

Legislative Agenda 2008

Winning Beginning NY urges the Legislature to address a number of issues that were not included in the *Executive Budget*. We ask the Legislature to:

- Invest in the early childhood workforce
- Increase child care funding
- Increase funding for infant/toddler resource centers
- Increase access to Pre-K

Early childhood workforce

We urge you to invest \$15 million in an Excellence in Early Childhood Workforce Initiative. This initiative includes a professional development component, equitable compensation, and loan forgiveness.

Child care funding

We urge you to transfer \$367 million in funding from the Flexible Fund for Family Services (FFFS) to the child care block grant to prevent further erosion in child care funding and ensure that low-income working families have access to child care subsidies.

In addition, we urge you to add \$140 million for child care slots that have been lost over the past few years. This funding would restore the 14,000 lost slots and add an additional 14,000 subsidized slots.

Infant/toddler resource centers

We urge you to allocate \$2.4 million to expand funding for Infant/Toddler Resource Centers, strengthen the capacity for coordination between Centers, and assess the impact of Center interventions on improving the quality of care for infants and toddlers.

Increase access to Pre-K

We support the *Executive Budget's* \$79 million investment in Pre-K and request that you allow districts to provide high-quality Pre-K programs appropriate to their individual needs, including:

- **Paying for full-day Pre-K programs, which are more beneficial than part-day programs**
- **Supporting collaborations with community-based organizations whose extended hours better meet the needs of working parents**
- **Paying for transportation to and from school- and community- based Pre-K programs, providing better access for working parents**

This will assist districts that are struggling to provide high-quality programs because they do not have the infrastructure, staff, or other supports necessary to create or continue a program.

***Winning Beginning NY* also supports universal home visiting for families with newborns, paid parental leave, SUNY/CUNY child care, and after-school programs.** *Winning Beginning NY* is an early care and education coalition convened by NYS Child Care Coordinating Council; NYS Association for the Education of Young Children; Child Care, Inc.; and the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy.