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Support New York City's Children in the FY 2011 Budget

Restore \$27.6 million for Child Care Capacity

Child care provides a critical support for working parents and early learning and socialization opportunities for their children. Last year, New York City discontinued contracted child care services for five year old children (124 classrooms with the capacity to serve more than 3,300 children) and moved care of the five year olds to Kindergarten. Fortunately, all these classrooms were preserved to provide care to three and four year olds through the use of \$10.6 million in temporary federal funds and an \$8 million City Council Initiative, which supports 31 classrooms serving 1,300 children. All 124 classrooms are at risk of closure.

The proposed FY 2011 City Budget also contains a \$9.0 million cut to child care that would result in the closure of 16 child care centers with the combined capacity to serve 1,150 children. This \$9.0 million should be reinvested in the child care system to allow families access to child care.

Restore \$2.75 million for Full Day Universal Pre-Kindergarten Programs

Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) provides crucial educational services in the areas of early literacy and basic math to four year old children. Because New York State-funded Universal Pre-Kindergarten programs only support a half day of care (2.5 hours), they are not viable for many children of working parents. The City Council added \$2.75 million in the FY 2010 budget to allow community-based organizations to provide full day (5 hour) UPK programs.

Restore \$12.8 million for Preventive Services

Preventive services are community-based programs that work with families to keep children in their homes, protect them from abuse and neglect, and help them avoid foster care. The proposed FY 2011 City Budget and the October 2010 Child Welfare RFP together include \$11 million in cuts to preventive service slots (2,400 from the Child Welfare RFP and 600 from the ACS Program to Eliminate the Gap). The proposed FY 2011 budget also includes a \$424,000 cut in funds used to lower preventive service caseloads to the national standard of 12 families per caseworker at Beacon Based Preventive Programs and a \$1.4 million cut to Family Therapy Rehabilitation, homemaking services, and Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) Preventive Services.

Restore \$1.6 million for the Children Under Five Initiative

The Children under Five initiative, restored by the City Council last year and not included in the proposed FY 2011 City Budget, provides funding for mental health programs serving children ages five and under.

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