

To: Interested Parties
From: Global Strategy Group & Raising New York
Date: August 8, 2019
Re: New Yorkers Support Investing in Quality Child Care and Other Early Childhood Initiatives

Global Strategy Group conducted an online survey between July 8th and July 14th, 2019, among 1,208 likely 2020 voters in New York State in partnership with Raising New York.

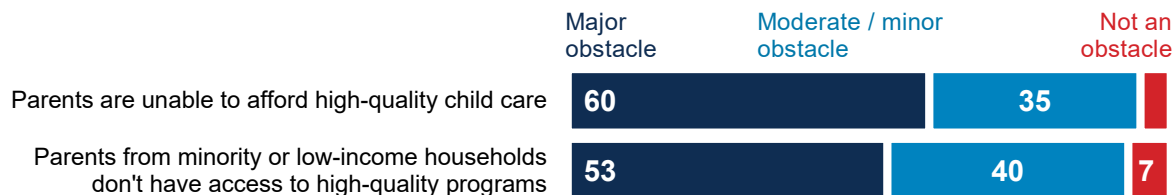
The survey found that voters across New York State – and parents of young children in particular – are overwhelmingly supportive of investing more public funds to ensure that infants and toddlers are healthy and developmentally on track at birth and throughout early childhood and would approve of the state’s elected officials supporting these efforts. Further, when voters are made aware of the positive outcomes associated with participating in high-quality early childhood programming, they are even more intensely supportive of increased investments.

Below are key findings from the survey:

Key Findings:

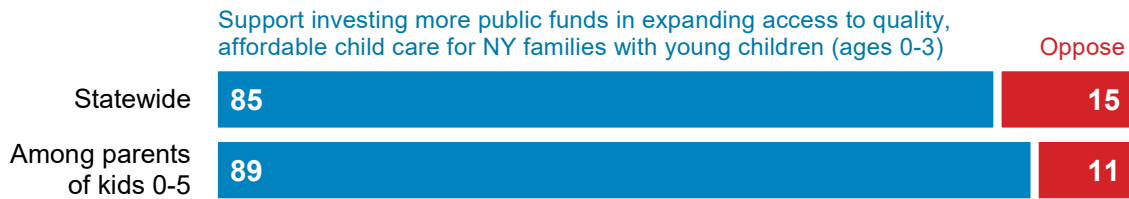
Voters in the state rate strengthening education and child care as a top-tier priority for New York State to address – on par or more important than issues like homelessness and lowering taxes. When asked to rank a list of issues including education and child care, access to affordable health care, eradicating poverty and homelessness, reducing taxes, eliminating wasteful government spending, ending gun violence, and protecting the environment against climate change, only health care (with a mean ranking of 3.2) surpasses strengthening education and child care (3.9) as a top priority. Parents of young children prioritize this issue intensely, and rate strengthening education and child care as their top issue (3.2), higher even than health care (3.5).

New Yorkers believe that child care affordability and a lack of access to high-quality programs are major obstacles to ensuring New York’s children enter school prepared to learn. A majority of voters in the state feel that being unable to afford high-quality child care (60%) and access to high-quality programs (53%) are major obstacles to ensuring kids are prepared to enter school. Among African American and Hispanic voters in the state, child care affordability is identified as even more of an obstacle, with 77% identifying it as a major obstacle, as is inadequate access to quality programs for parents from minority or low-income households (69% major obstacle).



What should New York State do about the problem? Voters in the state support investing more public funds to expand access to quality, affordable child care, and would approve of elected officials who support making such an investment. An overwhelming majority of voters support making these investments (85%), including 44% of voters who strongly support investing more public funds. This high level of overall support extends across the state, with voters in New York City (91%), the surrounding suburbs (80%), and upstate (83%) supporting making these investments by at least a four-to-one ratio.

