

“I Need it to Keep My Job”

Cuts to Child Care and After-School Will Force Parents Out of the Workforce



INTRODUCTION

New York City's working parents rely on child care and after-school—and New York City relies on these working parents. The harm that will come to the parents and their children who are about to lose child care and after-school programs due to budget cuts proposed to go into effect on July 1¹ is incomprehensible. So too is the workforce impact it would have on New York City's economy.

The parents of children in New York City's child care and after-school programs contribute to the city's economy through practically every conceivable field in the workforce. These New Yorkers work in government, medical institutions, private homes, small businesses, social service programs, non-profits, schools, and large businesses. They are doctors, nurses, homeless shelter staff, bank tellers, school crossing guards, taxi drivers, hospital dietitians, home health aides, EMTs, electricians, aircraft mechanics, nannies, barbers, school psychologists, waitresses, business owners – and the list goes on and on.

The following report, based on more than 5,700 surveys of working parents, finds that ninety-five percent (95%) of these working parents rely on child care and after-school programs to be able to work.

These are the same child care and after-school programs that are slated for over \$130 million in cuts. With thousands of working parents due to lose programs that enable them to stay employed, Mayor Bloomberg's proposal to eliminate child care and after-school for more

47,000 children would deal a heavy blow to the City's economy if enacted.

METHODOLOGY

New York City is once again poised to cut child care and after-school services from more than 47,000 children. With the final City Budget due July 1, 2013 and an upcoming Mayoral election, the Campaign for Children sought to document the critical job functions that the parents of these children are performing, so that the City's elected leaders could weigh the ramifications of eliminating these programs.

During the month of March 2013, the Campaign for Children administered a survey to the parents whose children are currently enrolled in child care and after-school programs [a copy of the survey can be found in Appendix 1]. The survey was administered in English, Spanish and Chinese.

The survey asked parents: 1) the borough they live in; 2) whether they have a child in a child care or after-school program; 3) what their job function is; 4) the name of their employer; 5) whether they rely on child care and/or after-school to keep their job; and 6) why child care and/or after-school is important to their family.

By the end of March 2013, the Campaign for Children had received 6,315 survey responses from across the five boroughs. Of the total, 5,704 parents were working, while the remaining 611 were not participating in the work force.²

¹ Some of the children slated to lose their after-school program would lose care on September 1, 2013.

² Of the 611 parents who were not working: 382 were unemployed/house-wives/looking for work; 193 were students and 36 were either disabled or caring for a disabled/sick child. These 611 surveys were considered "Not Applicable" in other survey calculations focused on working parents.

RESPONSES FROM WORKING PARENTS:

Borough	Number of Responses
Bronx	1,344
Brooklyn	1,767
Manhattan	1,277
Queens	1,178
Staten Island	138
TOTAL	5,704 working parents

“This program is so important because without it I don’t know what I would do. All of my family lives in the Bronx, and I don’t have the flexibility to count on anyone else. I will go crazy without this program.”

– Marketing Professional for Fidelis Health Insurance, living in Queens.

“Child care is extremely important to me. I am a single parent who works full time. I have no one to care for my daughter. Having a place you can trust in is a big deal. I work long hours and have no one to watch my child.”

– Bank Officer at NEICU, living in Queens.

FINDINGS

The survey results point to several major findings:

- **The working parents whose children are enrolled in NYC’s child care and after-school programs are employed in every major job sector and perform a wide range of job functions.**

“Child care is important for my family because not only am I a working parent but my child learns a lot.”

– Cashier at Zabar’s, living in Manhattan.

The survey findings document that parents are performing all types of job functions in all

types of workplaces throughout New York City. For example, within the New York City Police Department, surveyed parents were not only police officers, but also school safety agents, crossing guards, secretaries, janitors and an attorney. Similarly, in hospitals, the parents were doctors, nurses, medical assistants, janitors, surgical schedulers, dietitians, x-ray technicians, social workers, and more.

“Without child care, I have no job.”

