

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE: ADDRESSING NEW YORK CITY'S CHILD CARE CRISIS

As New York City continues to struggle with the COVID-19 pandemic, New Yorkers call on our next mayor to address child care needs that would provide economic relief to working parents and help support our youngest New Yorkers stay developmentally on track

More than three in four parents from low-income households indicated in a recent poll that they have struggled to pay for basic necessities such as food, housing, and health care over the course of the pandemic.

More than half of those who struggled ultimately lost their housing or were evicted.

Of those, one in three parents who lost housing indicated they are currently homeless or living in a shelter.

Parents also indicated that they do not always have access to information about financial resources, supports, or programs available to help cover the high costs of child care. Parents who are not able to access child care said that it can carry negative consequences at work — including losing or having to quit a job — perpetuating a cycle of financial vulnerability that hurts families, children, and our communities.

In addition, these work disruptions have impacted parents unevenly. In fact, Black and Latinx parents were three times more likely to report a job loss due to child care needs than White parents.

Parents have also experienced work consequences related to lack of child care over the past year, which have disproportionately impacted Black and Latinx parents, who were nearly three times more likely to lose their job than White parents.

Our Summer 2021 poll makes clear that the pandemic-related challenges parents, families, and children face continue to mount as the crisis continues, heightening the level of economic instability families are experiencing. The poll also found that New York City residents resoundingly support an increased investment in early childhood programs at the city, state, and federal levels.

FOLLOWING ARE FOUR KEY FINDINGS that highlight the critical need for New York City's next mayor to act quickly to support families of infants and toddlers, putting families on the path to economic stability and our youngest residents on the path to a bright future.

KEY FINDINGS

- 1** Many parents, especially Black and Latinx parents and those from low-income households, report child care is often a burden and that finding affordable, high-quality child care is difficult in New York City. An overwhelming majority of residents indicated that the next mayor — and other elected local and state officials — should make child care a priority.
- 2** Lack of access to child care has created a number of financial difficulties for parents, including job loss and difficulty paying for basic expenses.
- 3** Residents support a number of critical solutions to keep infants and toddlers healthy and developmentally on-track including access to high-quality child care, investing in early childhood programs, and improving resources that would be helpful to parents.
- 4** Parents are largely satisfied with their family-based or center-based child care centers, although Black and Latinx parents and parents from low-income households are much less likely to rank their experience as positive. Residents broadly support further investments in these programs.

FINDING 1:

Many parents, especially Black and Latinx parents and those from low-income households, report child care is often a burden and that finding affordable, high-quality child care is difficult in New York City. An overwhelming majority of residents indicated that the next mayor — and other elected local and state officials — should make child care a priority.

9 out of 10 residents said that child care is a burden for families in New York City. Residents also indicated that they believe that part of the challenge is a lack of clear and reliable information on programs and financial assistance.

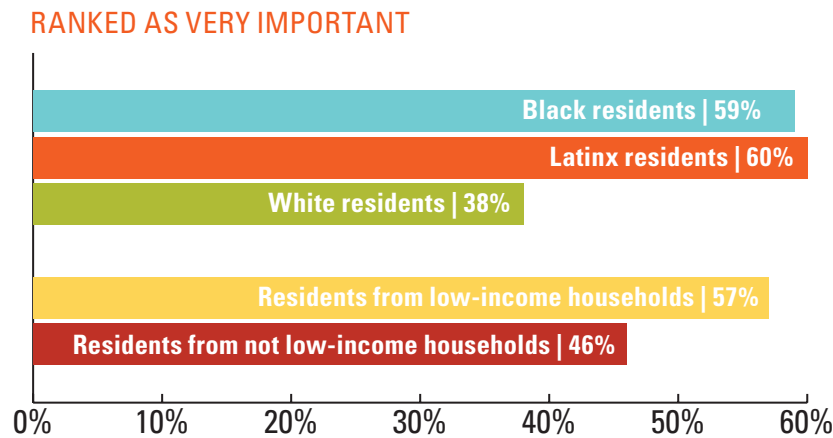
Of those who indicated child care is a burden, 9 out of 10 said it is hard to find affordable, high-quality child care that families are completely satisfied with.

