



Empire State Campaign for Child Care

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For Immediate Release

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OVER 450 CHILD CARE PROVIDERS AND PARENTS ATTEND PRESS CONFERENCE & VIRTUAL RALLY

Child care and afterschool care are essential to our State's recovery. Every day, more New York parents are being called back to work - but New York still has no plan for safely scaling up child care.

Today, over 450 child care providers and parents from across New York State, as well as state legislators, participated in a press conference and virtual rally to:

- urge New York State to immediately invest the remaining \$134M in CARES Act Funds and \$88M in committed state afterschool funds to enable child care and afterschool to safely ensure there is care for New York children this summer and beyond.
- urge the NYS Congressional delegation to ensure that the next federal relief package contains at least \$50 billion for child care to assist states to safely reopen and recover in the wake of the pandemic. New York cannot recover from the devastating losses and impacts of the epidemic alone.

Watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bw-kNA3iMn4>

"As we move forward through the phases of the reopening, reorganizing, reimagining, and recovery. We need federal investment in children." Gladys Jones, leader of ECE on the Move, (more than 600 home-based providers in NYC)

"Our expectation for our program is really uncertain, as we not sure if all children are coming back; if our ratio will be limited which will make it super difficult to continue paying all the bills and now adding the extra expenses of the PPE supply that we will need in order to provide safe care. We are screaming for help to support this funding because NYC family childcare are way under paid, no benefit and also on the front lines, exposing our own family. I will just hold down tight and take it day by day, we will pray and have faith that there will be a change."
Rebecca Gonzales, Time to Learn Day Care, parent and provider

"An available, reliable, and productive workforce is impossible without child care." Vonetta Rhodes-Osi, Buffalo, foster care social worker, mother of a 12-year-old, leader of the Western NY Child Care Action team made up of 50+ providers

"Since the outbreak of COVID-19, I have secured millions for New York in emergency child care funds, and I continue to push for billions more nationwide in future relief packages, including by cosponsoring the *Child Care is Essential Act* to establish a \$50 billion child care stabilization fund. I have long understood that affordable, quality child care is essential and that families need it today more than ever." - Congresswoman Nita Lowey, N Y-17, representing Rockland County and parts of Westchester County

"Thank you to the advocates and providers for your tenacity in fighting for our youth. Since March, New Yorkers lives have been turned upside down; and a generation of young, developing minds is ending a school year (and starting a summer) isolated at home. I have all the faith in our child care and afterschool providers and stand with them in calling for an increase in state and federal funding, paired with consistent guidance that ensures stability for the sector. New York needs a significantly greater federal investment. We must not stop pursuing the best for our children." Senator Roxanne J. Persaud (SD19)

"You cannot build a house without a good foundation and we cannot rebuild our economy in New York State without the foundation of quality child care. This is a critical economic development issue. I am once again calling upon the governor to release the \$134.6 million from the federal CARES Act, that has sat idle for well over a month. Our child care centers need this emergency support immediately to support our families and our workforce." Senator George Borrello (SD 57)

"As our State begins to re-open and more parents return to work, it is absolutely critical that there is adequate, affordable, and safe childcare available for all parents across New York. We must immediately invest the remaining \$134M in CARES Act Funds and \$88M in committed state afterschool funds to ensure there is care for our children both during the summer months and beyond. Child care has always been essential for families in New York. It is incumbent upon the government to do everything in our power to provide our child care workers with the financial support and resources to continue to serve our most treasured constituents, the children of New York State." Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi (AD28)

"As New York re-opens, we agree with Governor Cuomo that now is the time to strengthen infrastructure and build back better. It is also essential that we rebuild with an intentional focus on reducing racial inequities, poverty, and income inequality. Child care that is of high quality, affordable, and accessible in all regions of the state is crucial for a vibrant economy, and a more equitable New York. We urge New York and federal leaders to swiftly make substantial public investments to provide New York families the quality, affordable child care they will need to get back on their feet as New York recovers from the pandemic, and to support our essential child care providers, all in a manner that will strengthen the foundations of New York's child care system." Dede Hill, Policy Director of the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy; Co-Facilitator, Empire State Campaign for Child Care

“It’s as simple as this—many parents can’t work without child care and afterschool programs. A lack of safe, affordable care causes stress and uncertainty, which in the worst case scenario can lead to abuse. We need to strengthen NY families, now more than ever. We call on our State to invest CARES Act dollars and release a plan for moving forward.” Jenn O’Connor, Director of Policy and Advocacy, Prevent Child Abuse NY

“As the economy re-opens, it is critical that we strategically strengthen the capacity of afterschool and summer programs to provide expanded learning opportunities for students. These programs can help mitigate the significant learning loss students experienced while school buildings were closed. Learning loss is expected to be intensified in underserved communities that often lack the tools necessary for distance learning. Students and families will need extra support and resources to catch up, and afterschool and summer programs are uniquely positioned to offer these resources.” Kelly Sturgis, Executive Director, NYS Network for Youth Success

“We are beyond a crisis here. It was a crisis six weeks ago... There are providers closing their doors every day ... and about half of them will never re-open.” Beth Starks, Executive Director of the Chautauqua Lake Child Care Center