



December 10, 2025

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

The **Empire State Campaign for Child Care** - New York's statewide coalition of parents, early childhood educators, and policy advocates representing over 100 member organizations - shares your commitment to achieving universal child care for all New Yorkers. We have developed a [comprehensive statewide plan](#) for achieving our shared goal. As you develop your Executive Budget and State of the State proposals, the undersigned organizations – more than 140 organizations representing New York parents, child care providers, child and family advocates, and business leaders from every corner of the state – urge you to [adopt this framework to achieve universal child care in New York State](#) and include significant investments in that plan this year.

In particular, we stress that **five elements must be present in any plan for universal child care**, and in the steps New York takes in 2026 to advance that plan:

1. It must prioritize low-income families during the rollout to universal child care by ensuring that all families seeking care through the Child Care Assistance Program can receive it. Under your leadership, more than 160,000 children across New York State benefit from the Child Care Assistance Program each month, an increase of more than 100,000 since you took office.
2. It must increase child care supply and quality throughout the state by establishing a state-funded workforce compensation program.
3. It must include all ages to avoid distorting the market for care for children not covered by the proposed expansion.
4. It must work for all communities in New York State.
5. It must preserve the choice for families to receive care in the environment that best meets their needs.

The [New York State Child Care For All](#) plan addresses these needs in a thoughtful, equitable, and sustainable way that sets our state up for success as we implement universal child care across New York. [You can read the full plan here.](#)

Accordingly, we urge you to include the following in your 2026-27 Executive Budget proposal:

- Provide ongoing and reliable compensation supplements to all members of the child care workforce. **(\$1.2B)**

- Adequately resource New York’s Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) to ensure no eligible families are turned away or placed on waitlists. **(\$2.3B)**
- Implement two models of universal child care bridge projects (community eligibility and capped fee models) in several communities around the state, to be expanded to more communities until free, universal child care is achieved statewide. **(\$150M)**

Respectfully,

Empire State Campaign for Child Care
 A Rising Star Children’s Center
 Action For A Better Community
 Adirondack Birth to Three Alliance at Adirondack Community Foundation
 Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition of New York
 Advocates for Children of New York
 Alive and Well NYC Inc.
 All Good
 All Our Kin
 Alliance for Quality Education
 Alliance of New York State YMCAs
 Aunties for Liberation
 BKForge: Brooklyn for Reproductive and Gender Equity
 Black Child Development Institute - New York State
 Butterfly Daycare
 Caroll Gardens Association
 CASA-NYC
 Castle Island Bilingual Montessori
 Catholic Charities Family and Community Services
 Cecilia Garcia Family Daycare
 Chamber of Mothers
 Chamber of Mothers, Brooklyn Chapter
 Champlain Children's Learning Center, Inc.
 Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam Counties
 Child Care Council of Orange County, Inc.
 Child Care Council of Suffolk
 Child Care Council of Westchester
 Child Care Resource Network
 Children’s Defense Fund - NY
 Chinese-American Planning Council
 Choice For All
 Citizen Action Of NY
 Citizens’ Committee for Children of New York
 City of Rochester Department of Recreation and Human Services
 Coalition for Educational Justice
 Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School
 Committee for Hispanic Children & Families (CHCF)
 Community Life Center Inc.
 Context Matters Strategy Group

Corlies Christian Childcare LLC
Council of Child Caring and Family Agencies
Creative Steps
Day Care Council of New York, Inc.
Delhi Campus Child Care Center Inc.
Early Care & Learning Council
ECE on the Move
Empire Justice Center
Essex County Department of Social Services
Essex County SOC / BT3 PAC
Families Together in New York State
Family of Woodstock, Inc.
FPWA
Goodwill of the Finger Lakes
Grand Street Settlement
Greater Hudson Promise Neighborhood
Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce
High Impact Partnering
Hunger Solutions New York
Jessica's Daycare
Jowonio School
Juanita's family Child Care
Kids R Us Child Care
Latacha Daycare
Law office of Eric Michael Pasinkoff
League of Women Voters of St. Lawrence County NYS
Legal Momentum, The Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund
Liftoff WNY
Little Leaf Nursery
Living Well Healthcare Management & Consulting
Marks of Excellence
McGoogle's Mind Molder Academy
MomsRising
Mount Kisco Child Care Center
Muslim Community Network
Narrowing the Front Door to NYC Child Welfare System Workgroup
National Center for Law and Economic Justice
New York Zero-to-Three
NextCorp's Clean Jobs Collaborative
North Country Matters
NY Association for the Education of Young Children
NYC Family Policy Project
NYS Network for Youth Success
Onward Upward Consulting LLC
Orange County Chamber of Commerce
Ossining Children's Center
Our World Montessori
Owl Creek Nature Playschool

ParentChild+
 People's Early Childhood Coalition NYC
 Playdate Nursery
 Pop n play daycare Inc
 PowHer New York
 President, Rochester City Council, Miguel A. Melendez Jr.
 Prevent Child Abuse New York
 RMAPI (Rochester Monroe Anti Poverty Initiative)
 ROC the Future Alliance
 Rochester Area Community Foundation
 Rochester Regional Health
 Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
 Sheila's Family Daycare
 Small Business Majority
 Southern Adirondack Child Care Network
 St. Catherine's Center for Children
 Teaching Improves Performance
 Tender Hearts Family Childcare
 TenderLovinCare Julias Daycare
 Terri's Toybox Daycare
 The Action Lab
 The Bridge Project
 The Business Council of New York State, Inc.
 The Child Center of NY, Inc.
 The Children's Agenda
 The Children's Aid Society
 The Home for Little Wanderers
 The Innovative Daycare Corp
 The Legal Aid Society
 The New York Foundling
 The New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC)
 The People's Forum
 No Kid Hungry New York
 The Salvation Army Early Childhood Education Services
 Theresa's Family Child Care
 Tia Tere's Daycare
 Tika Co.
 Tisha's Tots Family Daycare
 TripleTrack HR Partners
 United Neighborhood Houses
 United Way of New York State & 211 New York Inc.
 United Way of the Greater Capital Region
 United Way of Greater Rochester and the Finger Lakes
 University of Rochester
 Watch Me Grow Daycare Center of WNY
 Westchester Children's Association
 Westchester Early Childhood Directors' Association
 Westchester Justice for Families

Wheelhouse Creative Education Center
Wiggle Room
WNY Child Care Action Team
WNY Women's Foundation
Women's Housing and Economic Development Corporation (WHEDco)
YWCA Cortland
YWCA NorthEastern NY

cc: Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, President Pro Tempore and Senate Majority Leader
Assemblymember Carl Heastie, Speaker of the Assembly
Senator Jabari Brisport, Chair Senate Committee for Children and Families
Assemblymember Andrew Hevesi, Chair Assembly Committee for Children and Families
Commissioner Dr. DaMia Harris-Madden, Office of Children and Family Services
Brian Mahanna, Counsel to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh, Secretary to the Governor
Blake Washington, Budget Director
Emma Vadehra, Policy Director Governor Hochul
Peter Hatch, Deputy Secretary for Human Services and Mental Hygiene
Lisa Vasnani, Assistant Counsel to the Governor
Avery Cohen, Assistant Secretary to the Governor for Human Services & Mental Hygiene
Jesse Olczak, Deputy Budget Director
Nichols Silbersack, Deputy Policy Director