



**Elizabeth Wolkomir,
Deputy Commissioner, Division of Child and Family Well-being
Testimony to the New York City Council
Committees on Immigration and Women and Gender Equity
June 13, 2023**

Oversight: Promise NYC and Access to Child Care for Immigrants

Good morning. I'm Elizabeth Wolkomir, the Deputy Commissioner for the Division of Child and Family Well-being at the Administration for Children's Services (ACS). Thank you Chair Hanif, Chair Caban, and all the members of the Committees on Immigration and Women and Gender Equity for holding this hearing on access to child care for immigrants. This is a critical topic, and I'm glad to be here with colleagues from the Mayor's Office of Child Care and Early Childhood Education and New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) to discuss it today.

The Division that I lead at ACS focuses on investing in families and communities, including through the provision of assistance to help families cover the cost of child care. With the support of child care vouchers, parents and caregivers can pursue work, education, and stable housing, knowing their children are in safe and developmentally appropriate care. Much of the subsidized care in New York City for low-income families is funded by the New York State Child Care Block Grant, or CCBG. As the local social service district, ACS is responsible for administering CCBG, which supports a part of the City's contracted child care system administered through NYCPS as well as child care vouchers issued by ACS and the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA).

The block grant is a mix of federal and state funds, and therefore is constrained by relevant federal and state laws and regulations. Unlike federally-funded education, federally-funded public benefits, including child care subsidies, are limited to citizens and individuals that qualify as a result of certain immigration statuses, such as refugees and legal permanent residents. These rules are based on the federal 1996 Personal

Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), commonly known as “welfare reform.”

As you know, the Governor committed to providing New York City with approximately \$4 billion over the next 4 years in CCBG funding to support child care assistance in New York City. This is a vital investment, but based on federal rules these funds cannot support many of our neighbors whose children lack qualified immigration status, including many of the asylum seekers that have arrived in the City over the last months.

Importantly, to receive CCBG-funded child care assistance, only the child for whom a family is seeking care must meet these criteria. This means, many immigrant parents are able to receive child care assistance through contracted or voucher care if their child was born in the United States or has another qualified status. In addition, the City has several options for children that do not meet criteria for CCBG-funded subsidies based on their immigration status. NYCPS operates a continuum of Pre-K and 3-K programs that are available to children without regard for citizenship or immigration status. The City’s Head Start and Early Head Start programs administered by NYCPS and direct federal grantees are also an important part of the early childhood continuum; because they are educational programs, they also do not have an immigration or citizenship eligibility requirement.

These programs are a lifeline to immigrant families. However, to adequately support this population, we desperately need changes to federal rules. I urge you, as Council members, to also push our federal partners to revisit the laws that prevent many

children, particularly undocumented children, from receiving CCBG-funded child care assistance.

Promise NYC

As you know, in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Adopted City Budget, ACS received \$10 million of city funding for City Fiscal Year 2023 to create a new program for children who, as a result of their immigration status, are ineligible for federally funded child care assistance. This funding was used to create Promise NYC.

ACS used the first five to six months of the fiscal year to develop the program, to contract with four community-based organizations (CBOs) - each with deep ties to the immigrant communities in their respective boroughs – and to support the CBOs as they hired and trained staff, developed policies and procedures for Promise NYC, and rolled out their programs. The CBOs operating Promise NYC are Chinese American Planning Council, in Queens; La Colmena in Staten Island; the Center for Family Life in Brooklyn; and NMIC in the Bronx and Manhattan. The funding provided to the CBOs pays for both the administrative costs of running the new program and for child care subsidies during the latter 6 months of the fiscal year.

Eligibility for Promise NYC is based on child's age as well as the family's income and residency. Like the federally-funded child care voucher program ACS administers, Promise NYC serves children living in New York City ages 0 to 13 years old from families earning under 300 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL).

All four Promise NYC programs launched between late December 2022 and January 2023. The four CBOs implementing Promise NYC are responsible for serving

families across the borough they were, respectively, contracted to serve. They have conducted outreach to the target population; completed screening and made eligibility determinations; and supported families eligible for Promise NYC in finding and securing child care enrollment. Families receiving Promise NYC subsidies could use the support to enroll their children at any licensed center-based or registered home-based provider across the City. Once children are enrolled in care with a Promise NYC subsidy, CBOs make monthly subsidy payments directly to child care providers. CBO staff were also trained in the full continuum of child care available in NYC, and when they encountered families eligible for other types of child care assistance, they connected them to those programs.

As a result of their efforts, by the end of April we had met our target of reaching over 600 children enrolled in child care with the support of a subsidy from Promise NYC. About 70% of the children enrolled are ages 0 through 4. The subsidy Promise NYC provides covers the full cost of care at the provider of the caregiver's choice, up to \$700 per week. With only a few exceptions, this has meant that Promise NYC covers the full costs of care for nearly all participants.

The four CBOs implementing Promise NYC have been invaluable partners, driving the success of the program. We are deeply grateful for their commitment to Promise NYC and the children, families, and communities they support. I need to take this moment to publicly thank them for all they have done this past year. The partnership they have fostered with ACS and one another to design and launch this program in a very condensed timeframe is exemplary.

Conclusion

ACS is deeply grateful to Mayor Adams, the City Council, our contracted partners, and the many other city stakeholders that were involved in making Promise NYC a success. We look forward to the outcome of the ongoing FY 24 budget discussions between the Administration and the City Council. We also continue to hope that our collaborative advocacy can bring change at the federal level, so that we do not need to rely on city funds for child care assistance for this population and can more adequately support the families who need it.



JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS

**TESTIMONY OF PUBLIC ADVOCATE JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS TO THE
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND
COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY
JUNE 13, 2023**

Good afternoon,

My name is Jumaane D. Williams and I am the Public Advocate for the City of New York. I would like to thank Chair Hanif, Chair Cabán, and members of the Committee on Immigration and the Committee on Women and Gender Equity for holding this hearing.

For the many families, parents, and caretakers throughout our city, child care services are essential. In particular, for working families, child care provides working parents and guardians with the ability to stay in the workforce and financially support their children. Child care services take many forms; this can range from family day care programs to summer camps to school-based programs. These services are also important for the development and enrichment of children, especially younger children, providing an opportunity to learn and engage in social activities.

Child care is undoubtedly crucial for so many working families, yet accessing affordable quality child care is more difficult than it should be in this city. For starters, child care in New York City is largely unaffordable for working families; the median annual cost of commercial daycare for toddlers is approximately \$18,000 and \$23,000 for infants.¹ Furthermore, child care providers have limited capacity and cannot keep up with demand, and approximately half of all community districts are considered infant care deserts, according to a 2019 report from the NYC Comptroller.² There are existing programs at the local, state, and federal levels to mitigate some or all of the costs of child care depending on income, such as the Child Care Assistance Program, yet due to eligibility requirements, child care continues to be out of reach for many NYC families.

For those without legal immigration status, the aforementioned challenges of child care are compounded by the fact that most are shut out from government-funded programs due to immigration status. In New York City, PromiseNYC was the resulting initiative to address the lack of child care opportunities for undocumented families. With the backdrop of over 70,000 asylum seekers arriving to our city (more than 70% are families with children³), lack of child care access has

¹ <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb/topics/childcare/median-family-income-by-age-care-setting>

² <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/nyc-under-three-a-plan-to-make-child-care-affordable-for-new-york-city-families/>

³ <https://gothamist.com/news/families-with-children-make-up-more-than-70-of-migrants-in-city-shelters>



JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS

been exacerbated, especially for those without legal status. Recent arrivals have lamented the inability to seek work with a child in tow, and those residing temporarily in city-run shelters report of stringent shelter rules hindering their ability to find jobs if they have children with them.⁴ Asylum seekers find themselves in a bind: they wish to seek work and opportunities to become self-sufficient and to support their families, yet the city offers little to no child care resources or punishes them if they were to leave their children with relatives or friends while they seek work.

[PromiseNYC](#) was announced in December 2022 as a new child care assistance program for low income, undocumented immigrant families. The program subsequently began in January 2023 with the intent to serve at least 600 children over the course of 6 months. Families who were eligible could enroll in subsidized day care or after-school programs, receiving vouchers that covered up to \$700 a week in child care. PromiseNYC has been deemed a success, meeting its goal of serving 600 children by April 2023, and the Administration for Children’s Services has reported that all but three children have had their child care costs fully covered.⁵

With such a successful program, it only makes sense that it continues moving forward and expanding its reach. Yet, in the Administration’s executive budget for fiscal year 2024, funding for PromiseNYC is cut altogether. It is unconscionable for the Administration, who initiated this program just earlier this year, to tout its major success and then propose cutting it entirely months later. Without funding, the 600+ families would be without child care, parents may have to lose their jobs in order to stay home and take care of their children, starting at square one yet again. Immigrant and child care advocates have called on the Administration and the City Council to double the initial \$10 million investment for FY24. We must give every family and every parent, especially those who are ineligible for traditional child care programs, to finally have the opportunity to access child care and be able to provide for their children and families. As a parent myself, I know how vital child care services are to building and raising healthy and happy families, and I call on the Administration and the City Council to listen to advocates and immigrant families to continue funding and support for PromiseNYC and our existing child care providers throughout the city who provide this essential service.

Thank you.

