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The Child Care Subsidy Program: Care4Kids

The Care4Kids Program is administered by the United Way under contract of the Department of Social Services. The child care subsidy program was designed to assist low income families participating in approved training activities, attending high school and families transitioning from welfare to work. Unfortunately, those approved activities do not currently include an income eligible individual participating in higher education.

- **Low income families attempting to gain higher education should be deemed eligible for child care assistance.**
- **Higher education is directly linked to improved earnings outcomes and reduction of dependence on public assistance. Consequently, higher education is a route to long term self-sufficiency. Nearly two out of three, (63%), of the 18.9 million jobs that will be created between 2004 and 2014 are projected to be filled by individuals with at least a bachelor's degree. 90% of the fastest growing jobs in the United States require some level of secondary education or training. (1)**
- **According to the American Economic Review, earnings increase 6-16% annually for every year of education and 4-7% in hourly wages with additional years of college. As the State is well into its timeline of reducing child poverty by 2014, it is vital that we increase families' access to the tools necessary for greater earning power. (2)**

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1. Center for Women Policy Studies, citing US Department of Commerce, the Census Bureau. (2001) Years of school completed by people 25 years old and over, by age, household relationship and poverty status: 2000. Current Population Survey, March Supplement, <http://www.census.gov/hhes>.
2. Center for Women Policy Studies, citing the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2002). Median usual weekly earnings of full-time salaried workers 25 years and over by sex, race, Hispanic origin, and educational attainment, annual averages 1979-2001. Current Population Survey.