



Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. I am Tim Hathaway, Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse New York (PCANY).

Our single mission is to **prevent child abuse in all its forms**. We are a statewide non-profit organization whose work is primarily comprised of three services training and technical assistance to professionals, policy and advocacy, and community awareness at the state and local levels in pursuit of a robust, cross-sector primary prevention ecosystem that ensures the wellbeing of New York's children and families.

Our **community awareness** efforts, including the Parent Helpline and the Pinwheels for Prevention Campaign programs, increase understanding of how individuals can use the Protective Factors Framework to help prevent child maltreatment.

We provide **training and technical assistance** to professionals to help ensure healthy and supportive environments for children and families through programs and partnerships such as Healthy Families New York Home Visiting certification, New York State Parenting Education Partnership, Enough Abuse Sexual Abuse Prevention, Community-based Strengthening Families and Child Abuse Prevention courses.

**Centering our work in prevention and strengthening families, we advocate for evidence-based policies and practices that target the root causes of child abuse and neglect. We support policies and practices and that promote family and child stability and wellbeing such as economic security; stable housing; universal maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting; quality child care; and youth and afterschool programs.**

Access to concrete supports that address a family's needs minimizes stress and increases the likelihood of positive outcomes for families and children, according to the [Protective Factors Framework](#). To that end, we urge investment at the state level to strengthen families and the communities in which they live as follows:

#### **PCANYS FY2025 PRIORITIES**

As we work toward a system of **universal home visiting** that would offer every family with a new baby up to four home visits and a referral to an existing program if additional supports are desired, **we request funding to continue to continue and/or expand the evidence-informed programs already serving families across New York State:**

- a. \$500,000 for ParentChild+, including a restoration of the \$200,000 appropriation in the FY2024 Enacted Budget plus a \$300,000 increase to expand its support to more underserved communities, reaching an additional 100 to 200 families across New York State, including communities in Manhattan, Queens, Bronx County, Buffalo, and Rockland County, with a particular focus on communities struggling with inadequate child care resources in the western part of the State.



- b. \$4.5M (a \$1.5M increase of the \$3M of the appropriation in the FY2025 Executive Budget) and an increase in the Medicaid reimbursement rate for Nurse-Family Partnership. The additional funding will allow the service to expand service beyond the current 3,675 family capacity.
- c. We are pleased that the FY 2025 Executive Budget maintains funding for the Healthy Families NY base funding (\$26,162,200), which is supplemented with \$11M of adoption 'de-linking' funds. **We ask that no cuts are made to the FY2025 Executive Budget funding level.** Currently, there are 54 programs serving all 62 counties. In 2022, there were a little under 5,700 families served during more than 84,000 visits.

**PCANY urges decisive action to bolster economic supports to lift children and families out of poverty and to remove unjust, inequitable barriers to concrete supports, such as housing and nutrition access through the following actions:**

- a. Strengthen the State child tax credit. The 2023-2024 Budget expanded to include children under age four. In the upcoming budget, the limitations to the credit amount given to the lowest income families must be removed to ensure it reaches the poorest families in New York State.
- b. Strengthen the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) so that more working individuals may file.
- c. Pass the Working Families Tax Credit (A4022A-Hevesi/S277A-Gounardes) which will provide a credit per child regardless of income.
- d. Ensure all New Yorkers have access to strong, expansive paid medical leave (A4053-Solages/S2821-Ramos).
- e. Passage of Statewide Right to Counsel legislation (A1493-Joyner/S2721-May) to: Establish the right to a free attorney to all New Yorkers facing displacement, cover formal eviction proceedings and any case that could result in displacement (illegal lock-outs, repair cases, and even self-eviction), and mandates court adjourned cases until tenants have been able to secure an attorney.
- f. Establish and fund a Statewide Healthy School Meals for All program that is universal, eliminating barriers for immigrant and other families, without means-testing or eligibility based on highest need.

**Prevent Child Abuse New York** strongly supports the following efforts:

- The Empire State Campaign for Child Care (ESCCC) priorities to achieve universal child care in New York State.
- The NYS Network for Youth Success after school budget priorities.
- NY CAN End Child Poverty workgroup priorities.