Rebuilding Child Care in New York

After the first 18 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, New York has the capacity to provide child care to 10,554 fewer children.

Due to the closure of 3,524 child care programs, New York was left with 1,326 fewer child care programs.

Rural, upstate communities lost capacity at a higher rate than other regions. High poverty communities and communities of color were disproportionately affected.

Quality, affordable child care:

- Gives children a safe and nurturing environment where they can thrive developmentally.
- Can improve school readiness and support the educational attainment of children.
- Allows parents to earn income or pursue further education.
- Supports an expanded workforce for employers.
The Solutions

Federal government needs to support supply building and a phased-in expansion of income eligibility

New York State government needs to:
- Commit to universal child care with all due haste
- Establish a permanent stabilization program
- Target specific support to family-based child care
- Establish counter-cyclical supports for the industry

County governments need to:
- Adopt income requirements to the full extent allowed by law
- Allow the full number of child absences allowed by law
- Require the lowest family co-pay allowed by law
- Market available child care assistance

Targeted supports must be provided to:
- Invest in rural, upstate and high poverty communities and communities of color
- Automatically adjust child care subsidies to market rates
- Invest in workforce hiring, retention and professional development

Children need care
Parents need predictability
New York doesn't work without child care

Learn more in Rebuilding Our Future: Child Care Closures in New York During the Pandemic

Rochester, NY
www.thechildrensagenda.org
Contact: Pete Nabozny at (585)256-2620 ext. 2606

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