



August 10, 2021

Bill de Blasio
Mayor
City of New York
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

We write to urgently request your assistance in making crucially needed funding available to non-profit organizations with contracts under Department of Education's Birth-to-Five and Head Start/ Early Head Start RFPs. These contracts began on July 1, 2021 but many organizations have not been able to access any funding from their contracts yet due to delays in the contract approval and registration processes.

Organizations need their contracted payments in order to pay staff, fund benefits, cover rents, and provide services to New York City's children and families which they are passionately continuing to do in good faith despite not receiving the 25% advances or Bridge Loans which will allow them to remain open. Several organizations with Birth-to-Five and Head Start/ Early Head Start contracts have already missed payroll because they were unable to access funds from their DOE contracts. Many are in jeopardy of missing a second payroll this week. As organizations work to recover from the many impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, this added factor is costing them dearly. They are losing the trust of the staff they need to serve children and families. They are in an impossible position.

We urge the City to take the following actions:

- 1. Expedite the approval and delivery of funds from Bridge Loans.** Bridge Loans, also known as the NYC Returnable Grant Fund, are a lifeline for non-profit organizations whose contracts are awaiting registration. Many early childhood programs have applied for Bridge Loans but have yet to receive funding through them. Immediate approval and release of Bridge Loan funding will keep providers from missing payroll or incurring additional debt during the registration process.
- 2. Schedule Emergency Meetings of the Panel for Educational Policy to Immediately approve contracts.** Many child care providers have approved budgets but have not yet had their contracts go before the Panel for Educational Policy. The next scheduled monthly meeting is not until August 18th meaning that providers may be ineligible for

either contract payments or Bridge Loans for more than two weeks potentially forcing more organizations to miss payroll.

3. Work with the Comptroller's Office to Expedite the Registration of contracts.

Registered contracts are necessary for organizations to receive their contracted payments. We urge you to work with the NYC Comptroller's Office to ensure that Birth-To-Five and Head Start/ Early Head Start contracts are registered immediately.

We appreciate your support for early childhood education and request your assistance in this matter to ensure that New York City's non-profit early childhood education programs are effectively funded to provide the quality services that New York's families need.

Jennifer Jones Austin
CEO and Executive Director
FPWA

Phoebe Boyer
CEO
Children's Aid

Louisa Chafee
Senior Vice-President for Public Policy and External Relations
UJA- Federation of New York

Tara N. Gardner
Executive Director
Day Care Council of New York

Sharon Greenberger
President and CEO
YMCA of Greater New York

Jennifer March
Executive Director
Citizens' Committee for Children

Susan Stamler
Executive Director
United Neighborhood Houses

Michelle Yanche
Executive Director
Good Shepherd Services

CC: Meisha Porter, Chancellor, Department of Education
Josh Wallack, Deputy Chancellor, Early Childhood Education and Enrollment, Department of Education
Victor Olds, Commissioner, Mayor's Office of Contracts Services
Vanessa Leung, Chair, Panel for Educational Policy
Scott Stringer, Comptroller