– Program Specialist for the Department of State, living in the Bronx.

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These parents also work for a variety of employers, from City agencies to large corporations to small businesses. By asking parents what kind of work they do and the name of their employer, the findings document not only the types of jobs parents hold, but for whom they are working.

“I need it to keep my job. There is no one to watch my children while I am at work,”

– New York City school teacher, living in the Bronx.

- **The working parents whose children are enrolled in NYC’s child care and after-school programs have jobs that are critical to the City’s economy, and imperative for all New Yorkers to sustain their quality of life.**

The survey findings document that the parents, of children at risk of losing child care and after-school programs, have jobs that are essential to NYC. They help keep New Yorkers safe, they help keep New Yorkers moving, they help keep New Yorkers healthy, and they help make New York City a better place to live.

These parents are keeping New Yorkers safe in every capacity possible. For example, the surveyed parents’ jobs include child protective workers investigating child abuse and neglect, school bus monitors, police officers, school crossing guards, TSA agents, bridge and tunnel inspectors, military officers, and security guards.

Some of the parents literally make the City go. Parents are working for the MTA as subway conductors, bus drivers, and safety inspectors. They drive moving vans, school buses, taxis, ambulances and Access-a-Ride.

“My child’s security, development, and socialization. I could not work without child care,”

– Library manager at the New York Public Library, living in the Bronx.

The surveyed parents are saving lives and making lives easier every day. They deliver babies, serve as home health aides to the elderly, and work at doctors’ offices, clinics and hospitals. They help people at homeless shelters, foster care agencies, nursing homes, and after-school programs. They are teaching children at child care centers, public schools, private schools, charter schools and in their own homes.

And they are strengthening the City’s economy by owning businesses, working at accounting firms, banks and law firms, designing clothes, managing restaurants, and selling jewelry, cars and televisions.

“So me and my husband are able to provide everything our family needs. It has also helped my children grow,”

– Toll collector on the New York State Thruway, living in the Bronx.

- **Nearly all of the working parents whose children are enrolled in City child care and after-school programs rely on these programs to be able to keep their jobs.**

The survey results show that the City’s child care and after-school programs are a lifeline to working parents – without which they would be unable to maintain employment. In fact, 95% (5,423) of the working parents who responded to the Campaign survey said that they rely on child care and after-school to be able to keep their job.

“It is imperative to me that my son receive an education, which will be beneficial to his future. It also allows my family to work in order to provide for him,”

– Global Customer Support Representative at Bloomberg L.P., living in the Bronx.

A survey conducted in May of last year by the Campaign for Children found that half of parents who rely on child care and one-third of parents who rely on after-school would need to quit their jobs if they lost access to these programs.³ Together with the results of this most recent survey, the responses of parents clearly show that cuts to child care and after-school would mean thousands of parents leaving the workforce. They would be leaving critical jobs at all types of businesses serving all types of functions – meaning these cuts harm not only families, but our local and citywide economy.

TYPES OF JOBS

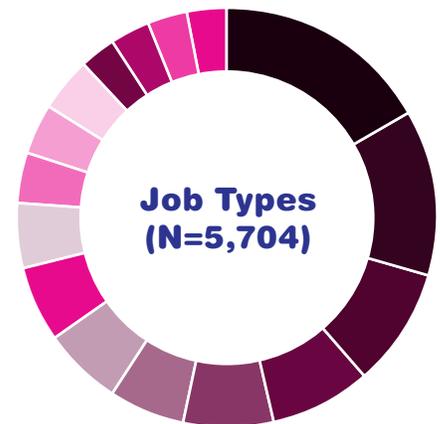
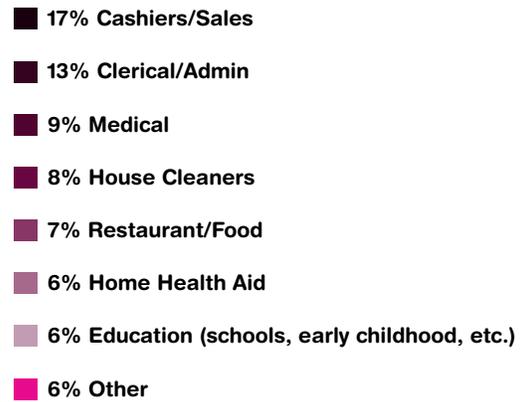
The working parents who rely on the City’s child care and after-school programs are employed in every major job sector and perform a wide array of job functions that are critical to our City’s economy and our citizens’ quality of life. To illustrate the breadth of fields in which parents are working, the bar graph and pie charts below show the types of jobs these parents hold, arranged by category and with subsets for some job type categories.

