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**PARENTS, PROVIDERS, AND POLICY EXPERTS CALL FOR URGENT STATE ACTION TO ADDRESS
NEW YORK'S IMMINENT CHILD CARE FUNDING SHORTFALL**

*Speakers Highlighted Impact of Nearly \$1 Billion Child Care Funding Shortfall on Tens of Thousands
of Families and Providers Across the State*

View Press Conference Recording [Here](#)

New York, N.Y. (March 27, 2025) – Today, the [Empire State Campaign for Child Care \(ESCCC\)](#) hosted a virtual press conference to sound the alarm on New York's growing child care funding crisis. A new [report](#) by the New School's Center of New York City Affairs revealed that a nearly \$1 billion shortfall in the New York state budget leaves more than 60,000 children who rely on the state's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) at risk of losing child care, with similar shortfalls threatening working families statewide.

In 2022, under the leadership of Governor Kathy Hochul, Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, and Speaker Carl Heastie, the state made historic investments in child care, expanding access for tens of thousands of low-income families. That progress is now in jeopardy.

Advocates, policy experts, parents, and providers called on the Governor, Majority Leader and Assembly Speaker to act swiftly to fix this crisis and preserve the legacy of a program that has helped so many New Yorkers **by allocating up to an additional \$907 million in the FY 2026 budget to close the funding gap for CCAP vouchers** and ensure that families don't lose care they depend on. See the full press conference [HERE](#).

"The data is clear—New York is facing a nearly \$1 billion child care funding gap, putting over 60,000 children in NYC and tens of thousands more across the state at risk of losing access to care. Four counties have already closed enrollment, and seven more are on the brink. The numbers don't lie: this crisis demands immediate funding in the state budget," **said Lauren Melodia, Director of Economic and Fiscal Policy at the New School's Center for New York City Affairs.** "Without immediate state action, parents will be forced out of the workforce, children will lose access to

safe, high-quality early learning, and child care providers—already operating on razor-thin margins—will struggle to keep their doors open”

"Child care is the backbone of our economy. If lawmakers don't address this funding shortfall, they are knowingly setting up families, businesses, and entire communities for failure," **said Jason Cone, Chief Public Policy Officer at Robin Hood.** "Parents will be pushed out of the workforce, providers will be forced to close, and the ripple effects will be felt across every industry. The state has a clear choice: invest in child care now or deal with the devastating economic consequences later."

"New York is on the verge of a statewide child care crisis. Without immediate state action, tens of thousands of families will lose the care they depend on to work, build their futures, and keep their children safe," **said Dede Hill, Director of Policy at Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy.** "This isn't just about numbers—it's about real parents being forced to choose between earning a paycheck and caring for their children, and real providers struggling to keep their doors open. Albany must act now to stop this catastrophe before it's too late."

"I couldn't work since I didn't have child care for three years, so I know first hand what the struggle is and how it mentally, physically, and emotionally impacts not only the children but also the parents," **said Mansie Meikle, a parent who relies on child care assistance to work.** "It's hard to find the words to describe how detrimental it is for the budget to be passed without funding for child care vouchers."

"I am the owner and operator of a childcare program since 2011, and have four programs within New York City," **said Tiffany Diaz, a child care provider.** "85% of our income comes from vouchers. Can you imagine 85% of your wages being pulled from under you? I am not sure how my small business would be able to survive."

"If they close the child care assistance programs, everybody is affected. It's affecting the kids. It's affecting the parents. It's affecting the provider. It's affecting everyone," **said Eliane Jiminan, a grandmother and care taker.** "If we don't have a service for child care, how can parents work? If the people in this country do not work, how does it survive?"

This issue will impact more than just New York City. New York's child care assistance program faces a critical funding shortfall, putting tens of thousands of families across the state at risk of losing access to affordable child care. Four counties have already closed enrollment, and seven more expect to do so by summer, leaving working parents across New York State without child care.

Without immediate state action, parents across New York will struggle to stay in the workforce, children will lose access to safe, high-quality early learning environments, and providers, who operate with razor-thin margins, will struggle to keep their businesses open as enrollment dips.

The Empire State Campaign for Child Care urges Albany to increase the allocation to the City for CCAP vouchers by an additional \$907 million in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget to protect New York's children, working families, and economy.

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About the Empire State Campaign for Child Care

[The Empire State Campaign for Child Care \(ESCCC\)](#) is a statewide coalition of parents, child care educators, and advocates who believe that every family in New York State deserves high quality, universal child care and that every child care educator deserves to earn a thriving wage.

The campaign was founded in 2017, and advocates at the state and federal levels for investment in child care that best serves the needs of all of New York's families and child care educators. Learn more at <https://empirestatechildcare.org/>