



Universal Child Care Proposal Opens the Door to Universal Out-of-School Time



The Association of New York State Youth Bureaus supports the Executive Budget proposal to create a pathway toward affordable, universal child care for children under the age of five across New York State. This is a critical investment in families and young children. At the same time, all of our state's children and youth deserve safe, supportive places to go during out-of-school time, spaces where they can learn, grow, and thrive.

We urge the Governor and the Legislature to build on this proposal by advancing a vision for universal out-of-school time, ensuring that school-aged children also have access to these essential opportunities.

We are encouraged by the Governor's acknowledgment that child care is a necessity for many working families, yet remains too often inaccessible and unaffordable.

We share the vision for New York to lead with a robust, high-quality out-of-school time system supported by strong infrastructure and a dedicated workforce. These investments will not only support working parents and strengthen the economy, but also ensure children and youth have safe, supportive places to learn and thrive.

As the state rolls out universal child care, it is essential that investments include strategies to recruit, retain, and support a high-quality workforce. Many youth serving nonprofit community-based organizations face significant challenges hiring and retaining staff due to the demanding nature of the work and persistently low wages. In addition, school districts are often able to pay teachers and child care staff at higher rates than

nonprofit providers, creating ongoing pay parity challenges. A successful universal child care system will require a workforce that is valued, well compensated, and supported.

Finally, we encourage the state to build on the universal child care initiative by advancing universal out-of-school time opportunities for all children and youth. Many school-age youth lack safe, structured places to go after the school day ends, particularly when parents work second or third shifts. Youth Bureaus and youth serving community-based organizations provide a safe space where youth participate in positive youth development programs with peers and caring mentors. Robust after-school and out-of-school time supports are a critical investment in the safety, development, and long-term success of New York's children and youth.