



**Statement of Tara N. Gardner, Executive Director of Day Care Council of New York  
On the New York City Council Response to the FY 2026 Preliminary Budget**

The Day Care Council of New York (DCCNY) applauds the City Council's proposals for investing in early childhood education outlined in its response to the FY 2026 Preliminary Budget. Over the last several months, hundreds of New Yorkers, including staff and parents from DCCNY's member organizations, have advocated for early childhood education by speaking with council members, rallying at City Hall, and testifying at hearings.

The City Council Budget Response calls on the City to:

- Restore **\$112 million for 3-K capacity**
- Restore **\$55 million for Preschool Special Education**
- Restore **\$25 million for School Day Plus**, which expands the Pre-K day in community-based organizations
- Restore **\$5 million for early childhood education community outreach**
- Invest **\$84 million to expand eligibility for child care assistance**
- Invest **\$5 million to support child care outreach efforts**
- Invest **\$60 million to expand and re-envision Promise NYC** to serve 3,500 infants and toddlers

DCCNY also supports the City Council's call for New York State to fully fund the Child Care Assistance Program and has been working with Albany leaders on this critical investment.

In this response to the Preliminary Budget, the City Council signaled its commitment to early childhood education - a commitment many New Yorkers consider crucial. We look forward to working with the Administration and City Council to achieve a budget that prioritizes early childhood education.

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