



September 30, 2015

To NY Federal delegation

As organizations that are deeply committed to the early learning and care of New York's youngest citizens, **the following 116 groups urge you to increase the FY2016 appropriations for child care and preschool.** This will protect services for more than 21,000 children across our State, and ensure that New York can effectively support the new federal quality standards.

The FY2016 appropriation freezes funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG), failing to recognize the cost of implementing the new quality standards enacted by an overwhelming bipartisan vote last year. These important standards include expanded health and safety training, inspections, expanded background checks and fingerprinting in the first year. New York officials are still working toward a final estimate of the costs associated with the reauthorization of CCDBG. Their initial estimates run to a cost of at least \$90 million annually. Without additional federal funding, it is likely our State will have to cut services to our most vulnerable children and families.

New York's families are finding it increasingly difficult to find and pay for high quality child care, with the cost of care now outpacing the cost of rent or mortgage or even tuition at a public college. As found in a 2015 study by the non-partisan Center for Governmental Research, **only 22 percent of eligible children are served now. We simply cannot afford to cut services further,** especially in these challenging economic times.

The FY 2016 appropriation also fails to fund the Federal Preschool Development Grants for the full four years, as promised last year. Instead, the current appropriation only covers the first two years. New York State is proud to have secured an annual award of nearly \$25 million, and we are working to roll out full-day Pre-K to 5,000 four-year-olds. But our plans include meeting that goal and sustaining services for at least four years, not just the first two years now included in appropriations.

As a diverse group of New Yorkers working with children and families across New York State, Upstate and Downstate, from East to West, we stand together in New York to champion high-quality early care and learning across the nation. The solid history of broad bipartisan federal support for these services grows from the clear, strong evidence that there is no better investment we can make than one in the early years to support learning, development, and growth. We urge you to build on this history and ensure that our most vulnerable children can access these critical services.

We urge you to stand with us and increase the appropriations for these critical programs. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Kristen Kerr  
Co-Chair  
Winning Beginning NY Steering Committee

**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 in New York State.

The following New York groups support the Winning Beginning NY sign-on letter requesting increased funding for early care and learning programs in the FY 2016 appropriations.

1. 1199 Future of America Learning Center, Bronx
2. Action for a Better Community, Rochester
3. Advocates for Children, NEW YORK CITY
4. After-School Works-New York State After School Network
5. Alliance for Quality Education
6. Alliance of New York State YMCA's
7. Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse, Syracuse
8. American Association of University Women, Potsdam
9. American Baptist Churches, Rochester/Genesee Region
10. Auxiliary Services Corporation of Erie Community College, Orchard Park
11. Brooklyn Community Services, Brooklyn
12. Brooklyn Kindergarten Society, Brooklyn
13. Building Brighter Futures for Broome, Binghamton
14. Campaign for Children, NYC
15. Campaign for Educational Equity<sup>1</sup>
16. Capital District Child Care Council, Menands
17. Cattaraugus and Wyoming Counties Project Head Start, Olean
18. Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County
19. Center for Children's Initiatives
20. Champlain Valley AEYC, Plattsburgh
21. Chautauqua Association for the Education of Young Children, Chautauqua County
22. Child Care Council of Nassau, Franklin Square
23. Child Care Council of Rockland, Inc., Spring Valley
24. Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam, Inc., Poughkeepsie
25. Child Care Council of Orange County, Inc., Goshen
26. Child Care Council of Suffolk, Inc., Long Island
27. Child Care Council at City University of New York, New York City
28. Child Care Council of Westchester, Inc., Scarsdale
29. Child Care Resource Network, Buffalo
30. Child Care Solutions, Inc., Syracuse
31. The Children's Agenda, Rochester
32. The Children's Aid Society, New York City
33. Children's Continuous Care Inc., Macedon
34. Children's Defense Fund- New York

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<sup>1</sup> Views expressed by the Campaign for Educational Equity or its staff do not necessarily reflect the views of Teachers College.

