

## ***An Overview of What is Available:***

### **Flexible Spending Account for Dependent Care:**

- Provides a tax-free account, sponsored by employers, in which parents can set aside up to \$5000 of their income for child care expenses

#### **Why use it?**

- Parents save on income and social security tax—from **\$1,000 to \$2,500**
- Provides more savings than tax credits for higher income families
- May allow low-income families to qualify for Earned Income Tax Credit to save more money

*Check with your employer to see if they offer Flexible Spending Accounts!*

### **Day Care Council Emergency Scholarship Fund:**

- If your family experiences an unexpected financial crisis, the Day Care Council has special scholarships available.

*If you think you may be eligible, call the Council at 273-0259.*

### **Government Support:**

- Is available to low income working parents, and sometimes student parents

#### **Who is eligible?**

- You may qualify for child care funding if your family income is \$23,880 or less for a family of 2, or \$36,200 for a family of 4
- Government pays all but a small “family share” of child care costs

*If you think you may qualify, call the Day Care Council at 273-0259.*



### **Cornell University's Child Care Grant Program for Employees:**

- Financial assistance for child care provided to Cornell employees

#### **Why use Cornell's Employee Benefits?**

- Cornell provides up to **\$5000** to cover child care costs –

administered through Select Benefits

*Application period begins in August. Contact CU Human Resources at 255-3936 for more info.*

### **Federal Tax Credit:**

- Federal tax credit is deducted from the amount of tax you owe

#### **Why use federal tax credit?**

- Families can claim \$3,000 for one dependent, or \$6,000 for 2 or more
- The credit covers from 20% to 35% of child care expenses

### **State Tax Credit:**

- Is *refundable*
- Even if you have no tax liability, you can still get a refund on the credit!

*By combining the Federal and State tax credits, a family can save up to \$2,205 for one child or \$4,410 for 2 or more.*

Check with your tax preparer, visit <http://www.irs.gov> for federal info. and <http://www.tax.state.ny.us> for state credit details, or call 1-800-829-1040.

### **Earned Income Tax Credit:**

- Refundable credit for working families with lower incomes
- A family with one child earning less than \$28,000 can receive up to \$2,428
- If you are eligible, you can also get FREE tax preparation!

Call 277-4545 for more info.

## The Tompkins County Early Education Partnership



The Early Education Partnership believes that *every family should have access to quality affordable child care.*

The Partnership also feels that child care staff should not have to subsidize the cost of care through unacceptably low wages.

The Partnership aims to help all families pay for child care through a universal system which combines

public, private, and charitable funds.

*Quality Child Care Affordable to All*

## The Early Education Partnership

*A Project of:*

The Tompkins County Chamber  
of Commerce

[www.tompkinschamber.org](http://www.tompkinschamber.org)



&

The Day Care and  
Child Development Council  
of Tompkins County

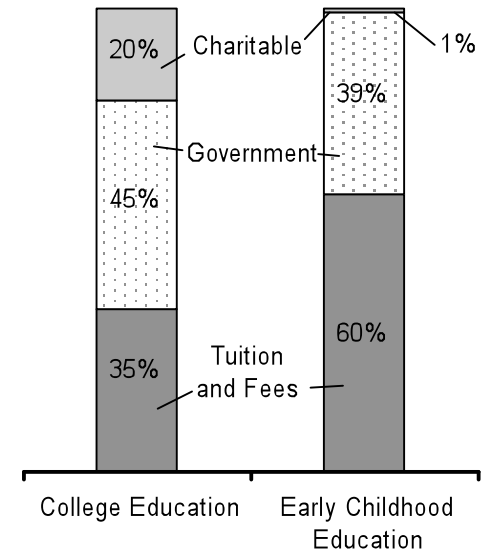
[www.daycarecouncil.org](http://www.daycarecouncil.org)



~May 2002~

## Child Care Is Expensive We Can Help!

### Revenue Sources\*



***Early education is critical for a child's future learning. So why do parents have to pay more for early education than college?***

- ❖ College typically costs families only **5%** of their income, while child care costs families **15%** of their income.
- ❖ The average tuition at a child care center is *greater* than the average tuition at a four year public college.

\*<http://www.emkf.org/pdf/childcare2001.pdf>