

MEMORANDUM

To: New York State Legislative Leaders
From: Kate Breslin, President and CEO, Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
Re: NYS Budget Priorities for Child, Family, and Community Wellbeing
Date: May 5, 2026

As budget negotiations for the New York State 2026-27 Budget enter the final stage, we urge you to prioritize policies that **improve health, wellbeing, and economic security of New York's families, children, and communities, with a focus on New Yorkers who are working hard to make ends meet**. Specifically, we call on you to include the following investments in the final enacted budget:

- **Child Care Workforce:** Adopt the Senate's proposal to include at least \$500 million in the final budget for the child care workforce, along with language that makes this fund permanent and the compensation supplements ongoing.
- **Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)**
 - Add additional state funds to ensure communities across the state can clear the CCAP waitlist and meet demand. The need is particularly great in New York City, which will need approximately \$1.14 billion in CCAP funding to clear the waitlist (currently at more than 18,000 children) and meet projected need.
 - Adopt the Assembly proposed budget language to ensure counties outside New York City—including the 34 that have closed enrollment due to inadequate funds—can immediately access supplemental CCAP funds and reopen enrollment.
 - Adopt the Assembly proposal to end the inequitable minimum earnings requirement (Article VII language and an additional \$18.7 million).
 - Ensure consistent, predictable child care assistance, decoupled from parents' exact hours of work, by incorporating decoupling/delinking (A.3174 (Hevesi)/S.2001 (Brisport)) into the final budget.
 - Double the enhanced (CCAP) rate paid to providers caring for children with disabilities. A.10586 (Hevesi)/S.9396 (Fahy)
- **Afterschool care:** Add additional funding for afterschool care (the Assembly proposes \$100 million; the Senate \$30 million) to help restore the loss of 48,000 LEAPS slots in recent years.
- **Keeping New York families together:**
 - Pass NY4All to help protect New York's immigrant children and families.
 - Add \$175 million to support critical legal services for immigrant New Yorkers. (The Executive Budget proposes \$8 million; the Senate and Assembly, \$110.8 million).

- Adopt the Senate’s proposal to include \$50 million for early high-quality legal representation (including timely defense) for families involved in Child Protective Services.
- **Child Poverty Reduction and Affordability for Families**
 - Include \$30 million in additional state funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). (Senate proposed an additional \$30 million).
 - Ensure full funding for the EBT chip card transition in the final budget, and a SNAP skimming victims’ compensation fund, to reimburse SNAP recipients who have had their benefits stolen.
 - Adopt the Senate and Assembly proposals to fund Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) at \$75 million.
 - Adopt the Senate and Assembly proposals to fund Nourish NY at \$75 million.
 - Adopt the Senate and Assembly proposals to fully fund a statewide permanent Housing Access Voucher Program at \$250 million.
- **Early Intervention:** Include an additional 8% rate increase in Early Intervention provider payment rates to address provider shortages that result in long waits for services.
- **Save Health Insurance:** Include funds in the final budget to protect health insurance for half a million New Yorkers set to lose their coverage due to federal action beginning July 1, 2026. (S.9589 (Rivera)/ A.10926 (Paulin))
- **Adult Homes. We urge restoration and expansion of the following critical funding that was inexplicably eliminated in the budget proposals:**
 - Include \$225,000 for the Coalition of Institutionalized Aged and Disabled (CIAD)—to ensure full and sustainable funding. CIAD is the only organization that consistently provides direct, on-the-ground advocacy for adult home residents, particularly in New York City.
 - Include \$230,000 for Adult Home Advocacy and Resident Council Programs—these provide critical legal support, advocacy, and organizing capacity that help residents prevent evictions, access benefits, and improve living conditions.
 - Include \$6.5 million for EQUAL (Enhancing the Quality of Adult Living) Program, a cornerstone of quality-of-life improvements in adult homes. It provides funding for necessities such as clothing, air conditioning, and improved living environments. The program ensures that residents have a direct role in determining how funds are used, reinforcing autonomy and dignity.
- **Revenue:** Protecting New York families and communities from the impacts of federal cuts to safety net, health, and other essential programs, and achieving meaningful expansion to child and family policies and programs, including cutting child poverty in half by 2031, will require sustained, reliable, and increasing public investment.

For more details see the [Empire State Campaign for Child Care’s Top NYS Budget Priorities \(April 2026\)](#); [Schuyler Center’s Next Look at the NYS 2026-27 Budget \(March 2026\)](#). Reach out to Dede Hill, Vice President of Policy, dhill@scaany.org or Kate Breslin, President & CEO, kbreslin@scaany.org with questions.