Nearly **9 in 10** residents ranked free or low-cost child care as a priority for the next mayor of New York City to focus on. Residents of color and residents from low-income households were more likely to rank free or low-cost child care as very important.



86%

RANKED IMPORTANT



Residents expressed strong support for investing additional resources into early childhood programs for infants and toddlers.

89%



Approve of local and state government officials doing more to make sure that infants and toddlers in New York City are healthy and developmentally on track at birth and throughout early childhood.

84%



Support New York City investing more public funds in expanding access to affordable, high-quality child care for families with infants and toddlers.

85%

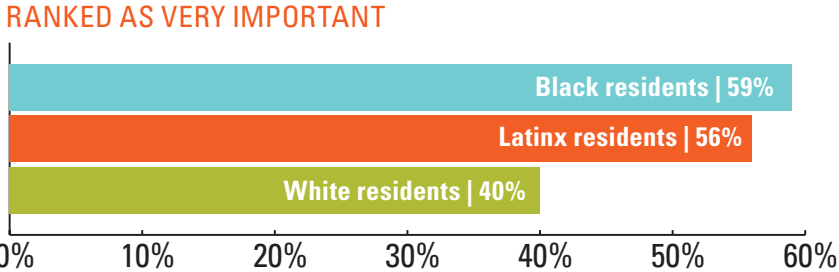


Support New York City using federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act to support child care programming, including providing child care subsidies to families and grants to child care providers that currently have low numbers of children due to the pandemic and may be forced to permanently close.

Nearly **9 in 10** parents ranked free or low-cost early education such as preschool and pre-kindergarten as a priority for the next mayor of New York City. Residents of color and residents from low-income households were more likely to rank early education as very important.

85%

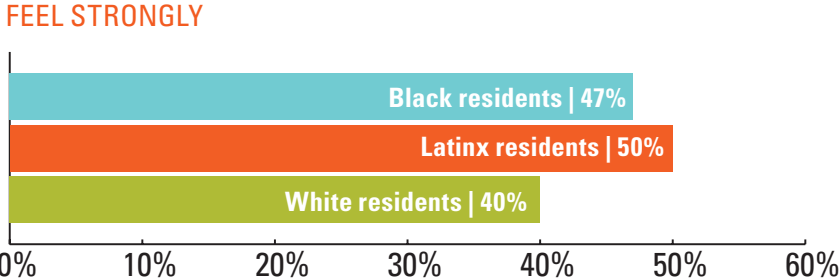
RANKED IMPORTANT



About **3 in 4** residents feel that New York City should be doing more to ensure infants and toddlers are healthy and developmentally on track. Black and Latinx and residents from low-income households were more likely to feel strongly about this issue.

74%

RANKED IMPORTANT

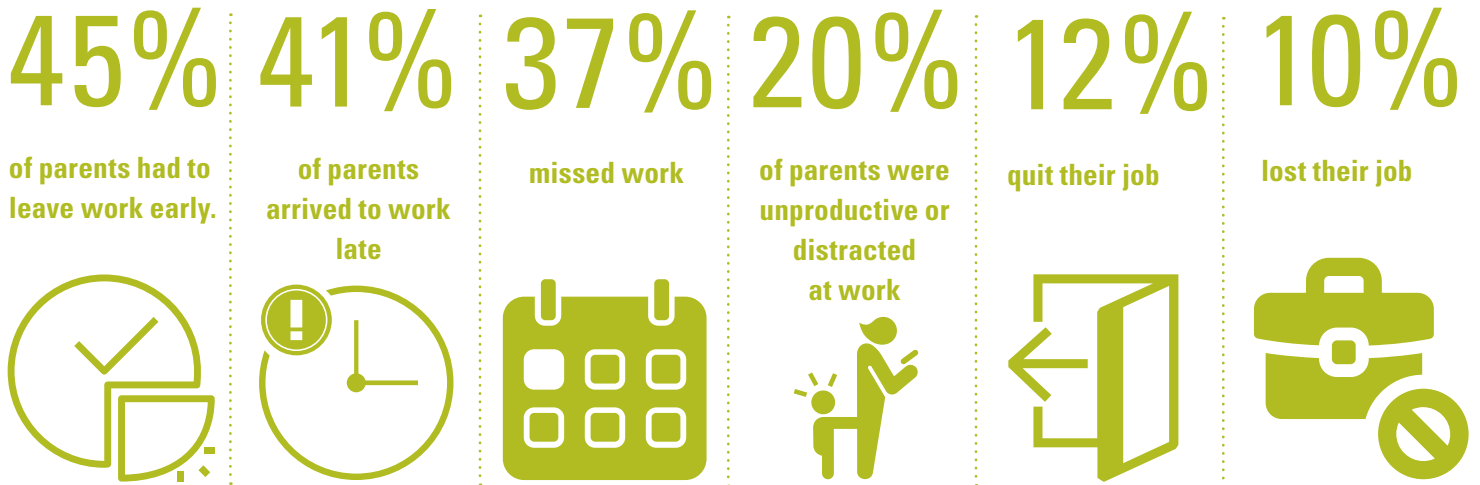


Survey conducted by Global Strategy Group on behalf of The Education Trust-New York. The Survey was conducted 7/12 - 7/26 and had a confidence interval of +/-2.5%. Learn more at EdTrustNY.org/OurFuture.

FINDING 2:

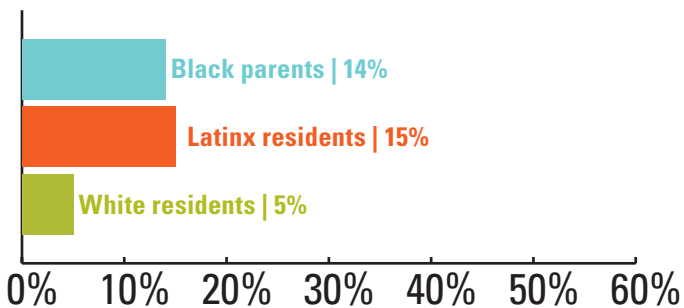
Child care has also created a number of economic difficulties for parents, including work-related consequences and difficulty paying for basic expenses.

Parents reported that child care issues had work-related consequences.

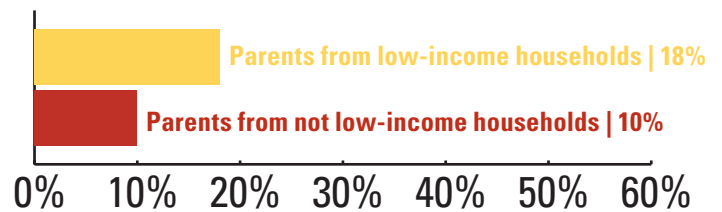


Black and Latinx parents were nearly three times more likely to lose their job than White parents, while parents from low-income households were nearly twice as likely to quit their job as parents from not low-income households.

