A CALL TO ACTION:
The Campaign For Children’s Plan for Incoming City Leaders to Achieve Universal Access to Early Care and Education and Youth Services
About the Campaign for Children

The Campaign for Children (C4C) was formed in 2011 as early care and education and youth service providers, parents, and advocates joined forces to combat proposed reductions in these systems that would have decimated capacity and caused great harm. C4C benefits from the membership of more than 150 organizations, including advocates, civic leaders, early care and education, and after-school and summer camp providers. The C4C Steering Committee consists of Citizens’ Committee for Children of New York, United Neighborhood Houses, UJA-Federation of New York, the YMCA of Greater New York, Good Shepherd Services, Children’s Aid, the Day Care Council of New York, and Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies (FPWA).

Since C4C’s formation, the campaign has strived to advance policies through effective public relations, community organizing, data and policy analysis, and messaging that illustrates the profound positive impact that high-quality early care and education and youth services have on children, families, communities, and the city’s economy. Our advocacy elevates the voice of parents, youth, and direct service providers across communities.

C4C has informed transformative policy and budget victories including: preventing the loss of $150 million in resources over multiple years and securing permanent, baselined appropriation of these resources; securing state resources to permit the creation of universal pre-K for all New York City four-year-olds; and city resources to permit the creation of universal afterschool for all middle schoolers. Our advocacy also informed the agreement through which a multi-year investment and a path to salary parity was established for the early education workforce and led to reforms of the Birth to Five and Head Start RFPs to ensure that the actual cost of care is reimbursed in city contracts. Finally, year after year C4C advocacy has resulted in needed budget restorations to support summer camp for New York City youth.

Our Vision for Children’s Future

While great strides have been made in reaching greater numbers of children and youth, these systems still do not reach all those in need. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic, economic decline, and persistent race-based injustice has laid bare the critical need to do more for our children, youth and families. During the pandemic trusted community-based partners offering early care and education and youth service supports have been a life line - supporting child and family wellbeing, providing critical linkages to food and income supports, and behavioral health care.

The next Mayoral administration has a unique opportunity to build on lessons learned and leverage this strong foundation to achieve a truly aligned, comprehensive, and holistic birth-to-five early care and education and a youth services system that supports the recovery and wellbeing of children and their families. This platform draws attention to the essential components critical to the future of these systems.
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Early Childhood Priorities

There were **over half a million children** under the age of five in New York City in 2019.

1. Achieve universal access to infant and toddler care for the youngest children.

The next Mayoral administration must dramatically increase the capacity of the subsidized early care and education system to serve greater numbers of infants and toddlers.

In 2019 there were more than 317,000 infants and toddlers in New York City, with approximately half in households eligible for subsidized care, and yet only 16% of infants and toddlers in eligible households are served in public, subsidized care. This leaves out around 121,000 infants and toddlers potentially eligible for subsidized care and not receiving it.

Meanwhile, the cost for infant and toddler care is unaffordable for families across the income spectrum. The annual cost of center-based child care for infants and toddlers consumes about 31% of median household income for all families with young children in NYC, but can be as high as 65% in communities where median incomes are lower. The annual cost of home-based care, while lower, still consumes 17% of median household income for all families with young children, but can be as high as 36% in communities where median incomes are lower.

The publicly-funded system serves over 22,000 infants and toddlers, with 58% or 13,000 enrolled in family child care settings and 34%, or 7,700 enrolled in center-based care. Enrollment for infants and toddlers has declined over the past few years, and may decline further with the new Birth-to-Five awards and the ongoing expansion of 3K. There were 1,300 fewer infants and toddlers enrolled in publicly-funded care in 2019 when compared to 2016.

Furthermore, initial analyses of the provisional awards conducted by Day Care Council of New York and United Neighborhood Houses indicate that many income-stratified neighborhoods, including several with large low-income populations living in public housing may be losing access to child care for infants and toddlers, as well as impacted by the loss of extended-day programming that supports working families.

