



## **Parents, Child Care Providers, Advocates Urge State Leaders to Include the Assembly's Strong Child Care Recovery Plan in the Final Budget**

New York's child care system is at a crossroads with programs serving as a lifeline for families working to recover from the economic and health devastation of COVID-19. Fortunately, the American Rescue Plan provides desperately needed investments in child care in order to stabilize and improve child care. It is up to New York State to ensure that the federal investment is spent wisely and boldly to build child care back better.

Empire State Campaign for Child Care (ESCCC) and Winning Beginning NY (WBNY) support the plan included in the Assembly's Budget Proposal. If enacted, it would significantly expand access to quality child care to many low-income families hit hard by the impacts of the pandemic, and set New York on a path to providing fair, equitable access to child care to all New York families. The plan would:

- Expand access to child care subsidies for families earning up to 85% of State Median Income
- Expand access to child care subsidies to priority groups across the state, including to parents seeking work or in job training; foster parents; parents who are disabled, among others
- Limit parent co-pays
- Compensate providers when children are absent
- Allow for up-front stabilization grants, wage supplements, and other investments to stabilize the workforce and child care providers

ESCCC and WBNY also believe it is crucial that the New York State Senate and New York State Assembly have a say in how the rest of the federal child care relief funds are invested to ensure these funds get to the families and providers who need them the most.

**We call upon state leaders to adopt the Assembly plan, and to adopt budget language providing the Legislature ongoing oversight over how New York invests these federal child care relief funds.**

With the State Budget deadline looming and more working parents returning to in-person work, New Yorkers need to know that the child care programs on which they depend are strong and fully supported by their government.