



Empire State Campaign for Child Care 2023 Policy Priorities

Now is the time for New York to commit to creating a high-quality, free, equitable, and universal child care system that meets the needs of all children and families and includes strong supports for workers and providers. **Take next steps toward stabilizing and transforming New York child care by investing in the essential child care workforce, and ensuring all the state's children can access child care, regardless of immigration status.**

The Empire State Campaign for Child Care's 2023 budget and legislative priorities will build from last year's historic wins, and take New York further down the path to universal child care by addressing the critical child care workforce shortage, equitably extending child care assistance eligibility to more families, and removing unnecessary barriers that prevent many eligible families from receiving the supports they need to thrive.

Priority: Invest in the early childhood workforce and providers so they have the resources they need to serve the state's diverse families and communities

- ▶ Establish a short-term workforce compensation fund to raise median child care worker pay by at least \$12,500 per year. (**Budget**)
- ▶ Establish health insurance premium support program for child care workers as their income rises above Medicaid eligibility levels (**Budget**)
- ▶ Enact legislation that would commit New York State to transition to a new provider reimbursement methodology and pay scale by 2025 (**Legislation**)
- ▶ 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 (**Budget**)
- ▶ Increase rates for legally-exempt child care providers to 80% of the family child care rate and to 90% for providers who are eligible for the enhanced rate. (**Budget**)

Priority: Help more New Yorkers access child care

- ▶ Extend child care assistance program eligibility to undocumented children statewide (**Budget**)
- ▶ Eliminate benefit cliffs by allowing families whose income exceeds federal eligibility threshold to maintain and recertify their eligibility for assistance (up to 400% of Federal Poverty Level) (**Budget**)

- ▶ Adopt categorical child care assistance eligibility for families enrolled in other public assistance programs (SNAP, Medicaid, WIC, etc.) and for children with disabilities, children experiencing homelessness, in foster care, in families receiving preventive services (**Legislation**)

Priority: Break down unnecessary barriers preventing the child care system from working for families and providers

- ▶ Enact presumptive eligibility so families do not need to wait for paperwork processing to begin receiving assistance (**Legislation**)
- ▶ Develop online application, eligibility determination and recertification and provider payment processes (**Legislation/Regulation**)
- ▶ Pay child care subsidies to child care providers based on enrollment, not attendance, statewide. (**Legislation**)
- ▶ Implement automatic market rate increases & decouple subsidy payment rates from private pay fees (**Legislation**)