

MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT FOR THE WINNING BEGINNING NY CAMPAIGN

The *Winning Beginning NY* campaign is a statewide coalition working toward the goal of high-quality, affordable and accessible early care and education for all New York families. Its members include parents, employers, children's advocates, service providers, labor unions, educators, pediatricians, law enforcement, research and community groups.

CORE COMMITMENTS

- ❖ Increase investments to expand early care and education opportunities for all children beginning at birth
- ❖ Ensure that early care and education is affordable to families
- ❖ Support professional development and adequately compensate the work force in all settings
- ❖ Promote and support quality in services in all settings

Toward this end, the Winning Beginning agenda seeks to increase resources for programs, enhance quality, build and improve facilities, insure professional development and improve compensation. We support an expansion of services for children from birth to age 8 across all settings. That includes support for families, such as paid leave and home visiting. In addition we support the agendas of organizations promoting quality out-of-school time opportunities for school age children.

COORDINATION OF CAMPAIGN

Winning Beginning NY promotes an agenda that will move New York State closer to meeting those goals. The Campaign is co-convened by Child Care, Inc., New York State Association for the Education of Young Children, New York State Child Care Coordinating Council and the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy. These organizations share responsibility for convening meetings, administration, website management, communications and moving the annual advocacy agenda forward. (See addendum on governance for specific responsibilities in the first year). Campaign meetings are held in both Albany and New York City.

The legislative agenda will be shaped each year and approved by members, to win resources and regulatory support to expand quality early care and education opportunities for every child and support working families.

WINNING BEGINNING MEMBERSHIP

Any individual or organization that shares the mission and principles of the Winning Beginning campaign is invited to join. Members are expected to participate regularly in face-to-face meetings and on telephone conference calls, to support the adopted agenda and to provide financial support for the advocacy goals of the campaign.

The Campaign also develops working committees from time to time to prepare policy recommendations, develop draft agendas, etc. All members of the campaign are eligible to participate in these work groups.

DECISION MAKING

The Campaign asks each organization to be clear about its priorities in early care and education.

Every effort is made to move toward consensus in decision-making. Members of the campaign have an opportunity to express whether they can live with a decision or the decision will cause them to leave the campaign. The campaign uses this system:

thumbs up = I agree

thumbs down = I cannot live with this

thumbs sidewise = I have questions/concerns and need more information or discussion.

Campaign members commit to attending meetings that will be held at least quarterly. Executive attendance is critical to the ability of the coalition to build consensus. However, if the designated executive cannot attend, the individual who attends should be able to represent the organization and make decisions on behalf of their organization for the campaign. When possible, coalition members that host Winning Beginning meetings will make phone conferencing available for agencies to participate by phone if necessary.

THE ADVOCACY AGENDA

Once the campaign has agreed on its advocacy agenda, individuals and member organizations are expected to endorse and promote the *full* agenda. It is understood that individual organizations may be working to support additional items in the child care and early education field that are not included on the Winning Beginning agenda. Members of the campaign, however, are expected to *not publicly oppose* positions adopted by the Campaign as its official annual agenda.

MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

Campaign members are asked to affirm each year that they can abide by the commitments of the campaign. Each participating organization is expected to pay to support direct advocacy expenditures of the campaign. Annual dues for 2006-07 are \$600. Donations in any amount will be gratefully accepted. These funds will be used to support our mobilization efforts as well as core staff functions, which are critical to our efforts to communicate with one another and others. (An invoice is attached for your convenience.)

The level of dues established by the members of Winning Beginning is reviewed annually. Members also agree to support other fundraising efforts of the campaign including outreach to foundations and other funders.

I have read the Winning Beginning Membership requirements and agree to the principles for participation.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Organization name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Please sign and return to: Winning Beginning NY, c/o NYSCCCC, 230 Washington Avenue Extension, Albany, NY 12203