

**Summary of FY 2025-26 and 2026-27 Consensus Agreement
for Child Development and Care Caseloads and Costs
May 15, 2026**

*May 2026 Consensus Expenditure Estimates Agreed to by
the State Budget Office, the House Fiscal Agency, and the Senate Fiscal Agency*

Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential Estimate for Child Development and Care			
	Current Law	Proposed May 2026 Consensus Estimate	Difference from Current Law
Fiscal Year 2025-26 Total	\$543,312,000	\$587,172,000	\$43,860,000
Fiscal Year 2026-27 Total		\$631,383,600	\$88,071,600

For FY 2025-26:

- **CASES:** Caseloads continue to rise, annually, by two to three thousand a year, post-pandemic, with larger increase in the second half of the fiscal year than in the first half.
- **Cost per Case:** We estimate that the costs per case will increase from the FY 2025-26 budget, rising from \$1,604 in FY 2024-25 to \$1,670 in FY 2025-26, representing a 4.1% increase.
- **Overall,** the FY 2025-26 CREC proposal shows an increase of \$43.9 million over the enacted FY 2025-26 budget. Federal carryover funds are expected to cover the FY 2025-26 increase. No additional GF/GP is required for FY 2025-26.

For FY 2026-27:

- **CASES:** We expect caseloads to trend upwards from 29,300 to 31,300 in FY 2025-26, a 6.8% increase.
- **Cost per Case:** We estimate that the cost per case will increase slightly from \$1,670 in FY 2025-26 to \$1,681 in FY 2026-27, an increase of 0.7%.
- **Overall,** the CREC proposal shows an increase of \$88.1 million from FY 2025-26 current law, largely due to increased caseloads. After application of Federal carryover funds, an additional \$76.9 million GF/GP is required for FY 2026-27.

Child Development and Care Caseloads and Costs History				
Year	Cases	\$/Case	Total \$/month	Total \$/yr
FY 2020-21	13,976	\$1,301.97	\$18,196,288	\$218,355,451
FY 2021-22	15,766	\$1,720.65	\$27,127,765	\$325,533,181
FY 2022-23	20,306	\$1,785.30	\$36,252,035	\$435,024,424
FY 2023-24	23,562	\$1,412.42	\$33,278,573	\$399,342,872
FY 2024-25	26,816	\$1,604.18	\$43,016,813	\$516,201,751
FY 2025-26 Est.	29,300	\$1,670.00	\$48,931,000	\$587,172,000
FY 2026-27 Est.	31,300	\$1,681.00	\$52,615,300	\$631,383,600

