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Not Enough Seats, Prices Too High: NYC's Perilous Childcare Math

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Columbia University's Communities Speak Surveys find New York's families are seriously impacted by the loss of COVID-19 era income support. They are again facing challenges in finding accessible and affordable childcare, deepening their financial struggles.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Families with young children in New York City once again face extraordinary challenges accessing and affording childcare. Data from seven Communities Speak surveys conducted between fall 2021 and spring 2025 show just how difficult things were for families with young children during the COVID-19 pandemic, the brief improvement as a consequence of federal and state income supports and funding for childcare, and the devastating impact that the 2023 cutback in federal funding had on New York families as of summer 2024, when New York families with young children reported difficulty in both finding and affording childcare.¹ By spring 2025, many families had found some relief due to an increase in funding provided by the city and the state.

However, childcare challenges continue to be serious for New Yorkers. The data indicate that families with young children have difficulty affording childcare even in neighborhoods where middle- and upper-income families reside. This finding is less surprising when we consider that the federal standard for childcare affordability is an amount equal to or less than 7 percent of a family's annual income. A New York City (NYC) family would have to make more than \$300,000 a year to meet the federal standard for affordability.² At the same time, our data indicate that the cost of childcare disproportionately burdens low-income families, women, and minority communities.

A lack of affordable and accessible childcare has a cascading negative impact on families, deepening their economic insecurity and limiting children's early learning and development. New York City has already fallen behind by not responding with sufficient targeted increases in funding when the COVID-19 relief programs ended. In May 2025, the Trump administration released its FY2026 budget proposal, which outlined planned funding cuts.³ The new federal budget, approved in July 2025, has cuts in funding that will make the childcare problem even worse. The NYC FY2026 budget restores funding for 3-K and Pre-K, and provides \$10 million to pilot a childcare program for families with infants and toddlers targeting communities with the highest needs.⁴ Although these initiatives are important, the data in this report make it clear that New York families need the city and state governments to take immediate and more expansive action, especially in light of cutbacks in federal funding. This means collaborating with community organizations and the private sector to support the expansion of childcare options and prioritizing resources for families and communities that have the greatest need.

This policy brief analyzes longitudinal Communities Speak survey data, building on the findings of the *Communities Speak Families with Children Policy Brief*, which highlighted how pandemic-related disruptions affected the lives of families with children and teenagers (ages 0–17).⁵ The data we present support the need for immediate and expansive city and state government action.

- Community Speak survey data from between 2021 and 2025 show that New York City households with young children have been struggling to secure affordable and accessible childcare.
- In fall 2021 and spring 2022, during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, 40 percent of households with young children reported difficulty accessing childcare.
- Although the number of families with young children having difficulty accessing childcare declined by 2023, it rose again: In summer 2024, nearly two out of five families with young children reported difficulty accessing childcare within the previous year. In spring 2025, 25 percent of households with young children reported difficulty accessing childcare; this was down from summer 2024, but still an unacceptably high percentage.
- Over half of families with young children reported difficulty affording childcare in fall 2021 and spring 2022.
- The number of families with young children reporting difficulty affording childcare declined to around one-quarter by fall 2022 and spring 2023, in the aftermath of COVID-19.
- In summer 2024, the number of households with young children reporting difficulty affording childcare surged again, with 43 percent reporting difficulty.
- In spring 2025, 29 percent of households with young children reported difficulty affording childcare, showing some relief after the 2024 spike, but remaining high and above 2023 levels.

CHILDCARE CHALLENGES IN 2025 FOR FAMILIES, BY BOROUGH AND NEIGHBORHOOD

- **The highest rates** for families with young children **struggling to afford childcare are in Brooklyn and Queens. Families in the Bronx and Manhattan are also experiencing difficulties.**⁶

In Queens, 45 percent of families with young children reported struggling to afford childcare, compared with 33 percent in Brooklyn, 14 percent in the Bronx, and 11 percent in Manhattan.⁷

- **Access to childcare is a problem across all boroughs.**

Nineteen percent of families with young children in Brooklyn, 39 percent of such families in Queens, and 23 percent of such families in the Bronx reported difficulties accessing childcare. In Manhattan, 11 percent of families with young children also reported access issues; this number was lower than in other boroughs, but still high.⁸

- **Childcare-related affordability and accessibility challenges are widespread and occur across all NYC neighborhoods.**

In the Bronx and Queens, across all neighborhoods with available data, between 20 and 49 percent of families with young children reported difficulty affording childcare; in Brooklyn, similar patterns emerged with respect to access to care. Every neighborhood across NYC had more than 10 percent of families with young children reporting difficulty accessing childcare, though Manhattan's Greenwich Village—SoHo and Lower Manhattan—fell on the cusp, at 10 percent.

- **Neighborhoods in the Bronx show a clear pattern of geographically concentrated problems for families with young children. In Queens, Brooklyn, and Manhattan, families with young children are more dispersed throughout the neighborhoods.**

The outer part of Ridgewood has the highest levels of need within Queens. In Manhattan, Union Square–Lower East Side, Central Harlem–Morningside Heights, and the Upper East Side show higher levels of need compared with the rest of the borough. Brooklyn presents a patchwork of challenges. In Greenpoint, East Flatbush–Flatbush, and Williamsburg–Bushwick, more than half of families with young children reported difficulty affording childcare. The peripheral area of Ridgewood and Long Island City–Astoria in Queens also show particularly high levels of access-related challenges.

CHILDCARE CHALLENGES IN 2025 FOR FAMILIES, BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

- **Childcare accessibility and affordability are serious challenges for all New York families with young children.**

In spring 2025, 27 percent of Hispanic and 21 percent of White respondents with young children reported being unable to access childcare. Among Black respondents with young children, 18 percent reported difficulty accessing childcare, and among Asian households with young children, 25 percent reported the same.⁹

In terms of affordability, 32 percent of White respondents and 22 percent of Hispanic respondents reported difficulty paying for childcare. Black and Asian respondents reported 9 percent and 64 percent, respectively.¹⁰

FOOD INSECURITY FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN IN 2025

- **Families with young children are more likely to experience food insecurity than households without children.**

Among households with young children, 28 percent reported experiencing food insecurity within the last 12 months. In contrast, 23 percent of households without children reported food insecurity.

- **Hispanic and Black respondents with young children face significantly higher rates of food insecurity than White respondents with young children.**

Hispanic and Black respondents with young children experienced more than double the level of food insecurity experienced by White respondents with young children; 42 percent of Hispanic

and 35 percent of Black families with young children, respectively, experienced food insecurity, compared with 10 percent of White respondents with young children.¹¹

- **The number of families with young children accessing government-funded childcare decreased between 2021 and 2025.**

The percentage of families with young children accessing government-funded childcare services dropped from 35 percent to 20 percent between 2021 and 2025, reflecting the decline in available public funding after spring 2023.

BACKGROUND

New York City families have been facing serious childcare challenges, even before the COVID-19 pandemic. Childcare challenges were made significantly worse by the pandemic, especially for low-income families.¹² During the COVID-19 pandemic, New York City ordered childcare centers to close by April 6, 2020, except for those serving essential workers.¹³ As the *Communities Speak Families with Children Policy Brief* in 2022 indicated, this led to a sharp decline in the number of operating childcare programs.¹⁴ The closure of NYC public schools in March 2020, including Pre-K programs, and their phased reopening with stringent safety measures, also reduced childcare availability.¹⁵ These disruptions made it especially difficult for working parents to balance their job responsibilities with caregiving at home.

The federal government passed several important pieces of emergency legislation during the COVID-19 pandemic, which eventually enabled the city to address some of the childcare needs that were exacerbated by the pandemic. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law in March 2020, providing \$3.5 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and \$750 million for Head Start programs.¹⁶ One year later, on March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act was signed into law, allocating \$24 billion for the national Child Care Stabilization Program.¹⁷ New York State received \$1.1 billion for the Child Care Stabilization Program to support over 15,000 childcare providers with operational costs, including wages, rent, and supplies—ultimately benefiting up to 676,100 children.¹⁸ According to the 2023 annual Robin Hood Poverty Tracker report, expanded government transfers and tax credits after the pandemic led to a 44 percent reduction in the adult poverty rate and a 68 percent drop in the child poverty rate in New York City in 2021.¹⁹ *Communities Speak* findings align with the Poverty Tracker and also specifically demonstrate how ARP funding helped improve the well-being of families with young children in NYC.

The expiration of ARP funding on September 30, 2023, created significant challenges for cities and states that had benefited from this legislation. Without renewed support from the federal government or replacement funds from the city or state government, many childcare providers were unable to fund services at the same level, which forced them to scale back programs or close altogether. This limited access to affordable childcare. A study by the White House found that nationally, the percentage of households unable to access childcare rose to 31 percent from 24 percent following ARP's expiration.²⁰

Additional factors have now compounded the problem. The Trump administration's federal funding freeze was scheduled to take effect on January 28, 2025, but was challenged and ultimately blocked in court. Despite this, it had a devastating impact on New York families, delaying payments to city-funded daycare providers and straining the city's already inadequate childcare system. A February

2025 survey conducted by the National Head Start Association reported that at least 45 Head Start grantees—serving nearly 20,000 children ages 0–5 and their families—faced delays in accessing critical federal funding.²¹ The city has lost \$78 million in federal Head Start funding. Mayor Eric Adams, however, confirmed that the city will use its own funding to keep the programs running.²²

The NYC FY2026 adopted budget restores and baselines major early care and education funding,²³ including \$112 million for 3-K and Pre-K seats, \$55 million for preschool special education seats, \$25 million for extended-day seats, and \$10 million for teacher recruitment. It also provides \$70 million in FY2026 for preschool special education services, \$25 million for Promise NYC (provides access to childcare services for undocumented children and their families),²⁴ \$5 million for early care education outreach, and \$10 million for an infant and toddler program in high-need neighborhoods. In addition, the budget commits \$331 million to add 20,000 new after-school slots by FY2028.

Although these investments provide welcome relief, they fall short of ensuring stable, affordable childcare across the city. Without sustained funding increases for early education and vouchers, thousands of families will continue to face long waiting lists, program closures, and rising out-of-pocket costs. As our data indicate, many families will be shut out of childcare completely.

COMMUNITIES SPEAK KEY FINDINGS

The Communities Speak survey data offer a detailed picture of how New Yorkers are experiencing challenges related to childcare. As identified in the 2022 *Communities Speak Families with Children Policy Brief*, these challenges have been especially severe for Black and Hispanic families, and for communities in the Bronx.

Difficulties securing childcare peaked for households with young children during COVID-19; their situation improved with the availability of federal funds. Difficulties affording and accessing childcare began increasing again in 2024 and had improved somewhat by spring 2025.

Although data show that difficulty accessing and affording childcare gradually declined in the years following the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, this progress was disrupted in summer 2024, when families once again reported a spike in challenges. However, in spring 2025, affordability and accessibility fell back to 2023 levels (which were still high). These findings suggest that affordable and accessible childcare remains a persistent and pressing problem for families with young children across New York City. And the uncertainty that has come with the changes in federal policy has created a separate set of challenges for New York families with young children.

Table 1. Difficulty Accessing and Affording Childcare Over Time

	Fall 2021 and Spring 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Fall 2023	Summer 2024	Spring 2025
Difficulty affording childcare*	53%	52%	22%	28%	43%	29%
Difficulty accessing childcare	40%	X	18%	26%	39%	25%

Source: Communities Speak Surveys (2021–2025). Note: The results are for households with children between 0 and 5 years

old (0–4 for fall 2021 and spring 2022). *See Methodology, Survey Questions Used in Analysis, for a discussion of question wording differences across surveys. X indicates that the question was missing in that survey.

Households in every borough in NYC struggle to access and afford childcare.

- **Access to childcare is an ongoing problem citywide.**

In fall 2021 and spring 2022, Manhattan families with young children reported the highest rates of difficulty accessing childcare, at 55 percent. During the same period, families with young children in the Bronx, Queens, and Brooklyn reported rates that ranged from 36 to 41 percent. Over time, all boroughs saw improvements, with Manhattan reporting the most dramatic change—difficulties in childcare access fell to just 11 percent of families by spring 2023 (note that Staten Island is excluded from all borough comparisons due to its small sample size). However, access issues had surged again by summer 2024, reaching 44 percent in Brooklyn, 42 percent in Queens, 40 percent in the Bronx, and 36 percent in Manhattan. Accessibility challenges declined by spring 2025 across all boroughs, with reported difficulties at 39 percent in Queens, 11 percent in Manhattan, 19 percent in Brooklyn, and 23 percent in the Bronx.

- **Childcare affordability has also been a longstanding challenge.**

In fall 2021 and spring 2022, 65 percent of Bronx families with young children reported difficulty affording childcare, the highest rate among the boroughs within that time period. Although families with young children in other boroughs had somewhat less difficulty affording childcare, the rates were still high: 55 percent in Manhattan, 48 percent in Queens, and 46 percent in Brooklyn. By spring 2023, the share of families across the city reporting affordability challenges had dropped to fewer than one in four, with relatively consistent numbers across boroughs. However, these improvements did not last. By summer 2024, the rates rose again, as more than one-third of families in each borough, excluding Manhattan, reported affordability issues. Specifically, between 39 and 53 percent of families with young children in Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx said they struggled to afford childcare. In spring 2025, difficulty affording childcare fell to 11 percent in Manhattan and 14 percent in the Bronx. Brooklyn and Queens continued to face higher rates of difficulty, at 33 percent and 45 percent, respectively.

Childcare-related affordability and accessibility challenges are widespread and occur across all Bronx neighborhoods.

In spring 2023, fall 2023, summer 2024, and spring 2025 surveys, *all* neighborhoods where data were available reported that more than 10 percent of families with young children experienced difficulty affording childcare. In the Bronx and Queens, most neighborhoods with available data reported that more than 25 percent of families with young children struggled with childcare affordability. Similarly, almost every neighborhood in the Bronx and Brooklyn reported that over 25 percent of families with young children had difficulty accessing childcare.

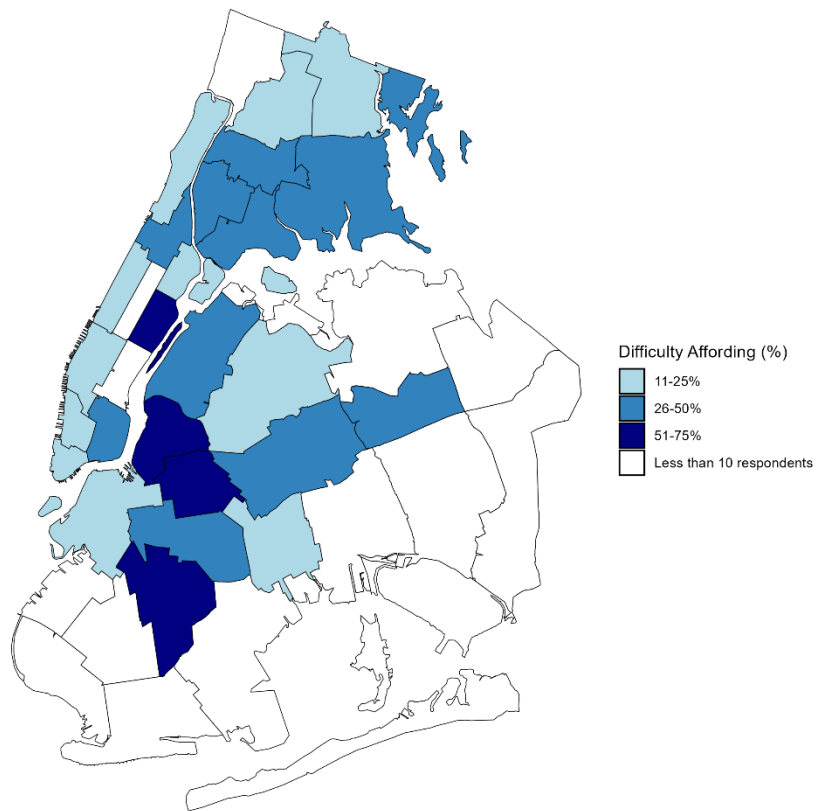
- **In Greenpoint and Williamsburg/Bushwick, more than half of families with young children indicated difficulty affording childcare, among the highest rates in the city.** Across a wide range of neighborhoods in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, and Manhattan, **between 20 and 40 percent of families with young children cited childcare as a service they had difficulty affording. These neighborhoods include:**

- **Bronx:** Fordham–Bronx Park, Highbridge–Morrisania, Crotona–Tremont, Pelham–Throggs Neck, Northeast Bronx, and Hunts Point–Mott Haven
- **Queens:** Long Island City–Astoria, West Queens, and all areas of Ridgewood–Forest Hills
- **Brooklyn:** Bedford Stuyvesant–Crown Heights
- **Manhattan:** Central Harlem–Morningside Heights, and Union Square–Lower East Side

- **In some neighborhoods, between 10 and 24 percent of families with young children reported difficulty affording childcare. These neighborhoods include:**

- **Brooklyn:** Downtown–Heights–Park Slope, and East New York
- **Manhattan:** Upper West Side, Chelsea–Clinton, Washington Heights–Inwood, Greenwich Village–SoHo, Lower Manhattan, and East Harlem

Figure 1. Difficulties Affording Childcare by Neighborhood



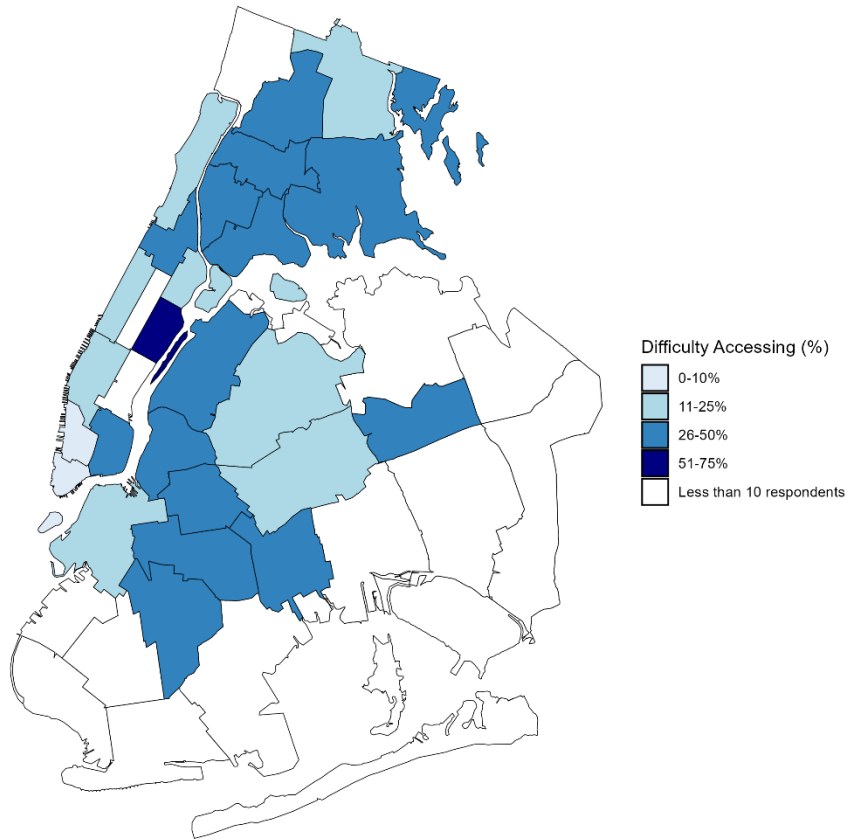
Source: The results are for households with children between 0 and 5 years old (0–4 for spring and fall 2023) for surveys conducted in spring 2023, fall 2023, summer 2024, and spring 2025. Map based on the neighborhood codes (UHF) of each respondent.²⁵ Data in maps are not weighted. Only neighborhoods with 10 or more responses are presented.

For the spring 2023, fall 2023, summer 2024, and spring 2025 surveys, there were no neighborhoods where fewer than 10 percent of families with young children reported difficulty accessing childcare. Additionally, in Brooklyn, every neighborhood with available data, except Downtown– Heights–Park Slope, reported more than 25 percent of families with young children experiencing difficulty accessing care.

- **In one part of Ridgewood–Forest Hills (Queens), almost half (43 percent) of all families with young children indicated difficulty accessing childcare—one of the highest rates in the city. Across most neighborhoods in all four boroughs with available data, 25 to 55 percent of families with young children reported difficulty accessing childcare. These neighborhoods include:**

- **Bronx:** Crotona–Tremont, Fordham–Bronx Park, Highbridge–Morrisania, Pelham–Throggs Neck, and Hunts Point–Mott Haven
 - **Queens:** Long Island City–Astoria and Ridgewood–Forest Hills
 - **Brooklyn:** Bedford Stuyvesant–Crown Heights, East New York, Greenpoint, and Williamsburg–Bushwick
 - **Manhattan:** Central Harlem–Morningside Heights, Upper East Side, and Union Square–Lower East Side
- **Some neighborhoods reported relatively lower levels of difficulty accessing childcare, ranging from 10 to 24 percent of families with young children. These neighborhoods include:**
 - **Bronx:** Northeast Bronx
 - **Queens:** The more central (less peripheral) parts of Ridgewood–Forest Hills, West Queens
 - **Brooklyn:** Downtown–Heights–Park Slope
 - **Manhattan:** East Harlem, Greenwich Village–SoHo, Lower Manhattan, and Chelsea–Clinton

Figure 2. Difficulties Accessing Childcare by Neighborhood



Source: The results are for households with children between 0 and 5 years old (0-4 for spring and fall 2023) for surveys conducted in spring 2023, fall 2023, summer 2024, and spring 2025. Map based on the neighborhood codes (UHF) of each respondent.²⁶ Data in the maps are not weighted. Only neighborhoods with 10 or more responses are presented.

Difficulty accessing and affording childcare is high for all races and ethnic groups, but consistently greater and more persistent for Black and Hispanic families.

- **All racial and ethnic groups with young children reported high levels of difficulty affording childcare in the aftermath of COVID-19, Challenges were particularly acute and persistent for Black and Hispanic families.**

In fall 2021, Hispanic respondents with young children reported the highest difficulty, with 59 percent indicating they struggled to afford childcare. During that same period, half of White (50 percent) and about half of Black (49 percent) respondents with young children reported similar challenges. Although there was some improvement in the following years, the situation worsened again between spring 2023 and summer 2024, especially for Black families. By summer 2024, childcare affordability had become a severe challenge for Black families with young children, with an estimated 74 percent indicating childcare as one of their primary difficulties (with the caveat that the small sample size could lead to inaccuracies). Affordability also remained a significant concern for Hispanic (31 percent) and White (40 percent) families with young children. Fully 61 percent of Asian respondents in fall 2021 also reported difficulty (based on fewer than 30 observations). Save for Asian families, affordability challenges eased in spring 2025, with 22 to 32 percent of families reporting difficulty affording childcare. Those numbers were down from the summer 2024 peak, but still higher than rates in 2023.

- **The trends for accessing childcare by race vary over time. White respondents with young children initially reported the highest levels of difficulty accessing childcare after COVID-19, with 50 percent facing challenges in fall 2021 and spring 2022. Difficulty accessing childcare remained an issue for over a quarter of White respondents with young children in fall 2023 and summer 2024, and dropped to 21 percent in spring 2025.**

Hispanic respondents with young children also faced sustained difficulties accessing childcare. 43 percent reported access issues immediately after COVID-19. From spring 2023 onward, Hispanic families reported fairly consistent levels of difficulty accessing childcare, at 24 percent in spring 2023, 29 percent in fall 2023, and little change in subsequent years. Black respondents with young children, by contrast, initially reported fewer difficulties accessing childcare, but had experienced a dramatic increase in challenges by summer 2024, when 63 percent reported access challenges (with the caveat that the small sample size could lead to inaccuracies). Asian respondents reported difficulty levels ranging from 21 percent in fall 2021 to 45 percent in summer 2024.²⁷ In spring 2025, reported access difficulties had declined to 18 percent for Black families, 21 percent for White families, and 27 percent for Hispanic families. Access continues to represent a significant problem, however.

Both men and women with young children report experiencing difficulties affording and accessing childcare, but women consistently report greater difficulties than men.

- **Both women and men with young children reported significant challenges in affording and accessing childcare in families with more than one adult.**

Women consistently reported greater difficulties in affording childcare and mostly reported higher difficulty accessing it. This gender gap widened in spring 2023, when men were more likely to report improvement than women. In spring 2025, the gender gap narrowed, with 37 percent of women and 25 percent of men reporting affordability difficulties, and access difficulties nearly equal, at 26 and 28 percent, respectively.

Table 2. Difficulty Accessing and Affording Childcare for Families with Young Children, by Gender of Respondent

	Fall 2021 and Spring 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Fall 2023	Summer 2024	Spring 2025
Difficulty affording childcare*						
Women	57%	54%	31%	32%	45%	37%
Men	43%	45%††	9%	21%	40%	25%
Difficulty accessing childcare						
Women	43%	X	26%	32%	48%	26%
Men	34%	X	6%†	16%	39%	28%

Source: *Communities Speak Surveys (2021–2025)*. Note: The results for families with young children are based on a sample of households with children between 0 and 5 years old (children 0–4 for fall 2021 and spring 2022) and more than one adult. *See *Methodology, Survey Questions Used in Analysis*, for a discussion of question wording differences across surveys. X indicates that the question was missing in that survey. † Less than 50 observations. †† Less than 30 observations.

As we reported in our April 2022 *Communities Speak Families with Children Policy Brief*,²⁸ childcare challenges affected the employment decisions of families with young children. In response to an open-

ended question about changes in employment status, many participants cited childcare as a major factor. Some families with young children shared that “childcare costs were the same as my previous salary” or that “the cost of childcare exceeded what I could afford.” Others referenced having a baby more generally as the primary reason for leaving or changing jobs.

In 2024, not only did households with children have difficulty affording and finding childcare, but they were also experiencing other financial insecurities in paying bills, paying rent, and purchasing food.

- **In 2025, families with young children were more likely to experience food insecurity than households without children.**
 - Among households with young children (defined as households with children between 0 and 5), 31 percent indicated that they had experienced food insecurity within the last 12 months. In contrast, only 18 percent of households without any children indicated experiencing any food insecurity.
 - Twenty-one percent of households with young children **worry about running out of food**, as compared with 15 percent of households without children.
 - In spring 2025, 31 percent of families with young children reported difficulty paying bills and rent.

RACIAL DIFFERENCES IN FOOD INSECURITY, DIFFICULTY PAYING BILLS, AND DIFFICULTY PAYING RENT

The data also reveal notable racial differences in rates of food insecurity and difficulty paying bills, especially among Hispanic households with young children in 2025.

- Hispanic respondents with young children faced four times the level of food insecurity, 42 percent, of that faced by White respondents with young children, 10 percent.
- Fifty-three percent of Hispanic respondents with young children reported difficulty paying rent, and 31 percent reported difficulty paying bills. Seventeen percent of White respondents with young children reported difficulty paying rent, and 11 percent reported difficulty paying bills. Twenty-one percent of Black respondents struggled with rent, and 33 percent had difficulty paying bills (with the caveat that the small sample size could lead to inaccuracies).

Table 3. Household (HH) Composition by Race and Ethnicity, by Financial Difficulties

Resources	HH Without Any Children	All HH with Young Children	Black HH with Young Children	Hispanic HH with Young Children	White HH with Young Children	Asian HH with Young Children
Difficulty paying bills/ utilities	18%	31%	33%†	31%	11%	22%†
Difficulty paying rent	21%	31%	21%†	53%	17%	22%†
Worried about running out of food	15%	21%	26%†	36%	2%	11%†
Ran out of food	8%	9%	13%†	12%	1%	11%†
Food insecure*	23%	28%	35%†	42%	10%	22%†

Source: Communities Speak Survey Spring 2025. † indicates less than 30 observations. The results for HH with young children are for households with children between 0 and 5 years old. HH without children includes HH without any children between 0 and 17. * is defined as households that had difficulty accessing food and/or difficulty affording food.

Reliance on government resources for childcare has declined significantly since fall 2021 among families with young children.

- **In fall 2021, spring 2022, and fall 2022**, between 35 and 36 percent of families with young children reported using government support when they needed help with childcare. Usage dropped steeply in the following years.
- **In spring 2023**, 25 percent reported using government support when they needed help with childcare.
- **In fall 2023**, 16 percent reported using government support when they needed help with childcare.
- **In summer 2024**, 17 percent reported using government support when they needed help with childcare.

- **In spring 2025**, 20 percent reported using government support when they needed help with childcare.

At the same time, around half of all families with young children consistently reported turning to friends or family for childcare support, indicating continued reliance on informal networks.

This decline in government resource use coincides with the expiration of pandemic-era childcare funding, suggesting that fewer public supports are available, even as families continue to face high levels of need.

Table 4. Where Families with Young Children Look for Help with Childcare

	Fall 2021 and Spring 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Fall 2023	Summer 2024	Spring 2025
Government	36%	35%	25%	16%	17%	20%
Friends/Family	51%	63%	43%	53%	52%	52%

Source: Communities Speak Surveys (2021–2025). Notes: The results are for households with children between 0 and 5 years old (0–4 for fall 2021 and spring 2022). Each resource (government, family, friends) is non-exclusive of other resources.

IMPLICATIONS OF COMMUNITIES SPEAK DATA

In the last *Communities Speak Families with Children Policy Brief*, we found that COVID-19 deeply affected nearly every aspect of family life in New York City—from limiting job opportunities to threatening families’ ability to afford basic needs such as utilities, food, and rent.²⁹ Although reports of challenges in affording and accessing childcare have declined since their peak during the pandemic, Communities Speak survey data demonstrate that the childcare crisis remains a pressing issue for families with young children in New York City. During the height of COVID-19, emergency response funds were deployed to stabilize the fragile childcare sector. For instance, a one-time federal pandemic relief fund of \$2.45 billion was provided for New York to support childcare services.³⁰ These reduced co-payments, stabilized existing providers, and expanded capacity. Additionally, to combat the already high turnover rate for childcare workers, the state’s Workforce Retention Grant provided bonuses of \$2,300–\$3,000 to up to 150,000 childcare workers, along with funding to help programs recruit staff and offer sign-on and referral incentives.³¹ The grant-funded bonuses were exempt from income-funded bonuses, which allowed employers to distribute grants that exceeded 5 percent of salary and could be used for first-year employees.³²

These reactive policies implemented during the pandemic worked to temporarily reduce the burden of cost on families,³³ increase the retention and recruitment of childcare workers,³⁴ and ensure that providers could remain open by maintaining sufficient childcare seats. Additionally, between fall 2021 and spring 2023, increased public funding, particularly through the ARP, helped stabilize conditions for families with young children.³⁵ In the short term, these interventions mitigated some of the most acute disruptions, allowing families and providers to weather the immediate crisis.

However, following the easing of the pandemic, emergency funds ran dry, ARP funding expired (in September 2023), and the structural weaknesses of the childcare system quickly resurfaced.³⁶ The sector reverted to many of its pre-pandemic conditions: persistently high employee turnover, chronically low wages that fall below the median income, escalating childcare costs that remain unaffordable for many families, and the reemergence of childcare deserts. These challenges underscore the deeply entrenched and systemic nature of the childcare crisis, highlighting that temporary relief measures, although effective in the short term, did not resolve the underlying issues. Instead, they simply postponed a return to long-standing problems that today continue to strain both families and providers. It is clear from Communities Speak data that families in New York City have suffered from the consequences of reduced childcare resources and support. Families are struggling to access affordable childcare, and providers are grappling with budget cuts, delayed payments, and reduced operational funding, making it harder to deliver consistent, high-quality care.

From 2019 to 2024, the average annual cost of childcare for infants and toddlers in New York City rose sharply. Family-based care increased by 79 percent to an average of \$18,200, while center-based care grew by 43 percent to \$26,000.³⁷ New York City also lost 971 childcare programs, approximately 6 percent of its total, between 2019 and 2023.³⁸ The situation is becoming increasingly dire as the broader early childhood education system enters a nationwide crisis. Without continued stabilization funding, costs are expected to rise even further. In 2022, one-third of childcare providers who received federal ARP stabilization funds reported they would have closed permanently without that support.³⁹ In the final six months of 2023 alone, 44 percent of childcare centers and family childcare providers in New York State raised tuition, and 61 percent of families with young children said at least one childcare program in their community had closed that year.⁴⁰ These growing childcare needs are having far-reaching effects on parents, children, and the economy. They risk undermining recent labor market gains made by women in New York City and the entire country, especially as caregiving responsibilities disproportionately fall on mothers.⁴¹ Federal Reserve policymakers have warned that inadequate access to childcare “could affect the sustainability” of women’s participation in the workforce.⁴² In New York City, the shortage of affordable, reliable childcare is prompting young families, particularly Black families, to leave the city, concluding that they are unable to afford to raise their children there.⁴³ This out-migration threatens the city’s economic future by shrinking its tax base, weakening public school funding, and exacerbating inequality. Moreover, in 2022 alone, the city lost an estimated \$23 billion in economic activity due to parents—most often mothers—reducing their work hours or leaving the workforce entirely to manage childcare needs.⁴⁴

A key finding from the survey also unveils a disparity between residents from the outer boroughs and those from Manhattan; respondents living in the former report more challenges with affording and accessing childcare. These data align with the geography of childcare deserts, which are concentrated outside Manhattan, particularly in Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island,⁴⁵ where access to licensed providers is especially limited. The survey data also revealed that friends and family have remained a consistent and significant source of childcare assistance. This need to turn to informal means of childcare may particularly disadvantage lower-income families. According to the data, families with young children are more likely to be food insecure than those without children. Already facing food insecurity due to the high cost of living in NYC, low-income families may need to depend on informal childcare arrangements, which do not provide meals, unlike formal childcare programs. Expanding access to affordable, formal childcare would not only support working parents but also ease the burden on families by ensuring that children have access to consistent meals during care hours, reducing food insecurity among vulnerable households.

Addressing the structural drivers of New York City’s childcare crisis is essential, as evidence demonstrates that short-term fixes only delay an inevitable return to the status quo. The expiration of the Workforce Retention Grant illustrates this dynamic: Without continued support, already underpaid childcare workers experienced pay cuts, 44 percent of providers raised tuition fees, and

nearly one-third of providers lost staff.⁴⁶ Given that one in four childcare workers lives in poverty, these conditions exacerbate workforce shortages, reduce available childcare slots, and further inflate costs. Because childcare expenses in New York remain among the highest in the nation, sustained investment is necessary to stabilize the sector and ensure equitable access before more families are driven out by the high cost of living.

Currently, New York offers universal pre-kindergarten (UPK), a citywide program that provides free full-day pre-kindergarten education for 4-year-olds. Additionally, the city has 3-K for All, which is a free full-day early childhood education program for 3-year-olds. These initiatives expanded childcare accessibility to thousands of families in New York, increasing full-day enrollment from 19,000⁴⁷ to nearly 159,000.⁴⁸

However, there are notable shortcomings that need to be addressed. Because most of the free childcare seats are in public schools, private programs face reduced revenue as families turn to free public programs instead. This may lead to the closure of private providers or a higher cost of childcare in private schools. Making matters worse are the flaws in the planning of free childcare, particularly distribution of childcare seats. Reports show that while certain neighborhoods face major shortages, other childcare centers have vacancies from under-enrollment.⁴⁹ Clearly, more efforts are needed to ensure equitable access in order to fully utilize the funds.

The success of expanding universal childcare for 3- and 4-year-olds is dependent on the amount of funding available. In 2024, Mayor Eric Adams proposed a total of \$170 million in cuts to the early childhood education budget (including \$120 million in initial cuts, and an additional \$50 million tied to kindergarten & 3-K programs), slowing the city's progress toward expanding free childcare.⁵⁰ COVID-19 relief funds allocated toward expanding the number of childcare seats by 60,000 were also diverted.⁵¹ Despite the fact that some neighborhoods experience long waiting lists for childcare seats, the mayor justified these cuts with the number of empty childcare seats in other parts of New York.⁵²

Paradoxically, low-income neighborhoods, where the benefits of free childcare would be most significant, exhibit lower enrollment rates.⁵³ This indicates a lack of adequate outreach and promotion of available programs within these communities. Emphasis needs to be placed on identifying neighborhoods with low enrollment rates and resources dedicated to ensuring parents are aware of eligibility requirements. Addressing the unequal distribution of free childcare placements is essential to ensuring the efficient allocation of resources.

Although universal preschool programs provide childcare to many New York families, they are not without unintended consequences. As noted above, because the majority of the free UPK seats are in public schools, children are drawn away from private providers, which undermines their revenue.

This, in turn, risks reducing availability or driving up costs. Efforts to expand universal childcare should take private providers into consideration so they are not driven out of business.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The New York City Council and mayor have taken meaningful steps aligned with the recommendations outlined in the previous *Communities Speak Families with Children Policy Brief*, but significant work remains to be done.⁵⁴

RECOMMENDATION 1

The city must expand the availability of all forms of childcare through a planning process led by senior staff in the mayor’s office. These staff should work with community organizations in targeted neighborhoods through a streamlined engagement process that coordinates policy implementation.

Several legislative and administrative actions have addressed this goal, but are not being coordinated. In November 2022, Mayor Adams signed two key pieces of legislation. Bill 242-A established the **Marshall Plan for Moms Task Force**, focusing specifically on the challenges faced by working mothers, parents, and caregivers. Bill 486-A established the **NYC Child Care Advisory Board**, tasked with recommending policies to expand access and guide the city toward a universal childcare system over a five-year period, and reporting annually on progress. In October 2024, the city launched the **Child Care Advisory Group**, a collaborative body bringing together childcare providers, parents, early childhood experts, and city agencies. Its mission is to enhance the accessibility and quality of childcare across New York City. The Child Care Advisory Group works in coordination with the Child Care Advisory Board and other key partners to align strategy and implementation efforts.

RECOMMENDATION 2

To fully realize the city’s vision of expanded and affordable childcare availability, more targeted, neighborhood-level programs are needed. This should ensure that all areas of the city are supported.

Data from the 2025 Communities Speak survey reveal considerable variation in access and affordability across neighborhoods, underscoring the need for targeted community-based interventions.

Examples of neighborhoods that should be prioritized for expanded childcare accessibility efforts:

- **Bronx:** Crotona–Tremont, Pelham–Throggs Neck, Fordham–Bronx Park, and Hunts Point–Mott Haven

- **Queens:** Long Island City–Astoria and Ridgewood
- **Brooklyn:** Bedford Stuyvesant–Crown Heights, East Flatbush, East New York, Greenpoint, and Williamsburg–Bushwick
- **Manhattan:** Central Harlem–Morningside Heights and Union Square–Lower East Side

RECOMMENDATION 3

The state and city governments must increase funding for all forms of childcare for high-needs families.

Despite growing demand, public funding for childcare remains insufficient, especially for high-needs families. As of 2024, the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) reached only 10 percent of eligible families in New York State.⁵⁵ Low reimbursement rates undermine fiscal stability for providers and limit their ability to offer high-quality care. Currently, CCDBG reimburses only 59 percent of the actual cost of caring for an infant in a center-based setting, forcing many providers to charge higher fees to working families to make up the difference.

Although the expansion of 3-K for All and UPK for 4-year-olds continued for fiscal years 2022–2024, significant gaps remain in supporting families with children under the age of 3. To address these gaps, the state and city government must commit to both short-term and long-term investments in the childcare system.

Key policy actions should include:

- **Introduce stopgap and ultimately permanent state funding.**⁵⁶ In response to the expiration of ARP funds, 10 states—Alaska, California, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Washington—along with the District of Columbia introduced “stopgap funding” to address the loss of federal support. Notably, New Mexico became the first state to establish it through a ballot initiative, passed in November 2022. New York should consider similar mechanisms to stabilize and strengthen its childcare system.
- **Target affordability interventions geographically.** Specific neighborhoods with the highest need should be prioritized for affordability-focused subsidies and support, including: The Bronx: all neighborhoods; Queens: all neighborhoods; Brooklyn: Greenpoint and Williamsburg–Bushwick, Bedford Stuyvesant–Crown Heights; Manhattan: Central Harlem–Morningside Heights, and Union Square–Lower East Side.

RECOMMENDATION 4

The city must engage a community partner network to identify and work directly with families to guide them to open childcare slots in city-funded programs.

Improving access to subsidized childcare is not only a matter of expanding capacity; it also requires ensuring families know how to navigate the system and are supported throughout the process.

In 2023, New York City launched **MyCity**, a centralized, user-friendly online portal that allows parents to apply for and track applications for subsidized childcare.⁵⁷ In its first year, 65 percent of all childcare subsidy applications were submitted through MyCity, an encouraging sign of the platform's utility. However, awareness remains a major barrier. A Citizens' Committee for Children of New York survey found that 39 percent of parents were unaware of the availability of public subsidies for affordable childcare programs.⁵⁸

Although the city has cleared its childcare voucher application waiting list, affordability remains a challenge, in part due to a lack of awareness about eligibility. In response, the Administration for Children's Services has rolled out digital outreach efforts in prioritized community districts that include letters and emails to potentially eligible families; community informational sessions; and a targeted digital marketing campaign. The work of all partners in this program must be evaluated and expanded on the basis of successful performance.

RECOMMENDATION 5

The city should collaborate with philanthropy and business organizations to create a childcare capital investment fund and build out additional childcare space, prioritizing the use of vacant storefronts in high-needs neighborhoods.

New York City already offers a property tax abatement for landlords who create or expand childcare facilities in areas designated as childcare deserts. This abatement, effective as of July 2023, applies to construction, conversion, alteration, or improvement projects completed after April 2022.⁵⁹

- **Form partnerships.** The city should partner with philanthropic organizations and the business sector to establish a childcare capital investment fund, modeled after the Fund for the City of New York's revolving loan fund. This initiative would support the build-out of additional childcare facilities, especially in vacant storefronts located in high-needs neighborhoods.
- **Decrease complexity.** One major barrier to expanding childcare facilities is the complex and fragmented permitting process. Converting vacant storefronts into childcare centers requires navigating multiple agencies and approvals for occupancy, fire safety, building code compliance,

and environmental standards. These overlapping procedures often result in significant delays, limiting the ability to open new facilities and improve accessibility.

As federal funding remains constrained following the expiration of ARP resources, the role of business and philanthropy is more critical than ever in addressing infrastructure gaps and supporting the development of new childcare spaces.

RECOMMENDATION 6

The city should work with the state in expanding the Empire State Child Credit to include children under 4.

New York's Empire State Child Credit previously provided additional support to families with children ages 4 to 17. In 2023, the state expanded the credit's eligibility to include children under 4, a crucial step in providing relief to families with young children.⁶⁰

RECOMMENDATION 7

Any childcare provider that receives city and state subsidies should be funded to pay its workers a minimum of \$45,000 per year.

During the pandemic, NYS used federal relief funds to provide critical short-term support for the childcare workforce through wage supplements and stabilization grants. These measures provided meaningful support, but their long-term sustainability is now at risk amid ongoing financial constraints.

In October 2024, a new agreement between DC 37, the Day Care Council of New York, and Mayor Adams secured a 16 percent wage increase, raising the minimum wage for many childcare workers to \$18 per hour. Although this is a step forward, it remains insufficient to ensure long-term stability and equity within the childcare workforce.⁶¹

RECOMMENDATION 8

The city should work with philanthropy to fund pilot training programs in order to expand the number of qualified individuals who can provide home childcare.

Many private foundations and community organizations like [Robin Hood](#) focus on early childhood education and fund grants for training and professional development. These efforts need to be coordinated by the city and targeted to high needs communities.

RECOMMENDATION 9

The city should work with the US Conference of Mayors to support federal legislation that permanently expands the Child Tax Credit.

In 2021, the ARP temporarily expanded the Child Tax Credit (CTC)—increasing the credit to \$3,600 per child under age 6 and \$3,000 per child ages 6–17. The credit was also made fully refundable, such that families would receive the total difference if the credit exceeded taxes owed. This expansion provided critical financial relief to families and was credited with significantly reducing child poverty that year.

However, this expansion expired at the end of 2021. In 2022, the credit reverted to its prior structure of partial refundability, limiting benefits for the lowest-income families who previously received the full credit amount.

The impact of the 2021 expansion was profound. It benefited 2.9 million children, including 716,000 Black children and 1.2 million Hispanic children. It lifted 2.1 million children out of poverty, including 1.3 million in female-headed households.⁶²

Given this compelling evidence, permanently expanding the CTC should be a top national policy priority. The city should actively engage with the US Conference of Mayors and other advocacy coalitions to support federal legislation that restores and strengthens the expanded CTC to ensure lasting support for families with children.

RECOMMENDATION 10

New York City and New York State should work with community organizations and the business community to lobby the federal government to reauthorize and expand federal Community Development Block Grant (CCDBG) coverage.

The federal CCDBG program should be reauthorized with increased funds and eligibility thresholds to minimally expand access for families who currently have the highest needs.⁶³

APPENDIX

Table 5. Local Laws to Amend Administrative Code of the City of New York

File #	On Agenda	Enacted	Description
<u>Int 1369-2025</u>	Aug-25		A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to requiring specified employers to provide time off for preventive medical screening to their employees
<u>Int 1368-2025</u>	Aug-25		A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to requiring specified employers to provide paid time off to their employees for bereavement following any firearm-related death of a family member of the employee
<u>Res 0965-2025</u>	Jun-25		A resolution calling upon the New York State Legislature and the New York State Office of Children and Family Services to develop a parents' bill of rights to be distributed at initial home visits in child protective investigations and made available online
<u>Res 0935-2025</u>	Jun-25		A resolution calling upon the City of New York to recognize institutional and systemic racism and generations of harm embedded in today's child protective services (CPS) systems
<u>Res 0936-2025</u>	Jun-25		A resolution calling on the New York State Legislature to introduce and pass, and the governor to sign, legislation to amend the Workers' Compensation Law, in relation to allowing unused paid family leave to be transferred to grandparents and other designated caregivers
<u>Res 0892-2025</u>	May-25		A resolution calling on the president of the United States to reverse layoffs and cuts to vital federal agencies
<u>Int 1291-2025</u>	May-25		A local law in relation to establishing a pilot program to make vacant commercial premises suitable for use by childcare programs
<u>Res 0883-2025</u>	May-25		A resolution calling on the New York State Legislature to pass, and the governor to sign, S.1244/A.1587 and S.7275A/A.5341A, restricting the location of cannabis storefronts and cannabis advertising in relation to school grounds, playgrounds, child daycare providers, public parks, houses of worship, and libraries
<u>Int 1189-2025</u>	Feb-25		A local law in relation to a study and report on expediting the childcare permitting process
<u>T2025-3145</u>	Feb-25		Oversight—Early Child Care Center Closures

<u>Res 0727-2025</u>	Jan-25		A resolution calling on the New York State Legislature to pass, and the governor to sign, legislation in the fiscal year 2025–2026 budget that creates targeted and means-tested guaranteed income programs for low-income households including children and families, people residing in homeless shelters, and foster youth
<u>Int 1157-2024</u>	Dec-24		A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to requiring child protective specialists to provide certain information to parents and other persons legally responsible for the care of children who are the subject of reports of child abuse or maltreatment
<u>Int 1041-2024</u>	Sep-24	Sep-25	A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to an outreach campaign to inform parents and legal guardians about their rights in relation to childcare
<u>Res 0563-2024</u>	Sep-24		A resolution calling upon the New York State Assembly to pass A.3899A, and the governor to sign S.6225/A.3899A, which would tighten regulations, enhance inspections, and provide training and resources to daycare providers and parents to ensure the safety of children in child daycare homes, programs, and facilities across New York State
<u>Int 1043-2024</u>	Sep-24		A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to create and implement a public awareness strategy to offer overdose prevention and reversal training to public health sanitarians of the department and to teaching staff of childcare programs
<u>Int 1042-2024</u>	Sep-24	Sep-25	A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to reporting on training for childcare inspectors
<u>Res 0561-2024</u>	Sep-24		A resolution calling upon the New York State Legislature to introduce and pass, and the governor to sign, legislation to create a statewide public guardianship system to address current inequities and deficits and safeguard vulnerable New Yorkers in need of protective arrangements
<u>Int 1015-2024</u>	Sep-24		A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to prohibiting the wearing of ski masks in public places, on school premises, and on childcare program premises
<u>Int 1009-2024</u>	Aug-24		A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to requiring the Department of Education to report on early childhood education seat availability, outreach, and staff vacancies
<u>Int 0942-2024</u>	Jun-24		A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to the replacement of lead water service lines

<u>Int 0912-2024</u>	May-24	Nov-24	A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to develop and distribute parenting resource materials to parents and guardians of newborn children
<u>Int 0895-2024</u>	May-24		A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to requiring schools and childcare programs to stock epinephrine auto-injector devices
<u>Int 0885-2024</u>	May-24		A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to remediating lead water hazards in schools and facilities providing daycare services
<u>Res 0362-2024</u>	Apr-24		A resolution calling on the New York State Legislature to pass, and the governor to sign, A.701/S.988, the Social Worker Workforce Act
<u>Int 0804-2024</u>	Apr-24		A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to establishing a childcare opioid antagonist program
<u>Res 0336-2024</u>	Apr-24		A resolution calling upon the New York City Department of Correction to increase the wage rates of incarcerated individuals to the New York State minimum wage rate of \$15 per hour
<u>Int 0780-2024</u>	Apr-24		A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York in relation to aligning the requirements of the Earned Safe and Sick Time Act and the Temporary Schedule Change Act
<u>Res 0293-2024</u>	Mar-24		A resolution calling upon the New York State Legislature to pass, and the governor to sign, S.2898A/A.4017A, the Chisholm Chance Act, which would establish a plan to address the severe maternal morbidity crisis in Brooklyn and the Bronx
<u>Int 0733-2024</u>	Mar-24	Nov-24	A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to requiring the New York City Department of Education to report information on career and technical education programs in New York City public schools
<u>Res 0285-2024</u>	Mar-24		A resolution calling on the New York State Legislature to pass, and the governor to sign, S.7417/A.8013, to prohibit the use of child daycares, daycare centers, or community-based organizations that support activities for children under the age of 18 as a shelter for migrants
<u>Res 0237-2024</u>	Mar-24		A resolution calling on Congress to pass, and the president to sign, S.1488/H.R.3183, the Enhance Access to SNAP Act of 2023 (EATS Act of 2023), to remove certain eligibility disqualifications that restrict otherwise eligible students from participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

<u>Int 0502-2024</u>	Mar-24		A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to background checks for childcare providers, employees, and volunteers
<u>Int 0501-2024</u>	Mar-24		A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to background checks for childcare providers, employees, and volunteers
<u>Int 0497-2024</u>	Mar-24		A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to background checks for childcare providers, employees, and volunteers
<u>Int 0446-2024</u>	Feb-24		A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to waiving parks permit fees for schools and child daycare centers and providing an online system for school permit applications
<u>Int 0356-2024</u>	Feb-24		A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to requiring the Department of Social Services to create shelters for LGBTQ single adults in every borough
<u>Res 0159-2024</u>	Feb-24		A resolution calling on the New York State Legislature to pass, and the governor to sign, A.200/S.3380, to provide a business tax credit for employer provided daycare
<u>Res 0158-2024</u>	Feb-24		A resolution calling on the New York State Legislature to pass, and the governor to sign, S.4924/A.1303, to remove the minimum wage and hours requirements for applicants for childcare assistance
<u>Res 0146-2024</u>	Feb-24		A resolution calling on the New York State governor to sign A.7661/S.6655A, an act to amend the social services law, providing that public welfare officials shall not be required to limit authorized childcare services strictly based on the work, training, or educational schedule of the parents
<u>Int 0201-2024</u>	Feb-24		A local law to amend the New York City charter, in relation to establishing an office of childcare to oversee free childcare for all city residents
<u>Int 0148-2024</u>	Feb-24		A local law to amend the New York City charter, in relation to childcare services at public meetings
<u>Int 0081-2024</u>	Feb-24		A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to requiring an audit and report on foster care placement notices
<u>Int 0008-2024</u>	Feb-24		A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to enhanced reporting on the child welfare system

<u>Int 1189-2023</u>	Sep-23		A bill to prohibit the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) from requiring a subsequent background check for a childcare provider, employee, or volunteer if DOHMH has already completed a background check for such childcare provider, employee, or volunteer within the past five years, unless the childcare provider, employee, or volunteer has not been employed by a childcare provider in the city for more than 180 consecutive days in the past five years, or a background check is otherwise required by law
<u>Res 0755-2023</u>	Sep-23		A resolution calling on Congress to pass, and the president to sign, S.1488/H.R.3183, the Enhance Access to SNAP Act of 2023 (EATS Act of 2023), to remove certain eligibility disqualifications that restrict otherwise eligible students from participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
<u>Int 1160-2023</u>	Sep-23		A bill to require the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) to complete a request for a background check for current and prospective childcare providers, employees, and volunteers within 14 days from the date a request is received. This bill would also require DOHMH to submit to the mayor and the speaker of the Council an annual report on each request for a background check received by the agency.
<u>Int 1159-2023</u>	Sep-23		A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to background checks for childcare providers, employees, and volunteers
<u>SLR 0005-2023</u>	May-23		A state legislation resolution requesting the New York State Legislature to pass bills introduced by Senator Robert Jackson, S.6293, and Assembly Member Stacey Pheffer Amato, A.6538, “An act to amend the retirement and social security law, in relation to a childcare leave credit for New York City uniformed correction officers who are members of the New York City uniformed correction/sanitation revised plan”
<u>T2023-3581</u>	Jun-23		Oversight—Promise NYC and Access to Child Care for Immigrants
<u>T2023-3580</u>	Jun-23		Oversight—Promise NYC and Access to Child Care for Immigrants
<u>Res 0560-2023</u>	Apr-23		A resolution calling on the New York State Legislature to pass, and the governor to sign, S.4924/A.1303, to remove the minimum wage and hours requirements for applicants for childcare assistance
<u>Int 0941-2023</u>	Mar-23		A local law to amend the New York City charter, in relation to establishing an office of childcare to oversee free childcare for all city residents

<u>Res 0507-2023</u>	Feb-23		A resolution calling upon the New York State Legislature to pass, and the governor to sign, S.322/A.7454, the Chisholm Chance Act, which would establish a plan to address the severe maternal morbidity crisis in Brooklyn and the Bronx
<u>Int 0901-2023</u>	Feb-23		A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to enhanced reporting on the child welfare system
<u>Int 0857-2022</u>	Dec-22	Nov-23	A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to expanding disaggregated data in Department of Education reporting, including metrics on students in foster care and students in temporary housing
<u>Int 0848-2022</u>	Dec-22		A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to requiring an audit and report on foster care placement notices
<u>Int 0845-2022</u>	Dec-22	Nov-23	A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to reducing penalties, allowing opportunities to cure for certain violations, and eliminating certain requirements for commercial establishments; to repeal subchapters 6, 9, 12, and 15 of chapter 5 of title 20 of such code, relating to availability for sale of advertised merchandise, sale of travel tickets, delayed payment transactions billing practices, and disclosure of information by childcare facilities, respectively; to repeal the row that begins 24-237(c) in table I in paragraph 5 of subdivision (b) of section 24-257 of such code
<u>Res 0364-2022</u>	Oct-22		A resolution calling on the United States Congress to pass, and the president to sign, S. 4529, the Children’s Safe Welcome Act of 2022, which would establish standards to ensure that the safety and well-being of migrant children in government custody is prioritized, employing best practices in all stages of our immigration system involving unaccompanied and accompanied children who seek asylum in the United States
<u>Res 0314-2022</u>	Sep-22		A resolution calling on the New York State governor to sign A.7661/S.6655A, an act to amend the social services law, providing that public welfare officials shall not be required to limit authorized childcare services strictly based on the work, training, or educational schedule of the parents
<u>Int 0642-2022</u>	Aug-22	Apr-23	A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to requiring quarterly reporting on the amount of time children and youth spend in the children’s center and other temporary placement facilities of the administration for children’s services
<u>T2022-1681</u>	Jun-22		Oversight—Child Care in New York City

<u>Int 0526-2022</u>	Jun-22		A local law to amend the New York City charter, in relation to childcare services at public meetings
<u>Int 0486-2022</u>	Jun-22	Nov-22	A local law to amend the New York City charter, in relation to establishing a childcare advisory board
<u>Int 0489-2022</u>	Jun-22	Nov-22	A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to guidance to an owner of real property regarding facility requirements for a childcare program
<u>Int 0488-2022</u>	Jun-22	Nov-22	A local law in relation to establishing a childcare grant pilot program
<u>Int 0485-2022</u>	Jun-22	Nov-22	A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to an electronic childcare directory
<u>Int 0487-2022</u>	Jun-22	Nov-22	A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to establishing a childcare subsidy information portal
<u>Int 0477-2022</u>	Jun-22	Nov-22	A local law in relation to establishing a childcare task force
<u>Int 0438-2022</u>	May-22		A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to waiving parks permit fees for schools and child daycare centers and providing an online system for school permit applications
<u>Int 0421-2022</u>	May-22	Feb-23	A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to requiring the Department of Homeless Services to report on families with children
<u>Int 0396-2022</u>	May-22		A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to remediating lead water hazards in schools and facilities providing daycare services
<u>Int 0242-2022</u>	Apr-22	Nov-22	A local law in relation to the establishment of a Marshall Plan for Moms Task Force to develop and issue recommendations on how to support working mothers, other parents, and caregivers
<u>Int 0139-2022</u>	Apr-22		A local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to requiring the Administration for Children's Services to report on the impact of the deaths of parents and guardians from COVID-19 on children and the repeal of such requirement upon the expiration thereof
<u>Res 0069-2022</u>	Mar-22		A resolution calling on the New York State Legislature to pass, and the governor to sign, S. 7595/ A. 8623, S. 6706B/ A. 7582A, and S. 7615/ A. 8625, legislation supporting the provision of financial assistance to families and childcare providers in order to make childcare more accessible and affordable

Res 0035-2022	Feb-22	A resolution calling on the New York State Office of Children and Family Services to prohibit juvenile justice agencies from using room confinement as a form of restraint in secure detention facilities and from using transitional hold as a form of restraint in detention and placement facilities
Res 0030-2022	Feb-22	A resolution calling upon the New York City Department of Correction to increase the wage rates of incarcerated individuals to the New York State minimum wage rate of \$15 per hour

Table 6. Relevant Planned Investments

Budget Cycle or Plan	Description of New Investments
Blueprint for childcare and early childhood education, June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promise NYC, a program to provide childcare vouchers to undocumented immigrants (\$10M) • Property tax abatement for childcare conversions (\$25M) • Business income tax credit for employers that provide free or subsidized childcare (\$25M)
Initiatives included in the FY2024 city budget, July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024	Continuation and expansion of Promise NYC (\$16M)
Initiatives included in the FY2025 city budget, July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025	Continuation and expansion of Promise NYC (\$25M)
Initiatives included in the FY2026 city budget, July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACS childcare vouchers (\$228.5M) • Preschool special ed (\$125M) • Baseline 3-K and Pre-K restoration (\$112M) • Promise NYC (continues program, \$25M) • Baseline full-day/full-year 3-K seats in high-need areas (\$25M) • Infant and toddler care expansion (\$10M) • Outreach/marketing for 3-K and Pre-K (\$5M)

Table 7. Difficulty Finding and Affording Childcare, by Race and Ethnicity

	Fall 2021 and Spring 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Fall 2023	Summer 2024	Spring 2025
Difficulty affording childcare*						
Hispanic	59%	44%††	23%	31%	31%	22%†
Black	49%	46%††	9%††	25%†	74%††	9%††
White	50%	70%††	30%††	26%	40%	32%
Asian	61%††	0%††	25%††	25%††	35%††	64%††
Difficulty accessing childcare						
Hispanic	43%	X	24%†	29.3%	28%	27%†
Black	33%	X	12%††	21%†	63%††	18%††
White	50%	X	10%††	28%	30%	21%
Asian	21%††	X	20%††	14%††	45%††	25%††

Source: Communities Speak Surveys (2021–2025). Notes: The results are for households with children between 0 and 5 years old (0–4 for fall 2021 and spring 2022). *See Methodology, Survey Questions Used in Analysis, for a discussion of question wording differences across surveys. X indicates that the question was missing in that survey. †† indicates less than 30 observations and † less than 50.

Table 8. Difficulty Accessing and Affording Childcare, by Borough

	Fall 2021 and Spring 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Fall 2023	Summer 2024	Spring 2025
Difficulty affording childcare*						
Bronx	65%†	46%††	20%†	31%	39%†	14%††
Brooklyn	46%	66%††	19%†	29%†	49%†	33%†
Manhattan	55%	71%††	21%†	21%	31%†	11%
Queens	48%	41%††	23%††	27%†	53%†	45%†
Difficulty accessing childcare						
Bronx	40%	X	26%††	27%	40%†	23%††
Brooklyn	36%	X	17%††	30%†	44%†	19%†
Manhattan	55%	X	11%†	17%	36%†	11%
Queens	41%	X	18%††	24%†	42%††	39%†

Source: Communities Speak Surveys (2021–2025). Notes: The results are for households with children between 0 and 5 years old (0–4 for fall 2021 and spring 2022). *See Methodology, Survey Questions Used in Analysis, for a discussion of question wording differences across surveys. X indicates that the question was missing in the survey. † indicates less than 50 observations, and †† indicates less than 30 observations. Staten Island is not included because the sample size was too small.

Table 9. Difficulties with Accessing and Affording Resources

	Fall 2021 and Spring 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Fall 2023	Summer 2024	Spring 2025
Difficulty paying bills						
Households with young children (0-5)	41%	45%	46%	24%	22%	31%
Households with children (0-17)	44%	52%	50%	25%	25%	30%
Households without children	41%	40%	45%	19%	23%	18%
Difficulty paying rent						
Households with young children (0-5)	35%	61%	53%	32%	24%	31%
Households with children (0-17)	34%	64%	52%	33%	32%	30%
Households without children	32%	46%	47%	24%	26%	21%
Worried about running out of food						
Households with young children (0-5)	40%	25%	33%	20%	26%	21%
Households with children (0-17)	38%	22%	34%	25%	31%	21%
Households without children	27%	11%	20%	16%	15%	15%
Ran out of food						
Households with young children (0-5)	16%	13%	23%	14%	16%	9%
Households with children (0-17)	17%	13%	22%	12%	17%	12%
Households without children	12%	4%	13%	10%	8%	8%
Food insecure*						
Households with young children (0-5)	47%	56%	53%	27%	39%	28%
Households with children (0-17)	43%	53%	57%	28%	40%	31%
Households without children	31%	41%	50%	23%	24%	23%

* defined as households that had difficulty accessing food and/or difficulty affording food.

Table 10. Difficulty Accessing and Affording Childcare, by Neighborhood

Borough	Neighborhood	Difficulty Accessing Childcare	Difficulty Affording Childcare	Count of Families with Young Children
Bronx	Crotona-Tremont	33%	29%	24
	Fordham-Bronx Park	27%	23%	22
	Highbridge-Morrisania	27%	36%	33
	Hunts Point-Mott Haven	36%	32%	28
	Northeast Bronx	24%	24%	17
	Pelham-Throggs Neck	30%	30%	27
Brooklyn	Bedford Stuyvesant-Crown Heights	34%	34%	38
	Downtown--Heights-Park Slope	24%	24%	21
	East Flatbush-Flatbush	33%	50%	12
	East New York	27%	18%	11
	Greenpoint	43%	57%	14
	Williamsburg-Bushwick	44%	72%	18
Manhattan	Central Harlem-Morningside Heights	27%	27%	26
	Chelsea-Clinton	23%	16%	43
	East Harlem	11%	17%	35
	Greenwich Village-SoHo	10%	14%	21
	Lower Manhattan	10%	19%	21
	Union Square-Lower East Side	26%	30%	23
	Upper East Side	55%	64%	11
	Upper West Side	11%	15%	27

Table 10. Difficulty Accessing and Affording Childcare, by Neighborhood

	Washington Heights–Inwood	17%	17%	23
Queens	Long Island City–Astoria	41%	41%	32
	Ridgewood–Forest Hills 1	19%	25%	16
	Ridgewood–Forest Hills 2	43%	48%	23
	West Queens	14%	23%	22

For the neighborhoods with 10 or more total families with young children and for neighborhoods with more than 20 percent of families experiencing difficulty accessing or affording childcare in spring 2023, fall 2023, summer 2024, and spring 2025. Colors correspond to degree of difficulty accessing/affording childcare, aligned with maps.

Figure 3. Difficulty Affording Childcare by Neighborhood

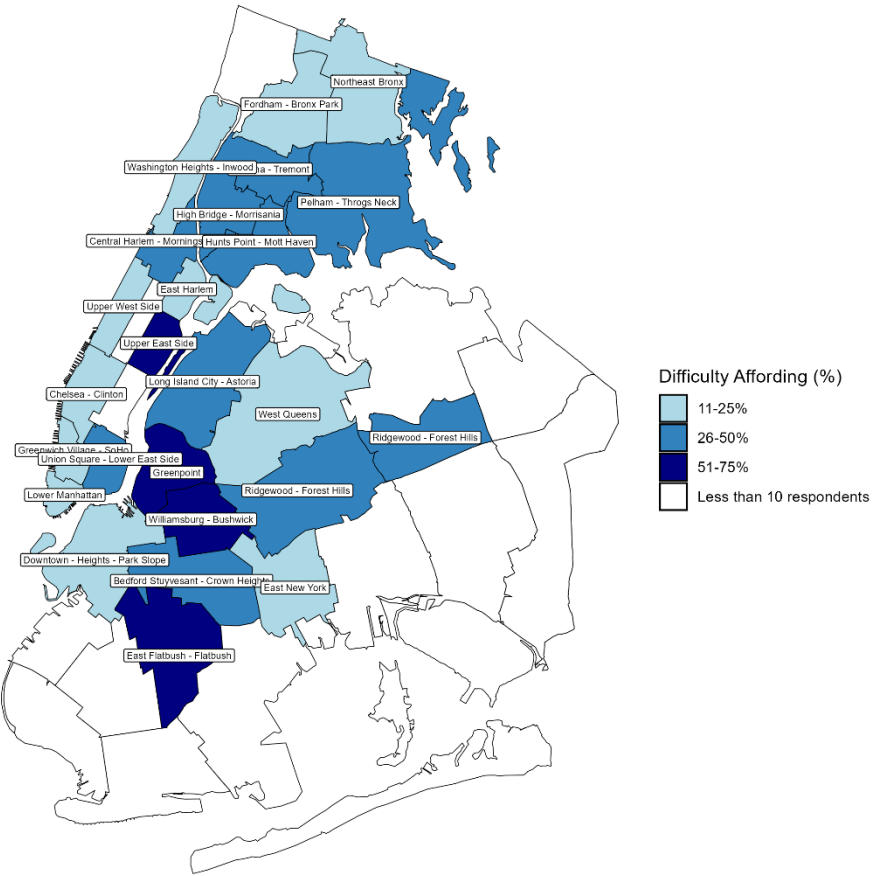
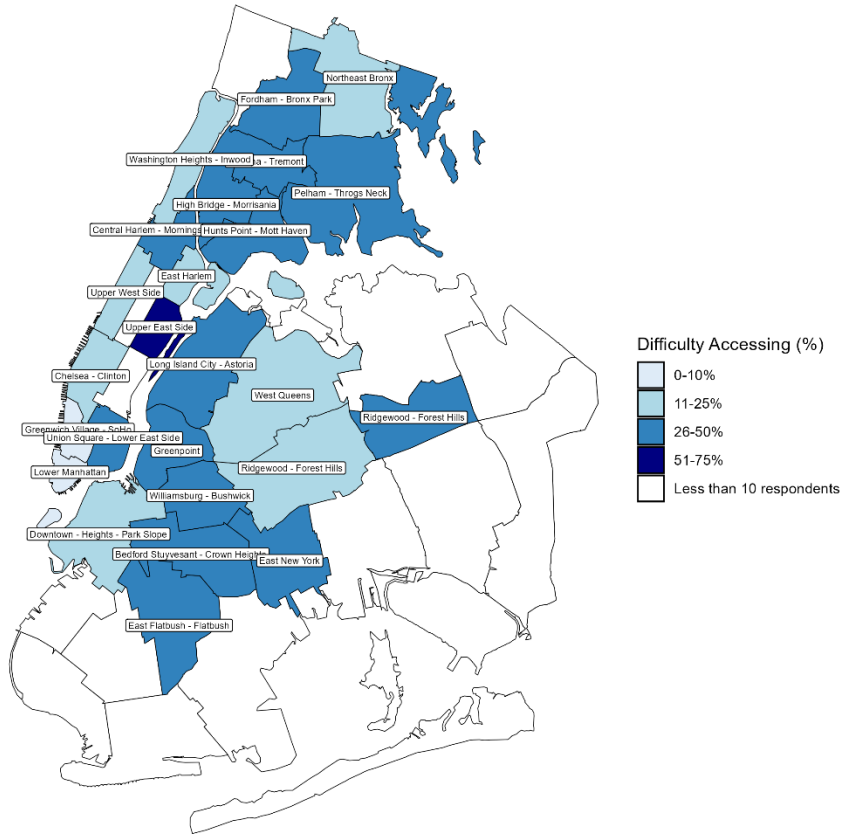


Figure 4. Difficulty Accessing Childcare by Neighborhood



METHODOLOGY

Responses to the Communities Speak individual surveys were collected in eight waves between November 2021 and August 2025.

We received 1,167 valid responses in fall 2021; 2,321 in spring 2022; 1,050 in fall 2022; 1,396 in spring 2023; 1,870 in fall 2023; 1,526 in summer 2024; and 1,495 in spring 2025. We used data from the US Census to weight the survey sample by race and borough (see “Weighting” subsection below). For the analysis of childcare needs, we used data for households with children between 0 and 5 years old, except for fall 2021 and spring 2022, in which households with small children were defined as having children 0–3 years old. The surveys included the following numbers of families with young children: 54 in fall 2021, 265 in spring 2022, 106 in fall 2022, 182 in spring 2023, 307 in fall 2023, 199 in summer 2024, and 155 in spring 2025.

