



Response to Proposed Funding Changes to the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)

The Empire State Campaign for Child Care is dedicated to achieving statewide high-quality free child care for all and a thriving compensation for the workforce. We define universal child care as free from income, parent activities or immigration status tests, with flexibility for parents to choose the type of care that meets their needs and values.

The Trump administration's proposed plan to divert dollars from the Child Care Development Fund away from families with working parents to families with a stay-at-home parent, runs contrary to our rollout principles in its exclusion of single-parent families - a traditionally marginalized group. Pitting stay-at-home-parents against working parents in an economy where families are already struggling to afford basic needs is harmful. **We believe all parents should have access to sufficient public resources to be able to make the best choice for themselves and their families about whether to work or stay at home**, and - regardless of the family structure - every child and family deserves safe, consistent, high-quality care.

In New York, where child care is the largest monthly bill for many families, there are currently **more than 29,000** low-income children of working parents on waiting lists due to inadequate investment in the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). Because this rule change includes no new funding, the waitlists could grow larger, further destabilizing New Yorkers, and leave even more parents unable to achieve economic security for their families. It could also leave fewer families able to afford child care, which could force more programs to close or operate at reduced capacity, further exacerbating existing capacity shortages.

What New York families and families across the country really need is sufficient funding of the Child Care Development Block Grant to serve all eligible families, along with other proven family supporting policies including paid family leave and a fully refundable, broadly available federal child tax credit. **Supporting one form of care shouldn't require taking resources away from another.**

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.