

Our Founding

The Empire State Campaign for Child Care (ESCCC) was founded in the wake of threats to cut the New York State child care subsidy program during the 2017 state budget negotiations. The bipartisan Legislative Women’s Caucus joined with child care advocates to ask for a sorely needed \$100 million increase in child care funding to maintain the number of existing providers and subsidized slots. The Governor responded with a proposal to cut subsidies by \$27 million.

Together, legislators—led by leaders of the Legislative Women’s Caucus, the Women of Color Task Force of the Black, Hispanic, Puerto Rican and Asian Legislative Caucus, and the Assembly Task Force on Women—and advocates fought back. As a result, the final Budget contained subsidy funding cuts of only \$7.43 million. A significant increase was won for after-school programs and middle-class families were able to benefit from a small expansion of the child care tax credit. But the subsidy program, in particular, took a hard hit, and other critical issues impacting the child care system were ignored.

The budget battle illustrated that many of our legislative leaders were unconcerned about the significant challenges child care providers and working families face in ensuring that all of our children can access the quality care that they need and deserve. It also showed that many leaders did not understand the critical role the child care system plays in our local and state economies.

In July of 2017, representatives of 50 organizations came together to share concerns and ideas. Together, we envisioned the creation of a statewide, powerful grassroots movement, one that centers and is driven by the experiences and needs of parents and child care providers, with the capacity to educate and motivate our elected leaders to dramatically expand and transform New York child care. **In October 2017, we became the Empire State Campaign for Child Care.**

Our Goal

We are working toward a child care system that is free of means testing, with no income, immigration status, or parent activity requirements. We envision a child care system that compensates child care educators equitably and adequately, on par with their public school counterparts. We strive to build a system that is culturally-responsive and is coordinated and aligned with the many systems families and children rely upon to thrive, including home visiting, early intervention services, preschool special education, afterschool, and prekindergarten. This system recognizes and funds child care as a public good, not a private service.

Our Membership

A core principle of ESCCC is to be broadly inclusive and representative of the child care community, and to elevate and center the needs and voices of child care providers and parents especially. This principle is reflected in our campaign structure and at our leadership tables. Our Steering Committee is now co-chaired by a former provider and leader of ECE on the Move, a network of 600 home-based child care providers in NYC. Of the nine spots on the ESCCC Executive Committee, two are held by former providers representing regional provider networks, one by a parent, and one by a grassroots organization. Beginning in 2023, to better enable the full engagement of the steering committee members not receiving a salary for their ESCCC work, we began paying those steering committee members a stipend. Further, child care providers and parents are actively and meaningfully engaged in every committee of the ESCCC, including the Legislative Committee which is charged with creating the ESCCC's policy priorities and engaging with legislative and agency leaders. In short, parents and providers are at all ESCCC tables, in active and integral ways; and we are committed as a campaign to continue to act with intention to engage more parents and providers in all aspects of our work.

In addition, ESCCC is building bridges with constituencies that are deeply impacted by the crisis in access and affordability but not otherwise focused on child care including organizations focused on child welfare (RISE), immigrant rights (New York Immigration Coalition), civil liberties (New York Civil Liberties Union), gender justice (PowHERNY), workers' rights (ROC United), and business (the Business Council of NYS). ESCCC's leadership structure has developed over time and is now much more representative of its diverse membership.

The three lead organizations of ESCCC, are:

- ▶ **Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy**, a 152-year-old, Albany-based non-profit, dedicated to advancing policy to improve the well-being of low-income New Yorkers, especially children and families in underserved Black and brown, low-income, and immigrant communities;
- ▶ **The Alliance for Quality Education**, dedicated to grassroots organizing and leadership development of Black, brown, and low-income parents, so those who are directly impacted by policy are engaged in policy development and shaping outcomes in their community; and
- ▶ **The Children's Agenda**, which advocates for effective policies and drives evidence-based solutions for the health, education, and success of children, especially those children most vulnerable because of poverty, racism, health inequities, and trauma.

