



70 West 36th Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10018-8007
Phone: (212) 967-0322 Fax: (212) 967-0792 www.unhny.org

Support Child Care

- ✓ ***OPPOSE the inclusion of child care funding in the Flexible Fund for Family Services (FFFS).***

The Governor's budget includes child care in the Flexible Fund for Family Services (FFFS). The FFFS block grant forces child care to compete with other state and local priorities, including federally mandated requirements such as child protective services and work participation rates and can reduce overall funding for child care subsidies. The only way to ensure that child care funding is maintained is to carve out the \$356 million in child care funds specifically for child care.

The legislature has, in previous budgets rejected moving child care into FFFS. We urge the legislature to ensure that child care funding is placed on its own budget line outside FFFS.

- ✓ **SUPPORT Flexibility for Universal Pre-Kindergarten funding.**

New York State funded Universal Pre-Kindergarten provides crucial educational benefits to 4 year olds throughout New York State. However, because State UPK funds only two and a half hours a day, the program is inaccessible to many children of working parents.

To assure high quality pre-kindergarten is available to all children in need, school districts must have the flexibility to adequately fund both full-day and part-day programs in schools and community based organizations, pay for conversion and increase the reimbursement of the rate per child to reflect the actual cost of providing care. This flexibility will allow programs to cover their actual costs and retain certified teachers.

UNH supports Governor Paterson's proposal to sustain the previous 2008-2009 level of funding for UPK but urges the State to allow school districts greater flexibility in the use of these funds.

- ✓ ***REPEAL the regulation requiring parents to present court-ordered child support documentation.***

The regulations requiring families receiving child care subsidies to pursue a court-ordered child support agreement as a condition to receiving child care creates an undue barrier for families headed by single-parents, immigrants, and teenage parents. Unfortunately this forces parents to find alternative child care arrangements that may not be appropriate or stable.

Assemblymember Scarborough has sponsored legislation to repeal this requirement. This bill (A.3657) has passed the Assembly in previous sessions. We hope that the Assembly to again pass A.3657 and urge the Senate to also take action on this critical issue.