



CHILD CARE



VOICE Local 100A • CCPT Local 100B – A Union of Child Care Providers

CSEA Local 1000 AFSCME, AFL-CIO • 143 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12210

Spring 2017



CSEA/VOICE programs help us maintain a higher quality standard

CSEA/VOICE member Tiffany Malone (left) is seen here with the children she and her sister, Shantel Malone, also a CSEA/VOICE member (at right) care for in her Buffalo Group Family Program.

Tiffany Malone, a Group Family Provider and member of CSEA/VOICE, is taking the opportunities CSEA/VOICE programs offer and she said it's helping her maintain a higher quality program.

Child Care Quality Grant

"Receiving the \$500 child care quality grants help me maintain a higher quality program. I have received all the grants offered from the beginning (totaling \$4,000) and they help me afford things I can't afford otherwise, for example, the \$300 cubby we got this year — things that directly affect the children in my program."

CPR/First Aid Training Program

"The CPR/First Aid training program was great. The trainers were professional and highly qualified. I received training, plus my assistants were also able to take the classes at no cost. Without our

union, the CPR training cost can be expensive. At \$125 per staff member, you add that up for my six staff members, that's \$750 and that alone is higher than what I pay for union dues. Then, if I look at the grants and add my Child Development Associate (CDA) assistance, which doubled as my 30 hours of mandated training this year, I am receiving way over the cost of dues. I also could get an early childhood education degree. It's there waiting. I haven't taken advantage of it yet, but it's another opportunity to further my education and it's there."

Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) Scholarship Program

"I went for my CDA recently and I didn't have to pay anything out of pocket. It was the best decision I have ever made for myself. It has tremendously improved the quality of my program for both my staff and

me. The CDA covers everything from the business aspect to caring for the children. It gives you a deeper understanding of what you are doing and it helps you figure out other ways to meet the needs of your children, beyond the basics. It helps when you are talking to parents, as it is a good selling point, too. My commitment was only two evenings a week, from September until about May. As an added bonus, it also counts as your 30-hour mandated training!"

If there was one training program that I would suggest any provider take, even if you have your degree already in early education, I would still suggest the CDA training. It's amazing; it just really helps you improve and gives you new insight.

"The stronger our union is, the more opportunities for us."

"I've been a union member since 2012 and I see the power in our numbers. As we continue to grow,

we can continue to make changes that fit us even better. The larger our union is, the better it is for us as a whole whether it be programs or with the state Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). I feel there is really no strong reason not to be a union member. I've seen a big difference between having a union and not having a union. I feel I can always call my representative or the call center. I'm always able to get in touch with someone to answer simple questions or even all the way to solving problems with the Department of Social Services or even OCFS. There is always someone there who is there to support you. We didn't always have that."

Note: The CSEA/VOICE Professional Development Programs will be temporarily affected by the late state budget. Visit voiccese.org for updates and to learn more.

¿Preguntas? Quiere esta edición en español? Llámenos gratis al (877) 483-CSEA (2732).

\$500 grant program — a win for providers and kids

Since we negotiated our first child care contract in 2010, we have administered seven rounds of \$500 quality program grants. We secured

the grants in our second contract because we have built a strong union and good base of dues-paying members.



“A big thank you to CSEA/VOICE. I was able to purchase some of the gross motor items pictured and more with grant money!”

— Mackenzie Brooks, member, CSEA/VOICE Onondaga-Cayuga Chapter



“CSEA grants have been such a blessing. When you are a small program trying to meet high-quality standards and offer educational materials for all children ages 6 weeks to 12 years, it can be very expensive. These grants have allowed me to upgrade older materials and offer new learning opportunities with new merchandise to my children at no cost to me or subsequently the parents in my program. We are very grateful to have these opportunities and add new learning fun to our time together. Thank you CSEA/VOICE.”

— Dawn Schell, Capital Region Chapter member (Schoharie)

A message from your officers

We hope that you are all looking forward to spring as much as we are! Soon, our CSEA-VOICE Local 100A will begin to host three member summit meetings across New York. We invite you to join us at the summit that is closest to you: Rochester: May 20 at the Hyatt Regency, 125 East Main St.; Albany: Sept. 16 and Nassau County: Oct. 14. (Meeting Room TBA.)