“I need after-school care since I’m a single parent and I work full time,”

– Secretary at the NYC Law Department, living in Manhattan.

“Without child care our daughter would miss out on important social skills to better her future. We wouldn’t be able to work and would be forced to stay home with her,”

– Salesperson at Lowe’s Home Goods, living in Manhattan.



³“Campaign for Children. Parent Voices: What Will You Do if the City Closes Your Child’s Child Care or After-School Program? May 2012.”

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The fields with the most parents employed are:

- **Cashier/sales (943 parents):** includes selling merchandise in clothing stores, supermarkets, toy stores, fast food restaurants, car dealerships, as well as working as food vendors at food carts.
- **Clerical/administrative (768 parents):** includes a wide-range of secretarial, administrative, customer service, human resources, and other critical administrative functions at a variety of workplaces including non-profits, well-known financial offices, hospitals, government agencies and schools.

“This program is so important because without it I don’t know what I would do. All of my family lives in the Bronx, and I don’t have the flexibility to count on anyone else. I will go crazy without this program.”

— Marketing Professional for Fidelis Health Insurance, living in Queens.

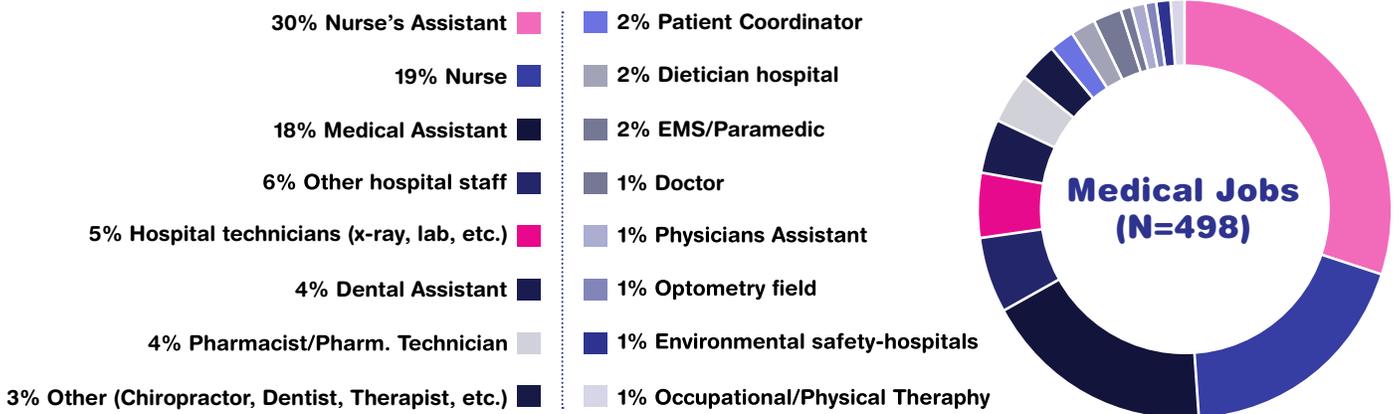
Medical (498 parents): includes dentists, nurses, nurses’ assistants, physicians’ assistants, therapists, and more.

