

2019-2020 Child Care Budget Request March 2019

To bring some stability to New York's struggling child care system, and to enable more low-income families to access quality child care **we urge state lawmakers to:**

1. **Ensure the \$20 million ADDED by the Senate and Assembly for child care subsidies is included in the final enacted budget.** This investment will enable an estimated 2,200 additional New York children from low-income working families to have access to quality early learning, while making it possible for their parent(s) to work and achieve economic security.
2. **MAINTAIN the \$26 million included in the Executive, the Senate and Assembly budget bills to increase subsidy reimbursement rates.** We need an even greater level of state investment to bring the subsidy reimbursement rate to the federally recommended level so child care workers are paid a living wage, but this investment will help.

The cost of child care in New York rivals mortgage payments. The average cost for full-time center-based care is \$15,000 a year for an infant, and more than \$13,000 for a toddler, preschooler or school-age child. Yet, due to underinvestment in child care, it is estimated that fewer than 20% of eligible low-income working families who could benefit from subsidy assistance receive it.¹

Many of the child care educators caring for New York's youngest are paid wages that leave them living at or near poverty. The average median wage for a child care educator in New York is \$12.38 an hour or \$25,760 per year.² Low compensation causes high turnover rates, causing instability for young children who need consistency in caregivers to thrive.³

¹ Child Care Aware. *Parents and the High Cost of Child Care*. 2017. <https://usa.childcareaware.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/NewYork2017.pdf>

² Center for the Study of Child Care Employment (SCCE). *New York's Early Childhood Workforce Index 2018*. <http://cscce.berkeley.edu/files/2018/06/Early-Childhood-Workforce-Index-2018.pdf>

³ Maria Korjenevitch and Rachel Dunifon. *Child Care Center Quality and Child Development*. Cornell University, College of Human Ecology. 2010. https://www.human.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/PAM/Parenting/Child-20Care-20Center-20Quality-20-20Development-20Brief_FINAL.pdf See also *New York Times Magazine*, "Why Are Our Most Important Teachers Paid the Least? Would improving their training — and their pay — improve outcomes for their students?" (January 9, 2018).