

January 30, 2012

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

Dear Governor Cuomo:

On behalf of *Winning Beginning NY (WBNY)*, the state's early care and development coalition, we ask that you make the following change in your *2012 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 (NFP)**.

WBNY's agenda spans the prenatal period to age eight and includes home visiting. Programs such as NFP are proven to:

- Reduce child abuse and neglect and the need for child welfare services;
- Improve birth outcomes, thereby improving children's health and development;
- Promote school readiness and learning; improve economic stability and self-sufficiency; and
- Improve public safety.

The coalition appreciates that your *2012 Executive Budget* supports home visiting by maintaining \$12.1 million for the Community Optional Preventive Services (COPS) and \$23.3 million for Healthy Families New York (HFNY) in the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) budget.

WBNY is also pleased that the Medicaid Redesign Team recommended that NFP be included in the global waiver to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Unfortunately, budget cuts in a variety of areas have reduced NFP'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 NFP can be more robustly covered under Medicaid.**

As you make very difficult budget decisions in the upcoming weeks, we hope you will support this change to your *Budget*.

Thank you.

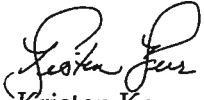
Sincerely,



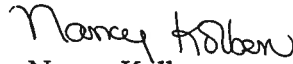
Kate Breslin
President and CEO
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy



Marsha Basloe
Executive Director
Early Care and Learning Council



Kristen Kerr
Executive Director
NYS Association for the Education
of Young Children



Nancy Kolben
Executive Director
Center for Children's Initiatives