New York City must rapidly reverse this trend and craft and implement a plan to achieve universal access to infant and toddler care. Infant toddler care is essential to support child social emotional development and school readiness and enable parents and caregivers to return to and remain a part of the workforce. A universal model for the youngest children must include family child care and home-based providers in addition to center-based care to expand capacity and ensure equitable access.

Plans to expand infant and toddler care must start by ensuring that every income-eligible child (under 200% of Federal Poverty Level), child experiencing homelessness, and child in foster care has access to high quality, subsidized early childhood education.

2. Achieve universality in both 3K-for-all and UPK for all four-year-olds.

As of September 2020, UPK for 4-year olds reached approximately 70,000 children (with more than half of all seats provided in community-based settings). Furthermore, expansion of 3K-for-All to all 32 of New York City’s school districts was announced in March 2021. The next Mayoral administration should protect this progress made in UPK for four year olds and ensure 3K-for-All expands to meet need until universality is reached.

Programs must pay particular attention to ensuring low income households are reached, that program hours address the needs of working parents who depend on a full day and year-round care, as well as offer dual-language and culturally competent programs.
Nearly 125,000 children under five were enrolled in publicly-funded early care, including contracted seats and vouchers.

3. Ensure all children in any setting have access to extended day, full year programs.

Currently, most family child care, Pre-K and 3K-for-All Programs serve children for 6.5 hours per day, shorter than the workday for most full-time jobs and only during the school year. The next Mayoral administration must aggressively expand access to extended day programs that cover a full work day, multiple shifts, and a full year. Post-pandemic families will require more flexible programming for their children that supports their traditional and non-traditional work schedules, and ensure that includes infants, toddler, 3- and 4-year-olds served in any modality.

4. Make enrollment easier for families.

Family access to community-based early care and education programs has been delayed by the centralized enrollment processes controlled by the DOE. City-contracted Early Childhood providers should be authorized to manage the enrollment of eligible families into their own programs, just as direct federally-contracted Head Start providers do. This allows providers to leverage existing relationships that they have with families in the communities that they serve and allows families to interact with a local organization with whom they already may have developed trust. The next Mayoral administration should empower parents to pursue care at CBOs and leverage those connections.

In more than half of all neighborhoods the cost of center-based infant/toddler care consumes between one-third and two-thirds of median household income for families with children.

5. Support and expand the early childhood workforce – make parity and the workforce pipeline a priority.

If New York City is to expand early care and education for infants, toddlers, and three-year-olds, and maintain UPK for 4-year-olds, the City must also take steps to increase and expand the workforce. Critical progress must be made to build on salary parity advances to help support the recruitment of qualified staff.

The July 2019 Salary Parity agreement was a substantial step in investing in the early care and education sector, but more action is needed to achieve comprehensive compensation parity. The path to parity addressed entry level salaries. Unfortunately, some CBOs are still waiting for their UPK contracts to be amended with additional funds from the DOE to fulfill the salary parity agreement for their staff. Also, directors and educational directors of pre-kindergarten programs at CBOs were not included in the original salary parity agreement and are now being compensated less than the teachers they supervise despite the DOE promising to address this discrepancy. Beyond addressing these issues, next steps must focus on longevity and benefits. Comprehensive parity would mean equivalent salaries and benefits for equivalent levels of education and experience between early educators inside and outside school settings, and would also reflect the differences in school days and longer hours of work for educators in CBO settings. Additionally, non-teaching staff in early care and education settings, including assistants, janitors, cooks and other staff, should be compensated at equivalent levels of their counterparts in schools. Lastly, those salary increases applied only to educators in CBO preschool general education
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classes, excluding teachers working in CBO preschool special education classes. As a result, CBO preschool special education classroom educators are now some of the lowest paid teachers in the City, despite serving some of the City’s highest-need students. Without ensuring salary parity for this group of teachers, the City runs the risk that these certified special education teachers will leave CBO preschool special education classes in pursuit of higher salaries at public schools and CBO EarlyLearn/3-K/Pre-K classes—thereby exacerbating the troubling shortage of preschool special class seats. The next Mayoral administration must extend salary parity to teachers of CBO preschool special education classes so they may continue to support preschoolers with disabilities. The next Mayoral administration should also partner with academic institutions like CUNY and search for additional mechanisms to increase the number of qualified teachers and staff to work in these programs.

