

Liftoff WNY Network News

Summer 2020



Liftoff and WNY Leaders Call for \$50 Billion Child Care Stabilization Fund to Support Child Care Providers Struggling to Stay Open



July 24, 2020 - US. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul visited the Buffalo State College Child Care Center to meet with local leaders, child care providers and parents to discuss the need for critical support for the child care industry. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly half of all child care providers have had to shut their doors and the industry faces a potential loss of more than 4 million child care slots, which would leave millions of families without access to essential child care services when usual work and life schedules resume. To learn more, [watch the 2-minute video](#) and [read the press release](#).



“Even before COVID-19, the lack of quality, affordable child care was a big barrier to full-time employment for many women and families in my district. That situation has only worsened in the wake of the pandemic. Rebuilding the foundation of our economy must begin with rebuilding our child care industry, which is why a major investment of federal funds is urgent.”

~Senator George M. Borrello, NYS 57th Senate District

Liftoff to Chair NYS “Kids Can’t Wait” Leadership Council

Young children with developmental delays and disabilities are eligible to receive services such as physical, occupational and speech therapy. Federal law mandates that these services be made available to infants and toddlers through the Early Intervention program and preschoolers via the Preschool Special Education program. Both are funded with local, state and federal dollars. Currently, insufficient funding in New York State is driving professionals out of this field. With providers not available, children are waiting weeks or even months for support, which has [disproportionate impacts on children of color](#). The Kids Can’t Wait campaign works to address these challenges so that young children are healthy and thriving.

Liftoff WNY is pleased to Chair the Leadership Council and coordinate with other major early childhood initiatives across the state, to minimize redundancies and align state level advocacy strategies and actions. Members of the Leadership Council include the Adirondack Birth to 3 Alliance, Raising NY, NYS Association of Counties, The Children’s Agenda, NYS Council of Churches, plus dozens more.



Follow [#ChildCareisEssential](#) discussions and developments on social media!

Aligned Action & Advocacy: Early Intervention Deadline Extended for New York State 3-year-olds



On June 16th, Liftoff WNY joined 80 organizations across the state [calling on New York State to extend Early Intervention services](#) so that children having difficulty getting preschool special education evaluations during the pandemic did not lose their services. **As a result of this advocacy, on Monday, June 30th, the State announced that the deadline would be extended until August 31st, saving hundreds of children from WNY having these pertinent services interrupted.**

In the Headlines



- **Democrat & Chronicle:** Because of COVID-19, 3-year-olds may lose services without state action ([full article](#))
- **WGRZ 2 News:** Daycare 'a dying industry'? An operator says without government aid, shuttered centers will remain closed ([full segment](#))
- **WKBW 7 News:** Child care providers face challenges before they reopen ([full segment](#))
- **Politico:** How the Child Care Crisis Will Distort the Economy for a Generation ([full article](#))
- **The Washington Post:** Middle-income and rural families disproportionately grapple with child-care deserts, new analysis shows ([full article](#))
- **CNBC:** Only 32% of companies returning to work have plans for employees' child-care needs even as many schools postpone reopening full-time ([full article](#))



Research and Resources

[Webinar] [Racial Justice, Equity and the Role of Child Care](#) Part Three: A conversation on fixing the child care system to ensure equal access to both tools and opportunities. In part three in this series, presenters address the systems where discrimination and inequities exist and look for solutions within these systems that impacts the lives of Black children and their families.

[Maternal and Child Health Inequities Emerge Even Before Birth](#): Produced as part of ZERO TO THREE's Think Babies™, with data and indicator analysis powered by Child Trends, this year's State of the Babies yearbook summarizes evidence of serious disparities in infant and maternal outcomes and presents potential strategies to ameliorate them.

[NY Funders Alliance Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Resource Page](#): A core component of the NY Funders Alliance network is to foster conversations that promote ongoing learning and collaboration towards a better society for all. We hope you find a resource or two that strengthens your own practice and commitment to this work and encourage you to share guidance from other sources that you have found particularly beneficial.