



The Independent Voice for Kentucky's Children

KENTUCKY  
YOUTH  
ADVOCATES

**For Immediate Release  
January 16, 2008**

**Contact:**

Lacey McNary  
Office: 502-895-8167 x117  
Cell: 502-419-7335

Terry Brooks  
Office: 502-895-8167 x113  
Cell: 502-235-2396

**NEW REPORT OFFERS STRATEGIES TO MAKE CHILD CARE SUBSIDIES MORE  
EFFECTIVE FOR KENTUCKY FAMILIES**

**Louisville, KY** – Kentucky Youth Advocates released its new report *Building the Foundation for Family Success: Creating Opportunities for Kentucky Families through Child Care Subsidies* today. The report identifies specific policy solutions to improve Kentucky's child care subsidy administration through the voices of families, child care providers, and caseworkers involved with child care subsidies on a regular basis.

"Child care subsidies offer tremendous potential for Kentucky families," said Dr. Terry Brooks, Executive Director of Kentucky Youth Advocates. "But as we heard in this research, they must be designed and implemented so families have fair opportunities to fully utilize and retain them."

"Families are really affected by the procedures of child care subsidies, like how easy subsidies are to learn about, the steps parents have to take to keep the subsidies, and what's required of parents who both attend school and work," said Lacey McNary, Deputy Director of Kentucky Youth Advocates. "When we listened to what's happening on the ground, we learned that some well-intended plans have unintended consequences that undermine the intent and efficacy of the program."

**Key findings from the report include:**

- Some program policies and procedures may actually discourage families from utilizing child care subsidies. Families need to be included in program evaluation and feedback;
- In some parts of the state, provider reimbursement rates are well below current market rates. Updating these rates will ensure families utilizing child care subsidies have equal access to a range of quality providers;
- Quality child care on nights and weekends is rare and in great demand for working parents. Providers need greater incentives to offer these services;
- Families' subsidy assistance is being sharply reduced as their earnings increase, setting families back instead of helping them maintain progress. Broadening eligibility to 85 percent of State Median Income and coordinating eligibility levels across programs will help reduce this; and,
- Unnecessary certification burdens put families at risk of losing their jobs, and subsequently, their child care subsidies. Reducing required office visits for subsidy application and retention will support program participation.

McNary added, "We hope policymakers will act on these feasible, concrete strategies to achieve success for all Kentucky families. The Governor has a tremendous opportunity to improve the lives of Kentucky's hard working families, by ensuring access to subsidies and simplifying requirements."

The report is available on Kentucky Youth Advocates website: [www.kyyouth.org](http://www.kyyouth.org).

###

***Kentucky Youth Advocates*** is a non-partisan, non-profit, children's advocacy organization. KYA represents a voice for Kentucky's most precious asset – its youth. We believe that Kentucky's youth deserve the opportunities and resources necessary to ensure their productive development and health.