

MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT FOR THE WINNING BEGINNING NY CAMPAIGN

Winning Beginning NY is the statewide early care and learning coalition. Its members include parents, employers, children's advocates, service providers, labor unions, educators, pediatricians, law enforcement, research and community groups. In 2009 we are hoping to grow our membership, including our e-advocacy subscribers and field captains. **Please continue reading to see how you can participate and promote early care and learning opportunities for all children in New York State!**

CORE COMMITMENTS

- Increase investments to expand early care and learning opportunities (home visiting, child care, Pre-K, and Head Start) for all children
- Ensure that early care and learning is affordable to families
- Support professional development and adequately compensate the workforce in all settings
- Promote and support quality in services in all settings

Toward this end, the *Winning Beginning NY* agenda seeks to increase resources for programs, enhance quality, build and improve facilities, insure professional development and improve compensation. We support an expansion of services for children from 0 to age 8 across all settings. That includes support for families such as parenting education, home visiting, and paid family leave. In addition, we support the agendas of organizations promoting quality out-of- school time opportunities for school age children.

COORDINATION OF COALITION

Winning Beginning NY promotes an agenda that will move New York State closer to meeting those goals. The coalition is co-convened by Child Care, Inc., the New York State Association for the Education of Young Children, the Early Care and Learning Council and the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy. These organizations share responsibility for convening meetings, administration, website management, communications and moving the annual advocacy agenda forward. Coalition meetings are held in both Albany and New York City.

The Executive and Legislative agendas are shaped and approved by members each year, with the intent to secure resources and regulatory support to expand high-quality early care and learning opportunities for every child and to support working families.

Any individual or organization that shares the mission and principles of the *Winning Beginning NY* coalition is invited to join. Members are expected to participate regularly in face-to-face meetings and on telephone conference calls, to support the adopted agenda and to provide financial support for the advocacy goals of the coalition. Attendance is critical to the ability of the coalition to build consensus. However, if the designated executive cannot attend, the individual who attends should be able to represent the organization and make decisions on behalf of their organization.

Winning Beginning NY also has working committees that meet to prepare policy recommendations, develop draft agendas, etc. All members of the coalition are eligible and expected to participate in these work groups.

Once the coalition has agreed on its advocacy agenda, individuals and member organizations are expected to endorse and promote the *full* agenda. It is understood that individual organizations may be working to support additional items in the field of early care and learning that are not included on the *Winning Beginning NY* agenda. Members, however, are expected to *not publicly oppose* positions adopted by the coalition as its official annual agenda.

DECISION-MAKING

Winning Beginning NY asks each organization to be clear about its priorities in early care and learning. Members are asked to come to the table as child advocates, not as representatives of their particular programs.

Every effort is made to move toward consensus in decision-making. Members have an opportunity to express whether they can live with a decision or the decision will cause them to leave the coalition. The coalition uses this system:

thumbs up = I agree

thumbs down = I cannot live with this

thumbs sideways = I have questions/concerns and need more information or discussion

E-ADVOCACY

Winning Beginning NY currently has about 4,000 online subscribers. These advocates receive periodic e-mail messages and newsletters from the convening organizations regarding early care and learning policy and programs in Albany and across the state. They are sometimes asked to support the coalition's agenda by contacting their state legislators or congressional representatives in support of or opposition to specific legislation, including budget cuts. To become an e-advocate, please fill out the accompanying form and **clearly print your email address**. Feel free to share it with your networks.

FIELD CAPTAINS

The coalition has recruited a number of talented individuals to assist with grassroots organization and advocacy. There are currently field captains in Long Island, Rochester, and Syracuse. Field captains meet by phone on a bi-weekly basis, meet locally with their state representatives as needed, attend the annual Advocacy Day in Albany, write Letters to the Editor, and assist with the annual children's art project. This year *Winning Beginning NY* will be training the field captains in advocacy techniques, using an online tool that they can use to train others. While there is no compensation for these positions, there is funding available through the coalition to do a number of activities. And the coalition staff is ready and willing to help with local efforts!

Winning Beginning NY wants to take this initiative statewide in 2009. If you are interested in becoming a field captain, or in hearing more about what the position entails, please contact Jenn O'Connor at 518/463-1896, ext. 31 or at joconnor@scaany.org.

PLEASE PRINT THIS PAGE AND MAIL

MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

Members are asked to affirm each year that they can abide by the commitments of the coalition. Each participating organization is expected to pay to support direct advocacy expenditures of the campaign. Annual dues for 2009-10 are \$600. Donations in any amount will be gratefully accepted. These funds will be used to support our mobilization efforts as well as core staff functions, which are critical to our efforts to communicate with one another and others. (An invoice is attached for your convenience.)

Checks should be made to:
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
150 State Street, 4th Floor
Albany, NY 12207

The level of dues established by the members of *Winning Beginning NY* is reviewed annually. Members also agree to support other fundraising efforts of the coalition, including outreach to foundations and other funders.

I have read the *Winning Beginning NY* membership requirements and agree to the principles for participation.

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

(needed to participate in e-advocacy)

Please sign and return to: Winning Beginning NY
c/o SCAA
150 State Street, 4th floor
Albany, NY 12207