



2016 Community Strategy

CREATING A COMMUNITY WHERE ALL CHILDREN ARE HEALTHY, THRIVING AND READY TO SUCCEED IN SCHOOL

The **Early Childhood Alliance** (ECA) was launched in January 2015. The ECA is a diverse cross-section of the community stakeholders that impact the early childhood system in Onondaga County. The Alliance works within the larger community to develop a coordinated and strategic early childhood system.

Over the past year, the ECA created a framework for this important work, using data and public input to drive our strategic planning process.

The ECA's four Strategic Priority committees in 2016 are:



Design a community infusion strategy – Talk. Read. Sing.



Develop a community-wide system for comprehensive screening & early intervention



Increase the number of children that have high quality child care & early learning experiences



Ensure comprehensive supports for pregnant women, parenting families and women of childbearing age

Onondaga County By The Numbers (2015)

Babies born in a year: 5,237

Children ages 0 through 5: 31,805

Children in poverty: 7,951 (25%)

THE ECA is funded with support from The Allyn Foundation, CNY Community Foundation, Health Foundation of Western & Central New York and the United Way of CNY

Contact ECA Director Laurie Black to learn more: ecaonondaga@gmail.com

Comprehensive Developmental Screening

ECA Objective: *Develop and strengthen community-wide systems for comprehensive screening and early intervention to ensure early detection of developmental delays or disabilities, and other health concerns such as hearing loss, vision impairment and dental health.*



The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends developmental and behavioral screening with a standardized developmental screening tool when a child is 9, 18,

and 24 or 30 months of age. These screenings may be done in early childhood settings, schools, community based intervention programs, or in the child's medical home.

As many as one in four children through the age of five are at risk for a developmental delay or disability. Early identification allows communities to intervene earlier, leading to more effective and cheaper treatment during preschool years, rather than expensive special education services later in childhood.

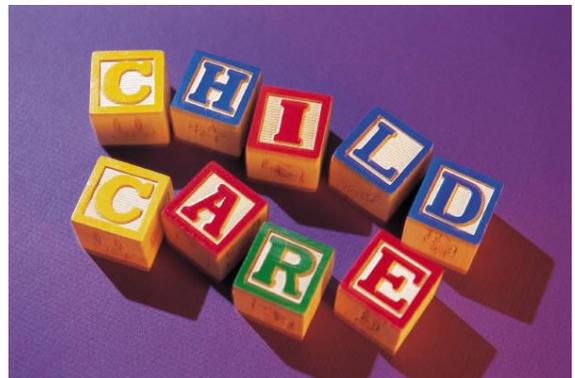
Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, https://www.acf.hhss.gov/sites/default/files/ecc/communities_guide_march2014.pdf

Quality Child Care and Early Learning

ECA Objectives:

- Increase community and stakeholder awareness of the importance of child care and early learning experiences.
- Increase the numbers of at-risk children that have high quality child care experiences.
- Support efforts to provide increased supports to informal care providers

Research shows that high-quality, intensive early care and education programs for low-income children can have lasting positive effects. The positive effects from high-quality programs and the negative effects from poor-quality programs are magnified for children from disadvantaged situations or with special needs, and yet these children are least likely to have access to quality early care and education.