35. Children's Institute, Rochester
36. Children's Learning Center at Hunter College, New York City
37. Citizen Action of New York
38. Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, New York City
39. Coalition for Asian American Children and Families, New York City
40. Coalition for Educational Justice, New York City
41. Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, Inc., New York City
42. Community Child Care Center of the Third Ward, Rochester
43. Cortland Association for the Education of Young Children, Cortland County
44. Children's Continuous Care, Inc., Macedon
45. Council of Catholic Charities Directors, Albany
46. Day Care Council of New York, Inc., New York City
47. Downtown Presbyterian Church Justice Ministry Team, Rochester
48. Early Childhood Direction Center, Amherst
49. Early Childhood Development Initiative, Rochester
50. Early Childhood Education Quality Council, Rochester
51. Early Childhood Policy Research, Climax
52. Early Care & Learning Council, Albany
53. The Early Years Institute, Port Washington
54. East Calvary Day Care Center, Manhattan
55. ECE PolicyWorks
56. Empire Justice Center
57. Family Enrichment Network, Johnson City
58. Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, New York City
59. Finger Lakes Association for the Education of Young Children, Tompkins County
60. Generations Child Care, Inc., Rochester
61. Greater Rochester Summer Learning Association
62. Habitots Preschool and Child Care Center, Middle Island and Medford
63. Harlem Children's Zone
64. Hawthorne Corners Day Care Center
65. Hillside Family of Agencies, Rochester
66. Horizons Student Enrichment Program, Rochester
67. Human Services Council, NY
68. Ibero American Action League, Inc., Rochester
69. Islamic Center of Rochester
70. Jefferson Avenue Child Development Center, Rochester
71. Jefferson –Lewis Childcare Project, Community Action Planning Council, Watertown
72. League of Women Voters of Rochester Metropolitan Area, Rochester
73. League of Women Voters of the City of New York, New York City
74. League of Women Voters of New York State

75. Little Angels Daycare, Fort Edward
76. Marie C. and Joseph C. Wilson Foundation, Rochester
77. Mid-Hudson Association for the Education of Young Children, Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster Counties
78. Mt. Hope Family Center, Rochester
79. National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Rochester Section
80. New York State American Academy of Pediatrics
81. Nurse Family Partnership
82. New York State American Academy of Pediatrics
83. New York State Association for the Education of Young Children
84. New York State Community Action Association
85. New York Zero to Three Network
86. Parenting Resource Network of the Friedberg JCC, Oceanside
87. Project URGE, Inc., Fairport, NY
88. Public Health Solutions, New York City
89. Read to Succeed Buffalo, Buffalo
90. Regional Early Childhood Direction Center, Rochester
91. Roc the Future: School Readiness Collaborative Action Network, Rochester
92. Rochester Area Community Foundation
93. Rochester Childfirst Network
94. Rochester Association for the Education of Young Children
95. Rochester City School District, Rochester
96. Rochester's Child, Rochester
97. Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
98. Society for the Protection and Care of Children, Rochester
99. Southern Adirondack Child Care Network, Glens Falls
100. Skaneateles Early Childhood Center, Moravia
101. SUNY Potsdam Child Care Center, Inc.
102. Tremont Crotona Day Care Center, Bronx
103. Tri-County Association for the Education of Young Children, Oneonta
104. Union Settlement, New York City
105. Utopia Children's Center, Manhattan
106. UJA-Federation of New York
107. United Neighborhood Houses of New York, New York City
108. United Way of Greater Rochester
109. United Way of New York City
110. United Way of Rockland, Inc.
111. Westchester Children's Association, White Plains
112. Western New York Women's Foundation, Buffalo
113. Willow Domestic Violence Center, Rochester

114. Williamsbridge NAACP Early Childhood Education Center, Bronx
115. YWCA of Schenectady
116. YWCA of Binghamton/ Broome County