We will gather for coffee and registration from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.. In our morning program, which will be held 10 a.m. to noon, we will celebrate our success, adopt an Action Plan and show our VOICE to legislators and public officials from Albany to Washington, D.C. Then, we invite you to join us for



From left, Sally Heater, secretary-treasurer, Pam Wells, president; and Roxanne Savage, vice president CSEA/VOICE Local 100A

lunch. We also invite you to join us for an advocacy workshop in the afternoon from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Training certificates will be available to those who attend the full afternoon workshop.

Save the date! We look forward to seeing you.

Pam, Roxanne & Sally

Welcome Descirè

Join us in welcoming Descirè Velez-Collazo to our Early Learning and Care (ELC) Team. Velez-Collazo staffs our Early Learning and Care Resource Center phone line and live-translates CSEA child care meetings and trainings.



Alma Cartegena, Monroe Chapter member, poses for a photo with her grant items, including a toddler kitchen, ‘circle time’ rug and toys.



Happy Provider Appreciation Day



National Child Care Provider Appreciation Day is celebrated annually on the Friday before Mother's Day to recognize and thank child care providers across the nation for the extraordinary work they do. This year, National Child Care Provider Appreciation Day will be celebrated on Friday, May 12, 2017.

Tantrum repellent headgear

listening apparatus scientifically tuned to little voices

super stylish accessory

fingers crossed against runny noses and boo-boos

patched knee from crawling around on all fours

Loving body (often mistaken for jungle gym)

Multi-purpose tool: often used for finger painting, patting heads, waving hello and goodbye repeatedly

ever-expandable heart with room for kids of all ages

oh-so-handy hankie for spills, tears and runny noses

speed enhanced sneakers for rapid recovery of escape artists

Anatomy of a

Child Care Provider

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Image credit: www.thislegirlsdesigns.com



Dear Provider,

CSEA knows that when we grow together, we are stronger. Just as you focus on helping our children, families and communities grow, our union — CSEA — is committed to growing family power by supporting the invaluable work that you do

each and every day.

Wishing you the best Provider Appreciation Day,

Danny

CSEA President Danny Donohue

Dear Child Care Provider:

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services would like to take this opportunity to recognize and express gratitude to child care providers, and all those who work and are responsible for the education and care of the children of New York State.

By providing our children with a solid foundation that includes safe and healthy learning environments, and by supporting them as they learn and grow, we increase their opportunities for success.

We thank you for your work during what we believe is the most critical developmental period in a child's life.

Sincerely,

Sheila J. Poole, OCFS Acting Commissioner

Janice M. Molnar, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Child Care Services



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New mandatory training requirement and more you need to know...

New York state enacted an emergency regulation requiring all who work in child care settings — providers, assistants, volunteers, substitutes — to complete the ‘Foundations in Health and Safety Training’ by Sept. 30, 2017. This training is now required of providers across the country by federal law. OCFS has made it easy to get the training online for free.

Members across the state report to us that the training is excellent and easy to complete. The training will be available in Spanish in July.

For more information, here is the link to the training: **www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu/elearn.shtm**

For more detailed information about this and other regulation changes, visit our website at **voiccese.org**. OCFS has begun to review and revise child care subsidy regulations. The agency is hosting community forums in the next few months. We will contact you for your thoughts and ideas about changes like paid absence and program closure days.

Stay tuned for the Market Rate Survey in late summer. We expect rates to change in June 2018.

New York’s FY 2018 budget includes up to \$7 million in cuts to child care subsidy funding. Come to your Chapter meeting and watch our website for more information.



Darcel Leone, Suffolk Chapter Representative, speaks with Brian Moran, CCTA Support Supervisor from Controltec, at the NYSAEYC Conference about the support and training he can provide to CSEA/VOICE members in getting them up and running smoothly with submitting and tracking time and attendance online.

For more photos from the 2017 NYSAEYC Conference, visit [facebook.com/voiccese](https://www.facebook.com/voiccese). Next year, the conference will be held at the Turning Stone Conference Center in Verona!