

RAISING NEW YORK

Supported families. Thriving children.
A stronger New York.

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. Turn this page over to see what it takes, and learn more at RaisingNY.org.

NEW YORK'S INFANTS AND TODDLERS

80%



**of brain
growth
happens
in the first 3 years
of a child's life**

New York has

700,000

infants and toddlers
under the age of
3 and great need
among under-
served groups



44%



of New York's young children live
in low-income households

59%



of young children are Black or
Latinx

50%

of young children
have parents who
are immigrants



OUR PRIORITIES

1



Issue: Providing access to health and developmental care

The first three years of life are a period of incredible growth in a baby's development, a time when 80 percent of brain growth happens. But more than one in four mothers do not receive early prenatal care. One-third of young children are at serious risk for delays in development, yet New York ranks 49th in the country for screening rates. Just 13 percent of parents with young children receive a home visit.

What New York State can do:

- Make high-quality prenatal and perinatal healthcare more accessible.
- Expand access to home visitation programs that offer coaching and support.
- Ensure infants and toddlers receive necessary screenings for developmental delays and disabilities, and referrals to the services they need.

2



Issue: Ensuring access to high-quality affordable child care

Babies are born learning. High-quality child care gives children from all backgrounds the opportunity for social, emotional, and intellectual development so they are ready for school. But the cost of child care in New York is too high for most families. And more than three in five New Yorkers live in communities with few or no child care options.

What New York State can do:

- Make sure all families can access high-quality, safe, and affordable child care no matter how much money they make.
- Give parents a reliable, transparent way to know if a child care program is high-quality.
- Cultivate a skilled, well-compensated, and supported workforce of child care practitioners.

3



Issue: Helping more parents become financially secure

Being financially stable can help reduce the devastating effects of chronic stress on growing families. Right now, many parents of young children do not have access to state programs — including the Empire State Tax Credit and enough financial aid to afford college — aimed at putting New Yorkers on the path to more economic stability.

What New York State can do:

- Provide more tax credits to low-income parents of infants and toddlers.
- Increase access to adult and higher education programs for parents of infants and toddlers.

4



Issue: Building a system that works together for families

In order to address these three big issues, New York needs coordination between early development, child care, and health care programs and services. There is often a disconnect between the multiple agencies across different levels of government that serve young children and families, which means parents can be forced to navigate confusing systems and providers can be stuck in silos.

What New York State can do:

- Make sure agencies and providers can share information and coordinate services.
- Identify key milestones in a child's development and provide services and supports to parents to ensure their children are reaching their full potential.
- Support families of children with disabilities as they transition into preschool.