

Manhattan Early Childhood Alliance

ManhattanECA.org

Updated 2022

Our Policy Agenda

End practices that drive us out of business; establish practices that support and sustain.

I - Hear From Us Directly – Please invite us to sit at your planning table. The Manhattan Early Childhood Alliance, and the Citywide Leadership Council are community-based voices.

II- The DOE must stop Raiding Our Staff or Relax Staffing Credentials – You are destabilizing us with this process. We recruit and train staff to meet the high level of credentialing required by DCCs only to have them raided. And we are cited and fined when we don't have the staff. Stop the use of UPK PETS staff registry as a raiding center.

III – Lower Impossible Standards or Raise Funding - The requirement that a credentialed Ed Director be on site at all times, is an impossible standard given our income levels, wage capacity, and your raids.

IV - Allow GFDCs to Opt In or Out of Networks - Because many of us provide high quality programming without becoming wards of networks, city contracts should be available regardless of network membership.

V – Allow Able GFDC Owners to Operate Multiple Programs –Reinstate the regulation, which permitted providers to operate out of multiple residential units. Renting a second apartment is within financial reach of a good Provider who wants to expand; whereas a day care center is usually out of reach, and a risky bet.

VI - Cost-of-Care Reimbursement –Base city reimbursement fees on the *actual cost* of caring for a child. Fund UPK and Special Needs staff on par with DOE.

VII - Help with Rent Relief – Existing programs took a hit under Covid. Help us pay off our rent debts. Increase the budget for Desert Grants for existing licensed programs.

VIII - Quarantine Hotels - When a GFDC provider gets Covid – make hotel rooms available to us so we don't have to close down our home-based programs leaving a dozen families without childcare.

IX– Change Your Perspective – Become Our Partners: – Let's work together to support senior and inspecting staff in perceiving small early childhood business owners as noble community servants, and perceiving themselves as noble supporters of our efforts. No *Gotcha* approaches with DCCs.

X - Help Us Secure Insurance Levels that Protect Us - There is no more high-risk industry, with the least protection and compensation for its providers. When we accept a child with developmental delays, or special needs, our entire program, sometimes even our homes are put at risk. Make available to GFDCs and DCCs affordable liability insurance

XI – Please Know Who We Are - Our sector is the *only* sector in which women nursing infants and toddlers can and do become successful entrepreneurs, supporting their families and lovingly caring for the community's children. We have graduate degrees, and high school diplomas. We are Black, White, Latino, Asian, Muslim, Jewish. We serve low to high income families. We are *the* great sector of women professionals.

Thank you for listening.