Youth Priorities

6. Create universal access to year-round afterschool and summer camp.

Strong evidence demonstrates that a robust year-round after-school program model closes the opportunity gap and reduces summer learning loss. As the COVID-19 pandemic has and continues to cause a massive disruption to education, which has exacerbated pre-existing disparities in the City’s education and youth development systems – the next Mayoral administration has a critical opportunity to position universal afterschool and summer programming in ways that address and combat disparities and put all school students on a path to social and emotional growth and academic achievement.

The next Mayoral administration must embrace a robust model of after-school programming and implement universal access to full-year after-school and summer programs for elementary, middle and high school-aged youth.

New contracts building towards universal afterschool and summer programs, should follow a budgeting model that includes cost escalators to address rising indirect costs and consistent cost of living adjustments (COLAs) for staff, COVID-19 related expenses, and a base per participant rate that ensures quality standards are met. A new RFP must also equalize the per participant rates for all elementary slots.

In addition, universal afterschool should start with adding more elementary after-school slots at existing schools with high utilization, and expanding the list of eligible elementary schools with new slots. Prioritizing these expenses and expansion of services will further support and sustain the efforts to address the COVID-19 learning loss and closing the opportunity gap.

In 2019, over 122,000 children and youth were served in school year COMPASS and SONYC programs, and over 112,000 in Beacons and Cornerstones.

7. Commit to reliable multiyear funding to support sustainable summer programming for youth.

The successful execution of quality after-school and summer programming requires months of planning, preparing and hiring of staff. In order to effectively plan, the City’s funding must be consistent and stable. Unfortunately, the de Blasio administration has irresponsibly proposed to cut 34,000 SONYC summer camp slots in six of the last seven Executive Budgets. Included in this period, was the misguided decision to completely eliminate funding for all summer programming – COMPASS, SONYC, Beacon, Cornerstone, and SYEP - just as the State was authorizing sectors of society to reopen from the COVID-19 Pause Order. The practice of leaving the fate of summer programming to the final days of the City’s budget cycle is malpractice, and disrespectful to parents and providers. This repeated delay in funding assumes that providers can quickly ramp up to serve any slots restored in the negotiated Adopted Budget. Under normal conditions ramping
up summer programs was challenging; during the reopening phase of the pandemic it was nearly unmanageable. Between inconsistent guidance from the various lead City agencies and DOHMH’s overwhelming backlog of the background check and licensing process of staff, many providers struggled to ramp up programming and struggled to fill available slots.

The City’s practice of callously treating critical summer youth services as a mere budget negotiating tool must end. The next Mayoral administration must commit to stable and reliable multi-year funding to create sustainable programming, and expanding summer programming where needed.

Before COVID, COMPASS and SONYC summer programs served approximately 70,000 students each summer.

8. Create more older youth opportunities by restoring and expanding SYEP, and fostering year-round career development within Work Learn Grow, Learning to Work programs, and community schools.

It is crucial for New York City to have supports and opportunities for older youth, particularly to assist in early career development and exploration. The Summer Youth Employment Program has been a key way to introduce youth to their first job opportunities, while also providing important economic support for young people and their families. In summer 2019, SYEP served 75,000 youth ages 14-24. Unfortunately, SYEP was fully eliminated in the Mayor’s FY21 Executive Budget, effectively canceling the program for summer 2020. After much advocacy, 35,000 slots were restored for the Summer Bridge Program, a remote, stipended career exploration program. While we recognize that the circumstances surrounding COVID-19 made a traditional SYEP in summer 2020 near impossible, it is essential that we strive to return SYEP to normal as soon as possible. This includes starting early planning with SYEP providers to identify worksite partners (as many SYEP worksites have undoubtedly suffered economic challenges themselves), getting back to at least 75,000 youth served, and returning to paid wages instead of stipends.

