Federal Budget:
Administration broke discretionary spending into two categories: security and non-security spending. The President's budget proposal recommends a three-year spending freeze on non-security spending. Due to the proposed spending freeze overall, some programs received cuts, while others were frozen at current funding levels, or eliminated. Overall, the President proposed reducing or eliminating 120 programs. With regard to early childhood programs, the President proposed a $1.6 billion increase in child care, the largest one year increase ever! As such, the President's budget proposal provides the child care community with a tremendous opportunity to call for the reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) with much needed quality improvements. (NACCRA: Capitol Connection, February 1, 2010)

New Jersey:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children in Families that are Poor or Low-Income</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children below 50% of the poverty level</td>
<td>110,000</td>
<td>110,000</td>
<td>116,000</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage children below 50% of the poverty level</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children below 100% of the poverty level</td>
<td>251,000</td>
<td>236,000</td>
<td>253,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage children below 100% of the poverty level</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children below 150% of the poverty level</td>
<td>392,000</td>
<td>375,000</td>
<td>404,000</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage children below 150% of the poverty level</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children below 200% of the poverty level, the level defined as low-income</td>
<td>538,000</td>
<td>535,000</td>
<td>543,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: For a family of four in 2005, 50 percent of the poverty level was $10,500; 150 percent was $31,500; and 200 percent was $42,000.

Ocean County:
Child care subsidy programs continue to grow.

Ocean County: Child care subsidy programs continue to grow.

Work First New Jersey Families Served

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WPNJ Children Served</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Up 10% from 2008 to 2009

NICK Families Served

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NICK Children Served</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Up 5% from 2008 to 2009

WPNJ Child Care Dollars Spent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WPNJ Child Care Dollars Spent</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Up 15% from 2008 to 2009

NICK Child Care Dollars Spent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NICK Child Care Dollars Spent</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Up 8% from 2008 to 2009

Thank You!

We are constantly amazed by people's generosity. Again this year, we received contributions that allowed us to brighten the holidays for over 900 Ocean County children. Undoubtedly, it was more difficult for many to find the resources to give. We cannot express how grateful we are for your help.

During the holiday season, the Ocean County Mental Health Board, in partnership with the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders, made the Boost a Gift campaign a reality. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we have provided over 900 Ocean County families with a holiday meal. We couldn't have done it without you.
Attention Family Child Care Providers:

Immediate Updated Regulations

Effective December 7, 2009 there are additional Family Child Care Regulations that need your attention:

6.3 (a) Telephone: A telephone shall be in services in the home at all times when children are in care. Please provide our agency with updated service, secondary phone numbers or out of service numbers immediately.

6.6 (b) Swimming pool, wading pools, hot tubs, whirlpools and other containers and natural bodies of water at the family child care home shall be physically inaccessible to children except when they are supervised as specified in (c) below and document that all local ordinances that apply to a swimming pool or natural bathing area have been met.

6.6 (c) The following supervision requirements shall apply whenever enrolled children use a pool or other container or body of water at the family child care home or any other location:

1. For pools and other bodies of water that are 24 inches or more in depth:
   i. One person at least 18 years old shall directly supervise three or more children; and
   ii. Two people, one of which is at least 18 years old shall directly supervise three or more children; and
   iii. Maintain a ring buoy with a rope, extension pole or other device that can be used to rescue a swimmer in distress.

6.6 (c) 1. At least one person providing supervision shall be certified in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) All of these regulations take affect immediately. For additional updates please contact the Family Child Coordinator, Karen 732-557-9633 x 131.

Training Notes:

Early Care & Education Trainings – The Children’s Home Society Spring/Fall schedule will soon be announced. Visit our website, www.chsofnj.org and click on Ocean County in the left column of the home page for all trainings that the Ocean County office provides.

CHS is Enrolled in the Stormwatch Program

With the possibility of inclement weather The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey has enrolled in the Stormwatch Program. If there is a possibility of a delayed opening, closing or cancellation of a training class or meeting, please tune into 94.3 The Point, 92.7 WOBM or 105.7 The Hawk for the announcement. If you have access to a computer you can log onto www.WOBM.com and click on cancellations. A listing will be available alphabetically click on “C”.

ARRA Child Care Mini Grant Application – DFD

Child care mini grants available from DFD for minor health and safety renovations. See: http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dfd/info/cc arra.pdf for more information.

Dear Colleagues,

It is with mixed emotions that I inform you of my up-coming retirement in June 2010. I have been with The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey for 19 years, longer than any other employer, and, needless to say, I have many great memories, and I’ve met many wonderful people. Contrary to my normal way of doing things, planning ahead, I do not have any future plans. However, staying home is not an option! I’ve said many times, “Sophia Loren’s mother had agoraphobia, the fear of leaving the house. I have the opposite, the fear of coming home.” I will probably look for a part-time job, hopefully, helping children and families in some way. I will surely miss some parts of my job and the staff that helped me “look good”, but it is time to move on.

Serve your clients well. Continue to advocate for children and families, and perhaps our paths shall cross, once again, in the future.

Most sincerely,

Gwen

Gwen E. Forte

Sponsored by:
The Ocean County Early Learning Council, a council of

The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey

in collaboration with

Georgian Court University

and

NJSACC: The Network for New Jersey’s Afterschool Communities

Early Childhood and After School Professionals

Join us for the 40th Earth Day celebration

“Leave No Child Inside” – Children and the Outdoors

featuring the award-winning film

Where Do the Children Play?

April 22, 2010

at Georgian Court University, Lakewood, NJ

★ For Early Childhood Professionals (8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)
★ For Families (5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.)

For further details, call Gwen Forte at 732-557-9633, ext. 108.

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