

Raising New York

Policy Agenda



RAISING NEW YORK

Supported families. Thriving children.
A stronger New York.

**TOGETHER, WE CAN
MAKE NEW YORK
STATE THE BEST PLACE
IN THE COUNTRY TO
HAVE AND RAISE A
CHILD. HERE'S WHAT
IT WILL TAKE.**

The first three years of a child's life are critical, a formative period that can lay the groundwork for a lifelong love of learning and the best possible outcomes throughout their lives.

Research shows that investing in high-quality early childhood programs leads to students being more likely to graduate from high school and college, makes communities safer, and stops the school-to-prison pipeline that keeps too many children and young adults from reaching their full potential.

But across New York State, hundreds of thousands of families are prevented from accessing the high-quality programs, services, and opportunities they need to raise healthy and thriving children.

Raising New York aims to change that.

Raising New York is a diverse statewide coalition of parent, early childhood, education, civil rights, business, and health organizations dedicated to increasing the number of children who are on track for school readiness.

Families of infants and toddlers care deeply about surrounding their children with the care and nurturing support they need to flourish. Investing in high-quality early childhood programs is a window to the brightest possible future for New York's children.

Together, we can make New York State the best place in the country to have and raise a child. Here's what it will take.

Priority 1: Providing access to health and developmental care

All families with infants and toddlers have supported access to programs that value strong and positive relationships with families and ensure that parents, infants, and toddlers receive both screenings and a comprehensive and complementary set of services that promote maternal health and infant and toddler development.

Policy Strategies

- 1 Expand access to high-quality prenatal and perinatal care, especially for those most at-risk of poor outcomes, including women of color.
- 2 Expand access to evidence-based, maternal, infant, and early childhood home visitation programs that provide coaching and connections to community-based services and programs.
- 3 Promote developmental screening of all infants and toddlers, including for developmental delays, social-emotional concerns, lead, and other needs, and once delays/needs are detected, provide families with resources and supports to access appropriate services.
- 4 Implement universal and continuous coverage of children ages 0 to 3 in Medicaid.





Priority 2: Ensuring access to high-quality affordable child care

All families with infants and toddlers have access to and are supported in accessing affordable, high-quality, safe, and culturally responsive child care and early learning that are supported by a universal, transparent quality rating and improvement system.

Policy Strategies

- 1 Expand access to child care so that families who are low-income with infants and toddlers who qualify for child care assistance receive it and are able to enroll in a high-quality program that participates in QUALITYstarsNY.
- 2 Ensure infants and toddlers have access to highly qualified, well-compensated, and diverse early childhood educators.
- 3 Provide more support to parents of infants and toddlers to access high-quality child care and engage in early learning opportunities.

Priority 3: Helping more parents become financially secure

Families who are low-income with young children are provided with opportunities to achieve economic security and better integrate into their communities.

Policy Strategies

- 1 Strengthen tax credits available to expectant parents and low-income parents of infants and toddlers.
- 2 Promote higher education policies that are supportive of parents of infant and toddlers.
- 3 Increase access to adult education programs for parents of infant and toddlers that promote a dual-generation approach.





Priority 4: Systems policy strategies that support each priority

Ensure New York’s health, mental health, education, child care, social services, and safety net systems are connected through shared data and programmatic coordination and have sufficient funding to meet the needs of families with infants and toddlers as well as providers.

Policy Strategies

- 1** Develop an integrated data system starting at birth that all agencies have access to (NYSED, OCFS, OTDA, DOMH, DOH), which includes child-specific, program-level, and workforce-level data, and that will improve program coordination across agencies and support community-level efforts to coordinate early childhood services.
- 2** Develop regional infrastructure to enable greater cross-sector coordination among programs and sectors serving infants and toddlers, including child care, early intervention, home visitation, infant mental health, pediatrics, WIC, and other 0 to 3 providers.
- 3** Implement a comprehensive developmental inventory for infants and toddlers with the involvement of the health care system and connect it to developmental screening and referrals to treatment.
- 4** Improve child and family transitions between Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education.



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