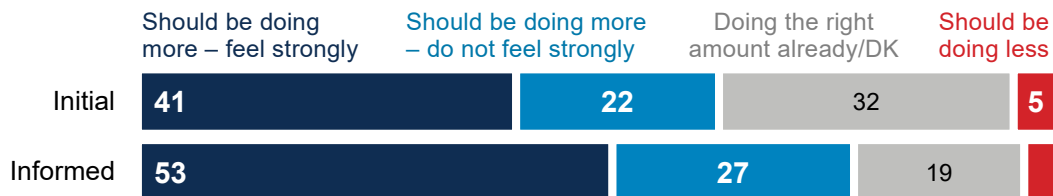
Among parents of young children, support for investing more public funds in expanding access to quality, affordable child care is even higher and more intensely felt (89% support, 59% strongly support). Over half of parents say that child care issues have caused them to miss work (57%), leave work early (58%), or arrive to work late (52%), so this is a very real problem for parents of young children in the state that they hope state government will work to address.



Well over half (64%) of likely voters in New York State feel the state should be doing more to ensure infants and toddlers in New York are healthy and developmentally on track at birth and throughout early childhood, and 76% of voters say they would approve if their state and local officials supported doing more.



Once voters learn about the positive benefits of investing in early childhood programs and services, a majority strongly support the state doing more for infants and toddlers. After reading the following short statement about improved outcomes for children who have participated in high-quality early childhood programming, voters feel even more intensely that New York State should be doing more for the state’s young children.

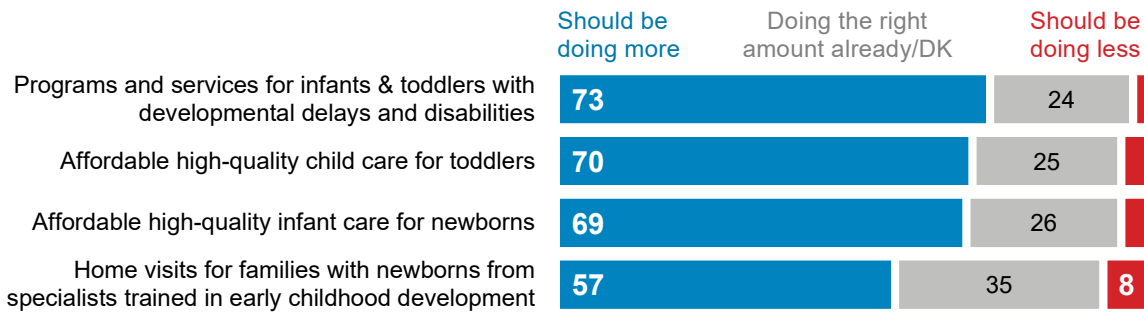


Participants read the following:

Research has shown that children who participate in high-quality child care and other early development programs are:

- More likely to graduate from high school and college
- More likely to hold a job and have higher lifelong earnings
- More likely to own their own home and car
- Less likely to commit a crime or become incarcerated
- Less likely to become pregnant as teenagers

Voters feel it is important that the state’s children have access to a variety of programs including services for children with developmental delays/disabilities, and infant and toddler care. Voters also feel the state should be doing more to ensure families with newborns have access to home visits from specialists trained in early childhood development.



In terms of the specific additional policies voters think would be helpful, voters and parents are supportive of a wide range of potential ideas and overwhelmingly say they would be helpful if put into place (listed below).

	Overall	Parents
Regularly screening infants and toddlers for developmental delays and disabilities, social-emotional concerns, and lead exposure	85% helpful	87%
Making sure all families can access high-quality, safe, and affordable child care no matter how much money they make	85	93
Increasing funding for programs that support infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities	85	87
Increasing access to high-quality prenatal care and care immediately before and after birth	85	87
Giving parents a reliable, transparent way to know if a childcare program is high-quality	83	88
Ensuring infants and toddlers have access to highly-qualified, well-compensated, and diverse child care providers	81	84
Better coordination between early development, childcare, and health care programs	81	84