

## **Making Quality Child Care a Reality for New York State's Working Families**

### *Meeting the Demand for Quality Child Care*

Quality child care allows parents to go to work knowing that their children are learning, safe and cared for in an environment that lays the foundation for success in school and life. Research indicates that children who participate in quality early childhood programs have less need for special education and remediation throughout their schooling, earn more and are incarcerated less often in adulthood. Investing in quality early child care in centers, family child care, pre-kindergarten, Head Start and nursery schools is a win-win scenario for New York State's families, businesses, workers, taxpayers and for everyone who cares about the well-being of the State's children.

#### **Expanding Investments**

Permanently remove child care from the Flexible Fund for Family Services and commit to providing essential child care funding regardless of the source.

Make a commitment to annual increases in child care subsidies, moving toward the goal of child care financial assistance for all working families below 275% of poverty.

#### **A Plan of Action**

Create an Early Learning Commission charged with developing a plan of action to improve consistency and coordination, and to maximize New York's investment in early care and education.

Ensure that efforts to expand and improve child care services and universal prekindergarten be coordinated both locally and statewide.

#### **Improve Parent Access**

Establish a statewide affordability standard that requires parents to pay no more than 10% of gross family income for full time child care.

Streamline access for families in applying for subsidies by eliminating barriers such as child support enforcement requirements.

#### **Make Infants and Toddlers a Priority**

Address the critical unmet need of infants and toddlers, whose learning begins at birth, by expanding and improving the quality of programs and services to our youngest children.

#### **Make Quality a Priority**

Improve the quality of teaching and reduce turnover by establishing a Workforce Incentive Program that embraces loan forgiveness, certification and appropriate levels of compensation.

Support a comprehensive quality improvement strategy by establishing a statewide quality rating system that includes national accreditation and research-based standards linked with ongoing support to programs and providers.

**Winning Beginning NY** is an early care and education coalition of more than 60 organizations and individuals committed to quality early learning opportunities for all children, beginning at birth. It was established in 2006 bringing together the Child Care That *Works* campaign and the PreK Coalition. The consortium has launched a statewide campaign to inform policymakers and the public about the many benefits of early learning to children, families and society and to build broad-based support for making investment in quality early education, child care, Head Start and public prekindergarten a top priority in New York State. The coalition is co-convened by Child Care, Inc. the New York State Child Care Coordinating Council, the New York State Association for the Education of Young Children and the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy.

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