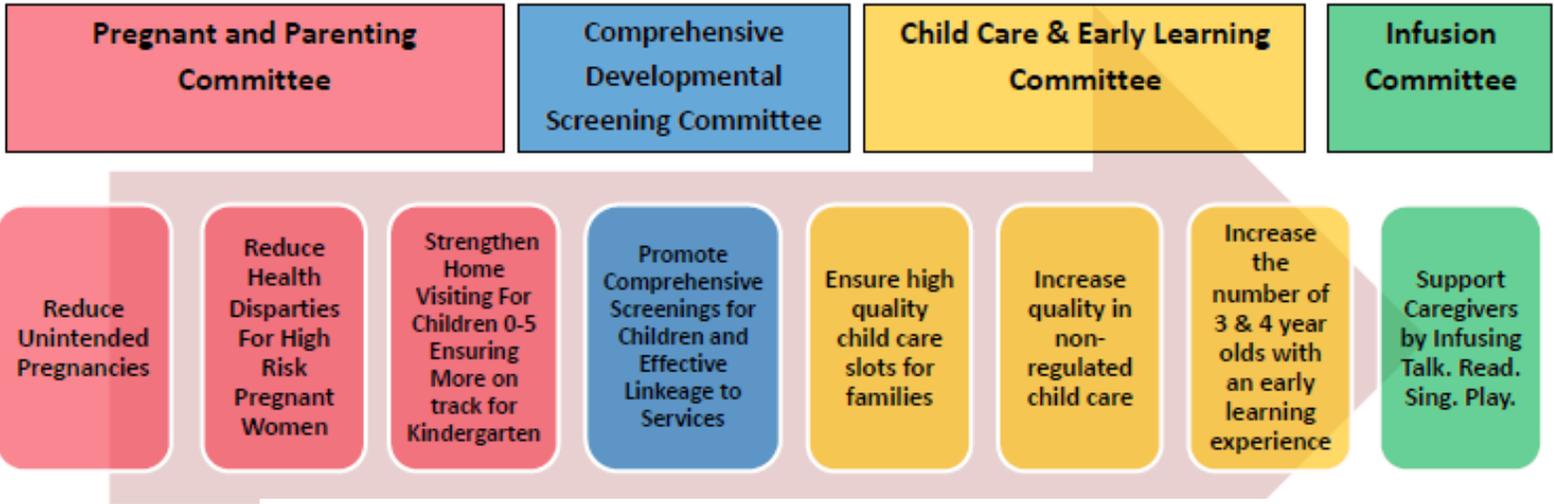


Early care and education programs serve children from infancy to age five in a variety of settings—child care centers; family child care homes; Prekindergarten (Pre-K) and Head Start classes. Thousands more are served in legally exempt (non-regulated family, friend and neighbor) home-based child care. All care, regardless of setting, should be affordable, accessible, and most importantly—high-quality.

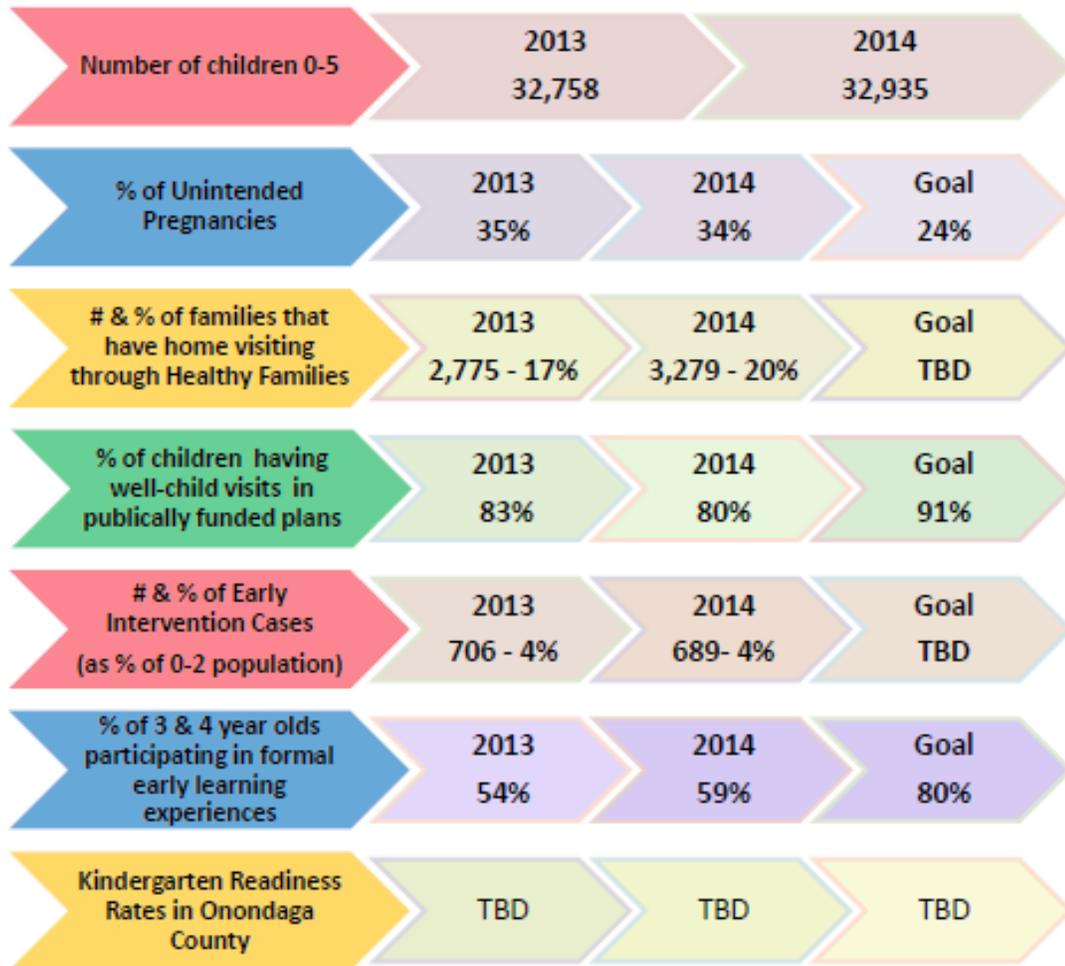
Source: Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy, http://www.scaany.org/documents/quality_earlyed_scaapolicybrief_sept2012.pdf



ECA Action Plan - 2016-2020



EARLY CHILDHOOD ALLIANCE ONONDAGA - DASHBOARD



Sources: Unintended Pregnancies, Well Child Visits-NYS Prevention Agenda Dashboard
https://apps.health.ny.gov/doh2/applinks/ebi/SASStoredProcess/guest?_program=/EBI/PHIG/apps/dashboard/pe_dashboard&p=ch&cos=31
 Early Intervention and Home visiting – Onondaga County Health Department Annual Reports;
 3 & 4 year olds in early learning – American Community Survey – 1 year estimates
https://factfinder.census.gov/tables/services/jst/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_13_1YR_S1401&prodType=table