



## EMPIRE STATE CAMPAIGN FOR UNIVERSAL CHILD CARE

### ESCCC Principles for Universal Child Care Vision - Adopted 11/30/21

The Empire State Campaign for Child Care (ESCCC) is committed to advocating for a bold, equitable and inclusive universal child care system in New York State within four years. As we move toward this goal, we commit to using our collective power to ensure that system reforms and funding reflect this vision, and prioritize the urgent needs of low income children and families. The vision of universal child care we are fighting to create would center the following key elements and guiding principles.

- 1. All children are universally covered.** There is no means testing or income eligibility cut off and every child is guaranteed access to an accessible, quality child care program in the type of child care setting that their family chooses.
- 2. Funding for child care is ample, predictable, consistent, and sustained long term.** The NYS government demonstrates its commitment to a universal system by filling any gaps in federal child care funding, and supporting identified improvements and enhancements.
- 3. The system supports and properly funds, at true cost of care, a choice of modalities (center-based, family-child care (FCC), and Legally Exempt).** Funding levels are based on licensed capacity and enrollment, as well as quality and licensing standards. Methods for determining funding will be transparent and funds will be provided directly to providers on a schedule that reflects provider budgetary needs. Training and assistance ensures all providers are able to successfully utilize required systems, maintain quality standards, and promote their services to local families.
- 3. The system promotes respect and just compensation for the child care workforce with compensation at parity with K-12, based on comparable experience and**

**responsibilities, across age groups and settings.** All providers are able to access professional pathways with value placed on hands-on experience and years in the field, as well as more traditional education criteria. Media campaigns consistently promote the workforce as professionals serving a critical health and education function; and the child care sector as key to the overall economy, the economic stability of families, and to the overall well-being and growth of children.

4. **Child care is available and accessible in all communities.** Expansion plans continue to address specific community needs and preferences, facilitate participation of FCC, prioritize racial equity, and address previously marginalized regions and communities. Innovative approaches are encouraged.
5. **All children, regardless of age or type of setting, have access to quality care.** Quality standards and funding mechanisms address, and actively work to reduce, discrimination based on race, gender, sexual preference, marital status, faith, geography, language and ability, and citizenship status; and encourage responsiveness to different languages, cultures and values. New resources and training for providers makes expulsion of children from the system rare or non-existent.
6. **System evaluation and reform is continuous and centered in quality and equity.** The system of evaluation ensures participation of providers and workforce representatives from different geographies and modalities; parents representing diverse races, genders and geographies as well as modality preference; those who have faced past barriers to access; policy experts, and legislators.