



Invest \$5 million in Quality Child Care for New York's Young Children

Nearly 900,000 of New York's children under the age of six will spend some time in child care outside the home.¹ Study after study proves that those who receive high-quality child care are more likely to succeed in school and life. In New York State, Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agencies work with tens of thousands of licensed, registered and legally-exempt child care programs each year. They are the "glue" that holds the child care industry together through their support of child care providers, parents, businesses and local governments. The level of expertise CCR&Rs provide is invaluable, yet it has been underfunded for the last decade.

Quality

Quality child care is possible with the right support and professional development. ECLC and the CCR&R network provide experienced, credentialed and highly effective professional development services to promote best practices and support child care providers.

For thousands of parents, child care providers and employers throughout New York State, CCR&Rs are the pathway through the complex child care system.

CCR&R contracts with the Office of Children and Family Services have remained flat for over a decade and in fact were cut in 2012. At that time minimum wage was \$7.25 an hour. Next year the minimum wage will reach \$15/hour, while the overall cost of living is much higher. With increasing overhead, CCR&Rs have been forced to keep already low wages stagnant. In a field where the overwhelming majority are women, this is perpetuating the pay gap.

The CCR&R Network has the connection to the local child care providers and the knowledge of regional needs, challenges and opportunities facing families. CCR&R staff are professionals with expertise in local resources, parent engagement, quality standards and early childhood education best practices. They are tasked with serving families who are in need of early childhood services and with supporting the child care community which is facing a growing crisis. In order to reach real pay equality, the specialized and necessary work of the CCR&R agencies must be compensated.

\$5 million is needed from general funds to support the Early Care & Learning Council and the Child Care Resource & Referral Network as we deliver critical services to boost the quality of child care. This amount represents the funding level our agencies would be at if the 2012 cut was restored and Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) had been added to subsequent contract cycles.

The Early Care & Learning Council promotes equitable access to excellent early care and learning for New York children and families as we advance a strong, statewide network of 35 community-based CCR&R agencies. ECLC and its members are statewide leaders on issues affecting access to high quality early care and learning, with a presence in communities throughout the state.

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¹ American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau