New York State Budget for FY 2021 Maintains State’s $5 Million Investment in QUALITYstarsNY

Last week, the New York State Legislature and Governor Cuomo worked together during the COVID-19 crisis to pass the New York State budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 (FY 21). We are pleased to share that the enacted FY 21 budget maintains the state’s $5 million annual funding for QUALITYstarsNY. This critical funding will allow us to continue to support the hundreds of early childhood programs that we currently serve across New York State.

QUALITYstarsNY applauds Governor Cuomo and New York State legislators for continuing to make quality a priority for the state’s early childhood system despite the current health crisis and budgetary challenges. They have our sincere gratitude for their strong leadership in the face of such a trying time for New York State.

We at QUALITYstarsNY thank Governor Cuomo for recognizing that we are strongest when we are allowed to do our best work on behalf of New York’s youngest children and their families.

New York State’s Investment in QUALITYstarsNY Ensures Continued Support for New York’s Early Childhood Programs—even in Times of Crisis

With $5 million annual state funding, QUALITYstarsNY has been able to serve more than 860 early childhood programs in the past year and adapt our work to support participants through this unprecedented situation during the COVID-19 crisis.

QUALITYstarsNY has nearly 30 Quality Improvement Specialists (QI Specialists) across the state who continue to work with both programs that remain open and serving children through the pandemic, as well as those that have had to close their doors. While roughly half of the programs QUALITYstarsNY currently serves remain open, 77 percent of our more than 860 participants are still working with their QI Specialist to improve their program quality. This includes measures such as obtaining virtual professional development for staff and engaging children and families remotely.

QUALITYstarsNY looks forward to continuing to work with New York lawmakers to demonstrate the impact of our work and the importance of a stronger state investment in FY 2022 to ensure that more of New York’s youngest children and families can benefit from high quality early childhood care and education.

“It would have been very easy to say, ‘Oh, this is an extraordinary year; let’s just do the bare minimum and go home.’ We did the opposite. We said there is a lot of need and there are a lot of issues that need to be addressed, and we stepped up to the plate and we got it done.”

– New York Governor Andrew Cuomo