“Because I don’t have to worry that my child is in danger,”

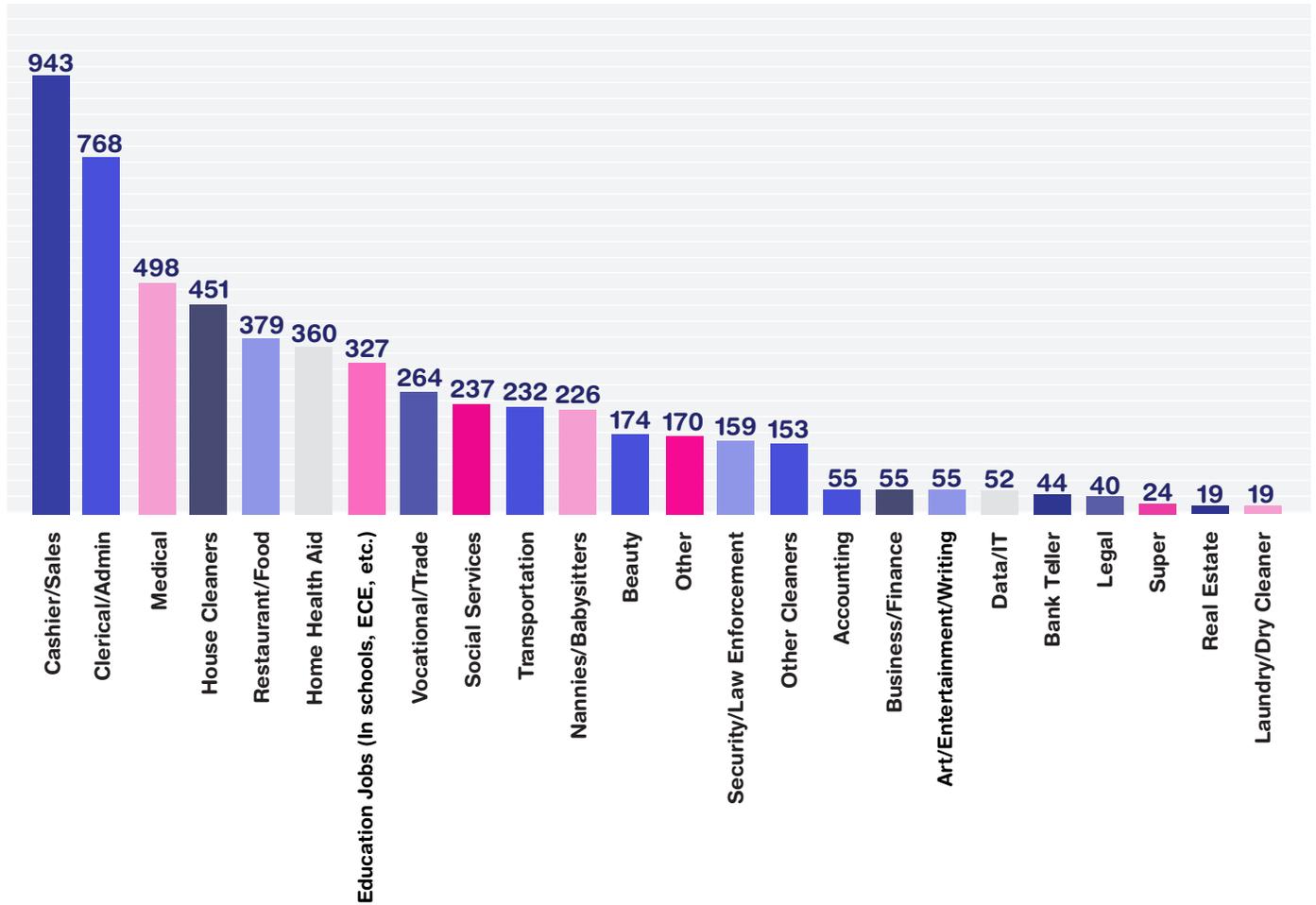
— Customer service representative at a flower shop, living in the Bronx.