The next Mayoral administration must preserve the gains made in SYEP and start laying the groundwork to expand SYEP to serve the more than 135,000 youth who apply for SYEP each year. Furthermore, the next Mayoral administration needs to foster year-round career development opportunities, including Work Learn and Grow (a year-round version of SYEP) and internships within Learning to Work programs and Community Schools. Not only do year-round programs help young people further their career exploration, they provide economic support beyond just the summer months when SYEP is available.

In Summer 2019, over 74,000 youth were employed in SYEP while over 150,000 applied.

**Children and Youth with Special Needs**

9. Provide support to young children with developmental delays and disabilities in birth-to-five programs and address the severe shortage of preschool special education programs.

Young children with developmental delays or disabilities are entitled to receive the services and supports detailed in their Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP) (for children 0-3) or Individualized Education Program (IEP) (for children 3 and older). The next Mayoral administration must ensure that young children with developmental delays and disabilities can receive needed services and support in the City’s birth-to-five programs and that staff has the training and support needed to provide inclusive settings where children with developmental delays and disabilities can participate alongside their typically developing peers to the greatest extent possible.
Preschoolers with more intense needs may require a preschool special education class, which provides specialized instruction and a smaller class size than 3-K and Pre-K for All classrooms offer. Preschool special education programs are run by the DOE and CBOs that contract with the DOE. In recent years, the City has had a severe shortage of preschool special education classes, leaving children without the class they need and have the legal right to receive. While the DOE has opened hundreds of seats in preschool special education classrooms over the last few years, years of underfunding has caused many CBOs to close their preschool special education classes, offsetting this increase. In fact, the DOE projected a shortage of more than 1,000 preschool special education class seats for the spring of 2020. The next Mayoral administration must provide a preschool special education class for every child who needs one by opening more classes and supporting existing CBOs so children with disabilities have access to the programs they need and are legally entitled to attend.

10. Ensure children and youth with disabilities can participate in all afterschool programs.

In other City-funded programs, such as COMPASS, SONYC, SYEP and the recently developed Learning Bridges/Labs, children and youth with disabilities often do not get the support they need despite their right to accommodations. While many children and youth with disabilities need additional support to participate in these programs, the City does not provide the services or financial resources needed for programs to serve these young people appropriately. Nor does the City have a process for parents and providers to request and receive accommodations and support needed to serve children and youth with disabilities.

While City agencies have made some efforts to address this problem, such efforts have fallen short. For example, in the concept paper for the Summer Youth Employment Program released in fall 2017, DYCD committed to improving and creating service options to expand access to SYEP for underserved populations. Youth with disabilities was one of the populations included in the service options in the concept paper for the Special Initiatives RFP, which proposed dedicating additional financial resources to serving youth with disabilities in the SYEP. However, when the final Special Initiatives RFP was released in November 2018, the “Youth with Disabilities” service option was no longer listed. While DYCD stated that youth with disabilities could still apply and potentially be accepted into any SYEP, it did not provide any support or financial assistance to help programs meet their needs.

The next Mayoral administration must improve interagency coordination and provide support and financial resources to ensure that children and youth with disabilities can participate in the full array of programs offered.

231,000 students had an IEP in 2020, over 20% of all students in New York City public schools.

11. Fully fund indirect cost rates and include cost escalators, COLAs, and more flexibility in contracts.

Long before this crisis hit, City government has asked human service providers to do more with less. When the City announced in 2019 that it would embark on a “groundbreaking” process to reimburse nonprofits their true indirect cost rates with new investments, human service providers celebrated. In August 2020, the City announced both a retroactive cut to the Indirect Cost Rate initiative and that they could not guarantee full indirect cost reimbursement moving forward. This dealt a devastating blow to the human services sector at a time when providers incurred considerable costs resulting from the pandemic, and were already financially vulnerable. Indirect rate funding is what allows human service providers to scale technology, maintain facilities, and other operational capacities that are vital to the provision of programs, especially in this ever-changing environment resulting from COVID-19. It will be important for the next Mayoral administration to fully fund the ICR Initiative and restore agreed upon indirect rates for every qualified organization.

