

# Supporting the Future Generation by:

- Supporting Maternal and Child Health
- Increasing Access to High-Quality, Affordable Child Care
- Increasing School Readiness and Success
- Expanding Workforce Development Opportunities

Investing in our youth is investing in the future of New York State. Children are already learning at birth, and they develop and learn at a rapid pace in their early years which continues through adulthood.

Healthy birth outcomes and a healthy start in life, including adequate prenatal care and outreach, access to well child care, on time immunization, early screening for health conditions and developmental delays, as well as adequate nutrition are the building blocks in which the state should begin to invest in our future generation.

Settings where young children are cared for and educated play a very important role in their overall development and learning abilities. It is critical that families have access to high-quality, affordable childcare.

A quality education that leads to a job that pays well is one of the building blocks for a good life. Yet many children in communities across the state come from homes and neighborhoods where they face obstacles. It is critical that the state continue to support educational supports for children including programs that support early learning, ensure grade-level reading and encourage college and career readiness.

While the economy has improved in NYS, we still see a break in the pipeline in which we have a number of young adults who are not employed, or do not have a career pathway. Providing workforce development opportunities, including soft skills training and career exploration while they are in high school or college will set them up to be successful in a career of their choice.

## 2020-21 Budget Requests

- ⇒ Continue to support maternal and child health programs including home visiting, lead prevention, and the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP).
- ⇒ Additional funding for child care subsidy slots across the state.
- ⇒ Additional investments in UPK, early learning, as well as youth development, mentoring, and afterschool supports.
- ⇒ Support workforce development opportunities which encourage training, apprenticeships, and career exploration.

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