



CALLING ALL ADVOCATES!

NUMBERS COUNT & YOUR PARTICIPATION MATTERS!

2014 EARLY CARE & LEARNING ADVOCACY DAY

Dear CCR&R Network:

We need your participation in Early Care & Learning Advocacy Day! On behalf of the children and families in New York State, it is our duty as a network to attend Advocacy Day 2014. Together, we will work to inform policymakers and the public about the many benefits of a high quality early care and learning system that is affordable and accessible. We need the NYS Legislature to commit to making an investment and make early care and education the **top** priority in New York State.

Numbers will make a huge difference this year and the staff of the Early Care & Learning Council look forward to greeting hundreds of advocates from every economic development region on the **Third Floor Terrace** of the **Legislative Office Building**.

Funding is available for bus or van rentals in every economic development region in the state. Don't miss out on the opportunity to bring staff and other community stakeholders to participate. Registration begins at 10 am and the formal program begins at 10:30. A **free lunch** will be provided after the program concludes at 11:30.

Legislative visits will begin at noon. Make appointments to urge your Senate and Assembly members to:

- **INVEST** \$1 million to support CCR&R services statewide;
- **INVEST** \$182 million in child care subsidies in 2014-2015, in addition to the \$916 million invested in 2013-14, to serve more than 25,000 additional children. Expand that investment in years 2 through 5 to reach \$2.2 billion annually, providing universal access to the estimated 305,000 children of working parents whose children are currently in need of high-quality early care and learning;
- **FUND** QUALITYstarsNY and the implementation of a statewide, universal, full-day Pre-K quality framework;
- **INVEST** \$5 million to expand QUALITYstarsNY in existing locations;
- **RESTORE** \$1.1 million in funding to the Infant and Toddler Initiative.

To schedule visits with your legislators beginning at noon on February 10th, use the links provided: [NYS Assembly](#) and [NYS Senate](#). Attached are current Assembly and Senate directories for your use. **Once you schedule your visits, email the completed forms (attached) to Donna Hercules at dhercules@earlycareandlearning.org.** You will be able to pick up packets for your legislators at the Early Care & Learning Advocacy Day registration table on Monday, February 10th.

SPREAD THE WORD! Encourage everyone—directors, teachers, parents, providers, medical professionals, students, and business leaders—to attend Advocacy Day and bring attention to our efforts through social media.



@ECLC_NYS @WINBEGINNY

NOTE: Security into the Legislative Office Building and the Capitol is heightened at this time of the year. **EVERYONE** will need appropriate identification and pass through metal detectors. Be prepared to wait in line. Encourage advocates to leave valuables at home and, if weather permits, leave coats in vehicles. Carry only what is absolutely necessary will decrease the time it will take you to pass through security.

Stand united to ensure a Winning Beginning for all children!

For more information, contact Jessica Klos Shapiro or Donna A. Hercules:
Early Care & Learning Council | 230 Washington Avenue Ext. | Albany NY 12203 | www.earlycareandlearning.org
518-690-4217 | Fax 518-690-2887 | jklos@earlycareandlearning.org dhercules@earlycareandlearning.org