



Budget Priority

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN OF NEW YORK

Protecting every child's right to learn since 1971

PROVIDE EARLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES TO CHILDREN WHO ARE UNDOCUMENTED

No child should be turned away from an early learning program because of their immigration status, and in January, the City launched Promise NYC to increase access to subsidized childcare for children who would otherwise be ineligible for existing programs due to federal restrictions. This first-of-its-kind initiative is expected to serve approximately 600 children from low-income immigrant families during the final six months of Fiscal Year 2023.

Given the recent increase in the number of immigrant families arriving in New York City—many of whom are living in shelter and seeking asylum in the United States—the number of children who stand to benefit from Promise NYC has only grown larger since the program was first announced. **About 40% of the thousands of newly arrived immigrant children are ages zero to five;** access to early care and education will be 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.

Funding for Promise NYC will expire in June 2023 unless extended in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget. Though the need is greater than ever, funding to sustain this key initiative was left out of the Mayor's Executive Budget.

New York City should baseline \$20 million in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget for early childhood education and care for children who are undocumented.

The City should continue to be a leader in providing early learning opportunities to children, regardless of immigration status, by extending Administration for Children's Services (ACS) funding for Promise NYC. In FY 2023, the City allocated \$10 million for six months; to continue serving the same number of children in FY 2024, the City would need \$20 million for the full year.