⁴ <https://gothamist.com/news/nyc-shelter-rules-around-childcare-are-making-it-hard-for-migrant-moms-to-find-work>

⁵ <https://www.thecity.nyc/immigration/2023/5/19/23730212/promise-nyc-free-child-care-eric-adams>



Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn since 1971

Testimony to be Delivered to the New York City Council Committee on Immigration and Committee on Women and Gender Equity

Re: Promise NYC and Access to Child Care for Immigrants

June 13, 2023

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss early childhood education in New York City. My name is Betty Baez Melo, and I am an attorney and Director of the Early Childhood Education Project at Advocates for Children of New York (AFC). For more than 50 years, Advocates for Children has worked to ensure a high-quality education for New York students who face barriers to academic success, focusing on students from low-income backgrounds. Every year, we help thousands of families navigate the education system, starting from the time children are born.

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We believe that every child should have access to high-quality early childhood care and education programs. As such, we were pleased when the City launched Promise NYC to increase access to early childhood programs to children who are undocumented. Unfortunately, the Mayor's Executive Budget does not include funding for this crucial initiative and hundreds of children risk being turned away from their program after June.

Many child care and preschool programs, including DOE extended day and year 3-K and Pre-K programs, require families to qualify for child care assistance in order to enroll. These programs have historically excluded children who are undocumented, citing state and federal restrictions on their eligibility for subsidized child care.

Since its launch in January, hundreds of families of children who are undocumented have been able to secure child care funding through Promise NYC to attend a variety of early childhood programs. Several hundred other families are on waitlists seeking care for their young children. Unfortunately, this funding is set to expire at the end of the month, meaning that children risk losing a seat in their program and new families will be unable to apply.

At a time when NYC has seen an increase in immigrant families, we ask for continued funding of this initiative so that children are not excluded from programs based on their immigration status. About 40% of the thousands of newly arrived



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immigrant children are ages zero to five; access to early care and education is critical to helping prepare them for success in elementary school and beyond, while also enabling their parents to work, connect with resources, find permanent housing, and settle in their new communities.

In Fiscal Year 2023, the City allocated \$10 million to serve approximately 600 children from January to June 2023. To maintain capacity for the full year, we are calling on the City to baseline \$20 million in the Fiscal Year 2024 Administration of Children Services (ACS) budget for Promise NYC.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. I would be happy to answer any questions.



**Testimony Submitted by Steven Morales, NY Policy Director of All Our Kin
for the Immigration and Women and Gender Equity Joint Oversight Hearing
PromiseNYC and Access to Child Care for Immigrants
New York City Council
June 13, 2023**

Honorable Chairs Hanif and Cabán and Members of the City Council,

Thank you for holding this important hearing today. My name is Steven Morales and I'm the New York Policy Director at All Our Kin. All Our Kin is a nonprofit organization that trains, supports, and sustains home-based family child care educators in New York City. Most of the educators we serve are located in the Bronx, where we work with nearly 300 family child care educators with the capacity to care for over 4,000 children.

Family child care, licensed child care programs that operate out of an educator's home, plays an essential role in caring for and educating our City's youngest children. Many parents choose family child care because of its unique ability to offer flexible hours, mixed age group care, and culturally responsive care in a family's home language, characteristics that are particularly important for supporting immigrant children and families.

Those are some of the many reasons why we are testifying today in favor of \$20 million for PromiseNYC in the FY24 City budget and for ongoing support for immigrant families in need of child care.

The calculus is quite simple: ALL children need access to high quality early care and education. Period. We know how important child care is for young children's developing brains, and we know how important it is for families who need a safe place for their children while they go to work. And immigrant families are no exception.

And from the provider perspective, I have spoken to family child care educators who have been forced to decide between providing child care for free, which they cannot afford to do, or turning away children because they didn't qualify for a child care voucher. No one should EVER be forced to turn a child away due to their immigration status. Not in New York City, and not anywhere.

Last year, we were thrilled when the Council and Mayor agreed to include \$10 million in the FY23 budget for the PromiseNYC program for child care for undocumented children. We were also glad that ACS, taking input from us and other advocacy organizations, thoughtfully



implemented the program via trusted community based organizations to protect immigrant families.

And all signs show that PromiseNYC has been a resounding success, serving 600 families since January with many more on wait lists.

That is why we need to baseline \$20 million for PromiseNYC in this budget – \$10 million was enough for a 6 month pilot, let's expand it to a full year and ensure that immigrant children continue to have access to the child care they need.

Finally, in addition to calling for \$20 million for PromiseNYC in this budget, **we also must reiterate our support for Intro 941 by Councilmembers Gutierrez and Riley** which would make child care permanently accessible to all families in our city and would ensure that family child care providers receive the compensation they deserve. We look forward to working with the Council to pass and fund this important legislation.

In conclusion, the Mayor and the Council last year made a promise that in NYC we take care of all of our children. So let's fulfill that promise with \$20M for PromiseNYC in this year's city budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Supporting Child Care Access and Affordability for Undocumented New Yorkers

Esteemed members of the New York City Council *Committee on Immigration* and *Committee on Women & Gender Equity*,

I am writing in support of safety net and financial support for child care assistance for undocumented New Yorkers. Recent research published by United Way suggested that 54% of families in Bronx and Kings County struggle to make ends meet¹. In New York in 2021, 23% of the population were immigrants, and immigrants and people of color suffer higher rates of financial insecurity and financial stress. For families with two children in care, child care is often the most expensive line item in a household budget - even more expensive than rent and housing. Studies show that childcare consumes 37% of the average single parent's household income nationally. The same research estimates that the cost of childcare is out of reach to many New Yorkers. Therefore, many families *require* safety net supports and financial assistance simply to meet the needs of a bare bones budget that includes childcare. Undocumented workers are estimated to be more than 2x as likely to work in low-wage sector jobs and 2x as likely to work in jobs earning below a living wage².

The brunt of lack of affordable care is not evenly felt by all New Yorkers, falling mostly on women and people of color to serve as family caregivers in their own families, as well as working in caregiving professions³. Therefore, to meet the needs of immigrant families, affordable care needs to be accessible during non-conventional hours like weekends and evenings as many immigrants piece together gig jobs to support that do not fit into a 9-5 structure. In addition, access to OSHA training in languages other than Spanish is vital in order to allow families to access employment in construction; a higher wage sector. There is particular demand for women to access these trainings, as many immigrant women start cleaning in construction sites and transition into painting and other industry. Finally, access to childcare certification programs will help to protect immigrants, primarily women, who can be exploited, under-paid and at risk in informal care taker settings.

Caregiving is a collective social responsibility not an individual burden. Early affordable child care is a poverty-fighting investment providing returns that outweigh the costs, yet lack of affordable, safe, and reliable child care remains an obstacle for working families. Specifically supporting immigrant families in affordable child care will lead to reduced instability, trauma and hardship and create a better economic foundation and opportunity for now and the future⁴.

¹ 23UFA_Report_New_York_4.11.23_Final.pdf

² https://assetfund.org/wp-content/uploads/AFN_Primer_Economic-Security-of-Undocumented-Immigrants_FINAL.pdf

³ https://assetfund.org/wp-content/uploads/FINAL_AFN_2021_Care-Economy-Primer-.pdf

⁴ https://assetfund.org/wp-content/uploads/AFN_Primer_Economic-Security-of-Undocumented-Immigrants_FINAL.pdf

We call on Mayor Adams and his administration to remove exclusions that block immigrants from safety net and financial assistance that is vital to making financial ends meet,.. Economic security for people who are undocumented will make our state more resilient and better able to withstand future shocks – be it a pandemic, climate disaster, or fundamental shifts in our economy.

Respectfully,

Leah Mayor, Senior Director *Asset Funders Network*



**Chinese-American Planning Council, Inc.
Joint Hearing at the New York City Council Committee on Immigration &
Committee on Women and Gender Equity
Chairs Shahana Hanif and Tiffany Cabán
June 13th, 2023**

Thank you Chairs Hanif and Cabán and members of the City Council for the opportunity to testify today. The mission of the Chinese-American Planning Council, Inc. (CPC) is to promote social and economic empowerment of Chinese American, immigrant, and low-income communities. CPC was founded in 1965 as a grassroots, community-based organization in response to the end of the Chinese Exclusion years and the passing of the Immigration Reform Act of 1965. Our services have expanded since our founding to include three key program areas: education, family support, and community and economic empowerment.

CPC is the largest Asian American social service organization in the U.S., providing vital resources to more than 280,000 people per year through more than 50 programs at over 30 sites across Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens. CPC employs over 700 staff whose comprehensive services are linguistically accessible, culturally sensitive, and highly effective in reaching low-income and immigrant individuals and families. With the firm belief that social service can incite social change, CPC strives to empower our constituents as agents of social justice, with the overarching goal of advancing and transforming communities.

To that end, we are grateful to testify about the importance of a childcare system that includes undocumented children, and we are grateful to the Council for their leadership on these issues.

Asian American and Pacific Islanders have the highest rates of undocumented status of all racial groups, and this disproportionately impacts undocumented children who are often left out of critical educational and support services.

CPC is one of the organizations that has partnered with Promise NYC to ensure that undocumented children are receiving the care and support that they need. CPC focuses on serving Queens-based applicants and selecting eligible families based on their income, children's ages, and immigration status. Undocumented families in Queens with children ages 6 weeks to 13 years old and earn less than 300 percent of the federal poverty level are eligible to apply to this program through CPC. We have enrolled over 200 community members into the program and many more have expressed interest. However, they have been unfortunately placed on the waitlist as we were told by the City to cap enrollment and did not know about renewal.

During a time where we are seeing an influx of migrants entering our city, we need to live up to our values and provide the resources needed as a sanctuary for our immigrant communities. These families have been forced by socio-political factors beyond their control to flee violence, unrest, and dire circumstances in their home countries in search of a safe and stable future for their children.

The families that we serve need to access employment in order to sustain themselves and contribute to our city. In order to work, parents need affordable childcare. Access to affordable child care saves lives and creates futures.



One mother enrolled in our program explained that she and her children came to the US in order to escape life-threatening shortages of medications that they faced in Venezuela. Her oldest child would have died without access to medications and treatment. There was no time to wait for immigration processes. Now, undocumented in the US and seeking asylum, she is relying on PromiseNYC so that she can access childcare for her children, and thus access employment and income to support her family while also making sure that her oldest child receives the medical attention that he needs. This is just one of many stories.

Right now, PromiseNYC is not accounted for in the 2024 fiscal year budget. That means that Promise NYC, and access to childcare for these families, will end on June 30th.

As we enter the final weeks of budget negotiations, we are urging the City Council and the Mayor to ensure that there is a renewal and expansion of the undocumented childcare funding (Promise NYC) to \$20 million.

CPC appreciates the opportunity to testify on these issues that so greatly impact the communities we serve, and look forward to working with you on them. If you have any questions, please contact Carlyn Cowen at ccowen@cpc-nyc.org.



**Testimony of Day Care Council of New York
Before the New York City Council
Committee on Women and Gender Equity
Honorable Tiffany Caban, Chair
And the Committee on Immigration
Honorable Shahana Hanif, Chair
At the Oversight Hearing on Promise NYC
And Immigrants' Access to Child Care**

June 13th, 2023

Presented by Gregory Brender, Chief Policy and Innovation Officer

Thank you Chairs Caban and Hanif and the members of the Committees on Women and Gender Equity and Immigration for the opportunity to testify.

The Day Care Council of New York (DCCNY) is the membership organization of early care and education providers across New York City. DCCNY sees a future where all children have access to quality early childhood education and where early childhood providers and their workforce have the tools and resources necessary to offer the highest quality early childhood education.

DCCNY supports its member organizations and New York City's early childhood field a through policy research and advocacy, labor relations and mediation, professional development and training for early childhood educators, directors and staff and referral services for parents looking to find child care. DCCNY member organizations provide early care and education at over 200 sites in neighborhoods across all five boroughs.

Most DCCNY member organizations operate with contracts with the New York City Department of Education (DOE), while a smaller portion work with federally funded Head Start contracts or through private funding. DCCNY member organizations seek to provide quality early care and education services to New York's children and families across all five boroughs. DCCNY member organizations employ over 4,000 New Yorkers— the majority of whom are Black and Brown women.

Day Care Council of New York is an active member of Campaign for and the Empire State Campaign for Child Care.

As providers of early childhood education DCCNY's member organizations know that all children benefit from the education and socialization that quality early care and education programs provide. Yet, too many young children are unable to access these crucial services because of either

We make the following recommendations to ensure more immigrant families can access high-quality early care and education.

1. Restore Promise NYC at \$20 million

Promise NYC was one among the most important new investments that the City made in its FY 2023 Budget. Promise NYC expands access to Child Care Assistance to families who continue to be denied access due to discriminatory requirements.

Promise NYC funded child care for families who otherwise would have been denied and partnered with community based organizations to ensure that families could access the funding. It is not just an important investment but also a statement of the City's values showing a commitment to ending discrimination and expanding access to education.

As Mayor Adams said,

Navigating obstacles in a new city and a new country are tough, and coupling those issues with a lack of childcare can prevent parents and families from achieving the dream they so desperately set out to achieve. By launching Promise NYC, we are alleviating the stress from those concerns, supporting children and families, and creating a fairer city for all New Yorkers.”¹

DCCNY was disappointed that this important program was eliminated in the Mayor's Executive Budget. We urge Promise NYC to be restored and baselined at \$20 million.

2. Allow DOE-Contracted Community- Based Organizations to directly enroll families.

Many immigrant families, including mixed-status families where parents are undocumented but their children are United States Citizens by virtue of having been born in the United States, are eligible for child care assistance. Many may be concerned about interacting with a government agency including DOE and ACS.

However, local community based early childhood providers have strong connections to the neighborhoods they serve. The City should leverage these strong relationships to ensure that families are able to quickly access the child care programs in which they want to enroll their children.

¹ <https://www.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/909-22/mayor-adams-rolls-out-promise-nyc-provide-childcare-assistance-low-income-families-with>

By allowing community based organizations to directly enroll eligible families, the City can alleviate the concerns of parents who may have fears of interacting with government agencies.

3. Take Immediate Action to Stabilize New York City's early childhood education providers

New York City's Early Care and Education Providers are struggling to keep their doors open due to a crisis of late payments from DOE. The City must in this budget take immediate steps to ensure

- Ensuring all contracted CBO providers are made whole for their FY 2022 and FY 2023 payments
- Full funding of the 3-K program and restoration to the timeline expansion to universality.
- Converting open 3-K school-day/year seats to extended-day/year seats, beginning by investing \$15 million in a pilot program to convert 1,000 seats.
- Funding a new labor contract that puts community based organization (CBO) early care and education teachers, directors and support staff at parity with their DOE counterparts. This includes factoring in longevity when determining salary increases and setting a wage floor of \$25/hour for all support staff.

We are also including in our testimony a statement from Empire State Campaign for Child Care which includes actions that New York State must take to expand access to child care for immigrant families.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am happy to take any questions and can be reached at gbrender@dccnyinc.org.



**Testimony of Empire State Campaign for Child Care
Before the New York City Council
Committee on Women and Gender Equity
Honorable Tiffany Caban, Chair
And the Committee on Immigration
Honorable Shahana Hanif, Chair
At the Oversight Hearing on Promise NYC
And Immigrants' Access to Child Care**

June 13th, 2023

The Empire State Campaign for Child Care is a Statewide Campaign fighting for a high-quality, free, equitable and universal child care system that meets the needs of all children and families and pays child care programs the true cost of care with a thriving wage and benefits.

With the creation of Promise NYC, New York City acted where New York State failed to. Promise NYC provides child care assistance to eligible families without discriminating on the basis of the child's documentation status. All New York's children should have access to high-quality early care and education. Promise NYC is an important step in that direction and a meaningful recognition that children should not be excluded from early care and education because of their immigration status.

Empire State Campaign for Child Care urges New York City to restore and baseline Promise NYC at \$20 million.

In the FY 2023 budget, the Mayor and City Council allocated \$10 million to allow for child care assistance to immigrant families, including those whose children are without immigration status. The vouchers were distributed by community-based organizations to

safeguard against any immigration issues and reached 600. The program was successful enough that 730 families applied between the program's January launch and March 24th. The need and demand are clearly there, and if we are serious about ensuring the health and safety of our children and our economy, we must provide access to child care to all children, regardless of immigration status.

New York State must also take action to end the exclusion of children from child care assistance due solely to their immigration status. Among those families left without access to assistance are families lawfully present, along with many of the state's essential workers upon whom New York relied so heavily during the pandemic. Crucially, the recently enacted 2023-24 New York State budget contains a small pilot program to help the families of children who are currently excluded due to their immigration status access child care using state-only funds. These measures will make a tangible difference in the lives of children and families but will reach very few children.

Looking ahead, New York State and New York City should be acting without delay to ensure that immigration status is not a factor in determining eligibility for child care assistance for any New York child. There are a number of ways New York leaders could ensure equitable access for all. Restrictions on the use of federal Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funds for undocumented families do not apply to child care programs that are subject to educational standards, including settings in community-based child care and Pre-kindergarten programs. This exemption has already been broadly applied by at least one other state to ensure broad access to pre-K and child care for that state's children.

New York State and local governments throughout the State should also work to expand state and locally-funded programs like Promise NYC and New York State's pilot programs to ensure no otherwise eligible child is excluded from child care solely due to immigration status.

The Empire State Campaign for Child Care urges New York leaders to act swiftly and boldly to ensure that all the state's children have equitable access to high-quality child care without regard to immigration status.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Speaker Adrienne Adams, Co-Chair Amanda Farias, Co-Chair Farah N. Louis, and Chair of Committee on Immigration, CM Shahana Hanif, and its members, as well as Chair of Committee on Women and Gender Equity, Tiffany Caban and its members for providing me this opportunity to testify today.

My name is Julie Ma, and I am the Director of Strategy at The Korean American Family Service Center (KAFSC). For over 34 years, KAFSC has been providing effective services to Asian American, primarily immigrant survivors who have been affected by Gender-Based Violence, including Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Child Abuse. All our programs and services are offered in a culturally affirming and linguistically competent setting. We operate year-round, and our 24-hour bilingual hotline and emergency shelter are available seven days a week.

At KAFSC, 98% of our clients are immigrants, 98% are women, and 100% of our staff members are immigrants themselves or children of immigrant parents. Additionally, over 95% of our clients' first language is not English, and they come from low-income backgrounds. We are proud to be an on-site partner at the Queens Family Justice Center, and Staten Island Family Justice Center as on-site and off-site partners. We are also grateful for our partnership with Mayor's Office to End Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV) and Commissioner Noel. Our Executive Director, Jeehae Fischer, is an appointed member of the Mayor's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee, and she recently joined the ENDGBV Advisory Committee Meeting.

In 2022, KAFSC received 4,958 hotline calls related to domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, or trafficking cases. They provided 2,739 bed nights at their Rainbow House Shelter and served 32 women and 14 children through their Transitional Housing program. KAFSC also taught 213 women at their job-training classes under their Economic Empowerment program, served 119 elementary and middle school students at their Hodori after-school program, trained 50 high school students as advocates in their Youth Community Project Team (YCPT), and opened a new office space to expand their Economic Empowerment Classes, Volunteering Program, and Youth Community Project Team.

Despite the critical work done by culturally and linguistically specific organizations like KAFSC, immigrant survivors of gender-based violence are often left behind in terms of inclusion in the New York City budget. Mainstream and larger organizations often take a larger cut of the budget, while smaller organizations like KAFSC are left to do the work on the ground with limited resources. It is important that the New York City Council recognize the unique needs and challenges faced by immigrant survivors of gender-based violence and prioritize funding for organizations like KAFSC that have a proven track record of serving this community. By investing in culturally and linguistically specific organizations like KAFSC, we can ensure that all survivors of gender-based violence have access to the support and resources they need to lead safe and healthy lives.

As we all know, immigrant survivors of gender-based violence have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. From job losses to increased caregiving responsibilities, they have faced immense challenges over the past year. As we begin to recover from the

pandemic, it is critical that we prioritize the needs of immigrant survivors of gender-based violence in our budget.

We are calling for increased funding for programs that support their economic security, such as job training and placement programs, access to affordable childcare, and small business support. We also urge the ~~Workforce~~ ^{Immigrant and Gender Equity Committee} to prioritize and expand funding for programs that address the rise in domestic violence and sexual assault during the pandemic, including increased support for shelters and legal services.

Furthermore, we call for increased funding for their health services, including reproductive health and mental health services, which have been severely impacted by the pandemic and the recent overturn of Roe vs Wade.

In addition to these immediate needs, we must also look to the future and invest in the long-term success of immigrant survivors of gender-based violence in our city. This includes increased funding for education and training programs that will prepare them for the jobs of the future, as well as support for immigrant women entrepreneurs and small business owners.

Empowering immigrant survivors of gender-based violence through investments is not just morally imperative but also an urgent necessity for achieving progress and prosperity, both for individuals and society as a whole. They form a significant part of our city's population and contribute to the economic and social fabric of our city. By investing in their economic security, health, and future success, we will build a more resilient and prosperous city for all New Yorkers.

Thank you for your attention and your commitment to supporting the needs of immigrant survivors of gender-based violence in our city.



Testimony of Pedro Suarez, Program Director
LIFT-NY
New York City Council
Committees on Immigration and Women & Gender Equity
June 13, 2023

Good morning, Chairpersons Shahana Hanif and Tiffany Caban and members of the Committees on Immigration and Women & Gender Equity. My name is Pedro Suarez, pronouns he/him, and I am the Program Director at LIFT-NY.

LIFT-NY is a chapter of LIFT, a nonprofit organization on a mission to break the cycle of poverty by investing in parents. We operate a one-on-one coaching program that empowers parents to set and achieve goals that put families on the path toward economic mobility – such as going back to school, improving credit, eliminating debt, or securing a living wage. In addition to coaching, LIFT parents also receive direct cash infusions to reinvest in their families and goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the important issue of childcare for immigrant parents and the millions of men and women ineligible for federally funded childcare.

Our perspective on childcare and the needs of immigrant communities comes from our own program experience. For the past twenty-three years, our organization has been effective at supporting low-income families with children who are seeking basic needs such as housing, employment and food assistance. Participants are referred to LIFT through partnerships with community colleges, healthcare systems and early childcare providers. Our immigrant parents face unique challenges in achieving their career and education goals, in addition to the systemic barriers faced by parents living in poverty across the country. A significant number of LIFT families are undocumented, and we partner with immigrant families to find stability and move toward economic mobility by navigating the documentation processes and connecting them to



resources focused on immigration.

Data as of 2022 show that between 2021 to 2023 LIFT enrolled over 300 women into our program. Of which 75% successfully completed the program. The average length of stay in our program is 12-24 months. With respect to demographics the average LIFT parent is 35 years of age, the average child is 8 years old and 99% of members identify as part of a racial or ethnic minority group and 54% of members speak English as their primary language.

Promise NYC will indeed be a game changer for the 600 children who will benefit from the program. I would like to applaud the City's efforts in working with CBOs and ACS to launch this initiative. As you all are aware, undocumented immigrants are integral to the city: Just over 1 million New Yorker's live in a household with at least one undocumented immigrant and 88% of the 276,000 children in these households are lawful residents. Where does that leave the remaining 10-12% of children without adequate childcare and the women like the mothers we serve who would like to obtain employment or go back to school but cannot due to the lack of childcare assistance? The city has already identified the need to leave no child behind, we look forward to continuing to work with the Council and receiving support on how to improve the delivery and coordination of childcare services for this vulnerable population.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify here today.



The New York City Council Committee on Immigration and Women and Gender Equity
Honorable Shahana Hanif, Chair of Immigration
Honorable Tiffany Cabán, Chair of Women and Gender Equity

City Council Hearing:
June 13th, 2023

Testimony of the New York Immigration Coalition

Good afternoon and thank you Chairs Hanif and Cabán and members of the New York City Council Committee on Immigration and Women and Gender Equity. The New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC) is an umbrella policy and advocacy organization for more than 200 groups serving immigrants and refugees across New York State. The NYIC wishes to thank you for your leadership and concern for immigrant families.

We are here to request that the City make access equitable and boost enrollment by:

- **Committing \$4 million to expand the NYIC's LIFE Project - a proven, piloted program - to assist limited English proficient, technologically disconnected immigrant families with applying to and enrolling in Pre-K/3-K programs**
- **Committing \$20 million to the Promise NY program in FY24, which would allow for continued support for undocumented immigrants to receive subsidized child care**
- **Protecting existing 3-K seats and restoring a timeline for 3-K expansion**
- **Converting existing 3-K school day / school year seats to extended day, year round seats and working with the state to use the Public Education exemption to federal CCDBG funding to allow more immigrant families to access early education and care**
- **Ensuring that child care provider contracts are paid out timely**

LIFE Project: For the last five years, the NYIC has led the Linking Immigrant Families to Early Childhood Education (LIFE) Project, alongside its partners LSA Family Health Service, Masa,



and Fifth Avenue Committee. Officially launched in December 2017, the LIFE Project focuses on assisting immigrant families in enrolling in Pre-K and 3-K in communities where the Department of Education identified lagging or under-enrollment in these programs. The Project also makes referrals and provides Early Intervention support.

New York City is home to around 165,000 parents of children ages 0-4 who are limited English proficient. Among all parents of children ages 0-4, a staggering 100,000 lack access to a computer, with around 61,000 lacking access to the internet. As New York offers increasingly complex educational choices and moves information and access to those choices further online, the language and digital barriers have become nearly insurmountable without adequate support.

To address these barriers, the LIFE Project encompasses extensive culturally and linguistically responsive outreach to inform families about Pre-K and 3K programs. Project partners then provide families with one-on-one, comprehensive support. This support begins with creating an email address and account and learning to navigate MySchools, and accompanies the family through identifying school options, filling out the application, and accepting offers to programs.

Our LIFE partners have given more than 650 immigrant families the tools to navigate the school system and enroll their children in pre-K and 3-K programs. Over the last six years, our pioneering model has proven to be incredibly successful and effective: 4 out of 5 families assisted by the LIFE project stated they could not have applied to these programs without



LIFE assistance. Significantly, despite a large drop in enrollment in 2020, when New York City's preliminary data reported that enrollment in 3-K programs fell by 8% and pre-K programs fell by 13%, LIFE project partners saw no drop in enrollment within the families we assisted.

In order to continue and expand this successful model citywide, we are asking for \$4 million to fund 20 CBOs across the five boroughs to provide culturally responsive and linguistically diverse outreach, application and enrollment support, referral services, and early intervention support to immigrant families of 3- and 4-year olds.

3K Expansion: It is through the LIFE project that we have seen the extent to which families have struggled to apply for and enroll in Pre-K and 3-K programs. Without support, the barriers facing families are immense and absolutely prevent many of our families from applying, in spite of their strong interest in providing their children with this educational opportunity. It is absolutely wrong for the City to abdicate its commitment to making 3-K accessible to all families on the basis of enrollment levels when it is so obvious that these barriers prevent many families from enrolling. Despite the high enrollment rates reported by the DOE for Pre-K/3-K seats, there are still many immigrant and LEP families with children who have not been reached by these programs. Though we agree that the DOE should be strategic about the locations of these programs, this should not mean a stop to the planned expansion. New York City must continue to invest in our children's education to ensure a vibrant future for our City and economic mobility for all our families.



Renew and Expand Promise NYC at \$20M: The NYIC has worked on the Promise NYC campaign since its inception last year. We recognize ACS for its commitment to ensuring undocumented families feel as safe as possible in applying for this child care subsidy. In particular, the program’s use of trusted community based organizations to do intake and enrollment directly, allowance of self-attestations around eligibility and income, and clarity on data privacy for families are commendable and follow the recommendations of the immigrant community. However, the \$10M Promise NYC program will only cover an estimated 600 families for the 6 months left in this fiscal year. In order to provide at least the same level of coverage and ensure that undocumented children have safe, affordable child care, the City must renew the Promise NYC program and double funding to \$20M.

Expand Extended-Day/Year Programs: Pre-K/3-K for All has been a massively successful program for New York families. Unfortunately, for many families, the hours available do not cover the full need for early childhood education and care because they only provide services for 6 hours and 20 minutes each day. These shortened days end early in the afternoon and often let out while parents are still mid-workday. In order to ensure that children have child care coverage for a full workday, the City should expand all Pre-K/3-K to include extended day/year hours.

Extended day/year programs, which current reports have set at only 50% filled, are supported in part by federal CCDBG funding. This funding has restrictions on citizenship, which blocks non-citizen children from accessing additional care. There is, however, a major exception to these requirements – the “Public Education Exemption.” Immigrant restrictions



do not apply to children receiving CCDBG-funded services in settings that are subject to public educational standards, including public and private pre-kindergarten settings (including pre-kindergarten delivered in private child care settings) and settings subject to educational standards used for care during out-of-school time. California has been utilizing this exemption for its extended day/year programs for years, including during the Trump administration, with no pushback from the federal government. The City must work with its partners at OCFS to push New York State to utilize this exemption and expand access to extended day/year programs.

Pay Providers On Time: Finally, in order to ensure that the early childhood education and care system does not collapse, it is obviously imperative that child care providers are paid in a timely manner for all early childhood contracts. We echo the many child care providers citywide who have been stretched thin by reimbursements that are months late and have already led to the closing of child care providers across the city. The DOE must prioritize redressing these payment issues immediately.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Submitted by:

Liza Schwartzwald

Senior Manager of Economic Justice and Family Empowerment

New York Immigration Coalition



ROC NEW YORK

RESTAURANT OPPORTUNITIES CENTERS OF NEW YORK

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To: NYC Council Committees on Immigration and Women & Gender Equity

From: Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York

June 9, 2023

It is my honor and duty to stand before you on behalf of all restaurant workers, predominantly immigrants, parents, and caregivers. The mission of the Restaurant Opportunities Centers (ROC) United is to improve wages and working conditions for the nation's restaurant workforce. We are thousands of restaurant workers, hundreds of great employers, and thousands of engaged consumers united to raise restaurant industry standards as such.

My name is Ronice. I'm a mother of a 12-year-old young lady. I've worked in the hospitality industry as a server since 2013. I recently became the president of the members' board for ROC United NYC. And a member since 2018. It is common for many of us as parents to encounter where we must choose between attending work to keep a shelter over our family's heads.

On the other hand, staying home, being unable to pay bills, and still being unable to afford child care for our children. I make \$2 over the income limit to qualify for affordable childcare and housing assistance. Just for \$2, I am penalized and provided no federal or state assistance.

Childcare support will really mean the world to so many parents like myself. Childcare is essential to me and plenty of other parents out here today. So we can return to school to get better-paying careers, feed our children, provide better housing, and pay for childcare. I asked that you pass the childcare package to ensure all parents, regardless of immigration status or income, can afford childcare to provide for our families.

As a member of ROC United, the Right to a Thriving Life under the Restaurant Workers Bill of Rights policy agenda and framework seeks to ensure workers have access to quality affordable, quality, and federally-funded childcare that includes an untraditional hour and night care. Conversely, as an immigrant and restaurant worker, child care is critical for my family. I must work to make ends meet, but I need access to affordable healthcare to engage in the NY workforce fully. Thankfully, our historic women-majority Council continues to demonstrate that when women lead and prioritize solutions, our families and communities can positively benefit from it.

Promise NYC provides access to childcare services for undocumented children and their families. The Program has partnered with community-based organizations to connect families like mine to the new services. It will also help families who previously didn't qualify for other state or federal programs due to their immigration status. In addition, the program will help



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newly arrived asylum seekers. The legislation not only addresses systemic issues with child care but also establishes a provider directory, a pilot grant program, and planning processes to advance access across the City.

One of the biggest obstacles for families can often be access to child care, with many parents having to sacrifice jobs because of the lack of care for their children. Many restaurant workers face the consequences at work for their childcare responsibilities due to the precarious nature of their childcare arrangements. Additionally, with seeking child care being a considerable stressor, the COVID-19 pandemic also exacerbated the negative impacts on my family. Promise NYC steps in to help more New Yorkers – undocumented families and asylum seekers – who want to have good-paying jobs and ensure their children are cared for safely.

I believe the Program is a critical and necessary step for the NYC workforce, as we should not be forced to quit jobs due to the inaccessibility and unaffordability of childcare. On behalf of all restaurant workers, mothers, and caregivers, we appreciate the committee's strides toward immigration reform and universal childcare.

Thank you,
Ronice Bryant
ROC NY Member



The Education Trust—New York

Presented before the New York City Council
Committee on Women & Gender Equity and Committee on Immigration
Re: Joint Oversight Hearing, Promise NYC and Access to Child Care for Immigrants
June 16, 2023

The Education Trust—New York is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to educational equity. We work to attain educational justice through research, policy, and advocacy that results in all students – especially those who are from low-income backgrounds or students of color – achieving at high levels from early childhood through college completion. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony for this hearing.

We strongly urge the City to commit \$20 million in FY24 to fully fund Promise NYC. Since Promise NYC began at the start of 2023, 600 children have enrolled in the program, providing early education to young children and giving parents time to seek and maintain employment opportunities. With hundreds of children on the wait lists, it is clear that Promise NYC is a lifeline for families, most of whom would otherwise be ineligible for child care assistance and extended day programs. With multi-generational benefits, Promise NYC is one of the most effective ways to continue New York City’s legacy as a diverse, multi-cultural city of opportunity for all.

New York City has welcomed more than 70,000 asylum seekers over the past year, with more than 45,000 currently residing in the city. *Yet with approximately 40% of the immigrant children who have recently arrived age 5 and under, Promise NYC has only begun to scratch the surface on meeting the needs of the thousands of children and their families who are eligible to participate.*¹ Every child, regardless of immigration status, deserves the opportunity to access early care and learning opportunities that can support healthy growth and development in the formative early years and nurture a child’s learning potential throughout childhood.

Asylum seekers face ongoing systemic challenges to success, wellbeing, and stability, and undocumented residents are more likely to live in poverty than naturalized citizens.² Promise NYC provides a unique opportunity to foster economic security and self-sufficiency for some of the most vulnerable families in New York City. *As a critical conduit to economic mobility and success, child care must be accessible and affordable for all families.*

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. Please feel free to contact Lara Kyriakou, Associate Director of Early Childhood Advocacy and Policy at the Education Trust—NY, at Lkyriakou@edtrustny.org with any questions regarding this testimony. Thank you.

¹ https://www.advocatesforchildren.org/sites/default/files/on_page/fy24_budget_promisenyc.pdf?pt=1

² <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/opportunity/pdf/immigrant-poverty-report-2017.pdf>

FOR THE RECORD



**UNITED
NEIGHBORHOOD
HOUSES**

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**Testimony of United Neighborhood Houses
Before the New York City Council Committees on Immigration & Women and Gender Equity
Council Member Shahana Hanif, Chair, Immigration Committee
Council Member Tiffany Caban, Chair, Women and Gender Equity Committee**

Oversight: PromiseNYC and Access to Child Care for Immigrants

**Submitted by Nora Moran, Director of Policy & Advocacy
June 13, 2023**

Thank you Council Members Hanif and Caban and members of the Council's Immigration and Women and Gender Equity Committees for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Nora Moran and I am the Director of Policy and Advocacy at United Neighborhood Houses (UNH). UNH is a policy and social change organization representing 46 neighborhood settlement houses, 40 in New York City, that reach 765,000 New Yorkers from all walks of life. UNH is also a founding member of the Campaign for Children (C4C), a coalition representing more than 150 children and youth service providers, advocates and community-based organizations in New York City.

A progressive leader for more than 100 years, UNH is stewarding a new era for New York's settlement house movement. We mobilize our members and their communities to advocate for good public policies and promote strong organizations and practices that keep neighborhoods resilient and thriving for all New Yorkers. UNH leads advocacy and partners with our members on a broad range of issues including civic and community engagement, neighborhood affordability, healthy aging, early childhood education, adult literacy, and youth development. We also provide customized professional development and peer learning to build the skills and leadership capabilities of settlement house staff at all levels.

New York City settlement houses in the UNH network operate 70 Department of Education (DOE)-contracted center-based child care programs which provide year-round, full-day programs for children 0-4 years old, and/or Pre-K for All and 3-K for All Programs that offer school-day programs. Nine settlement houses run DOE-contracted Family Child Care Networks, and 10 operate Head Start or Early Head Start programs directly contracted with the federal Office of Head Start. Several also run fee-for-service early childhood education programs. Three settlement houses serve as borough-wide contractors for PromiseNYC. Collectively, settlement houses serve an estimated 12,000 children under the age of 5 citywide.

We appreciate the City Council's strong support for protecting and expanding early childhood education for all New Yorkers. This testimony evaluates and supports the continuation of the PromiseNYC program that provides child care for immigrant families, and includes additional

recommendations around the early childhood system in NYC that will support all children and families.

Invest \$20m in Promise NYC in FY24 to Provide Child Care for Immigrants

Due to restrictions on certain funding sources, the only public early childhood education programs that undocumented children can directly join are 3-K and Pre-K programs and federal Head Start. This leaves a major gap in child care for undocumented immigrants, including the tens of thousands of recent asylum seekers in New York City. To help address this challenge, UNH urges New York City to invest \$20 million in the FY 2024 Adopted Budget to continue the new Promise NYC program to provide subsidized child care to low-income undocumented children.

Under Promise NYC, four providers, including three settlement houses, have contracted with the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) to implement a child care voucher program in each of their respective boroughs (NMIC in the Bronx and Manhattan, Center for Family Life in Brooklyn, Chinese-American Planning Council in Queens, and La Colmena in Staten Island). The 6-month program launched in January 2023, and after a six-week period of administrative preparation, providers were able to begin outreach to families in February. Providers are contracted to serve a total of 600 children citywide for the remainder of the fiscal year through June.

Once the program launched, providers reported overwhelming success and need for the program. Demand was high, especially in neighborhoods with high concentrations of undocumented children and families, and providers quickly met their contracted numbers. ACS was collaborative with providers in building out the program, payments have been timely, and - crucially - families do not need to provide documentation or specific forms to qualify, ensuring low barriers to entry.

Access to subsidized child care through Promise NYC has enabled asylum-seekers to obtain employment or attend ESOL classes: One parent noted that "This is a great opportunity for me because I want to work and I have no one to leave my son with, I have no family or friends. It's only been two months since we arrived in New York." Another parent said, "I want to take English classes but I don't have the money to pay for daycare for my daughter, so leaving her in a safe place gives me the opportunity to prepare for later finding a job." These successes make clear the need to continue this program beyond its current end date of June 2023.

Promise NYC was funded with \$10 million in the City's FY 2023 budget after extensive support and negotiation from the Council. However, this funding was secured before the majority of new asylum seekers arrived in New York City, and it was not baselined, so programs are anticipating that child care will end on June 30th and undocumented families will abruptly be left without a child care arrangement.

We urge the City to extend funding for Promise NYC in the FY 2024 budget so that undocumented families can continue to access the affordable, subsidized child care they need. A \$20 million investment will allow these providers to serve the same number of children over a full one-year period (since the program started halfway through the fiscal year), including funding for increased staff capacity necessary for invoicing and matching families to available child care providers. Moving forward, we hope the City will consider adding new contractors or subcontractors who can effectively reach high-need neighborhoods. We also encourage an analysis of the citywide

need for care for undocumented families, and if warranted to increase investment into the program so it can reach more families.

Like any new program, there are a number of administrative challenges in the roll out that UNH would like the City to address moving forward should the program continue beyond FY23:

- A number of technical challenges arose as the program rolled out. Matching families with child care providers, as well as managing invoicing and sign-ups for these providers, have been time consuming and required more staff time than previously anticipated. Many undocumented families or recent asylum seekers may not have a bank account, and there were unanticipated tax impacts to giving vouchers directly to families, which was the City's original vision. The four providers are now paying child care providers directly for providing care, so additional time was needed to sort out these payment issues with both the City and providers. Additional technical support from the City would help smooth out these challenges in the future, including providing a list of child care providers and guidance on the financial process.
- Because the program is new and was not promoted widely by the City, many child care providers have expressed skepticism about the legitimacy of the program, leading to some delays in signing families up for care. There has also been some wariness from child care providers about ACS's involvement, because ACS's pre-existing child care voucher program is known for delays. Contracted providers overcame this challenge by promoting the program with their own local branding, instead of leading with ACS. Still, the City could do some additional outreach to child care providers about the Promise NYC program.
- Reflective of systemic issues in the City's early childhood and care system overall, there are not enough infant and toddler seats to meet demand. While average ages of Promise NYC participants varied by borough, it was universally more difficult to identify child care providers with infant and toddler seats. This is a broader challenge that the City must address. ACS should partner with DOE and DOHMH to ensure that capacity in the child care system across the City is being maximized in the best way possible. In particular, ACS and DOE should analyze underutilized child care slots (particularly 3-K slots) and convert those slots to match demand.
- The six-month program timeline of this program is short. While family approval for vouchers happens relatively quickly, matching families to a child care provider can take time, especially if the family does not already have a provider in mind or if local providers do not have capacity. There has been concern that providers are less likely to accept a voucher that only lasts a few months. This also puts pressure on contractors to spend all of their money by the end of June. The City should consider a timeline extension for the spend down of FY 2023 funds.

Invest in Child Care for Immigrants in the FY 2024 Adopted Budget

In addition to funding \$20 million for PromiseNYC, UNH urges the City to make key investments to stabilize and strengthen the early childhood system.

Settlement houses serve children of all backgrounds, and though programs do not ask about or document citizenship (unless explicitly needed by the funder, like in programs supported by Child Care Development Block Grant funds), they report serving immigrant children and families across the variety of child care programs that they operate. Recently, several settlement houses have

noted increased or now full enrollment in their early childhood education programs because they are now serving newly arrived asylum seekers in their programs. These children are being served via Pre-K, 3-K, and Head Start programs, which do not have citizenship requirements. This is why it is crucial to invest in the system overall, and to ensure that early childhood providers are supported with equitable salaries and prompt contracting and payment.

We urge the City to ensure that all children have access to high quality early childhood education by:

- Fully funding the 3-K program and restoring the timeline expansion to universality;
- Converting open 3-K school-day/year seats to extended-day/year seats, beginning by investing \$15 million in a pilot program to convert 1,000 seats;
- Funding a new labor contract that puts community based organization (CBO) early care and education teachers, directors and support staff on a path toward parity with their DOE counterparts. This includes factoring in longevity when determining salary increases and setting a wage floor of \$25/hour for all support staff; and
- Renewing the Promise NYC program, which provides access to child care for immigrant households, by investing and baselining \$20 million.

Addressing Debilitating Delays in Payments to Providers and Ongoing Systemic Needs

Finally, we reiterate the issues we have raised several times before the City Council about our ongoing concerns with the stability of the City's early childhood education system. New York City has long been a pioneer in early childhood education, achieving tremendous growth with universal Pre-K, the introduction of 3-K, and the transition of EarlyLearn contracts from the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) to the Department of Education (DOE). Despite the City's triumphs, the ECE system is currently facing grave challenges that are proving detrimental to families and providers. UNH continues to hear countless accounts from settlement houses about the challenges of payment delays, contract inflexibility, and a complicated DOE-centralized enrollment process. To make matters worse, we are just over two weeks from the start of the new fiscal year, and we do not know any provider who has received a budget for next year or started the contracting process. This delay is only going to keep providers a few steps behind and will continue to impact their cashflow when they are already hurting from two years of delays.

Early childhood education contracts must be held harmless and paid on time, and an option for providers to enroll families directly on-site must be implemented. Parents and caregivers have continued to express their concerns with advocates, citing cost, a complex application process, and a lack of available child care seats that meet their schedule's needs as main barriers to accessing care. DOE must also separate the system supporting enrollment data collection from the system responsible for invoicing and payments; and migrate DOE invoicing and payments out of the Pre-KIDS system and into MOCS (Mayor's Office of Contract Services) PASSPort system.

Thank you for your time. To follow up, you can contact me at nmoran@unhny.org.



**Testimony of Rebecca Charles
Policy and Advocacy Associate
Citizens' Committee for Children of New York**

**Presented to the New York City Council Committee on Education
June 13, 2023**

Citizens' Committee for Children of New York is a 79-year-old independent, multi-issue child advocacy organization. CCC does not accept or receive public resources, provide direct services, nor represent a sector or workforce; our priority is improving outcomes for children and families through research and advocacy. We document the facts, engage and mobilize New Yorkers, and advocate for solutions to ensure that every New York child is healthy, housed, educated, and safe.

We would like to thank Chairs Hanif & Caban and all the members of the New York City Council Immigration and Women & Gender Equity Committees for holding today's important hearing on immigrant access to child care.

New York City has long been a leader in early care and education and we all know how essential these resources are for supporting young children's social emotional development and school readiness as well as the critical supports they offer working parents. Unfortunately, this year Preliminary Budget proposed a deep cut to the Department of Education's budget for 3-K for All, an action that will not only stall 3-K expansion but will leave many families without needed preschool options. Additionally, both the Preliminary and Executive Budgets failed to include funding for the existing Promise NYC program, which would lead to hundreds of families losing care if not rectified in the Adopted Budget. It is critical that this year's budget prioritizes early care and education and puts our city back on track to support young New Yorkers and their families.

Both Promise NYC and the Linking Immigrant Families to ECE (LIFE) Project have been pivotal initiatives for New York City's immigrant communities, ensuring access to subsidized child care for families who would otherwise not qualify due to federal regulations. For our city to remain a trailblazer in child care access, these programs must be baselined and adequately funded in this year's budget. **We urge you to baseline funding for Promise NYC at \$20 million and baseline funding for the LIFE Project at \$4 million to ensure that hundreds of undocumented families maintain access to child care.**

Additionally, CCC recognizes that we must not only expand ECE eligibility for immigrant households, but also sustain and strengthen our existing ECE system so immigrant families can find the care that is right for them. We join the Campaign for Children in urging you to also prioritize the following in this year's budget:

- **Full funding of the 3-K program and restoration to the timeline expansion to universality.**

- **Converting open 3-K school-day/year seats to extended-day/year seats, beginning by investing \$15 million in a pilot program to convert 1,000 seats.**
- **Funding a new labor contract that completes the path to parity between community based organization (CBO) directors and support staff and their DOE counterparts. This includes factoring in longevity when determining salary increases and setting a wage floor of \$25/hour for all support staff.**

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony, and for your continued commitment to ensuring an equitable early care and education system for New York City families.



**NYC Council Committees on Immigration and Women & Gender Equity
Joint Oversight Hearing on Promise NYC and Access to Child Care for Immigrants
Tuesday, June 13, 2023**

Thank you to Chairs Hanif and Cabán and the Committees on Immigration and Women and Gender Equity for holding today's hearing and for the opportunity to offer testimony on Promise NYC and access to childcare for immigrant New Yorkers. The Committee for Hispanic Children & Families, better known by its acronym, CHCF, is a non-profit organization with a 41-year history of combining education, capacity-building, and advocacy to strengthen the support system and continuum of learning for children and youth from birth through school-age. While our primary focus and direct services are around access to high quality, culturally responsive and sustaining early learning and school-aged education, we understand that many intersectional circumstances and experiences within the community impact the well-being of children and their family support structures, and as such we deliver holistically responsive services within the school and wider communities we serve.

CHCF is a citywide agency with community contact points throughout the five boroughs. A large point of contact exists via our three after-school programs in the Bronx. Over the years, we have seen influxes of migrant families in our school communities and have continued to work diligently with school leaders to coordinate resources that meet the ongoing and growing needs of families and children. Our position as a community-based organization allows us to identify additional partnerships and funding opportunities to supplement the services directly offered through schools, working with other city agencies, such as the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, our community elected leaders' offices, philanthropic organizations, and other community-based organizations that might focus on other specific resource access for community members and families.

Like so many organizations in the communities that are receiving the recently arriving migrants, our newly opened Bronx office has seen an influx of Spanish-speaking migrants reaching out for support in settling in New York City. Our Community Empowerment team has been working to offer one-on-one needs assessments and connections to resources including, but not limited to, school and child care access, housing, food, mental health supports, and immigration. Given our experience working with migrant populations, we have grown our services and support for the recently arriving asylum seeking families through a new partnership with the New York City Department of Homeless Services and Housing Works. We have expanded our immigrant supports to Long Island City, where our team is overseeing the coordination of services for families housed in a hotel, assisting in linguistically responsive navigation of available resources and benefits.

CHCF recognizes the importance of supporting immigrant families in navigating city systems. While families are navigating housing, employment, immigration processes, and so many more intersecting needs, it is crucial that they are supported in accessing care and education for their children. We know the impacts of access to high-quality, affordable care and early learning, as well as access to high-





quality, culturally responsive and sustaining preK-12 opportunities on child development, academic growth, and lifelong success.

CHCF supports New York City's early care and education sector through our state contracted work as part of the NYC Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Consortium. Through our CCR&R work, we support families in accessing childcare that is responsive to their family's culture, language, schedule and particular child needs; and further support navigation of often complex bureaucratic systems to access affordable care. CHCF also holds a DOE affiliated Family Child Care Network in the Bronx that additionally supports families in navigating eligibility and access to DOE care options.

Through our work in supporting families with navigation of childcare eligibility and enrollment – both in Department of Education programming and in ACS and HRA subsidy and voucher access – and in our collective work with other Networks, CCR&Rs, childcare sector support organizations, and providers themselves, we are acutely aware when systems are not functioning as they should. There have been longstanding issues with system structures that have always made the processes needlessly burdensome for families and harmful to provider stability. As we were listening to the testimony of the administration, we have concerns about their responses to questions about ramping down Promise NYC should the program funding not continue. While the simple answer was that the currently enrolled families would be supported in accessing other care options that might be available, we expect that the process will be equally, if not more burdensome for newly arriving families and will likely result in disappointment and further hardship for many, as families either aren't eligible or will face waitlists for existing program options.

NYC must prioritize funding systems and program options that are truly accessible to all and that have a demonstrably powerful impact on the holistic stability of families and wellbeing of children. We continue to hold concern about the administration's shift in position on investments for universal 3K expansion. Even before the influx of newly arriving migrants, many advocates argued that any perceived lack of demand for universal 3K is inaccurate. We continue to see a high demand for full day/year care and early learning for 0 to 3-year-olds; the issue is the insufficient availability of these extended day/year slots to meet the need citywide.

We remain concerned about the outreach and enrollment efforts of city agencies, particularly targeting families most in need, those who are more likely to be unaware of available, free programming, and those that are more likely to have reservations in reaching out to government agencies for programming (i.e., immigrant families). CHCF, along with our advocacy partners and longstanding partners in the field, have continued to encourage the DOE and ACS to engage us and impacted stakeholders in the marketing design, outreach, and enrollment process, as we have longstanding relationships with some of the hardest to reach communities and our staff more often reflect the culture and language of those we serve. To our knowledge, the sector hasn't been consistently and meaningfully engaged to ensure maximum impact of targeted outreach to increase timely access and enrollment.

With the migrants coming in, it is necessary to further underscore that while undocumented families can access the 3K school day/year services, they have historically not had access to the 0-2 and extended





day/year care because of its reliance on federal Child Care & Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funding. As we know, the Council fought for and won \$10 million in FY23's budget for undocumented child access to childcare. The subsequent program, Promise NYC, launched in January 2023, has successfully been able to support hundreds of children and families in accessing care for a 6-month period. We must not stop there. For the already enrolled families, we must maintain consistent care and early learning for their children and extend it for the full year. We support the ask for \$20 million to maintain the current enrollment numbers for a 12-month period.

However, we know the need is far greater, especially given the additional number of migrant families continuing to arrive in NYC. While we wholeheartedly call on the Council and Mayor to commit to the \$20 million in funding for Promise NYC, we continue to underscore the growing need. It remains important that the city track the demand for these dollars and the rate at which they are exhausted and prepare for the necessary growth in investment for this successful and highly impactful program in the coming years. We applaud New York City's history of supporting immigrant families and hope that we will stay committed to ensuring access to city supports and resources for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to present a testimony; and if there are any questions about our work or what is presented in our testimony, please reach out to Danielle Demeuse, Director of Policy, at: ddemeuse@chcfinc.org or 212-206-1090 ext. 359.



**Written Testimony of Diana Limongi, MomsRising/MamásConPoder
Committee on Women & Gender Equity and Committee on Immigration
June 13, 2023**

My name is Diana Limongi and I am a Queens-based campaign director with MomsRising and our Spanish-language community, Mamás Con Poder. We are a national online and on-the-ground organization of more than a million moms and families, fighting to improve family economic security, stop discrimination, and build a nation where everyone can thrive – including those who are undocumented.

I'm testifying to share my conviction that our city's families and our economy cannot thrive without high-quality, affordable child care that is accessible to *all* families, regardless of immigration status. I want to express my gratitude to the Committee for holding today's hearing and for the opportunity to submit testimony.

As a Queens mom of two great kids, I've had to navigate our city's broken child care system. Even though I have a lot of privilege compared to many others, my family has struggled enormously to access care. We have had to rely on family care often. During COVID, I had to drastically reduce my hours because of child care challenges. Ultimately my child care center closed. Three years later, that space is still empty and over 30 child care slots were lost in my neighborhood in Astoria, Queens.

The reality is that the child care sector is in crisis, and has been for much too long. At MomsRising, we hear from members every day who are struggling with child care, including members who are immigrants. They tell us costs are through the roof. Kids sit on waitlists for months or even years. And at the same time, child care workers struggle because providers are unable to pay living wages or provide basic benefits like health care.

When families can't find and afford quality care, it has a significant ripple effect on our city's economy. Many parents, especially moms, are pushed out of the workforce and into poverty. And kids miss out on essential early learning opportunities.

For families who are undocumented, it's even harder. Undocumented families are left out of many federal and state assistance programs. They face some of the highest barriers to finding and affording quality child care.

That's unacceptable. After all, New York is a city of immigrants. Immigrants power our economy and our communities. I know that because I'm proud to be the daughter of immigrants who came to New York City many years ago and built a life here. On a personal level, I feel compelled to fight for the families who came here after mine.

To me, that's a core American value: We show up for each other. The immigrant community shows up for our city every day; the pandemic made that more clear than ever. We need to show up for immigrant families by passing policies that put equity front and center.

I urge the Council to pass a budget that helps ensure *all* families can find and afford quality child care and early learning. At the end of the day, all kids deserve a strong foundation for their education. It shouldn't matter where they were born or where their parents were born. Quality education is a human right and an investment in our collective future.

Right now we have a system that leaves many immigrant kids and families behind, but it doesn't have to be this way. These are policy choices, and we can make different choices.

MomsRising is calling on the Council to invest \$20 million in Promise NYC to help fill in the gaps for families left behind from other programs. We also need to ensure all of our city's youngest learners can access preschool with \$4 million in funding for the LIFE Project. And it's past time to invest in child care and early learning providers so programs can keep their doors open and recruit and retain staff.

New York City has the opportunity to set an example for the nation. We can show what it really means to support the immigrant communities that support our city in a thousand different ways, every day. Investing in undocumented families is an investment in our city's future.

Moms want to see our elected leaders make child care for all a top priority. That would be a huge win for our city's kids, families, communities, businesses and economy. Thank you.

Testimony

Good afternoon Honorable Chairwomen Shahana Hanif and Tiffany Caban, all councilmembers, and everyone present, thank you for the opportunity to testify on such an important issue.

My name is Musfika Moshahid, and I am the Muslim Womens Civic Empowerment Program Coordinator at the Muslim Community Network (MCN), a nonprofit organization here in NYC working to empower the Muslim community through civic education, women+youth empowerment, and community service.

Having access to childcare can be an incredibly empowering experience for women and individuals with children, and we have seen that firsthand at MCN, through our Muslim Womens Program and other programming. Our Muslim Womens Program serves older Muslim women (usually mothers), and so we knew it was important to provide childcare during our programs so our women with children would be able to participate. We hire our childcare workers right from the community as well. By providing childcare we have not only supported our program participants, but we also are providing work opportunities to other undocumented and immigrant women, as of now we have built a network of 7+ childcare workers all consisting of low-income undocumented women, Black women and women of color. Many of our participants, have expressed to us that without childcare they otherwise would not have been able to participate in our program and other events. Many women said it was the first time they saw a women's program or an organization that provided that service and as a result it made them feel included and cared for. Thanks to the childcare that was available to them, they were able to engage in the program and participate in workshops relating to intro to civic engagement, learning about different elections, how to write to and reach out to their councilmembers and representatives, registering to vote, learning about their rights when it comes to being immigrants, hate crime prevention, self-defense and more. Women were able to relax and simply enjoy being in community with other Muslim women, without worrying about their kids, and with the assurance knowing their kids were still being taken care of. Thanks to these childcare services, women were able to focus and enjoy forging friendships with other women, and explore their identities outside of being a mother and caretaker. We have now made it a priority for us as an organization to provide childcare wherever possible throughout our events and programming as we have witnessed firsthand the empowering effect it can have on both parents and those who conduct the childcare work. We see there is a strong need for funding for this work. Having access to childcare allows women, especially undocumented women, to focus on fueling their studies, finding employment to support their children, or taking part in opportunities that further their personal development. Many of our program participants are low income, immigrant women who are interested in finding employment but struggle due to a lack of childcare access. Our participants already come from historically underserved and marginalized communities, they are Black women and women of color, they are undocumented; and this lack of childcare access is just one more thing that makes it hard for them to find employment and support their families and themselves. Every woman and parent deserves the space to explore their potential, their interests, and develop themselves while knowing that their children are still being cared for. Not only do parents deserve this relief, but children deserve this care too. Something we must begin to recognize is that children can also be considered an oppressed class, they do not have a voice in the world we live in, and they are not able to often express their needs. As a result, it's up to us, the adults, to fight for them. The wellbeing and safety of children are the responsibility of all of us within a shared collective community and society, regardless of whether or not you are a parent. We must ensure that every child, regardless of their own or their parents' immigrations status, is given the same care, priority

and opportunities as anyone else. We must support our undocumented community members, and our immigrant communities especially now when more and more migrants are coming to NYC in hopes for a better future. We need this program more than ever, which we clearly see due to the popularity and demand of the program.

In general, childcare, caretaking, homemaking and other forms of domestic labor have long been underappreciated and undervalued within our society. It's time we also prioritize this work and move towards a future where we can live in a society where childrearing, childcare, homemaking, and other forms of domestic labor are seen as jobs just as important, necessary, and deserving of as much compensation and respect as any other average 9-5 job. My hope is that we can one day come to a place where childcare access in all parts of society are the norm, standard, and commonplace. I urge the City Council and the Mayor to help us build towards this future. I urge the City Council continue to fight for this program, and prioritize it within the new budget, and I ask Mayor Adams to do so as well and continue to fund this essential, lifesaving program.

Musfika Moshahid

Hola muy buenas tardes mi nombre es Sonia Nieto soy madre de 2 niños que me beneficié de el programa Promise NYC con la ayuda de Center for family life in Sunset park. Manifiesto el agradecimiento al programa y al daycare que nos dio la oportunidad de poder postularnos para el beneficio del cuidado de nuestros niños.

Yo llegué a la ciudad de New York y en el momento de mi llegada tuve que postularme a un shelter en el que gracias a el programa de Promise NYC mis hijos obtuvieron cuidado infantil en un daycare en el cual les ofrece alimentación, apoyo académico y emocional. Los niños asisten hasta las 7pm y gracias a eso mi esposo y yo pudimos encontrar un trabajo, rentamos un apartamento y salimos del shelter. Gracias a este programa Podemos darle a mis hijos una mejor calidad de vida y un mejor entorno. Estare eternamente agradecida con la ayuda que nos están brindando.

***English**

Hello, good afternoon.

My name is Sonia Nieto. I am the mother of 2 children who benefited from Promise NYC program with the help of the Center for Family Life in Sunset Park.

I express my gratitude to the program and to the daycare that gave us the opportunity to apply for the benefit of caring for our children.

I arrived in New York City and at the time of my arrival I had to apply to a shelter where, thanks to the Promise NYC program, my children obtained child care in a daycare that offers them food, academic and emotional support. The children attend until 7pm and thanks to that my husband and I were able to find a job, rent an apartment and leave the shelter. Thanks to this program, we can give my children a better quality of life and a better environment. I will be eternally grateful for the help you are giving us.

***Spanish**

En medio de una tensa situación de migrantes hacia los Estados Unidos, la ciudad de New York a liderado un soporte humanitario mundialmente histórico para estas familias que han logrado entrar al país en busca de un sueño y una mejor calidad de vida. Promise NYC es uno de esos programas que desde mi punto de vista ha sido fundamental para el soporte de estas familias que han pasado por retos extremos para llegar aquí.

Sunset Park Group Family daycare les abrió la Puerta y ha honrado esa filosofía de la ciudad de New York apoyar al migrante con los mismos derechos que un ciudadano americano, gracias al programa Promise NYC hemos brindado la mejor educación la mejor alimentación y el mejor apoyo emocional para que estas familias no desistan de sus metas.

Soy Sonia Oquendo proveedora de cuidado Infantil de Sunset Park Group family daycare, fui migrante y camine por los mismos caminos que esos pequeños caminaron me veo reflejada en ellos, yo cumplí mis sueños y quiero que ellos también lo logren. Me conmueve y agradezco que continúe este programa de la ciudad de New York que le dice al mundo entero que el valor más grande del ser humano siempre será ayudar al que lo necesita por que esos somos, una sola humanidad.

***English**

In the midst of a tense situation of migrants to the United States, the city of New York has led a world-historical humanitarian support for these families who have managed to enter the country in search of a dream and a better quality of life. Promise NYC is one of those programs that, from my point of view, has been fundamental in supporting these families who have gone through extreme challenges to get here.

Sunset Park Group Family daycare opened the door for them and has honored that philosophy of the city of New York to support the migrant with the same rights as an American citizen, thanks to the Promise NYC program we have provided the best education, the best food and the best emotional support so that these families do not give up on their goals.

I am Sonia Oquendo, child care provider for Sunset Park Group family daycare, I was a migrant and I walked the same paths that those little ones walked, I see myself reflected in them, I fulfilled my dreams and I want them to achieve it too. I am moved and I am grateful that this New York City program continues, which tells the entire world that the greatest value of the human being will always be to help those who need it because we are one humanity.

**THE COUNCIL
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Appearance Card

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Date: 06/13/2023

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Julie Ma, The Korean American Family Service

Address: PO Box 541427

I represent: The Korean American Family Service

Address: PO Box 541427, Flushing NY 11357

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Name: Gregory Brender

Address: _____

I represent: Dutcare Council of NY

Address: _____

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Name: Vinny Romero

Address: Sherman Ave Bronx NY 10456

I represent: Mixtera Organization

Address: 245 23rd Street Brooklyn NY 11215

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Name: Nora Moran

Address: _____

I represent: United Neighborhood Houses

Address: _____

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Name: Nadeeha Almatzar

Address: 150 Elizabeth Street

I represent: Chinese American Planning Council

Address: _____

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(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Algebra A

Address: 150 Elizabeth Street

I represent: CPC

Address: _____

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Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: RONICE

Address: _____

I represent: ROC New York

Address: 275 7th Ave Ste 1504, NY, NY 10001

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Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michelle Paize, Executive Director

Address: Office of Child Care

I represent: _____

Address: _____

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(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Melissa Anles-Ramos

Address: Chief of Staff, NYCDOE

I represent: _____

Address: _____

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(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Jodina Clanton NYCDOE
Address: Interim Acting Chief Strategy + Policy

I represent: _____

Address: _____

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Date: 6/13/2023

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Elizabeth Walkomir
Address: Deputy Commissioner, Child and Family Well-being
I represent: Administration for Children's Services
Address: _____

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

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Date: 6/13/23

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Liza Schwartzwald
Address: _____
I represent: New York Immigration Coalition
Address: 131 West 33rd St.

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(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Shanita Bowen

Address: Cleason Ave. Bronx NY 10472

I represent: FCE on The Move

Address: Same

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in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rebecca Charles

Address: _____

I represent: Citizens' Committee for Children

Address: _____

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in favor in opposition

Date: 6/13/23

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Steven Morales

Address: Holladel Ave. Bx NY 10462

I represent: All Our Kin

Address: 2929 3rd Ave Bx NY 10453

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Date: June 13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Gonia Ovendo

Address: _____

I represent: Promise NYC - Center for family life

Address: 443 39 St Bklyn, NY 11232

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in favor in opposition

Date: June 13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Gonia Nieto

Address: 71st Brooklyn 11228

I represent: Center for family life

Address: 443 39 St Bklyn, NY 11220

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