Many of the parents are also working as care-givers, often in positions that help other working parents maintain employment, by working as:

- Nannies/babysitters (226)
- House cleaners/housekeepers (451)
- Public school teachers (90)
- Early childhood education staff (118)
- Home health aides (360)
- Employees at social service programs (237)
- Employees in security/law enforcement (159)



Job Types for Parents (N=5,704)



“I need this service! Knowing my child is in a place that helps him do his homework and where he can do fun activities helps me. I don’t have to pay for babysitter services and that money can be used to pay my bills. Thank you.”

– Home Health Aide, living in the Bronx.

“After-school is important to my family because my child receives extra help with homework. Since we get home late he doesn’t have to do homework with me. It is also very important because the environment is safe,”

– Administrative Assistant at the ACLU, living in Queens.

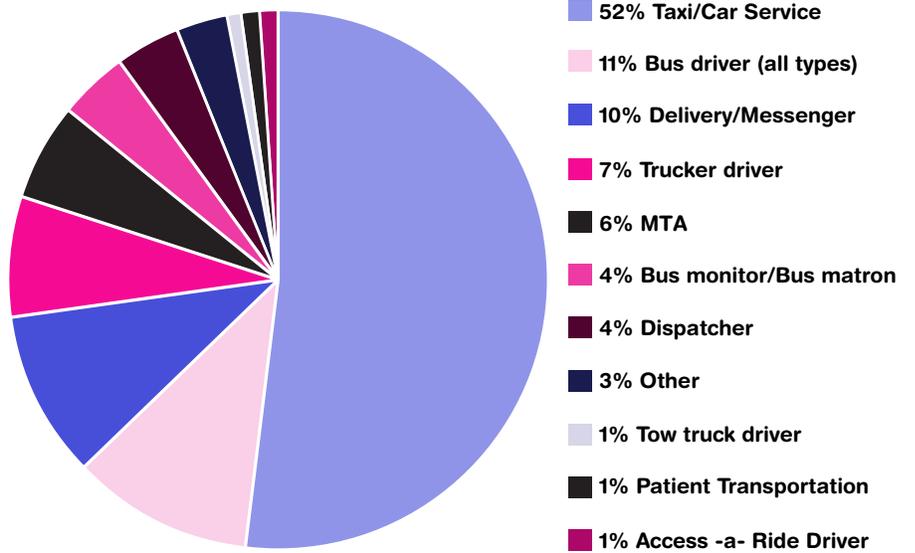
“It is important because it gives my child the opportunity to interact with other children and [be] able to develop his communications skills,”

— Diplomat at the United Nations, living in Manhattan.

