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Empire State Campaign for Child Care Applauds New York City and State Investments in Clearing Waitlists for Child Care Assistance Program

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Today the [Empire State Campaign for Child Care](#) (ESCCC) joined NYC parent and provider leaders and New York City Mayor Mandani to celebrate the news that more than 10,000 New York City children [on the waitlist for the child care assistance program \(CCAP\) will be awarded vouchers](#).

Today we also celebrate [Governor Hochul's announcement that 13,000 more children across New York are now enrolled in high-quality, affordable childcare due to the new investments in child care assistance](#) included in the 2026-27 NYS budgets. Also cause for celebration is that a total of 43 counties have now cleared their CCAP waitlists and reopened enrollment.

A long wait for care

For more than 18 months, even as New York State and City leaders advanced historic expansions to child care and pre-K, the CCAP waitlist in New York City and in communities around the state has grown. In New York City alone, the CCAP waitlist surpassed 30,000 children in September. These families have had to scramble – some for more than a year – to cover \$1400 a month (or much more) to pay for child care costs on their own, or to patch together safe care with family and friends.

Steps along the path to universal child care

Today's announcements from Mayor Mamdani and Governor Hochul mark important progress toward an equitable rollout of statewide universal child care. It has long been a cornerstone of the Empire State Campaign for Child Care's [vision for statewide universal child care](#) that those families and communities who have faced the greatest challenges accessing child care be prioritized as the state expands access to high quality, affordable child care.

Parents and providers lead

We are tremendously proud of our ESCCC parent and provider members, chief among them ECE on the Move, for ensuring this looming crisis was given the attention it deserved in last year's State and NYC budget negotiations and in the aftermath. While we welcome and celebrate this milestone, we will not rest until a plan is in place to serve ALL the families waiting for CCAP across the state.

[Read more - New York State Child Care for All: The Plan to Achieve It](#)

Quotes

“We are overjoyed to hear that in the coming days, the families of more than 10,000 New York City children will get the life-changing news that they will receive a child care assistance voucher. For many of these families, this will mean the end of months of juggling bills, work shifts, and care arrangements; months of stress, sleepless nights and worry. And for the child care providers who supported these families as best they could during these months of uncertainty, they too can breathe a sigh of relief,” **said Dede Hill, Vice President of Policy, Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy and steering committee member of the Empire State Campaign for Child Care.** “Today we celebrate this exciting news; tomorrow we will redouble our efforts to secure adequate funding to deliver child care assistance to the tens of thousands of additional families in New York City and around the state still waiting for relief.”

"The Empire State Campaign for Child Care has advocated for clearing the growing Child Care Assistance Program waitlists in New York City and around the state since February 2025. We commend Governor Hochul, Mayor Mamdani and county and city leaders for taking action to alleviate the struggle for so many children and families, and the educators who care for them. To deliver universal child care in the city and across the state, clearing this waitlist must remain a top priority for elected officials. We will continue to advocate for sustained investments in the Child Care Assistance Program in every region of New York," **said Shoshana Hershkowitz, Campaign Manager for the Empire State Campaign for Child Care.**

Opening access to child care opens doors for families. ECE on the Move, a member of the Empire State Campaign for Child Care, commends Mayor Mamdani and the Mayor’s Office of Child Care and Early Childhood Education for making child care slots available to more families on the CCAP waitlist. This welcome step must lead to a lasting commitment: no child should remain on a waiting list, and no educator should earn poverty wages. We call on the Mayor and Governor to fully fund CCAP and invest in living wages for educators in every setting, with benefits comparable to K–12. Universal child care must deliver access for families and pay justice for the educators who make that care possible,” **said Gladys Jones, Founder and CEO, ECE on the Move.**

"New York State's recent, unprecedented investments in child care ensure that parents can take a job, pursue an education, or add a shift at work without wondering how they'll afford care," **said Pete Nabozny, Deputy Executive Director of Programs at The Children's Agenda and steering committee member of the Empire State Campaign for Child Care.** "The 13,000 children added to New York's Child Care Assistance Program in the past few months demonstrate how this year's historic state budget agreement is delivering results for working New Yorkers. The Children's Agenda applauds Governor Hochul and the State Legislature for their commitment to New York's children and families, and we look forward to continuing to work with state leaders to ensure that every family in New York State can receive the support they need to thrive."

“CHCF joins our partners in the Empire State Campaign for Child Care in celebrating the Mamdani Administration’s announcement that 10,000 children will be moved from the CCAP waitlist with their families finally receiving the child care vouchers they have been desperately waiting for. Following a series of historical commitments and investments in child care and early learning by city and state leaders, this announcement

ensures relief for thousands of families as well as the care programs that struggle to meet the needs of the families and children in their care – at times without guarantee of payment from the city and inability to charge families what it truly costs to deliver care. Child care professionals continue to carry tremendous weight on their shoulders and in their hearts, delivering care and education that is largely underfunded and that they continue to receive grossly inadequate compensation for. CHCF joins other providers, parents, and advocates in our eagerness to continue the work, in partnership with the Administration, of stabilizing the existing child care system for children, families, and the child care workforce, and growing a thriving, universal child care system in New York City and State,” **said Ramon Peguero, President & CEO for the Committee for Hispanic Children & Families (CHCF).**

“We commend Mayor Mamdani and his administration for beginning to clear NYC’s child care assistance waiting list. Families who have been waiting for child care assistance will finally get some relief, as will the educators and providers who serve them. The waiting list is the product of chronic underfunding and increased need, and while the state has begun to address this crisis, it must go further and act boldly. Mayor Mamdani has rightly called for taxing the ultra-wealthy to pay more so we can invest in our New York. We stand by that call, and are ready to fight alongside families and providers for the well-funded, truly universal child care system New Yorkers need,” said **Zakiyah Shaakir-Ansari, Co Executive Director, Alliance for Quality Education.** "As proud members of the ESCCC, we are committed to continuing the fight until we have a fully-funded universal child care system."

About the Empire State Campaign for Child Care

The Empire State Campaign for Child Care is the 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 empirestatechildcare.org/