ESCCC is led with strong support from numerous partners from across the state including New York City, Buffalo, Rochester, Albany/Capital Region, and the North Country. In addition, among the leadership team are both family child care and center-based early education providers, predominantly Black and brown women, who are in the field every day serving children and families in their communities. Our team leads continue to expand their work coordinating with parent groups to elevate the experiences of Black, brown, immigrant, and low-income parents and providers to state leaders. We prioritize meeting the needs of non-English-speaking participants by translating campaign communications and offering interpretation in our campaign meetings and convenings.

We continuously work to strengthen our powerful inside-outside strategy, where we work closely, and with trust, with New York State policymakers and lawmakers, including by having a strong presence on the Governor’s Child Care Availability Task Force. Currently, this Task Force is creating a roadmap for universal child care in New York State. At the same time, the ESCCC is the backbone of an assertive grassroots campaign that is building public awareness and people power that shows up in-person and on social media to demand the investment and policies families and child care providers need.

ESCCC currently consists of approximately 100 member organizations, many individual members, and a network of over 2,000 supporters.

Our Members include:

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| ABC Learn and Play | Chautauqua Lake Child Care Center |
| ABC Nursery School | Chemung County Child Care Council |
| Abeja Montessori, LLC | Child Care Center at SUNY Broome |
| Adirondack Birth to Three Alliance | Child Care Center at SUNY Cortland |
| Advocates for Children of New York | Child Care Coordinating Council of North Country |
| All Our Kin | Child Care Council, Inc. |
| Alliance for Quality Education | Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putman |
| Angel Face Daycare | Child Care Council of Nassau |
| Bank Street Education Center | Child Care Council of New York Inc. |
| Bizzy Bz Daycare | Child Care Council of Orange County, Inc. |
| Brightside Up | Child Care Council of Suffolk |
| Brooklyn Coalition of Early Childhood Programs | Child Care Council of Westchester |
| Brooklyn Kindergarten Society | Child Care Resource Network |
| Business Council of New York State | Child Care Resources of Rockland |
| Campus and Community Children's Center | Child Care Solutions, Inc. |
| Capital District YMCA | Child Development Council |
| Care-A-Lot Child Care | Children's Defense Fund-New York |
| Center for Montessori Education | Chinese American Planning Council |
| Chautauqua County Education Coalition | Citizen Action of New York |

Citizens' Committee for Children of New York
Civil Service Employees Association
Committee for Hispanic Children and Families
Community Action Planning Council
Creative Beginnings Child Care, Inc.
Day Care Council of New York
Discovery Village
Early Care and Learning Council
Early Childhood Alliance of Onondaga County
ECE on the Move
Education Trust New York
Elmcor Rising Scholars
Empire Justice Center
Families Together in New York State
Family Enrichment Network
Family of Woodstock, Inc.
Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies
Generation Hope
Generations Child Care, Inc.
Hankie's Child Care Corp.
Jumpstart NY
Liftoff Western New York
Low Income Investment Fund
MHA Preschool at Temple Sinai
Moms Rising
Mt Kisco Child Care Center
Network for Youth Success
New York Association for the Education of Young Children
New York Civil Liberties Union
New York Immigration Coalition
New York State Network for Youth Success
New York Union Coalition
Paper Planes Early Learning Center
Pattycake Playhouse, Inc.
Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts
PowHer New York
Prevent Child Abuse New York
Raising New York

Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York
Rhythm and Rhyme Child Care Center
RISE
Roc ACTS
Rochester Childfirst Network
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
Southern Adirondack Child Care Network
St. Lawrence Child Care Council
Temple Israel Nursing School
The Children's Agenda
The Treehouse Child Care Center
The YMCA of Greater Rochester
United Jewish Aid Federation of New York
United Neighborhood Houses of New York
Unity House of Troy
Westchester Children's Association
Westchester Early Childhood Director's Association
Western New York Child Care Action Team
Western New York Women's Fund
Wiggle Room Childcare
Women's Housing and Economic Development Corporation
Youth Research Institute
YWCA of Binghamton
YWCA Children's Centers