

# Winning Beginning NY



*an early care and learning coalition*

## **INFANT TODDLER SET ASIDE FUNDS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT**

**Funding available: Set aside of \$4.6 million available to New York State (\$2.3 M/year for 2 years)**

Child care is a critical source of early experience for a growing number of our youngest children. The quality of care during these first three years is a key predictor of future success. Practitioners need the knowledge and skills to get babies and toddlers off to a good start and to support parents in guiding a child's development.

For the past six years, New York State has funded seven Regional Infant Toddler Resource Centers that provide services throughout the state. These Regional Centers are housed in Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) organizations, building and expanding upon the expertise of that statewide network of agencies. The Resource Centers geographic service areas parallel those of the OCFS regional offices. Six of the resource centers are funded at **\$125,000** per year and New York City receives **\$350,000**. This funding has not increased since the launch of the program in 2002 placing great pressure on the centers to meet the increasing demand for their services

The Regional Centers are home to a network of Infant/Toddler (IT) Specialists, a cadre of trained early childhood professionals. These IT Specialists work with a broad array of programs including child care centers, family and group family homes as well as other early childhood entities providing training, technical support and mentoring using research based practices to promote better outcomes for children. They operate resource libraries, build linkages with early intervention, health and mental health services promote best practices in infant/toddler care in all settings. .

In turn, the Early Care and Learning Council (formerly the New York State Child Care Coordinating Council) works with the IT Specialists throughout the State and provides them with critical technical support, training and guidance. The Council receives a grant of **\$140,000** from New York State.

The IT Resource Centers are an essential component of a quality improvement strategy and a proven resource for New York State. The proposed investment will build from strength and proven results. The enclosed report on the New York City IT Resource Center details the accomplishments of one of these centers.

**PROPOSAL**

The IT Resource Centers will augment current staff capacity reaching more infant/toddler programs and providers and add two essential new components. The first will provide quality improvement grants to organizations and individuals engaged in quality improvement with the IT Resource Center and the second will provide scholarships for higher education for IT practitioners. These IT Resource Centers will combine the three key elements of quality improvement leading to better outcomes for babies. The New York State Child Care Coordinating Council will increase its support and training to the six resource centers and continue to offer intensive training to expand the cadre of consultants available to work with programs and providers. The Council will also provide an annual report of the progress of each of the centers in meeting its annual targets and milestones.

Increase funding for six regional centers	@ \$125,000	\$750,000
Increase funding New York City		\$350,000
Increase funding NYSCCCC		\$140,000
Infant/ Toddler Quality Improvement Fund		\$600,000
- Grants up to \$10,000		
Professional Development Fund		\$200,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$2,040,000 per year</b>