



Statement on Governor Hochul’s Announcement of an FY27 Budget Agreement

Historic investments in early childhood education and universal child care will only be successful if the needs of low-income families and the child care workforce are addressed in the final budget

We began the year with great excitement, standing alongside Mayor Mamdani and Governor Hochul as they announced record investments in child care and early learning. We welcome the Governor’s commitment to achieving statewide universal child care and pre-K, and significant investments toward achieving that goal.

However, to succeed, that commitment must be built on a strong and inclusive foundation. The budget deal announced by the Governor still leaves too many New Yorkers behind and without the resources they urgently need.

Without additional funds in the final budget for child care assistance, low-income working families will continue to languish on the child care assistance waitlist in New York City – 18,000 children and growing each month.

Without additional funding for compensation for the child care workforce in the final budget, it will not be possible to recruit and retain enough early childhood educators to meet the demand of a universal child care system. We urge inclusion of the Senate’s \$500 million for compensation supplements for the child care workforce in the final budget.

The path to universal child care requires fully funding child care assistance and investing in the child care workforce. The Governor’s bold vision for a truly universal child care system requires both investments, in this year’s budget.

With the deal still not finalized, there is still time for the Governor and Legislature to include the necessary resources in the final budget to equitably deliver high quality universal child care in New York State.

About the Empire State Campaign for Child Care

The Empire State Campaign for Child Care 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.