



Statement from the Empire State Campaign for Child Care on Governor Hochul and Mayor Mamdani's Historic Child Care Announcement

Today marks a crucial milestone in the path to achieving universal child care in New York State.

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The [Empire State Campaign for Child Care](#) (ESCCC) released the following statement on the child care announcement from Governor Hochul and Mayor Mamdani:

Since 2017, the Empire State Campaign for Child Care has been tirelessly advocating for a path to universal child care in New York State. Our coalition of parents, early childhood educators, and policy advocates have called for robust investment in the Child Care Assistance Program, a permanent compensation fund for the child care workforce, and bridge programs to expand universal child care in communities across the state. Today's announcement addresses many of our key priorities.

We are delighted that Governor Hochul has committed an additional \$1.2B as a recurring investment to expand access to the Child Care Assistance Program. Tens of thousands of families across New York State rely on this critical program. Today's announcement moves us toward fully funding CCAP to secure financial stability for some of our most vulnerable New Yorkers, while leaders act to transition to statewide universal child care. We are also very excited about the universal community programs being rolled out across the state, another key component of our plan, [New York State Child Care For All](#). We look forward to the implementation and expansion of these programs in urban, suburban, and rural communities, where too many families struggle to afford and access child care. We applaud Governor Hochul for announcing this ambitious proposal to move our state closer to achieving universal child care.

We are grateful that Mayor Mamdani uplifted the need to include family child care in the proposed expansion of child care in New York City. Mayor Mamdani correctly recognizes that family child care is crucial to child care infrastructure. We also

appreciate Mayor Mamdani's recognition that every child must have access to early childhood education, including children with disabilities. This is a wonderful beginning to the Mayor's campaign promise of delivering universal child care in New York City.

We also welcome and fully support a thoughtful expansion of pre-K statewide with increased rates, something that campaign partners have been championing for more than a decade.

We must reiterate that permanent compensation for the child care workforce is essential to scale up to meet the demand of families in New York State. A well-compensated workforce is non-negotiable to the success of rolling out universal child care, and we look forward to working with both city and state government to deliver a system that serves every family, and provides early childhood educators with the thriving wages they deserve.