



2015-2016 Budget Request

"...investing in early childhood development yields a much higher return than most government-funded economic development initiatives."-Economists Arthur J. Rolnick and Rob Grunewald, Federal Reserve Bank of Minnesota

Tomorrow's skilled workforce prepared for the future.
Children ready for school. Parents earning.

Increase the Executive's \$3 million investment in strengthening the quality of early learning through the implementation of QUALITYstarsNY. Continue to expand the quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) that fully utilizes the professional development and technical assistance services embedded within the existing state funded network of 35 child care resource and referral (CCR&R) programs, and that establishes Quality Resource Centers located with the CCR&Rs around the state.

- With only 41% of the state's third graders meeting Math benchmarks and only 46% meeting English Language Arts benchmarks, **a high-performing early learning system is a must have for New York!**¹
- Safe, reliable, quality early care and learning services **support parents in the workforce** and improves their attendance, productivity, retention and skill development.
- Longer-term, quality child care and early learning programs are linked to **enhanced** school readiness, **improved** high school graduation rates, **reduced** expenditures for special education and juvenile justice services, and **better preparation** for the highly skilled workforce essential to New York's economic prosperity.

¹The Blueprint for Excellent Early Childhood Education in New York State, QUALITYstarsNY, June 2014

An increased investment would **further the capacity** of the experienced CCR&R network to **provide critical family supports** to currently underserved parents across New York State and to **strengthen** the child care services so essential to New York's economic development. Additional investment will enable CCR&Rs to communicate the benefits of participating in a QRIS through orientation and readiness training across the state, deliver on-site coaching and individualized professional development, as well as education. Children deserve appropriately-funded and professionally supported child care and early learning programs that promote their optimal development and learning. **It is the only way to close the achievement gap!**

The Early Care & Learning Council is a statewide, not-for-profit organization, whose mission is to **promote excellence in early care and education** with equal access for all families. We do this primarily through the support of, and in partnership with, the **nation's strongest network** of 35 community-based organizations that provide Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) services. The Early Care & Learning Council is a member of Winning Beginning NY and fully supports the Winning Beginning NY legislative agenda.

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