



121 State Street
Albany, New York 12207-1693
Tel: 518-436-0751
Fax: 518-436-4751

TO: Joint Budget Hearing on Labor/Workforce
wamchair@nyassembly.gov
financechair@nysenate.gov

FROM: Hinman Straub on behalf of our client: Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF)

DATE: February 25, 2026

RE: Statement on 2026-27 FY Executive Budget

The Low Income Investment Fund is grateful for the investments made in this year's Executive budget in support of child care. Specifically, they support:

- \$1 million to support Child Care Zoning (ATL-OCFS)
- State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Reforms for Child Care – TED Part R
- Professional Development and Training for Child Care Providers – ELFA Part H
- Historic Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Funding (ALT-OCFS)

LIIF is a member of the Empire State Campaign for Child Care (ESCCC). They stand with the campaign in support of a permanent state fund to increase child care workforce compensation. Specifically, LIIF supports the Child Care Workforce Pay Equity Fund introduced by Senator Brisport and Assembly member Hevesi (S.5533/A.492) and hopes that this initiative is included in the Senate and Assembly.

In addition to investing \$1.2 billion in a workforce fund, NYS should consider a minimum pay scale and career ladder that will support existing child care providers and recognize the importance of professional development for this essential position. High quality child care is only achievable if we invest in the workforce that care for New York's children.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments.

WHO IS LIIF?

Founded in 1984, the Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF) is a leading national nonprofit community development financial institution (CDFI) that mobilizes financial capital to help support projects that strengthen and sustain communities of opportunity, equity and well-being. For the last 25 years, LIIF has been a trusted partner and leader, leveraging public and private dollars to provide grants, loans and technical assistance in the early education and child care sector. This work has not only deepened our commitment to ensure child care providers can continue to serve as critical community anchors, it has also strengthened our expertise, allowing our Early Care and Education teams to bring decades of expertise as we work to increase supply, quality, stability and accessibility for children and families.

LIIF works at the intersection of child wellbeing and the built environment—conducting research, engaging community stakeholders, and advising policymakers to address gaps in childcare supply and infrastructure. Our research is guided by our “4 As” framework, which asserts that child care should be Affordable, Available, Accessible (meaning infrastructure), and Adequate (meaning physical facilities are in good repair and designed to provide a high-quality experience). We employ this framework to translate data into concrete policy reforms, zoning changes, and financial strategies that cities, towns and villages can implement to build stronger early childhood ecosystems. The Advisory and State Policy team has led statewide assessments, informed policy recommendations, and developed innovative tools to evaluate needs, neighborhoods and facilities through the lens of young children’s unique needs. Its Facilities Fund Management Team is certified supporting child care providers using the Business Administration Scale and have helped stabilize family child care in NYS and the Washington DC area through assessment, training and technical assistance.

For further information, please contact Heather Evans, Hinman Straub at hevans@hinmanstraub.com.