CROSS-AGENCY COLLABORATION FOR EXPANDING CHILD CARE SUPPLY

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ABOUT THE PROJECT

Cornell University is partnering with the Child Development Council to expand childcare supply in Tompkins County, NY. The university commits $300,000 annually for a five-year period to support the establishment and expansion of full-time childcare programs and hire a child care developer at the Child Development Council.

The goals of student research project are:
- To define the Childcare Developer role.
- To offer recommendations & insights from national child care experts.
- To contribute to the sustainable development and maintenance of childcare services.
- To foster cross-agency collaboration.

NEED

2900
children lack access to registered care due to a shortage of licensed slots.

12
There are 12 childcare centers in operation

<3
cost of childcare for toddlers under the age of 3 is higher.

KEY FINDINGS/ STRATEGIES

Information technology is key to managing child care [1]
- Playground and Brightwheel are the Child Care Management System (CCMS) software that align with the Child Development Council's goals.

Child Care Developer links early care with business and construction expertise [2]
- Key qualifications include business development and training expertise.
- Foster a sense of community among child care providers to tackle this issue.
- Offer tailored training, and engage in national training campaigns.

Successful Cross-Agency Collaboration [3]
- Emphasize the need for accountability, transparency, and collaboration.
- The Developer is crucial in monitoring performance.

Future Opportunity - MicroCenters [4]
- Introduce the idea of a "pilot" MicroCenter in an existing school or business in Tompkins County.

1. https://www.stoneyassociates.com/
2. https://allourkin.org/TTT
3. https://www.tillamook.com/stewardship/enriched-communities
4. https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/