Early Care & Learning Council

United to Promote Quality

THE BUSINESS NAVIGATOR:

A Child Care Toolkit for New York State Employers



"Governor Hochul will establish a Business Navigator program in each of the 10 Regional Economic Development Council regions to help interested businesses identify options to support employees' child care needs, and will also develop a statewide employer child care guidebook, making good on another one of the State task force's recommendations."

— 2023 State of the State press release

Child care is an economic issue. Through the collaborative efforts of Early Care & Learning Council (ECLC), the Child Care Resource Center (CCRC) network, and the Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs), the strategic rollout of **The Business Navigator** will connect businesses with child care services and focus on understanding the needs of both businesses and employees, navigating economic and logistical considerations, accessing tax benefits, and delivering resources that can be meaningful in a variety of circumstances across the state.

The Business Navigator Toolkit will provide business leaders with key strategies that they can use to support caregivers, along with tools to support implementation. New York State employers who are seeking to deliver a child care strategy that focuses on the specific needs of their employees, and provides a strong return on their investments, will find the essential resources, case studies, and regional contacts to begin this process, or augment a plan already in place.

Employer-sponsored child care is an investment in the workforce that can yield significant returns. Providing employer-sponsored child care solutions can reduce turnover, increase productivity, attract talent, reduce absenteeism, and enhance the overall workplace culture.

The Business Navigator Toolkit will be an invaluable resource for businesses across the state to better support their employees in aligning their work responsibilities and caregiving needs. This alignment is essential for businesses to stay **strong and competitive, while also safeguarding equitable economic opportunities for employees.**

The Business Navigator Toolkit is designed to help employers understand their employees' child care needs and connect them with employee benefits, HR services, other child care resources, and relevant tax credits. The Toolkit provides data to child care providers on where the areas of child care needs are the greatest. Additionally, it will support parents in guiding them to find available child care.

TIMELINE

JUNE 2024 - AUGUST 2024	SEPTEMBER 2024 - NOVEMBER 2024	DECEMBER 2024 - FEBRUARY 2025
Awareness Campaign: Introductory Presentations at REDC Meetings Employer Survey - Identify NY State Employers who are Child Care Champions *Contact your local CCRC for more information and to schedule a regional Introductory Presentation.*	Pre-Launch Webinars: An Introduction to the Business Navigator Toolkit for New York State Employers *Contact ECLC or your local CCRC for more information about webinar dates and times.*	LIVE Launch of Business Navigator Toolkit within the 10 Regional Economic Development Council regions across NYS *Contact ECLC or your local CCRC for more information about the LIVE Launch of the Business Navigator Toolkit in your REDC—including dates, times and venues.*

CONTACT THE CCRC AGENCY LEADING THE BUSINESS NAVIGATOR TOOLKIT WORK REGIONALLY FOR MORE DETAILS:

REDC	CCRC Agency	Contact	Email & Phone
Western New York	Child Care Resource Network	**Kim Suminski,** *CEO*	ksuminski@wnychildren.org **(716) 877-6666 ext. 3023**
Finger Lakes	Child Care Council, Inc.	**Jeff Pier,** *CEO*	j.pier@childcarecouncil.com **(585) 654-4727**
Southern Tier	Family Enrichment Network, Inc.	**Jenn Perney,** *Child Care Resource and Referral Director*	jperney@familyenrichment.org **(607) 723-8313 ext. 872**
Central New York	Child Care Solutions	**Anne Napper,** *Executive Director*	annen@childcaresolutionscny.org **(315) 446-1220 ext. 310**
	Integrated Community Planning of Oswego County, Inc.	**Brandy Koproski,** *Executive Director*	bkoproski@icpoc.org **(315)343-2344 ext. 119**
Mohawk Valley	Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County	**Richelle Singer,** *Child Care Council Director*	rfs35@cornell.edu **(315) 223-7850 ext. 223**
North Country	Child Care Coordinating Council of the North Country	**Kelley Gangi,** *CCRR Training & TA Coordinator*	kgangi@ccccnc.org **(518) 561-4999**
Capital Region	Brightside Up, Inc.	**Abbe Kovacik,** *Executive Director*	akovacik@brightsideup.org **(518) 426-7181 ext. 323**
Mid-Hudson	Child Care Council of Westchester, Inc.	**Kathy Halas,** *Executive Director*	kathyh@cccwny.org **(914) 761-3456 ext. 102**
	Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam, Inc.	**Kathleen Murphy** *Grants and Business Coordinator*	kmurphy@childcaredutchess.org **(845) 473-4141 ext. 224**
New York City	Day Care Council of New York, Inc.	**Mary Gamory,** *Chief Program Officer*	mgamory@dccnyinc.org **(212) 206-7818**
Long Island	Child Care Council of Suffolk, Inc.	**Jennifer Rojas,** *Executive Director*	jrojas@childcaresuffolk.org **(631) 462-0303**

Fred Arcuri, Community Development Specialist, at Corning Incorporated, and the Economic Development Liaison with ECLC's Business Navigator Team, can be reached at **arcurif@corning.com or 607.368.2907.**

For more information about the Business Navigator Toolkit, contact ECLC's Associate Executive Director of Strategy & Vision, **Jeannie Thomma, at jthomma@earlycareandlearning.org.**

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NEW YORK STATE | Office of Children and Family Services

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