The next Mayoral administration must also include...
cost escalators in multi-year contracts. Known cost increases during initial contract negotiation mitigates risk for both the nonprofit provider and the City. Cost escalators over the life of the contract would alleviate the burden of providers having to scramble to cover predictable cost increases, such as rent, utilities, and health insurance.

The need for contract flexibility and full reimbursement of full costs of contracts was brought dramatically to light during the pandemic, which put nonprofit providers in an ever-changing environment where they had to be nimble and innovative to both meet the increased demand for services and meet safety and public health guidelines. For example, due to the heightened food insecurity during the pandemic many CBOs hoped to provide families with gift cards for food purchasing, but were unable to due to DYCD contract restrictions. Going forward, the next Mayoral administration must reimburse nonprofit providers for full costs of contracts and allow flexibility so providers can offer innovative and quality services, and target specific community needs like food insecurity. Programs can only be as effective as children’s basic needs are being addressed.

Human services workers have been on the frontlines fighting COVID-19 and keeping communities safe during the pandemic, yet many of them make poverty wages themselves. A multi-year cost of living adjustment (COLA) on the personnel services line of all human services contracts would help with this issue. Human services workers in the city are 82% women, and 80% women of color. 60% of the workforce qualifies for some form of public assistance (Human Services Council). A three year COLA was included in the FY18 Adopted Budget for human services workers and expired at the end of FY20, and there is currently no COLA in place for future years. Investing in this workforce would address wage gaps and uplift thousands of New Yorkers close to the poverty line. The next Mayoral administration must restore and maintain the COLA minimally at 3% for City-contracted human services workers in order for these individuals to receive fair wages under City contracts.

In 2019, over half of all UPK seats were in CBOs.

12. Build better communication and coordination between agencies.

Program quality can also be improved by better communication and coordination between the city agencies involved with the non-profit early care and education and youth sector, including but not limited to the Department of Education, the Department of Youth and Community Development, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Administration for Children’s’ Services, the Mayor’s Office of Contract Services, and the New York City Housing Authority.

For example, a common issue caused by lack of coordination has been getting clearances for new staff working in youth services. CBOs often need to staff up quickly, but are held to required staff-to-child ratios and other state regulations. DYCD program managers often offer little help to providers who are at the mercy of DOHMH processes to get the necessary staff cleared. A simple fix could be fostering partnership between these two agencies, and having DYCD liaise with DOHMH to help clear staff, update providers on status of clearances, and overall help providers meet regulatory requirements. The better these agencies work together, communicate about their offerings, and decrease regulatory burden, the better providers who contract and work within many of their systems can operate and serve children and families.

13. Revamp the Children’s Cabinet and bring child and youth-serving CBOs and child advocates to the table.

The next Mayoral administration should reboot the former Children’s Cabinet to ensure coordination among child and youth services. The inaugural NYC Children’s Cabinet created under the de Blasio administration promised to drive coordination and efficiency across city departments; strengthen partnerships with the nonprofit and private sectors; and facilitate a holistic approach to serving children by aligning agency policies that affect children’s health, safety, and well-being. We encourage the new administration to advance the work and goals.
of the cabinet by reinstituting the cabinet and inviting leaders of early childhood and youth-serving nonprofit agencies as stakeholders. The cabinet should meet regularly, advise on regulatory changes, drive coordination, and strategize city investments across city agencies and sectors serving New York City’s children and families.


Coordinated and linked data systems across city agencies open many opportunities to better understand relationships among children, program sites and workforce characteristics over time, and can be used to support effective collaboration and planning among many city agencies overseeing parts of the early childhood and youth systems and service provider community.

