In This Year’s Budget, Lawmakers Have the Opportunity To...

Bring some stability for families in New York’s struggling child care system. Quicken the pace of expansion of Pre-K and include transportation. Provide essential supports to young New Yorkers with special needs.

Research is clear about the importance of early childhood: invest now or pay later. **We urge state lawmakers, at a minimum, to make the following investments in the 2019-2020 Final Enacted Budget:**

**Child Care**

1. **Ensure $20 million ADDED** by the Senate and Assembly for child care subsidies is included in the final enacted budget.

2. **MAINTAIN $26 million** included in the Executive, Senate, and Assembly budget bills to increase subsidy reimbursement rates.

**Pre-K**

1. **Ensure $15 million ADDED** by the Assembly in new funding for 3- and 4-year-olds and the Senate and Assembly proposals to extend the Statewide Universal Full-Day program for five years, are included in the final budget.

2. **Ensure the Assembly proposal for Pre-K transportation** is included in the final budget.

**Pre-School Special Education**

1. **Include Assembly proposal to increase pre-school special education rates by at least 5%** in the final budget.

**Early Intervention**

1. **Include Governor’s proposed five percent (5%) increase for Early Intervention reimbursement rates** for occupational therapists, physical therapists, and speech-language pathologists in this year’s Executive Budget and **Assembly’s proposal to extend increase to all Early Intervention service providers.**

2. **Ensure at least $16 million, included by Senate and Assembly, and ideally $25 million,** for a Covered Lives proposal to help cover cost of EI services by assessing a fee on private health insurance companies instead of sending them individual claims, which they often deny, is in included in the final budget.

(March 26, 2019)