despite the prevalence and persistence of poverty in these areas.*

*Despite this overwhelming need for pro bono services, however, rural lawyers have unique limitations on providing such services. These limitations include*

- *conflicts of interest,*
- *multi-district registration requirements,*
- *fewer support staff, and*
- *greater travel demands.*

*Staff-based rural legal aid programs face similar difficulties because they cover a wider geographic region with fewer personnel than urban*

*legal aid programs.*

*Plus, for their part, rural clients also face greater challenges accessing legal services due to*

- *scarce resources,*
- *transportation problems, and*
- *a general lack of information about legal help.*

## CHILD DAY CARE

### Financial Costs

Federal Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) funding and TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) funding is awarded to those eligible through local Social Service Departments to assist families with child day care costs. National expenditures peaked in 2004 with a 35% increase from 2003.

Forty-one states reported SSBG expenditures toward child day care.

- SSBG expenditures for child day care were \$254 million; California accounted for 29 percent of that amount.
- TANF transfer expenditures accounted for 56 percent (\$141million) of SSBG expenditures for child day care--20 States reported TANF transfer expenditures for this service.
- Five States reported that more than 25 percent of their SSBG expenditures were for child day care--Delaware (58%), Tennessee (48%), Connecticut (36%), Pennsylvania (30%), and New York (27%).
- Approximately 3.019 million children attended child day care programs funded by the SSBG.
- In 2004, New York State reported an increase of \$46 million to its expenditures of TANF transfer funds for child day care.

Figure 5-2 Child Day Care Services, SSBG Expenditures, 2000-2004 (in millions)

Year	SSBG Expenditures	Number of States
2000	\$164	43
2001	\$201	45
2002	\$205	44
2003	\$165	41
2004	\$254	41

Source: US Department of Health & Human Services

### Child Day Care Resources

The table to the right illustrates the number of students enrolled in each public school district for pre-kindergarten services. In addition:

- Head Start Centers are currently located in Bolivar-Richburg, Cuba, Friendship, Rushford, and Wellsville; total enrollment 204.
- Early Head State Programs are located in Friendship and Wellsville; total enrollment 56.
- There are 26 Registered Family Day Care providers; total enrollment 208; 13 Group Family Programs; total enrollment 182.
- The Carriage House; total enrollment 62.
- Montessori Program; total enrollment 59.

Public School District- Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment Source: NYS Education Dept.	2001 -02	2002 -03	2003 -04	2004 -05
Belfast Central School	19	22	20	23
Bolivar-Richburg Central School	54	64	64	57
Canaseraga Central School	17	10	16	18
Cuba-Rushford Central School	22	20	18	18
Fillmore Central School	35	33	32	37
Friendship Central School	24	25	24	21
Genesee Valley Central School	40	40	40	40

Andover, Alfred-Almond, Scio, Wellsville and Whitesville Central Schools do not offer pre-kindergarten services.