

Increase Compensation for All Members of the Child Care Workforce

- ❖ **Create a permanent state child care fund to increase child care worker compensation. \$1.2B**
 - This fund should be sufficient to offer all child care workers who work in licensed, regulated programs compensation parity with similar positions in the public school system.
- ❖ **Increase rates for legally-exempt child care providers. \$50M**
 - Rates should be increased to 75% of the family child care rate and to 85% for providers who are eligible for the enhanced rate. Require that the enhanced rate is made readily available to interested legally-exempt providers in all Local Social Services Districts (LDSS).
- ❖ **Commit New York State to using a cost estimation model to determine state child care reimbursement rates by 2025, informed by meaningful input from child care providers and parents. \$250,000**

Help Ensure All New Yorkers Can Access Child Care

- ❖ **End the practice of denying New York children child care assistance due to immigration status. \$50M**
 - Offer a state-funded child care assistance to immigrant children barred by federal law from participating in the New York's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).
- ❖ **End the rule of tying child care access to parents' exact hours of work (S.8152 (Brisport)/ A.8878 (Hevesi)). \$70M**
 - This rule prevents parents with inconsistent work schedules from accessing the child care they need. This law passed overwhelmingly in 2023, then was vetoed by the Governor for fiscal reasons.
- ❖ **Enact presumptive eligibility statewide (A.4099 (Clark)/ S.4667 (Brouk)). \$30M**
 - If enacted, families would not need to wait for paperwork processing to begin receiving assistance. These costs should be covered by federal and state funds (not solely LDSS funds).
- ❖ **Take steps to increase capacity for non-traditional hour care.**
 - Require the payment of an enhanced reimbursement rate of 15% statewide for non-traditional hour care.
 - Commence a pilot program to provide a monthly per-child supplement for non-traditional hour care and start-up grant program for providers seeking to offer non-traditional hour care (A.1374 (Clark)/S.4079 (Brisport)). \$100M
- ❖ **Expand access to care for children with special needs. \$50M**
 - Dedicate state funds to provide supplemental payments to child care programs who care for children with special needs
- ❖ **Prohibit requiring parents or caretakers to earn a minimum wage to be eligible for child care assistance (A.1303 (Clark)/S.4924(Ramos)). \$50M**

Additional Campaign Priorities

- ❖ **Establish health insurance premium support program for child care workers** as their income rises above Medicaid eligibility levels.
- ❖ **Pay child care assistance to child care providers based on enrollment or capacity**, not attendance, statewide.
- ❖ **Pay child care assistance to child care providers prospectively** (at the beginning of the month, as is the practice with private pay families), not as a reimbursement.
- ❖ **Pay all child care providers at the established market rate, even when that rate exceeds their private pay price (A.2019 (Clark)/S.3070 (Ramos)).**
- ❖ **Fund CCR&R Infant Toddler Mental Health and Equity Initiatives** where culturally responsive child care that addresses the mental health needs of our youngest children is accessible to all children and families.
- ❖ **Enact legislation requiring a study of the effects of Pre-K expansion on the child care sector.**
 - Study should be conducted by New York State's Council on Children and Families or another appropriate body, working with State agencies, providers, advocates, and parents and make recommendations to ensure these two essential systems are aligned and well-coordinated, and the members of the workforce in both sectors are equitably compensated.

Note on the Urgency of Investing in Times of Uncertain State Finances

- ❖ **Investing in child care must be recognized as critical to righting New York's economy.**
 - There are few investments with a greater public return than child care, estimated at 18% by the Minnesota Federal Reserve.
 - This is because the impacts of insufficient access to high quality, affordable child care are dramatic. Unpaid family caregiving sharply reduces parents' earnings, which in turn reduces the amount of tax revenue they generate.
 - A 2023 ReadyNation report on infant-toddler child care determined that families with children under 3 years lose an average of \$5,520 per working parent annually in lost earnings and in time spent looking for work.
 - Business also loses out due to productivity hits and the costs of turnover—an average of \$1,640 per working parent per year.

New York cannot afford to continue to under-invest in child care.