2024 Policy Priorities

Child Care

Move New York toward universal access to affordable, high-quality child care with racial equity as a priority

Increase compensation and benefits for the child care workforce by:
- creating a permanent child care fund to increase educator compensation
- increasing payment rates for “legally exempt” child care providers
- setting new child care rate method with meaningful input from providers and parents

Ensure all New Yorkers can access child care by:
- increasing capacity for evening, night and weekend care
- expanding access to children with developmental delays and disabilities
- ending the denial of assistance based on immigration status
- shortening wait times for child care assistance by enacting “presumptive eligibility”
- eliminating work hour requirements for child care assistance

Developmental Services

Decrease wait times for Early Intervention by making sure providers are there when kids need them

Increase reimbursement rates for all Early Intervention services delivered in person by at least 11%

Ensure long-term investments in Early Intervention that keep up with rising costs by replacing the outdated and inadequate rate-setting method

Attract new Early Intervention providers by creating a student loan forgiveness program for Early Intervention professionals who work in Medically Underserved and/or Health Care Provider Shortage Areas
Education

Reduce the harmful impact of exclusionary discipline on children and make sure all New York children have the opportunity to attend Pre-Kindergarten

Limit the use of suspensions in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 3 to only the most serious behavior

Shorten the maximum length of suspensions from 180 to 20 school days (except when required by federal law)

Require that students who are suspended receive academic instruction and the opportunity to earn credit, complete assignments and take exams

Adopt a Universal Pre-Kindergarten model that keeps up with rising costs for all UPK programs by recalculating the per-pupil amount annually and indexing to K-12 funding increases

Health Care

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

Offer more families with a new baby support through home visiting by increasing funding for ParentChild+, Nurse-Family Partnership and Healthy Families NY

Ensure young children do not lose their health insurance 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

Increase resources and remove barriers for youth in need of mental health services

Child Poverty

Reduce child poverty and racial economic inequities

Strengthen the state’s child tax credit by enacting the Working Families Tax Credit