Reforming New York State’s child care system to ensure equitable access to quality, child care for all children and working families is essential.

- 85% of a child’s brain development, which includes intellect and social skills, develops before age 5.
- Access to high-quality early childhood programs have long-lasting, positive effects including:
  - Greater school success/school readiness. Lower juvenile crime.
  - Higher Graduation Rates. Fewer arrests.
  - Fewer anxiety or impulse control issues. Higher future earnings.
- Children of color are suspended/expelled from childcare 2.2x more than other children (preschool to prison pipeline).
- There are an estimated 7 infant/toddlers likely to need care for every 1 licensed child care spot.

- Of the 4.1 million children in NYS under 18 years, 20.8% live in poverty. Four in 10 children live below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
- The average cost of child care in NYS exceeds rent & college tuition.
- **Access to child care assistance** allows families to better focus on job responsibilities and performance, leading to increased work hours, position advancement and higher earnings.
- Many of the child care educators caring for New York's youngest are paid wages that leave them living at/near poverty (median wage $12.38/hour).
- 64% of New Yorkers live in a child care desert, resulting in lower maternal employment.

- The child care industry revenue/spillover has a $6.6B impact on the economy.
- To support New York's economic growth, we need more workers.
  - Securing child care is a barrier to working for many low-income families.
  - For every $1 spent on child care, nearly $2 of activity is generated in the community.
- Small Business: In the past 5 years, NYS had a net loss of 12,152 Child Care Facilities. Even if a family can afford quality care, it is difficult to find an opening for infants & toddlers.

**2019 BUDGET PRIORITIES**

1. Increase State funding to counties for child care subsidies and program operation to expand equitable access to quality child care to more working families.
2. Increase State funding to stabilize the child care workforce and infrastructure by reinstating the 75th percentile formula for setting reimbursement rates, and increasing funding to cover those costs.
3. Increase State funding for the Child Care Facilitated Enrollment Projects
4. Allocate funding to address the declining number of child care slots for infants and toddlers, and to recruit and train infant-toddler providers.
5. Ensure immigrant families have access to quality child care.
6. Continuing investment in SUNY/CUNY Campus Child Care, the New York State Agri-Business Child Development Program, and QUALITYstarsNY.
Because of inadequate funding, numerous counties have set their subsidy levels at less than 200% of poverty.  
- The eligibility levels in Albany, Delaware and Suffolk Counties are 125% of poverty (Once in receipt of a subsidy, Suffolk allows families to retain them until they reach 200% of poverty). To put that in context, a single parent with two children in 2018 would hit 125% of poverty if the parent earned $25,975.  
- Niagara County only serves those at or below 135% of the federal poverty level.  
- Although New York City has technically retained its eligibility levels at 200% of poverty, data show that few families over 135% of poverty are being served.  
- Four social services districts have lowered eligibility to 150%: Clinton, Oneida, Orange and Schenectady Counties.  
- Livingston and Rensselaer Counties have lowered eligibility to 160% of poverty.  
- In Ontario and Saratoga Counties eligibility is at 175% of poverty. 

Because of inadequate funding, numerous counties have set the subsidy family co-pay levels at the maximum allowable amount – 35% of income over the poverty level – making it impossible for some families to be able to accept subsidies because the co-pays are unaffordable.  
- A family of three with an income of 175% of the poverty level ($36,365.00), has to pay more than $5454.00 per year for child care, or nearly 15% of family income.  
- A family of three with an income of 200% of the poverty level ($41,560.00), has to pay $7,273.00 per year for child care, or more than 17% of family income.