Table 11. Counts and Percentages of Families with Young Children, by Race

	Fall 2021		Spring 2022		Fall 2022		Spring 2023		Fall 2023		Summer 2024		Spring 2025	
Asian	2	4%	24	9%	4	4%	25	14%	21	7%	20	10%	9	6%
Black	11	22%	62	24%	25	25%	32	18%	39	13%	21	11%	16	10%
Else	6	12%	18	7%	4	4%	5	3%	15	5%	15	8%	12	8%
Hispanic	18	35%	93	36%	37	36%	68	38%	87	29%	70	35%	41	26%
White	14	27%	64	25%	32	31%	49	27%	138	46%	73	37%	72	46%

Table 12. Counts and Percentages of Families with Young Children, by Borough

	Fall 2021		Spring 2022		Fall 2022		Spring 2023		Fall 2023		Summer 2024		Spring 2025	
Bronx	21	42%	34	13%	32	31%	43	24%	75	25%	45	23%	21	14%
Brooklyn	8	16%	81	31%	26	25%	36	20%	46	15%	52	26%	39	25%
Manhattan	10	20%	60	23%	24	23%	58	32%	122	40%	45	23%	56	36%
Queens	10	20%	72	27%	13	13%	38	21%	53	17%	38	19%	38	25%

Table 12. Counts and Percentages of Families with Young Children, by Borough

Staten Island	1	2%	18	7%	9	9%	5	3%	9	3%	17	9%	1	1%
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Table 13. Counts and Percentages of Families with Young Children, by Gender

	Fall 2021		Spring 2022		Fall 2022		Spring 2023		Fall 2023		Summer 2024		Spring 2025	
Female	35	67%	191	74%	80	77%	103	57%	175	58%	130	68%	96	62%
Male	17	33%	69	27%	24	23%	77	43%	127	42%	62	32%	53	34%

Some families with young children selected more than one racial category. We coded these families only once for the racial identity variable. Many of the findings for Asian households and some findings for Black households were not statistically significant due to the small sample sizes. We did not have enough responses from Staten Island to include them in the subpopulation analysis of families with children by borough.

SAMPLING

The survey was distributed to a convenience sample of New York City residents. The aim was to obtain a sample size that is statistically reliable. For these non-probability sample surveys, the sampling includes individuals and households from communities identified as historically marginalized or underrepresented in public decision-making processes, such as low-income households, racial and ethnic minorities, and residents of areas with significant economic or environmental challenges. The survey sample was also designed to include the groups that are reluctant to participate in surveys owing to mistrust of institutions or other factors. Survey respondents are encouraged to share the survey with others in their networks. In particular, the goal is to obtain 300 responses for each race/ethnicity and 300 for each borough.

Weekly tracking of survey responses was conducted to inform outreach strategies, ensuring that the sample accurately represented the New York City population. The data tracking was run through an R script to generate the total response count, response count meeting completion criteria, demographic breakdown, and responses from different sources (partners, media, etc.). Post-sampling statistical weights from the US Census were applied by race/ethnicity or borough to ensure that the final dataset accurately reflected the broader community.

SURVEY DISSEMINATION

Building strong strategic partnerships with community organizations, not-for-profit organizations, and City Council members allows us to ensure, through their outreach efforts, that the sample is broadly representative of all communities in the city. To ensure broad reach and accessibility, Communities Speak also uses multiple channels for participant recruitment. Surveys were distributed in English, Spanish, Mandarin, and French, resulting in a significant increase in responses from non-English-speaking New Yorkers. Survey translations were tested with native speakers prior to distribution, enabling necessary language adjustments for better accuracy.

The survey was distributed both online and in person. Online respondents completed the survey through a link provided on various platforms, including websites and social media. In-person responses were collected directly by partners at community events or during regular programming, using paper surveys. Community partners distributed the survey in person, via their websites, and on social media. Communities Speak also distributed the surveys through forums such as Reddit and other online platforms. Community partnerships were established with local organizations, nongovernmental organizations, public schools, and food pantries. The table below provides examples of key partners, each distributing between 50 and 452 surveys for each survey wave. Our partnership with the NYC Council enables us to engage members, who reached out directly to their constituencies. Additionally, a contact list from Communities Speak, comprising participants from previous survey waves who had agreed to future contact, was used.

Table 14. Key Partners, by Survey

Survey	Partners
Fall 2021	helpNYC, Part of the Solution (POTS), Partnership for After School Education (PASE), New York Urban League
Spring 2022	New York Common Pantry, Association to Benefit Children (ABC), helpNYC, POTS, Staten Island Community Partnership, South Bronx United, Harlem Children’s Zone, Older Adults Technology Services (OATS), Bronx Borough President, New York Urban League
Fall 2022	New York Common Pantry, South Bronx United, Korean American Family Service Center (KAFSC)
Spring 2023	OATS, POTS
Fall 2023	Bronx Borough President, Council Member Gale A. Brewer, South Bronx United, ExpandedED Schools, Association to Benefit Children

Table 14. Key Partners, by Survey

Summer 2024	New York Common Pantry, Bronx Borough President, Council Member Gale A. Brewer, Hellenic American Neighborhood Action Committee (HANAC), Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC)
Spring 2025	New York Common Pantry, POTS, OATS, Council Member Gale A. Brewer, Council Member Jennifer Gutiérrez

SURVEY QUESTIONS USED IN ANALYSIS

A question on difficulty accessing childcare was asked in every Communities Speak survey (with the exception of fall 2022), as follows:

In the past year have you had difficulty accessing or finding any of the following? (Select all that apply).

- Food
- Social services and/or benefits (e.g., food stamps)
- Transportation
- Finding housing
- Internet and/or technology
- Health care services
- COVID-19 tests
- **Childcare**
- None of the above

A question about difficulty affording childcare was asked in every survey, but differs in the way it was asked before and after spring 2023. This in part explains the large difference in numbers between the stated survey rounds.

Fall 2021, spring 2022, and fall 2022: *Do you need childcare, but your household cannot afford the cost? (Select one)*

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

Spring 2023, fall 2023, summer 2024, and spring 2025: *In the past year, have you had difficulty affording any of the following? (Select all that apply)*

- Food
- Transportation

- *Paying utilities (e.g., electricity, water, gas)*
- *Paying rent/mortgage*
- *Internet*
- *Technology*
- *Health care services*
- **Childcare**
- *None of the above*

DATA CLEANING

Survey responses collected online were downloaded from Qualtrics; paper surveys were manually entered. Several data cleaning and processing techniques were applied to ensure the accuracy and usability of the survey data. R functions were developed to address typographical errors in manually entered data and to resolve cases where respondents selected multiple options in multiple-choice questions.

Raw data were processed to ensure that only valid responses were included in our analysis, by removing bad data and fixing mistakes, recategorizing input errors into valid responses, and creating new variables and recoding existing variables.

The following are the completion criteria used to ensure the validity of the responses:

- Respondent is 18 or older
- The respondent is from New York City (valid zip code)
- Families with young children answered at least one demographic question and one policy question

A criteria-based filter was also applied to identify and remove malicious survey responses, enhancing the overall data reliability. Additionally, any responses marked as “test” or submitted during beta-test were removed, and free-text responses were recategorized into defined categories.

WEIGHTING

The entire sample of each survey was weighted by race and borough together, to adjust for any imbalances in demographic or geographic representation due to non-probability sampling.

The race variable was re-coded into five main categories to specifically align with the Census-defined categories:

1. White alone: selected only “White”
2. Black alone: selected only “Black or African American”

3. Asian alone: either selected “East Asian” alone or “South Asian” alone, or selected both “East Asian” and “South Asian”
4. Hispanic: selected only “Hispanic or Latino/a” or selected a combination of any other option(s) and “Hispanic or Latino/a”
5. Else: selected two or more races (excluding Hispanic), selected only “Other,” selected only “Hawaiian or Pacific Islander,” or selected only “American Indian and Alaska Native” (This category was excluded from analysis as it combines small racial groups, making interpretation unreliable.)

A borough variable was created by matching respondent zip codes with their associated boroughs. If the respondent did not provide their zip code but provided valid cross streets, responses were manually mapped to boroughs.

To obtain race–borough weights, the NYC race–borough proportions from the US Census Bureau’s “ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates—Hispanic or Latino and Race”⁶⁴ were divided by the Communities Speak race–borough proportions. The specific categories used were: Hispanic or Latino (of any race); White alone; Black alone; Asian alone; American Indian and Alaska Native alone; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone; Some Other Race alone; and Two or More Races. The latter four categories were aggregated into “Else” in line with the Communities Speak race categorization and weighted accordingly.

Below is an example weight calculation for White Manhattanites:

$$\frac{\text{Number of White Manhattanites}}{\text{City population}} = \% \text{ White Manhattanites in NYC} = r$$

$$\frac{\text{Number of White Manhattanites in CS sample}}{\text{Communities Speak sample}} = \% \text{ White Manhattanites in CS sample} = c$$

$$\frac{r}{c} = \text{weight for White Manhattanites}$$

$$\frac{r}{c} * \text{Number of White Manhattanites in CS sample} = \text{Weighted White Manhattanites}$$

Weights were calculated for every survey wave and applied individually. Fall 2021 and spring 2022 were merged, and the respective weights were used for each. The observations in the maps were not weighted.

COMMUNITIES SPEAK SURVEYS

The analysis in this report relied on data from the following Communities Speak surveys”

Communities Speak Fall 2021 Survey

Communities Speak Spring 2022 Survey

Communities Speak Fall 2022 Survey

Communities Speak Spring 2023 Survey

Communities Speak Fall 2023 Survey

Communities Speak Summer 2024 Survey

Communities Speak Spring 2025 Survey

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END NOTES

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⁶ Results for Staten Island are not reported due to the small sample size.

⁷ Results for Queens, Brooklyn, and the Bronx are not statistically significant due to the small sample size.

⁸ Results for Queens, Brooklyn, and the Bronx are not statistically significant due to the small sample size.

⁹ Results for Black and Asian families with young children are not statistically significant due to the small sample size.

¹⁰ Results for Black and Asian families with young children are not statistically significant due to the small sample size.

¹¹ Results for Black families with young children are not statistically significant due to the small sample size.

¹² American Progress, “The Coronavirus Will Make Child Care Deserts Worse and Exacerbate Inequality,” June 2020, accessed at <https://cdn.americanprogress.org/content/uploads/2020/06/18123133/Coronavirus-Worsens-Child-Care-Deserts.pdf>.

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²⁷ There were fewer than 30 Asian families with young children respondents in most surveys, so results should be interpreted cautiously.

²⁸ *Communities Speak Families with Children Policy Brief*, April 2022, accessed at https://static1.squarespace.com/static/60e58fd456d4b101d780f226/t/643da30b2cb9817f9249da36/1681761035935/families%2Bwith%2Bchildren-final_updated.pdf.

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