



January 27, 2012

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo  
Governor of New York  
Executive Chamber  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

On behalf of the hundreds of dedicated New York Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) nurse home visitors and the thousands of first-time mothers and their families who they serve, we urge you to make the following change in your Executive Budget:

- Establish a dedicated line item of **\$5 million** in the New York State Department of Health's (NYSDOH) budget to help support the **sustainability of Nurse-Family Partnership**.

First, we would like to thank you for maintaining \$12.1 million for the Community Optional Preventive Services (COPS) in the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) budget, as well as the \$23.3 million line item for Healthy Families New York in the OCFS budget that protects New York's eligibility for millions of dollars in mandatory federal funding through the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program. Both funding streams are critical to ensuring that valuable evidence-based home visiting services reach the most vulnerable families.

Moreover, we appreciate your leadership for the very open and deliberative process that the New York Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) and NYSDOH used to develop recommendations for redesigning New York's Medicaid program. The fact that Nurse-Family Partnership was recognized by the Basic Benefits Work Group in its final list of recommended proposals speaks volumes of its well-established program outcomes and cost effectiveness.

Yet while the recommendation to provide more comprehensive coverage of Nurse-Family Partnership as a preventive service received overwhelming support during the MRT process and is expected to be included in the global waiver to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), budget cuts in a variety of areas have reduced the program's current funding for FY 2012-2103 by approximately \$5 million, which will reduce capacity and place thousands of the state's high-risk families at even greater risk. **A \$5 million line item in the NYSDOH budget is needed to offset any additional reduction in capacity and maintain programs** in Monroe County, New York City and Onondaga County **at current levels until the global waiver is approved by CMS** and Nurse-Family Partnership can be more robustly covered under Medicaid.

As you make very difficult budget decisions in the upcoming weeks, we hope you will support Nurse-Family Partnership, which is delivering tangible, measureable outcomes in several of New York's most challenged communities and to some of New York's most vulnerable families.

Please contact Renée Nogales at [renee.nogales@nursefamilypartnership.org](mailto:renee.nogales@nursefamilypartnership.org) or (215) 776-1720 if you or your staff has any questions or would like to discuss Nurse-Family Partnership in greater detail.

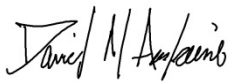
Respectfully,



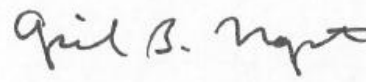
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Cynthia B. Morrow, MD, MPH,  
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Early Care & Learning Council



Ellen Rautenberg, President & CEO  
Public Health Solutions, Inc.



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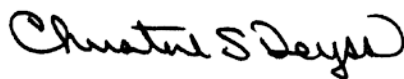
Vivian Torres-Suarez, Vice President of  
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