TheChildren'sAgenda

2023 Policy Priorities

Child Care

Move toward universal access to high quality child care with racial equity as a priority

Expand family access to child care assistance by enacting statewide presumptive eligibility, increasing coverage for night and weekend hours, and including undocumented children

Expand the child care workforce by establishing a short-term workforce compensation fund, transitioning to a new reimbursement method and pay scale, paying providers based on enrollment, instituting automatic market rate increases, and decoupling payment rates from private pay fees

Streamline the application process for child care assistance by developing a comprehensive online process and making families who are enrolled in other programs automatically eligible

Developmental Services

Increase equity and access to Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education

Reduce wait times for Early Intervention by strengthening workforce recruitment and retention with an 11% increase to reimbursement rates

Increase access to in-person services by offering higher rates or rate add-ons

Strengthen sustainability of Preschool Special Education by developing a new rate-setting method

Facilitate transparency and accountability by requiring the Bureau of Early Intervention to publish an annual report with data on wait times and disparities in services

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Education

Reduce the harmful impact of exclusionary discipline on young children

Reduce the use of suspensions in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 3 by enacting the Solutions Not Suspensions bill in its entirety

Reduce the use of suspensions in early childhood education and child care settings by designing and adopting similar legislation for child care settings

Health Care

Increase equitable access to health care and mental health services for children

Increase access to mental health services by increasing the number and capacity of school- and community-based mental health services in Rochester and across New York state and better coordination of local mental health initiatives

Ensure continuous access to health care by adopting continuous Medicaid coverage from birth through age 6

Increase health care access from pregnancy through early childhood by increasing funding for maternal-child health and improving State Medicaid policies

Child Poverty

Reduce child poverty and racial economic inequities

Build family economic security by expanding the Empire State Child Credit to cover children under age 4

Create equity by extending family tax credits to families with very low incomes and undocumented children

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