



THE LEGISLATURE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

August 4, 2020

Honorable Andrew Cuomo, Governor
Executive Chamber
NYS Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

We know that childcare programs in New York State have always played a pivotal role in the communities' economy as well as provide safe and wholesome environments for children. In order for New Yorkers to get back to work and repair an economy that has been battered by the COVID-19 pandemic, New York State must invest in our childcare communities.

As New York struggled through the first months of the pandemic, our essential workers relied on New York's childcare providers to enable them to go to work. Our childcare providers answered that call, proving that they are themselves essential workers, and did so despite great personal risk. They sacrificed for all New Yorkers.

We also know that a stable and accessible childcare industry is a prerequisite for more parents to return to work. In fact, New York State's economic recovery is reliant on the success of this particular industry.

Therefore, we do not understand why New York State government has been holding back tens of millions of dollars, allocated by the federal government for the childcare industry through the CARES act, at a time when 25% of childcare programs and 30% of school-aged child care centers have closed due to the pandemic. The remaining childcare providers are now losing money because of reduced capacity due to social distancing and other important health requirements and many more will be forced to close as well, making the states' decision to withhold funds even more perplexing.

In addition, the majority of New York's 15,512 licensed or registered childcare businesses are owned and/or run by Black and Brown women—the same population that has been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. To keep these businesses solvent, New York State needs to restore and sustain capacity by using the funds it already has on hand.

We are therefore writing not only to express our concern over New York's decision to withhold vast sums of money from the childcare industry, but to offer suggestions for the state to support providers and bolster New York's reopening.

We first urge the state to immediately compensate Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) agencies for regular contracts which have not yet been paid. The livelihoods of these essential providers - who are crucial to our recovery - are put at increased risk with each day of nonpayment.

Secondly, we suggest that remaining funds from the CARES Act child care appropriations - \$69 million of which has not yet been allocated, and at least \$10 million which remains from the Essential Worker Scholarship program - plus any remaining CCDBG and TANF funding, be used to

support programs that will be reopening, as well as supporting those programs that risked everything to stay open over the last 129 days.

Simply put, our childcare providers can no longer operate on their own. They need our help, and we must show our full support. Specific details on our proposals for the CARES Act appropriations are in the document attached with this letter.

Thank you for your attention and for your ongoing leadership during the pandemic. We look forward to working together to support the childcare industry, our economic recovery from the pandemic, and all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

