



Statement of Tara N. Gardner, Executive Director

Day Care Council of New York

On the 2025 State of the State

January 14, 2025

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The Day Care Council of New York (DCCNY) commends Governor Kathy Hochul for her continued commitment to improving child care in New York State, including recent announcements of key initiatives aimed at strengthening the sector including significant investments in the construction of new child care facilities, lowering caps on child care co-pays, creating a substitute pool, and launching a coalition to advance Universal Child Care.

Tara N. Gardner, DCCNY's Executive Director shared, "I am honored to have served on Governor Hochul's Child Care Availability Task Force and am eager to continue collaborating with the Governor, State leaders, our advocacy colleagues, and practitioners to enhance early childhood education in New York. These steps are pivotal in addressing the urgent needs of families and providers across the state.

As we approach the upcoming budget negotiations, it is essential that New York makes new investments in a permanent workforce fund to support the early childhood education workforce. These hardworking, skilled professionals are the backbone of high-quality child care and education, yet they remain underpaid and undervalued. Addressing their need for fair and equitable compensation is critical to ensuring the long-term availability and quality of early childhood education."

The Day Care Council of New York remains committed to advocating for policies and investments that uplift New York's child care system, ensuring it works for families, providers, and communities alike.