

# CHILD CARE FACTS

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.
  - Lower adolescent pregnancy rates. Less drug use.
  - 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 \$6.8B 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.



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**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.

## STATE CHILD CARE INVESTMENT WOEFULLY INADEQUATE

*Few Eligible Families Get Help Paying for Care*

Region	Total Number of Eligible Children Under Age 6	Number of Children Under Age 6 Served	Percent of Children Under Age 6 Served
New York City	197,625	47,220	24%
Capital District	16,090	2,174	14%
Central New York	16,058	2,496	16%
Finger Lakes	24,324	4,524	19%
Hudson Valley	37,033	3,640	10%
Long Island	26,622	4,597	17%
Mohawk Valley	11,086	1,168	11%
North Country	9,537	632	7%
Southern Tier	12,444	1,637	13%
Western New York	27,867	3,208	12%

County-level estimates for the number of children under six outside New York City who are served by New York State's Child Care Assistance programs were derived from 1) US Census data for the number of children under 6 years old residing in households making less than 200% of the poverty threshold and the number of children under 6 years old residing in families with all parents in the workforce and 2) 60% (the share of children under 6 in NYS served by the child care assistance system) of the average number of children served by NYS's child care assistance programs each month from July 2017 – June 2018 according to NYS' Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

Data on New York City's five counties provided by Citizen's Committee for Children of New York. This data includes preschoolers who are enrolled in the City's Early Learn program, which integrates child care, pre-K and Head Start funding.

**EMPIRE STATE CAMPAIGN  
FOR CHILD CARE**

**Winning Beginning NY**

*an early care and learning coalition*