Data systems should make available aggregated, public facing data for the entire system (ECE and Afterschool/Youth) which will allow for public discussion, engagement, and advocacy on size, reach, quality, and outcomes for different age groups, across various settings where services are provided and by NYC geographies that allow for more granular understanding of data trends (e.g. Census Tract, Zip Code, Community District).

This public access to the data should foster accountability and efficacy, while also ensuring the security and privacy of personally identifiable information. A new Mayoral administration should take several data initiatives, and develop a governing body to manage data collection across several city agencies that are overseeing parts of the early childhood and youth systems, including but not limited to DYCD, DOE, ACS and DOHMH. Some of the key components should be:

I. A unique citywide child identifier connected to a child’s demographics and program participation as well as child’s developmental data, would allow linking participation in programs and services during early childhood, as well as K-12, and across programs and sites within the city. These data combined could be used by teachers to adjust their curricula, by policymakers in a form of aggregated data to help improve programs, and other relevant stakeholders to understand how different demographics of students or students living or going to school in a specific area of the city are progressing. Linking child-level data for young children with K-12 data and other data systems (e.g., health, child welfare, preventive services) would allow program providers and policymakers to improve coordination of services among ECE programs and other child development services. This would help identify and address known disparities in outcomes across racial/ethnic groups, household income, and other demographics.

II. A unique program site identifier assigned to a school, center, home-based provider in the ECE system, and to all the settings where afterschool/ youth services are provided. Site-level data should include information on program structure, enrollment numbers, budgeted capacity, quality and work environment characteristics, including ECE workforce information. Some of the program structure data (e.g., locations, length of care, total number of children served and their ages) are currently collected by several city agencies and to some degree publicly available, but many components are missing for seamless illustration of the entire system. Site-level data should be able to link with children and the ECE workforce, which is crucial to understand the relationships among the site and staff characteristics, program participation and child outcomes.

III. Individual ECE workforce data should include demographics, education and professional development information and allows understanding of who is caring for children and which children have access to different types of teachers and caregivers, as well as understanding broader policy understanding about the allocation of professional resources and investments in education and training programs.

Promoting Innovation & Access

In 2019, there were approximately 140,000 children in households without internet, including dial-up, broadband, and cellular data plans.
15. Promote innovation in child care by bridging the digital divide, encouraging parent engagement, and supporting young child behavioral health needs.

The next Mayoral administration must promote programs and approaches that foster innovation in the sector and expand access to services in new and better ways.

The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the broad digital divide that exists within NYC, and the lack of internet, devices, or technological support that prevents the successful implementation of various supports, from education to nutrition to health, and can impact the efficacy of every kind of program offered by CBOs. Even after the pandemic recedes, the next Mayoral administration should continue to bridge the digital divide by investing in Wi-Fi access across the city, targeting internet hotspots in shelters, NYCHA buildings and other underserved areas, and continuing to purchase and distribute age-appropriate devices for children who might require them to learn and develop within school, child care, or youth service programs.

Efforts to promote innovation in the child care and youth sectors should also include parent engagement and outreach. Two-generational approaches to early care have been proven to have positive effects on young child development, and ensuring parent-engagement is a crucial part of any early care or school-age child care program builds trust between parents and CBOs, trust that is often lacking between communities and city agencies.

Program innovation efforts should also integrate early intervention and behavioral-health programming to meet children’s social-emotional needs. Considering trauma children may experience from COVID-19, it will be important to integrate behavioral health supports in early care settings, including through trauma-informed care, behavioral health, and Early Intervention services. Early Intervention specifically has seen dramatic declines during COVID, in both provider participation, referrals, and services delivered. Many providers already offer several forms of young child development and behavioral health supports in their early care settings, but largely fund them with philanthropic dollars. The next Mayoral administration should equip educators, administrators and other staff in both early childhood and youth settings, with training, supports and effective tools to identify, assess and address children’s trauma, and embed these practices in contract parameters and support them with public funds. These can include pull-out professional development offerings, or push-in supports to help individual providers, like home-based family child care providers. The next Mayoral administration should also consider including funding or incentives in contracts to allow early childhood and youth-serving programs to hire more behavioral health support staff. Additionally, the Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene must work to ensure young children receive appropriate screenings, referrals, and evaluations through Early Intervention services and to behavioral health care.

