



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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Department of Social Services Budget
Care 4 Kids Program
Appropriations Committee
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Senator Harp, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify this afternoon. My name is John Cattelan and I am here today on behalf of the Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs.

Care 4 Kids is a program that makes child care affordable for low to moderate income families in Connecticut. In order for a family to qualify they must be working or attending an approved education or training activity, and meet certain income requirements. Currently families may participate in the program if they earn fewer than 50% of the state median income. If their income is below 75% of the state median income, they must pay a fee to the provider and that fee is based on a sliding scale.

Governor Malloy's budget proposal restricts eligibility for Care4Kids and also reduces spending for the program. The Governor's proposal creates a higher contribution for families making between the 50% and 75% of the state median income. The budget also proposes a \$3.27 million reduction in the program for fiscal year 2014.

The Connecticut Alliance of YMCA's believes that the funding of child care for low to moderate income families is vital for the wellbeing of Connecticut's children and youth and for many families it is a fact of life. A study, funded by the National Institute of Child Health & Human Development, showed the benefits of child care include cognitive and language development, social and emotional development, and physical development.

The Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs believes that no new eligibility requirements should be instituted and that funding for the Care4Kids program should remain at their fiscal year 2013 levels.