Velmanette Montgomery, Chair
Senate Committee on Children & Families

Ellen Jaffee, Chair
Assembly Committee on Children & Families

Roxanne Persaud, Chair
Senate Committee on Social Services

Andrew Hevesi, Chair
Assembly Committee on Social Services

Donna Lupardo
Assemblymember, 123rd AD

Didi Barrett
Assemblymember, 106th AD

Crystal Peoples-Stokes
NYS Assembly Majority Leader

Félix W. Ortiz
Assistant Speaker, NYS Assembly

Andrew Gouardes
Senator, 22nd SD

George Borello
Senator, 57th SD

Timothy M. Kennedy
Senator, 63rd SD

Monica Martinez
Senator, 3rd SD

John Liu
Senator, 11th SD

Leroy Comrie
Senator, 14th SD

Julia Salazar
Senator, 18th SD

Brian Benjamin
Senator, 30th SD

Robert Jackson
Senator, 31st SD

Luis Sepúlveda
Senator, 32nd SD

Gustavo Rivera
Senator, 33rd SD

Alessandra Biaggi
Senator, 34th SD

Shelley Mayer
Senator, 37th SD

James Skoufis
Senator, 39th SD

Rachel May
Senator 53rd SD

Pam Helming
Senator, 54th SD

Michaëlle C. Solages
Assemblymember, 22nd AD

Fred Thiele
Assemblymember, 1st AD

Steven Englebright
Assemblymember, 4th AD

Michael J. Fitzpatrick
Assemblymember, 8th AD

Steve Stern
Assemblymember, 10th AD

Kimberly Jean-Pierre
Assemblymember, 11th AD

David McDonough
Assemblymember, 14th AD

Anthony D'Urso
Assemblymember, 16th AD

John Mikulin
Assemblymember, 17th AD

Ed Ra Assemblymember, 19 th AD	Melissa Miller Assemblymember, 20 th AD	Judy Griffin Assemblymember, 21 st AD
David Weprin Assemblymember, 24 th AD	Brian Barnwell Assemblymember, 30 th AD	Vivian Cook Assemblymember, 32 nd AD
Aravella Simotas Assemblymember, 36 th AD	Catalina Cruz Assemblymember, 39 th AD	Simcha Eichenstein Assemblymember, 48 th AD
Jo Ann Simon Assemblymember, 52 nd AD	Latrice Walker Assemblymember, 55 th AD	Tremaine Wright Assemblymember, 56 th AD
N. Nick Perry Assemblymember, 58 th AD	Charles Barron Assemblymember, 60 th AD	Deborah Glick Assemblymember, 66 th AD
Robert J. Rodriguez Assemblymember, 68 th AD	Inez Dickens Assemblymember, 70 th AD	Al Taylor Assemblymember, 71 st AD
Rebecca Seawright Assemblymember, 76 th AD	Michael Blake Assemblymember, 79 th AD	Nathalia Fernandez Assemblymember, 80 th AD
Carmen E. Arroyo Assemblymember, 84 th AD	Victor M. Pichardo Assemblymember, 86 th AD	Karines Reyes Assemblymember, 87 th AD
Amy Paulin Assemblymember, 88 th AD	J. Gary Pretlow Assemblymember, 90 th AD	Steven Otis Assemblymember, 91 st AD
Tom Abinanti Assemblymember, 92 nd AD	David Buchwald Assemblymember, 93 rd AD	Sandy Galef Assemblymember, 95 th AD
Kenneth Zebrowski, Jr. Assemblymember, 96 th AD	Colin Schmitt Assemblymember, 99 th AD	Aileen Gunther Assemblymember, 100 th AD
Christopher Tague Assemblymember, 102 nd AD	Jonathan Jacobson Assemblymember, 104 th AD	John T. McDonald III Assemblymember, 108 th AD
Patricia Fahy Assemblymember, 109 th AD	Carrie Woerner Assemblymember, 113 th AD	Barbara Lifton Assemblymember, 125 th AD
Al Stirpe Assemblymember, 127 th AD	William Magnarelli Assemblymember, 129 th AD	Philip Palmesano Assemblymember, 132 nd AD
Harry Bronson Assemblymember, 138 th AD	Monica P. Wallace Assemblymember, 143 rd AD	Angelo Morinello Assemblymember, 145 th AD
Karen McMahan Assemblymember, 146 th AD	Joseph Giglio Assemblymember, 148 th AD	Andy Goodell Assemblymember, 150 th AD
Nily Rozic Assemblymember, 25 ^h AD		

Prevent Child Abuse New York

Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy

Chinese-American Planning Council, Inc.

Citizens' Committee for Children

United Neighborhood Houses

Child Care Resource Network

Coalition for Homeless Youth

Alliance of New York State YMCAs

Alliance for Quality Education

Barrier Free Living

Bronx House

Catholic Charities of Chemung & Schuyler Counties

Catholic Family Center of Rochester

Center for Children's Initiatives

Citizen Action of New York

Committee for Hispanic Children and Families

Community Housing Innovations

Comunilife, Inc.

Cypress Hills Child Care Corporation

Day Care Council of New York

East Side House Settlement

Empire Justice Center

FPWA

Greater Syracuse Tenants Network

Goddard Riverside Community Center

Henry Street Settlement

Homeless Alliance of Western New York

Homeless Services United

Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness & Housing

Legal Services Staff Association, NOLSW, UAW 2320

Mental Health Association in Orange County, Inc.

New York Association for the Education of Young Children

NYC Child Care Resource and Referral Consortium

Program Design and Development

Queens Community House

Resource Center for Accessible Living

Rochester's Cornerstone Group

Southern Tier Independence Center

Tenants Political Action Committee

Trinity Alliance, Inc.

United Auto Workers Region 9A

United Community Centers

Unity House of Troy, Inc.

YWCA- Binghamton and Broome County