



New York City Public Advocate Letitia James

# CHILD CARE IN NEW YORK CITY:

## Investing in Child Care

*An analysis of subsidized childcare options in New York City*

# New York City Public Advocate Letitia James



The Office of the New York Public Advocate assists with complaints and inquiries regarding city services. From resolving housing complaints to helping access services like food stamps and Medicare, the office helps thousands of New Yorkers every year.



# Childcare in New York City is Unaffordable

- \* The average NYC family spends **\$16,250 per year** for an infant and **\$11,650** for a toddler for child care.
- \* The cost of child care is increasing by an average of **\$1,612 each year.**
- \* ACS's Early Learn and federal Head Start programs only serve **about one-quarter of eligible children.**



# The Existing Landscape of Subsidized Child Care Options

City Tax Credits

Child Care Voucher

Early Learn Program

There are **three primary modes** by which income-eligible families can offset the cost of child care in New York City:



# Challenges for the NYC Child Care System

Affordability

Pay Disparity

Leases

Accessibility



# Affordability

Family income	Annual Fee for Full Time Child Care (% of childcare cost per household income)		
	Family Size 2	Family Size 3	Family Size 4
\$20,000	\$1,404 (7%)	\$780 (4%)	\$780 (4%)
\$25,000	\$3,172 (13%)	\$1,716 (7%)	\$780 (3%)
\$30,000	\$4,888 (16%)	\$3,432 (11%)	\$1,976 (7%)
\$35,000	\$5,928 (17%)	\$5,200 (15%)	\$3,744 (11%)
\$40,000	\$6,760 (17%)	\$6,708 (17%)	\$5,512 (14%)
\$45,000		\$7,644 (17%)	\$7,228 (16%)
\$50,000			\$8,476 (17%)

Source: Calculations based on ACS's 2015 monthly fee schedule.

If the parent's income increases 25 percent, from \$20,000 to \$25,000, the child care fee more than **doubles** to 61\$ per week



# Salary Disparities amongst Early Childhood Professionals

Contracts	Education Level and Years of Experience					
	BA	BA + 10 years	BA + 20 years	MA	MA + 10 years	MA + 20 years
ACS (non-UPK EarlyLearn)	\$36,542	\$40,565	\$41,265	\$39,350	\$41,550	\$42,350
ACS (UPK EarlyLearn)	\$44,000	\$44,000	\$44,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
DOE (UPK)	\$48,445	\$68,444	\$85,089	\$54,458	\$74,457	\$91,102

*Sources: UFT, 2014 Contract: Salary Schedules for Proposed 2009-2018 Contract; Teacher Salary Schedule 9/1/2014; DC1707, Local 205 and Local 95 Member Contracts.*

- DOE UPK teachers with masters make an avg. **\$74,457**
- ACS UPK teachers with masters make an avg. **\$50,000**



# Public Advocate James' Plan to Make Childcare Affordable in NYC

- \* Expand the New York City Child Care Tax Credit to families making up to \$65,000.
- \* Expand and dedicate funding to Child Care slots for infants and toddlers.
- \* Create the Mayor's Office of Early Childhood development.
- \* Ensure pay equity between the DOE and ACS Early Learn teachers.
- \* New York City must directly negotiate long term leases with landlords to ensure providers stability.





# Contact the Office of the Public Advocate

Telephone Hotline: (212)669-7250

Email: [GetHelp@pubadvocate.nyc.gov](mailto:GetHelp@pubadvocate.nyc.gov)

 [www.facebook.com/PALetitiaJames](https://www.facebook.com/PALetitiaJames)

 @TishJames

Website: [pubadvocate.nyc.gov/](http://pubadvocate.nyc.gov/)

Address: 1 Centre Street, 15<sup>th</sup> floor N. New York, NY 10007

Walk-in office Hours: Monday-Friday from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm

