



2018 SCAP Advocacy Agenda

Early Care and Education

Access to quality child care and early education allows parents to focus on their jobs, supports early brain development and readies children for success in kindergarten and beyond. Research shows that 80% of brain development occurs in the first 3 years, 90% in the first 5 years.

- Only 17% of eligible children receive child care subsidies.
- New York has reduced the number of children served in order to try and cover rising costs including implementation of new Federal mandates in 2015.
- Qualified early childhood educators are leaving the field because they are not paid comparable wages to the education, training and responsibility required of them.
- Market rates paid by the state to providers has been flat since 2015. Providers are struggling to stay open.

Child Care – Support the Empire State Campaign for Child Care.

- Invest \$100 million to restore the investment in child care subsidies to 2016 levels, account for inflation, restore last year's \$7 million cut, reinstate the 75% market rate percentage and assist providers who must comply with increased minimum wage increases.
- Economic development money should be used to fund child care. This will remove a barrier to broad workforce participation.
- Implement a state-wide copayment in the calculation for child care subsidies, up to 200% of poverty and fully fund local social services districts. Schenectady County's co-payment is at 35% of income over the poverty level, the highest in the state (along with 23 other counties).

Questions can be addressed to: Debra L. Schimpf, Executive Director @ dschimpf@scapny.org

There are over 2.8 million NY residents living in poverty or 15.7%. In Schenectady County the rate is 12.6% and in the City of Schenectady it is 22%. The Child Poverty Rate in Schenectady County is 20.9% and in the City of Schenectady it is 40.1%.



Schenectady Community
Action Program
Creating Opportunity in Partnership

Universal Pre-k – Community-based early education programs provide high quality services in a cost-efficient manner. High quality programming exists in Schenectady County and can be expanded with additional UPK resources directed to community providers above the state-mandated 10%.

- Expand state funding for universal pre-kindergarten (currently not a universal program)
- Increase the state-mandated 10% pass-through to community based providers in current UPK legislation.
- Create a consistent state-wide reimbursement per child for community providers.
- Reform Pre-k financing – conduct a cost-study of quality pre-k as recommended by the Board of Regents to establish appropriate compensation and support for qualified and effective teachers in community programs.

http://empirejustice.org/resources_post/empire-justice-center-2018-state-policy-priorities/

<https://www.empirestatechildcare.org/>

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