

Mayor Michael Bloomberg
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

As faculty at our city's schools of social work, we urge you to protect child care and after-school programs in the city budget. We are very concerned that your 2013 Executive Budget will cut child care and after-school programs for more than 47,000 children. This means that 47,000 fewer children will have the services and resources necessary to ensure their future success, and that their working parents will be forced to make potentially unsafe arrangements for their children in order to keep their jobs and maintain their livelihoods.

We are pleased that your administration is implementing policies to improve the quality of early childhood and after-school programs. Long-term research demonstrates that low-income children who participate in high-quality early childhood education programs have better outcomes in school and beyond. Compared to similar children left out, children who participated in these programs were more likely to graduate from high school, be employed, and have higher earnings. For low-income, working families in New York City, subsidized child care programs are often the only opportunity for children to participate in an early childhood program. Cutting thousands of low-income children from subsidized child care programs would widen the achievement gap that exists between low-income children and their more affluent peers.

Research also shows that after-school programs help improve children's development, safety, and academic performance, as well as reduce risky behaviors. After-school programs allow children and youth to engage in academic and developmental enrichment activities in a safe environment after the school day ends. Under your proposed budget, thousands of children would lose access to after-school programs. Nearly half of the elementary and middle school Out-of-School Time (OST) programs in New York City would shut down. This dismantling of after-school programs would move our city's schools in the wrong direction.

We recognize the tight fiscal environment the city faces. However, leading economists have found that high-quality early childhood education and after-school programs are cost-effective, saving taxpayers money in the long run.

We stand with the Campaign for Children and strongly urge you to restore at least \$170 million for child care and after-school programs.

Respectfully,

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