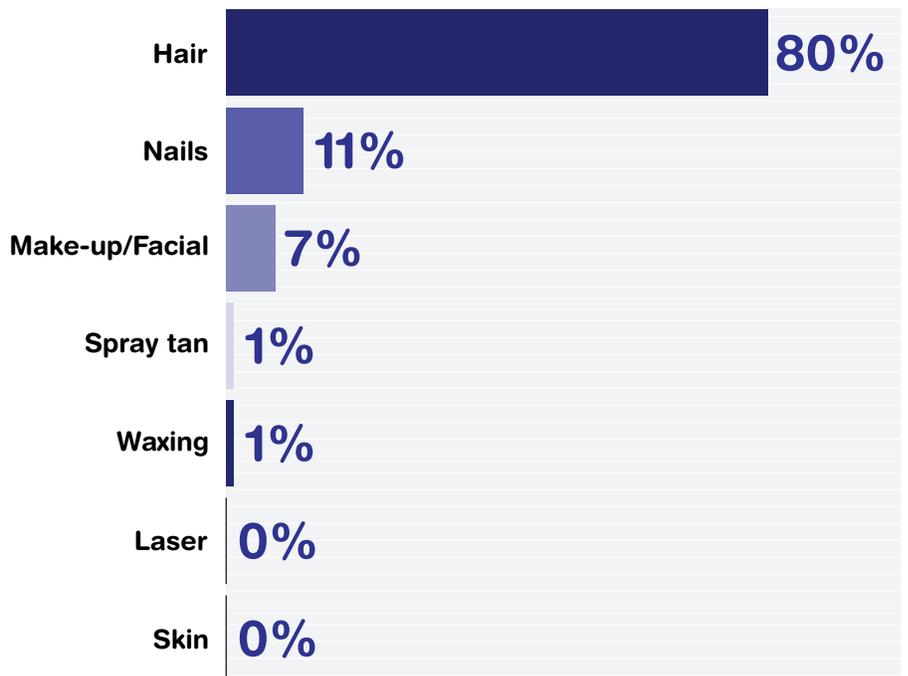


- 43% Security
- 23% NYPD
- 11% NYPD-School Safety Agent
- 6% Corrections officer
- 5% NYPD-School Crossing Guard
- 4% Military
- 3% Court officer
- 2% Other
- 1% Homeless services officer
- 1% TSA Agent
- 1% Bodyguard

Transportation Jobs (N=232)



Beauty/Salon Jobs (N=174)



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- 27% Construction worker
- 13% Factory worker
- 8% Warehouse/Stock
- 8% Bldg Super
- 7% Electrician
- 5% Maintenance
- 4% Welder
- 4% Carpenter
- 3% Plumber
- 2% Painter
- 2% HVAC
- 2% Movers
- 2% Repairman/Handyman
- 2% Elevator Mechanic
- 2% Auto Mechanic
- 1% Other Mechanics
- 1% Plane luggage loader
- 1% Contractor
- 1% Aircraft Mechanic

THE EMPLOYERS

Not only are working parents who rely on City child care and after-school fulfilling numerous job functions, they are employed by both large and small government agencies, social service non-profits, schools, hospitals, medical facilities, businesses, and families [see pie chart and table below, showing the employers for whom the parents are working].

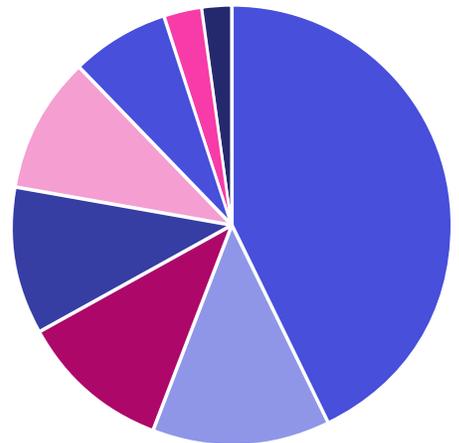
Parents work at many of the places New Yorkers know well and frequent often. Some of the large, well-known businesses parents are working at include:

McDonald's, Zabar's, Chase Bank, Verizon Wireless, CNBC, The Daily News, Target, New York Sports Club, Con Edison, Bloomberg LP, Deloitte, Amtrak, Macy's, Duane Reade, Gristedes, Apple, The W Hotel, Moody's, Morgan Stanley, Bloomberg LP, Deloitte, Amtrak.

Parents are also working at many of the quintessential NYC institutions that make New York City what it is. These include:

Madison Square Garden, The Barclay's Center, The New York Public Library, The Guggenheim, The Frick, The Bronx Zoo, The Empire State Building, The 9/11 Tribute Center, Citi Field, The Yale Club, Yankee Stadium.

For Whom Parents are Working (N= 5,704)



- 43% Small Business/Private Company
- 13% Private Family
- 11% Large Business/Company
- 11% Medical
- 10% Auto Mechanic
- 7% Social Services/Non-profit/Non-DOE Schools/Religious Institutions
- 3% Self-Employed
- 2% Other

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Parents are also working at almost every City agency and City hospital. The sample of approximately 5,700 working parents included 592 government workers (454 working for NYC), including 204 Department of Education (DOE) employees and 65 New York City Police Department (NYPD) employees. More than 250 of the parents work at City hospitals.

