Federal Budget Advocacy

December 13

Key Messages, Talking Points, and Templates
Winning Beginning NY: 
Taking Action Against Federal Sequester Cuts to Head Start and Early Education

This mini-toolkit contains materials to help you make your voice heard—quickly and easily—in the next few weeks, as Congress faces a critical budget deadline on December 13th.

We encourage you to insert your own personal experiences or localized story to make these pieces more compelling.

Included, please find:

- A letter to the editor
- Phone script for calls to Members of Congress
- Newsletter/website/e-blast article*

*Please note the article will also be posted to winningbeginningny.org – so you can easily link to it on Facebook and other social media.

We also encourage you to use the National Women’s Law Center’s Smart Start for Children Tool Kit – a more comprehensive advocacy guide.

If you use any of these materials or contact your Members of Congress, please let Betty Holcomb know by email as we are tracking activity as we build our coalition’s voice.
WINNING BEGINNING NY KEY MESSAGES: No cuts to early childhood education!

The federal shutdown may be over, but thousands of New York State families are at risk.

- The next federal budget deadline is December 13th and many of the same members of Congress, whose budget demands led to the shutdown, want to make sequestration budget cuts permanent.
- If passed, this level of funding reduction would deal a devastating blow to early childhood programs, such as Head Start, that serve New York’s most vulnerable citizens.
- While children will suffer, so will families and our community. Without affordable, dependable child care, parents of these children will lose their jobs and our school districts will face greater costs for remedial and special education.

The Federal budget accounts for 75% of early childhood services in New York State.

- Many people don’t realize the federal budget—not the state—supplies the lion’s share—75%—of funding for child care services and 100% of most Head Start programs across our state.
- If the Sequester continues, 100,000 Head Start and Early Head Start slots could be lost next year, and thousands of families stand to lose their child care subsidies.
- These cuts come on top of the nearly 4,000 children in New York who already lost access to Head Start due to cuts in this fiscal year.

Devastating cuts are being proposed—despite early childhood programs’ proven return on investment.

- Early childhood education delivers one of the most impressive returns on investment in government spending. How many programs save nearly $7 for every $1 spent, while also reducing teen pregnancy, drug use and crime?
- At-risk youth who fail to receive an early education are 25% more likely to drop out of school, 40% more likely to become a teen parent and 70% more likely to be arrested for a violent crime.
- And we know that 75% of brain growth and 85% of intellect, personality and social skills develop before a child turns five. The first years are critical—even more so with New York’s adoption of the Common Core standards in K-12.
- Recognizing that early learning is key to America’s future competitiveness, President Obama is proposing a much different proposal, calling for expansion of Pre-K and other early childhood programs by raising the cigarette tax.

Contact your member of Congress today and urge him/her to vote against sequester cuts to early childhood programs.

- Not only are early childhood programs like Head Start key to closing the achievement gap, but they also help parents work, which helps our local economy.
- Investing in early childhood education is crucial to our future—here in (CITY/REGION), in New York State and in our country.
- These cuts will hurt children and families today—but cost us much more in years to come.
Dear editor:

The federal shutdown may be over, but next month’s federal budget deadline could put hundreds of children and families in [CITY/REGION] at risk. Members of Congress want to make sequestration budget cuts permanent—gutting early childhood programs for New York’s most vulnerable citizens.

Many people don’t realize it is the federal budget that supplies the lion’s share—75%—of the child care services across New York State and 100% of the funding for most Head Start programs. The across-the-board cuts to child care and Head Start funding this year resulted in nearly 4,000 children losing services. If sequestration-level cuts continue another year, more children will lose services. Without affordable, dependable child care, parents will lose jobs and our school districts will face even greater costs in remedial and special education.

It doesn’t make economic sense. Early childhood education produces an impressive return on investment, saving nearly $7 for every $1 spent, while reducing teen pregnancy, drug use and crime. Recognizing that early childhood education is key to America’s competitiveness, President Obama has proposed expanding Pre-K and other early childhood programs by raising the cigarette tax.

As someone who [knows/works with] children who will be affected by these cuts, I know how devastating they will be. Please speak out for our children. Contact [your member of Congress/specific name] and urge them to vote against cuts to early childhood education. They won’t just hurt children, families and our communities today—they will cost us much more in years to come.

Name
Organization
Phone Number
Email
Contact Your Member of Congress Today: No Cuts to Early Childhood Education and Head Start

The government shutdown may be over, but another federal budget deadline next month could put hundreds of children and families at (CITY/REGION) risk?

Many of the same members of Congress, whose budget demands led to the shutdown, want to make sequestration budget cuts permanent. This further reduction would deal a devastating blow to early childhood programs, such as Head Start, that serve New York’s most vulnerable citizens.

Many people don’t realize it is the federal budget that supplies the lion’s share—75%—of funding for care services and 100% of most Head Start services in New York. If adopted, sequestration-level cuts will close Head Start classrooms, affecting tens of thousands of children around the country.

But that’s not all.

Without affordable, dependable child care, parents of these children will lose their jobs and our school districts will face greater costs for remedial and special education.

The truth is, early childhood education delivers one of the most impressive return on investment in government spending. How many programs save nearly $7 for every $1 spent, while also reducing teen pregnancy, drug use and crime?

Research shows 75% of brain growth and 85% of intellect, personality and social skills develop before a child turns five. The first years are critical—even more so with New York’s adoption of the Common Core standards in K-12. Recognizing that early learning is key to America’s future competitiveness, President Obama is calling for expansion of Pre-K and other early childhood programs by raising the cigarette tax.

The next federal budget deadline is coming up December 13th. Please join us in reaching out to your members of Congress today. Find your Congressional representatives by zip code at: http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/

Tell them to make child care and Head Start a top priority in the federal budget.

Investing in early childhood education is crucial to our country’s future. And the proposed cuts will hurt children and families in (CITY/REGION) today—and cost us much more in years to come.
Hi, my name is [NAME] and I am calling from [ORGANIZATION/TOWN] to encourage [MEMBER OF CONGRESS] to restore funding for Head Start, Early Head Start and other early childhood education in the federal budget.

Children in [CITY/REGION] and across New York State will lose access to critical early learning if the sequestration-level cuts are made permanent.

Early learning programs for at-risk children have been shown to reduce teen pregnancy, drug use and crime. This is also an economic issue—parents who lose affordable, dependable child care often lose their jobs—hurting our economy.

I support President Obama’s plan, which calls for expanding Pre-K and other early childhood programs by raising taxes on cigarettes. Making these programs available to more children will help local families, our schools and our economy—not just today but for years to come.

I would be happy to come in and meet with your staff to talk about this issue more.

[CITY/REGION] and New York State can’t afford to lose the 75% of funding for child care services and 100% of funding for most Head Start programs. That is why we are asking [MEMBER OF CONGRESS] to be a champion for our children and vote against any cuts to Head Start and early education.