

New York State Policy on Child Welfare and Two-Generation Approaches

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Who develops New York's child welfare policy?

New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) has multiple state agencies committed to various formats of child welfare, including the Division of Child Care Services (DCCS), Division of Child Welfare and Community Services (DCWCS), and Division of Juvenile Justice and Opportunities for Youth (DJJOY).

“The Division of Child Welfare and Community Services has a strong sense of urgency to improve our safety, prevention, permanency and well-being outcomes.”

— A 2016 program briefing for the Office of Child and Family Services

What two-generation programs does New York offer?

New York is increasing its two-generational approach to child and adult poverty through programs like the Child Care Subsidy Program, the NYS Close to Home initiative, Healthy Families NY, Advantage and Empire After School Programs, and state-sponsored pre-schools, among others. These programs are overseen by the Office of Child and Family Services, and rely on state funds to provide a large portion of their services, supplemented by federal grants and philanthropic organizations.



Do these programs work?

The Division of Child Welfare and Community Services runs annual program evaluations, reporting back to the OCFS and the state assembly, to ensure continued funding. Healthy Families New York is a program that offers home visiting services, providing parents with prenatal education and support in bonding with and monitoring their young children for developmental milestones [2]. It has been classified by the federal government as an evidence-based program, having been evaluated for over fifteen years in research control trials and improved continuously through the monitoring of performance measures [3]. Measurements of success include 50% reduction in subsequent confirmed child protective (CPS) reports in home-visited families, a 50% reduction in children repeating first grade, and an increase in parents utilizing strategies to engage with their children and discipline them non-violently. This support of both parents and children together has resulted in triple the returns on investment by the child's seventh birthday, demonstrating that the money spent on helping parents and children develop knowledge and stability in their lives saves the state money [4].

[1] <https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/prevention/Child-Welfare-Newsletter/CWCS-Improving-Outcomes.asp>

[2] <http://www.healthyfamiliesnewyork.org/HomeVisits/default.htm>

[3] <http://www.healthyfamiliesnewyork.org/Research/default.htm>

[4] <http://www.healthyfamiliesnewyork.org/Research/default.htm>