



# UFT PROVIDERS

## Family Child Care Providers

### CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



Dear Child Care Provider,

You asked for improved communications with the union and we listened to you. The result: We'll be sending you regular emails with important information from the union about what's going on with child care in the city and the state and how it affects you. The union has a long history of fighting for you, and you need to know what we're doing on your behalf and when we need your help.

We will host our 6th Annual Provider Appreciation Awards Ceremony on Saturday, May 11, at UFT headquarters in Manhattan. We will honor many of our truly gifted child care providers as well as union activists. UFT President Michael Mulgrew will join us to speak about child care providers' contributions to the early education of our youngest citizens.

I hope you enjoy this chapter newsletter. Let me know what you think by emailing me at [tmiller@uft.org](mailto:tmiller@uft.org), or if you have any questions about your membership. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Yours in solidarity,

Tammie Miller  
UFT Family Child Care Providers Chapter Chair

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## Support pledged for higher wages and benefits for child care providers

On March 3, more than 300 UFT providers met with Congressman Adriano Espaillat and the UFT leadership. State Sen. Robert Jackson was a welcome surprise guest, and joined in the discussion

about how to support efforts to improve wages and benefits for child care providers.

We voiced our growing concerns around the future of child care in the city and state. We discussed market rates for providers, the lack of retirement benefits, the lack of health insurance and the impact of the DOE's expanding 3-K for All on NYC providers.

Sen. Jackson, Rep. Espaillat and the UFT leadership pledged to work to ensure the longevity and success of our valuable work as well as efforts to improve our wages and benefits.

The union leadership also pledged to continue working with the DOE on the rollout of 3-K for All to ensure we do not destabilize the provider workforce and to ensure that network-affiliated providers make an easy transition once the new networks are in place under the DOE.

In attendance from the UFT were LeRoy Barr, staff director and assistant secretary, and David Campbell, director of the UFT Grievance Department. From the Family Child Care Providers Chapter were Tammie Miller, chapter chair, Melissa Reed, chapter vice chair; and Tiffany Diaz, chapter executive board member.

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## 2019-2020 child care NYS Legislative budget request

More than 12,000 home-based child care providers statewide provide a tangible economic and social benefit to New York's families. The 6,000 home-based child care providers in NYC, represented by the UFT, offer low-income families access to high-quality, affordable care for children.

Here are some of the highlights of what the UFT asked the state for in this year's budget request:

- **The UFT supports preserving, and, if possible, increasing the number of child care slots.** The shortage of quality, affordable child care hurts New York's businesses and its economy. Businesses are less productive when employees are absent because of child care concerns. The case for investing in child care as a way to improve the economy is so compelling that the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation called upon business leaders to champion investment in child care.
  - **The UFT supports additional state resources to pay for federal mandates, which create an unfair financial burden on child care providers.**
  - **The UFT supports better wages for providers.** Many child care educators are paid wages that leave them living at or near poverty. Low compensation causes high turnover rates and results in instability for young children.
  - **The UFT wants the state to add \$51 million to restore child care subsidies to the 2016 levels;** spend \$2.5 million to train and recruit new infant and toddler providers to the field; add \$15 million to create 1,000 new child care slots for infants and toddlers; spend \$20.6 million to revise the copayment formula so that no family receiving a child care subsidy pays more than 20 percent of gross income exceeding the poverty level while maintaining the number of families receiving subsidies; and increase the subsidy reimbursement rate to the 75th percentile formula statewide.
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## UFT providers join DOE Advisory Committee

Chapter Chair Tammie Miller and Chapter Secretary Cynthia Reed are now members of the DOE Advisory Committee that is reviewing the DOE's Birth-to-Five request for proposal (RFP) for early childhood care and education services beginning in 2020. Discussions will also focus on the Head Start/Early Head Start RFP.

The advisory council will review the DOE's comprehensive plan of how the city plans to improve the current early childcare system for FCC providers, children, and families.

The Birth-to-Five RFP seeks providers of services for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers – combining services that are currently part of EarlyLearn with 3-K and Pre-K for All programs. The goal is to create a more robust early care and education system to benefit children, families, and providers.

All current EarlyLearn and 3-K and Pre-K for All center-based providers must apply to one or more of the DOE's RFPs to continue services in 2020 and beyond. Later in 2019, the city will also release the Family Child Care Networks RFP and an RFP for supplemental funding for programs receiving direct federal Head Start grants.

The Head Start/Early Head Start RFP seeks providers who wish to partner with the DOE to provide Head Start and/or Early Head Start services in 2020 and beyond.

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## UFT will hold informational sessions for providers on compliance and safety

LeRoy Barr, UFT staff director and the union's assistant secretary, and Family Child Care Providers Chapter Chair Tammie Miller met with Assistant Commissioner Simone Hawkins of the Bureau of Child Care, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, to discuss the transition of ACS child care services to the DOE and the facility application management system, and to develop an appeals process for providers cited for violations.

During the meeting, the three also discussed the increase in incidents of injured children; the UFT agreed to host informational sessions for providers to discuss regulations and compliance with reporting incidents as well as how to maintain a safe environment for children. The UFT will invite representatives from DOHMH to the sessions to speak about compliance and the proper forms to use.

The UFT and DOHMH also agreed to meet on a regular basis each quarter in addition to ad hoc meetings to discuss urgent business.