

Winning Beginning NY Executive Agenda 2017-18



Children's experiences from the prenatal period through third grade are strong predictors of future success in school and in life.

High-quality programs:

- support our workforce
- build our economy/combat poverty
- decrease child abuse and neglect
- increase health outcomes
- improve school readiness

New York State must invest **TODAY** in a strategic, systems-building approach.

Winning Beginning NY is a statewide coalition working to inform policymakers and the public about the many benefits of early care and learning for children from the prenatal period through age eight. Our priorities include high-quality afterschool, child care, early intervention, home visiting, and pre-K. The coalition aims to build a broad-based constituency to make investment in quality early care and learning a top public priority.

Child Care

As New York State implements federal CCDBG requirements, which impose new costs, it is critical that the State provide sufficient funding to maintain slots for the ~ 92,000 children that currently receive child care subsidies out of the 675,000 who are eligible.ⁱ

- Implement legislative and regulatory changes to implement the CCDBG requirements; invest \$56 million for criminal background checks and training; increase access to child care subsidies for children experiencing homelessness.
- Ensure subsidy funding is sufficient to cover the market rate at the 75th percentileⁱⁱ and addresses the impact of the minimum wage increase on existing salary structures.
- Create an Early Childhood Learning fund with a dedicated revenue stream to increase the percentage of children being served by child care subsidies.ⁱⁱⁱ

Pre-K

- Maintain all current funding for pre-K and add at least \$150 million to expand access to quality pre-K outside of New York City, with priority to high needs districts/neighborhoods.
 - \$125 million to expand access to pre-K for 3- and 4-year-olds in both public schools and early childhood programs in community-based organizations.
 - \$25 million to promote the infrastructure and support strategies, such as professional development, coaching and mentoring and other evidence-based methods that help programs meet quality benchmarks.
- Take steps to protect existing pre-K services and move the state toward a coherent and sustainable pre-K financing strategy.
- Include adequate investment in K-12 school aid, to ensure pre-K is followed by a continuum of quality educational services that prepare children for college and career.

Home Visiting

- Maintain \$26.8 million and invest an additional \$11.5 million in maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting to adequately fund a continuum of supports and services.

Early Intervention (EI)

- Begin restoring reimbursement rates by increasing the current rates by at least 5%.

Expanded Learning

- Appropriate \$32.8 million to the Advantage After School Program (AASP).
 - Increase Advantage After School funding to serve 20,000 participants, the peak number funded in 2007-2008 (+ \$5.9 million).
 - Align per student funding to Extended School Day funding level of \$1,600 per student, consistent with national best-practices (+ \$4.6 million).

Quality Rating and Improvement System

- Increase funding for QUALITYstarsNY by \$20 million to expand the program.

Workforce

- Create a state task force to evaluate the immediate and long-term impact of the increasing minimum wage on current salary structures and the cost of these critical services; and to develop recommendations to ensure appropriate compensation for the professionals working in these programs.

ⁱ New York State law provides that working families are eligible for child care assistance if their income is under 200% of the federal poverty line (e.g., \$38,180 for a family of 3). Office of Child Care Administrative data and U.S. Census data show that 676k children were eligible in 2014. Only 92,000 of those eligible children were served at any time, or 17%.

ⁱⁱ The Federal Government recommends that States reimburse at the 75th percentile.

ⁱⁱⁱ The cost estimate to serve all eligible children, based on current costs, is more than \$2B. Local, state, and federal investment needs to increase over time to serve all eligible children. We recommend naming a fund and developing a dedicated revenue stream to increase the State contribution in order to serve more of these eligible children.