Some of the most common government agencies and city hospitals where the parents of children

in the City's child care and after-school programs work include:

Department of Education (DOE), New York City Police Department (NYPD), Human Resources Administration (HRA), Administration for Children's Services (ACS), MTA/New York City Transit, New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA).

Montefiore, Mt. Sinai, New York Presbyterian, Woodhull, Memorial Sloan Kettering.

EMPLOYERS

Employer/For Whom the Parents Work	Number (Total= 5,704)
Small Business/Private company ⁴	2,472
Private Family (includes housekeepers, nannies, and others)	755
Large Business ⁵	599
Government	592 Total (454 for NYC)
Medical	580
Social service/non-profit	381
Self-employed	149
Colleges/Universities	52
Taxi/TLC	24
Charter schools and Private Schools	22
Unions	20
Law firms	17
Laguardia Airport/JFK Airport/Port Authority	7
Religious Institutions	3
TOTAL	5704

⁴ Places of employment were categorized as small business/private company when the employer was not well known to the Campaign for Children staff and when the survey responder did not specifically list the name of the employer. (For example if the survey responder replied supermarket, restaurant, bank, etc. without providing the name.)

⁵ Businesses were classified as "Large Business" when they were known to the Campaign for Children staff.

CONCLUSION

Thousands of working parents across New York City rely on the City's child care and after-school programs to stay employed, so they can support their families and our local economy. If the City goes through with its plan to cut more than 47,000 slots from these essential programs, thousands of teachers, nurses, law enforcement officers, EMTs, City employees, and other New Yorkers will have to leave the workforce to care for their children.

These hard-working parents are depending on government officials to make the right decisions so that they can remain in the workforce, providing the critical functions that New Yorkers need to live in this great City. Not only our economy, but the safety and academic future of the next generation of New Yorkers is at risk in this budget.

Current and future elected leaders must make child care and after-school programs a priority in the upcoming City budget and in future Federal, State and City budget negotiations. All New Yorkers have a stake in saving the more than 47,000 child care and after-school slots at risk in the City budget, because the parents, whose future employment is at risk, are the people who make New York City great.

“I trust the school and appreciate the after-school programs offered, since I do not speak English and cannot help my children with their assignments,”

— Manicurist, living in the Bronx.

“I could no longer work without this program. I love it and my son loves it!!!”

— Construction manager, living in Brooklyn.

“As long as I have child care, I won't have to worry about losing my job.”

— My child's safety is my main priority,”
Barista at Starbuck's, living in Queens.

“Because my child is too young to stay home,”

— Paralegal at a multi-service non-profit agency, living in Brooklyn.

“It is important because I have a dependable, reliable person I can trust with my child after-school,”

— School cook, living in Brooklyn.

Appendix 1. Campaign for Children

PARENT SURVEY

We are trying to learn more about the families who rely on child care and after-school programs—to help us make the case to city leaders that we must serve more children and families.

Thank you in advance for completing this short survey.

1) What borough do you live in? (Circle one)

Bronx Brooklyn Manhattan Queens Staten Island

2) Do any of your children participate in a child care or after-school program?

YES NO

3) What is your job/what kind of work do you do? (Examples: taxi driver, waitress, nanny, secretary, nurse's assistant, cashier, salesperson, house cleaning, janitor, etc.)

4) What is the name of your employer? (Examples: Chase Bank, McDonald's, The Gap, New York City Health Department, private family, etc.)

5) I rely on child care and/or after-school to be able to keep my job:

YES NO

6) Why is child care and/or after-school important to your family?

OPTIONAL: [] Yes, I would like to receive updates on Campaign for Children [If yes, fill out below]

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

I am willing to talk to the media about why these programs are important to me: YES NO

Please return this survey to Stephanie Gendell by Friday, March 8, 2013:

Stephanie Gendell, Citizens' Committee for Children, 105 East 22nd Street New York, NY 10010

Fax: 212-979-5063 // Email: sgendell@cccnewyork.org