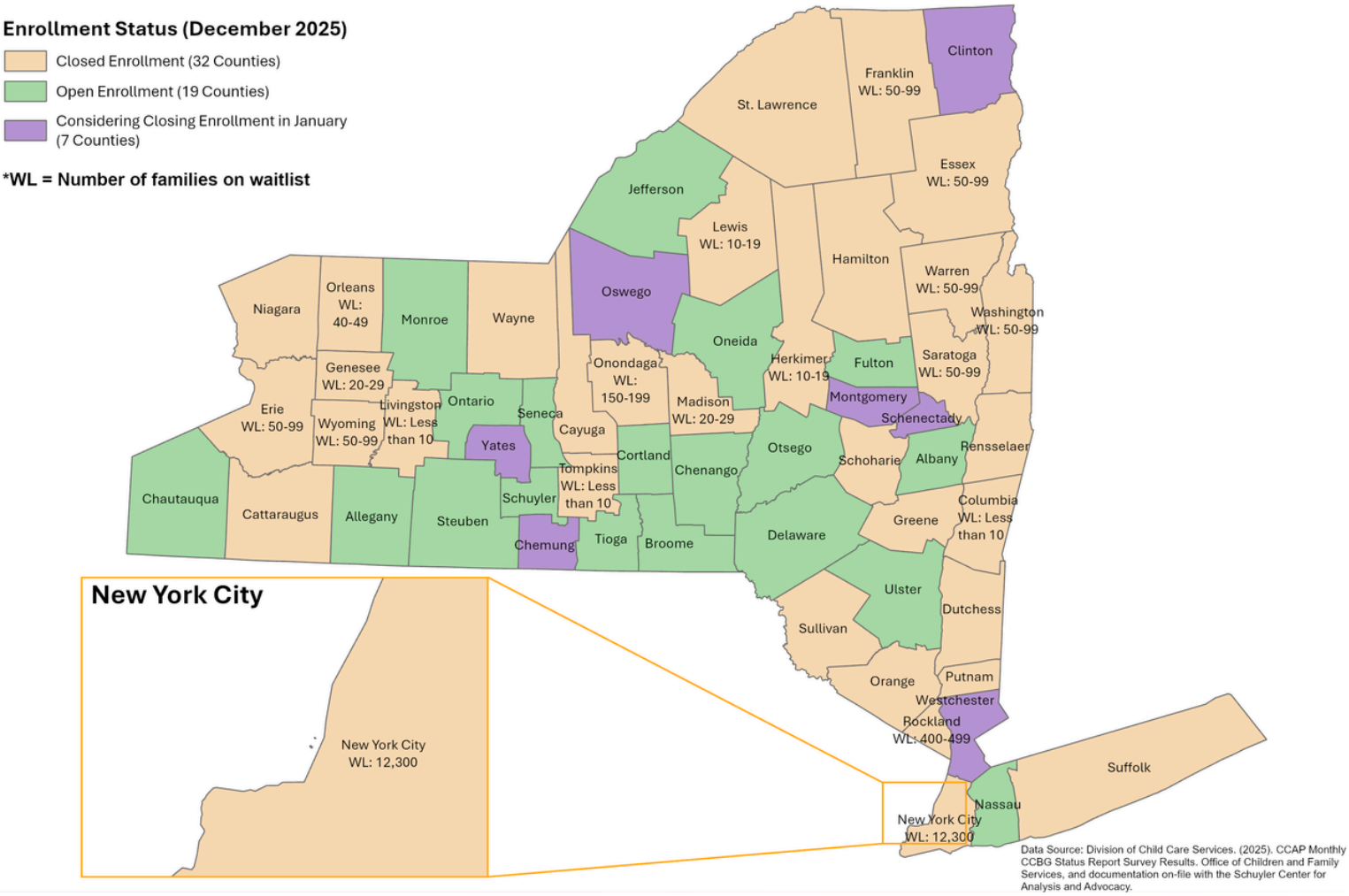
Access to Child Care Assistance for Low-Income Families must be Prioritized in the the Rollout to Universal Child Care

The State of New York's Children



Gaining access to child care assistance (CCAP) can be life-changing for families, resulting in annual savings of $16,000 or more for just one child in care, and allowing parents to work, pursue training or education. New York has dramatically expanded income eligibility for child care assistance since 2022, making hundreds of thousands of families newly eligible and laying the foundation for universal child care.[1] These expansions have been accompanied by a significant increase in state investment in the program, with state funding increasing more than threefold from an average investment was about $225 million in 2022 to $997 million in FY 2025. Yet, demand for this popular program is far outpacing investment - even with this additional new funding.

Currently, thousands of eligible families are unable to access CCAP in all corners of the state due to inadequate funding. The number of counties closing enrollment is expected to keep growing.

1. New York State Office of Children and Family Services (NYS OCFS). (2025). 25-OCFS-INF-03 – 2025 Income Eligibility Levels.