

**Testimony submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Hearing on Human Services  
Wednesday, February 8, 2017  
Provided by: *Winning Beginning NY***

*Winning Beginning NY (WBNY)* is the State's early learning coalition, with over 60 organizational and individual members. We thank the Committee for reading our testimony. We have attached background documents for each priority that contain detailed information.

### **Child Care**

The Executive Budget does not include any new funding for the child care subsidy program for low income working families. It does not include new funding to implement the requirements of the Federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014. *In fact, the Governor's budget reduces general fund support for child care, replacing it with ~\$27m in Title XX funding. This funding is used by local social service districts for critical programming, including preventive and protective services to children, eviction prevention, and services to seniors. This pits one vital service against another, and would result in a net loss for local Counties.*

In addition, we ask that you:

- Invest \$100M for child care assistance.
- Create an Early Childhood Learning Fund with a dedicated revenue stream to serve significantly more children who are eligible but going unserved because of lack of funding.
- Implement new federal block grant requirements without passing costs onto providers.

### **Pre-K**

*WBNY* will testify at the Education Hearing but requests that the State:

- Encourage community-based child care programs to provide Pre-K services.

### **Home Visiting**

Funding has been flat-funded for Healthy Families New York since 2008 and increased only incrementally for Nurse-Family Partnership. Two additional research-based programs, Parents as Teachers and The Parent-Child Home Program, Inc., receive little

or no State funding. These programs decrease child abuse, increase school readiness, and improve health outcomes. We ask that you:

- Maintain \$26.8 million and invest an additional \$9.5 million in maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting to adequately fund a continuum of supports and services for families.

### **Expanded Learning**

While *WBNY* is pleased with the Executive's addition of \$35M in new afterschool programs in high-poverty cities (in the Education Budget), we ask that you:

- Appropriate \$32.8 million to the Advantage After School Program (AASP) to help with minimum wage increases.
  - The Executive Budget is a \$5M reduction from FY16-17.
- Invest \$1.2M in the acquisition of a data system for tracking participant outcomes from expanded learning opportunities.

### **Workforce**

According to UC Berkeley, 46% of the child care workforce participates in at least one public assistance program. We ask that you:

- Create a state task force to evaluate the immediate and long-term impact of the increasing minimum wage on current salary structures and the cost of these critical services; and to develop recommendations to ensure appropriate compensation for the professionals working in these programs.