Early Intervention evaluations fell by 67% between January/February and Spring 2020 in NYC.

Disaster Preparedness

In January 2021, 39,000 families were matched to Learning Bridges programs run by CBOs.

16. Prepare for future crises and disasters by developing sustainable and responsive children and youth services.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the additional supports and services that children, youth and their families need to help them live through and recover from public health crises. CBOs, already an intricate part of the lives of many New York City residents, became an even more reliable support system by quickly understanding the increased needs of communities and finding ways to assist children, youth and families during the pandemic. These supports included but were not limited to connecting families with food pantries, doing daily wellness check-ins,
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and helping children and youth access the technology they needed to engage in virtual school. The DOE, recognizing the need to supply childcare to essential workers in the early stages of the pandemic, developed the Emergency Child Care Centers and Regional Enrichment Centers (RECs), and later the Learning Bridges/Labs program. Unfortunately, both of these initiatives were developed with little input from the CBOs who were responsible for overseeing their implementation.

Furthermore, the programs did not build on the existing child care infrastructure already present at CBOs. Both the RECs and Learning Bridges/Labs programs struggled to operate effectively within a program design CBOs did not assist in developing. This resulted in delayed access to these programs and less children and youth benefitting when they needed these supports the most.

It is crucial that the next Mayoral administration develop a proactive plan for emergency child care for another public health crisis or for other emergencies such as natural disasters or climate emergencies. The Campaign for Children developed the following recommendations to improve emergency child care options based on conversations with early childhood educators and youth services workers about the shortcomings of the Emergency Child Care Centers, Regional Enrichment Centers (RECs) and Learning Bridges/Labs programs.

I. Extended, flexible hours.
Many parents and guardians begin work before 8am and are unable to pick-up their child until well after 3pm. Any future emergency child care options must offer extended hours and flexible drop-off and pick-up times in order to meet the needs of working families.

II. Ensure access to transportation.
Reliable and free transportation options must be offered for all participants in emergency child care.

III. Diverse enrollment choices.
Families should be offered diverse choices on where they can enroll their children in emergency child care. Proximity to where they live as well as options to choose CBOs where their children already attend city funded after school programs must be offered.

IV. Fund one-on-one support for children who require them.

CBOs who oversee emergency child care programs must be given additional financial resources to serve children and youth with disabilities, especially those who benefit from one-on-one support. CBOs must also be given access to a participant’s IEP in order to fully understand the support these children and youth will need in their programs.

V. Ensure a seat for every child and youth who needs one.
Future administrations must work with CBOs to determine the need for emergency child care in their communities, increasing the number of seats for every child and youth who requires one.

VI. Reducing or Eliminating Enrollment Requirements During an emergency.
Extended Day Child Care Programs require parents to produce a significant amount of documentation in order to enroll their children including proof of income, proof of employment and proof of a child’s documentation status. While income guidelines were adjusted during the pandemic, the administrative requirements stayed in place creating a barrier to many essential workers seeking care for their children. During any crisis, the next Mayoral administration should work to reduce administrative requirements to enroll or re-certify families and waive any parent co-pays.

In summer and fall of 2020, CBO’s served 70,000 youth in remote and in-person COMPASS & SONYC programs


11. DYCD Testimony to the Committee of Youth Services, November 18, 2020.

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Campaign for Children Member Organizations

