

**2019 Policy Position**

**Prevent Abuse by Providing High-Quality Child Care**

Parents cannot work without reliable child care, both for young and school-age children. Low-income, at-risk families are particularly vulnerable and are often forced to cobble together supports before and after work, and during non-traditional work hours. High-quality care is sometimes out of reach—even for middle class families—with programs costing more than college tuition.

While New York State does provide child care subsidies to the working poor, **78 percent of eligible children do not receive subsidies and the child care infrastructure remains woefully disjointed and underfunded.**[[1]](#footnote-1) It is also not connected in any meaningful way to services that support the same families, such as home visiting. Priority should be given to strengthening the continuum of care, from the prenatal period to age eight.

When parents and caregivers cannot work, or their work day is disrupted by unreliable care, they are less productive. Their lack of care may actually put their job in jeopardy. In addition, they are more stressed, which can lead to short tempers and abuse.

**PCANY supports strengthening the child care/afterschool infrastructure.**

New York State should:

* Support the Executive and Legislative Agendas of the Empire State Campaign for Child Care and Winning Beginning NY.
* Support the NYS Network for Youth Success’ Executive and Legislative Agendas pertaining to afterschool and summer programs.

**4 Global View, Troy, NY 12180 | 518.880.3595 | www.preventchildabuseny.org**

1. *Winning Beginning NY;* 2017 Executive Agenda and Background Information. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)