82nd Street Academics
Advocates for Children of New York
Alianza Dominicana
Alliance for Quality Education
Bedford-Stuyvesant YMCA
Belmont Community Day Care Center
Bronx YMCA
BronxWorks
Brooklyn Center for the Independence of the Disabled
Brooklyn Community Services
Brooklyn Kindergarten Society
CAMBA
Campaign for Summer Jobs
Campaign for Tomorrow’s Workforce
Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens
Center Against Domestic Violence
Center for Children’s Initiatives
Center for Family Life/SCO
Center for Youth Violence Prevention at Columbia University
Child Center for New York
Children’s Aid Society
Children’s Defense Fund-NY
Chinatown YMCA
Chinese-American Planning Council
Citizen Action of NY
Citizens’ Committee for Children
Coalition for Asian-American Children and Families
COFCCA (Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies)
Committee for Hispanic Children and Families
Cooper Square Committee
Council of School Supervisors and Administrators
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
Cross Island YMCA
Cypress Hills Child Care Corporation
Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation
Day Care Council of New York
Dodge YMCA
East Calvary Day Care Center
East Side House Settlement
ECE Policyworks
Economic Justice and Social Welfare Network Child Care Committee
Educational Alliance
Emergency Coalition to Save Child Care
Episcopal Social Services
Family Dynamics/ SCO
Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies
Flatbush Action Community Day Care Center, Inc.
Flatbush Development Corporation
Flatbush YMCA
Flushing YMCA
Fort Washington Collegiate Church
Friends of the Children of NY
Global Kids
Goddard Riverside Community Center
Good Shepherd Services
Graham Windham
Grand Street Settlement
Greenpoint YMCA
HANAC Youth Services
Harlem RBI
Harlem YMCA
Hartley House
Head Start Sponsoring Boards Council
Hebrew Educational Society
Helen Owen Carey Day Care Center
Henry Street Settlement
Hudson Guild
Human Services Council
Imani House
Inwood Community Services
Italian American Civil Rights League
Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement House
Jamaica YMCA
Jewish Board of Family & Children’s Services (JBCFS)
Jewish Child Care Association
Jewish Community Center of Staten Island
Jewish Community House of Bensonhurst
Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club
Lawyers for Children
Leake and Watts Services
Lenox Hill Neighborhood House
Long Island City YMCA
LSA Family Health Service
Madison Square Boys and Girls Club
Manhattan Youth
MARC Academy and Family Center, Inc.
Maspeth Town Hall
McBurney YMCA
Middle Collegiate Church
Midwood Development Corp.
Nasry Michelen Day Care Center
National Council of Jewish Women
Neighborhood Family Services Coalition
Neighborhood Initiatives Development Corp
New Settlement Apartments
New York City Youth Alliance
New York Immigration Coalition
New York Junior Tennis League
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
New York Zero-to-Three Network
North Brooklyn Child Care Coalition
North Brooklyn YMCA
Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation
NYC Coalition for Educational Justice
NYC Mission Society
NYU School of Law Family Defense Clinic
Operation Exodus Inner City, Inc.
Partnership for After-School Education (PASE)
Phipps Community Development Corporation
Police Athletic League, Inc
Professional Association of Day Care Directors of New York
Prospect Park YMCA
Queens Community House
Resilience Advocacy Project
Resources for Children with Special Needs, Inc.
Ridgewood YMCA
Riverdale Neighborhood House
Riverdale YM-YWHA
Rockaway Artists Alliance, Inc.
Safe Space
SAYA! (South Asian Youth Action)
SCAN- New York
SCO Family of Services
Shorefront YM-YWHA of Brighton-Manhattan Beach
Sinergia
Southeast Bronx Neighborhood Centers
Sports & Arts in Schools Foundation
St John’s Place Family Center HDFC
St. Nick’s Alliance
Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center, Inc.
Staten Island Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (SICCAN)
Staten Island YMCA
Sunnyside Community Services
Suspension Representation Project
The After-School Corporation
The Center for Independence of the Disabled — NY
The Children’s Law Center
The Door
UJA-Federation of New York
Union Settlement Association
United Activities Unlimited
United Community Centers
United Neighborhood Houses
University Settlei
Vanderbilt YMCA
VISIONS / Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired
West Side YMCA
WHEDco (Women’s Housing and Economic Development Corporation)
YMCA of Greater NY
Youth Development Institute