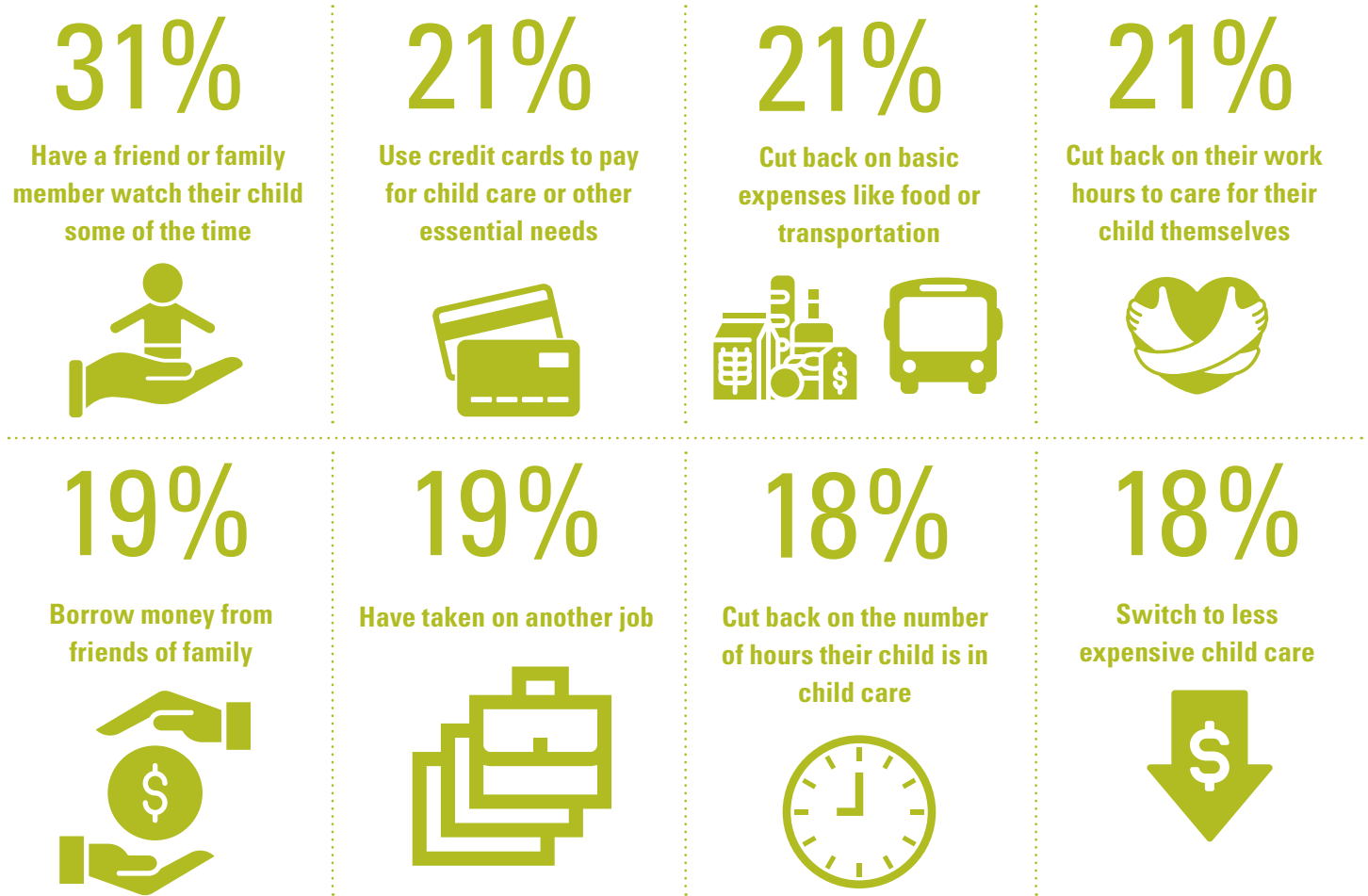
LOSE THEIR JOB



QUIT THEIR JOB

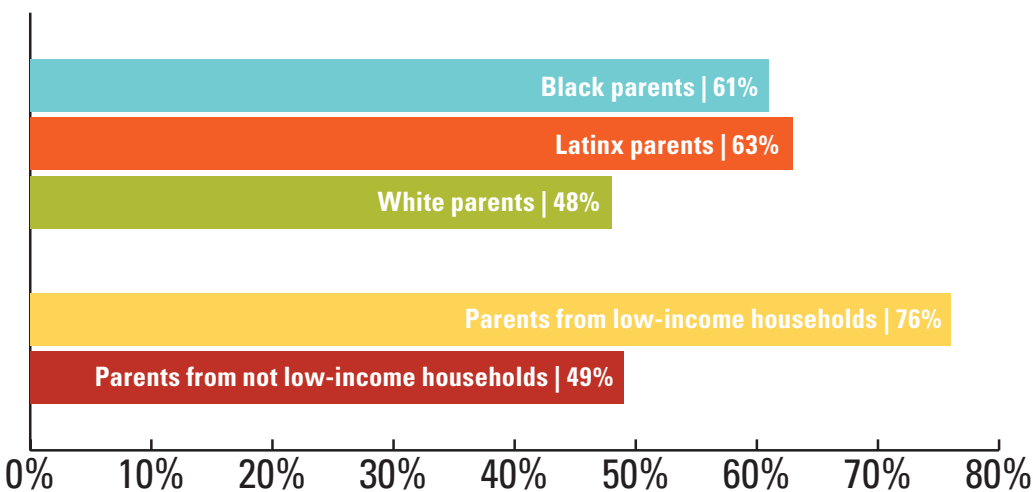


Parents indicated they have had to rely on outside support or make financial sacrifices to afford child care.



Parents of color and those from low-income households have weathered a disproportionate economic impact throughout the pandemic, with a greater proportion reporting having had trouble paying for basic expenses such as food, housing, and/or health care in the last year.

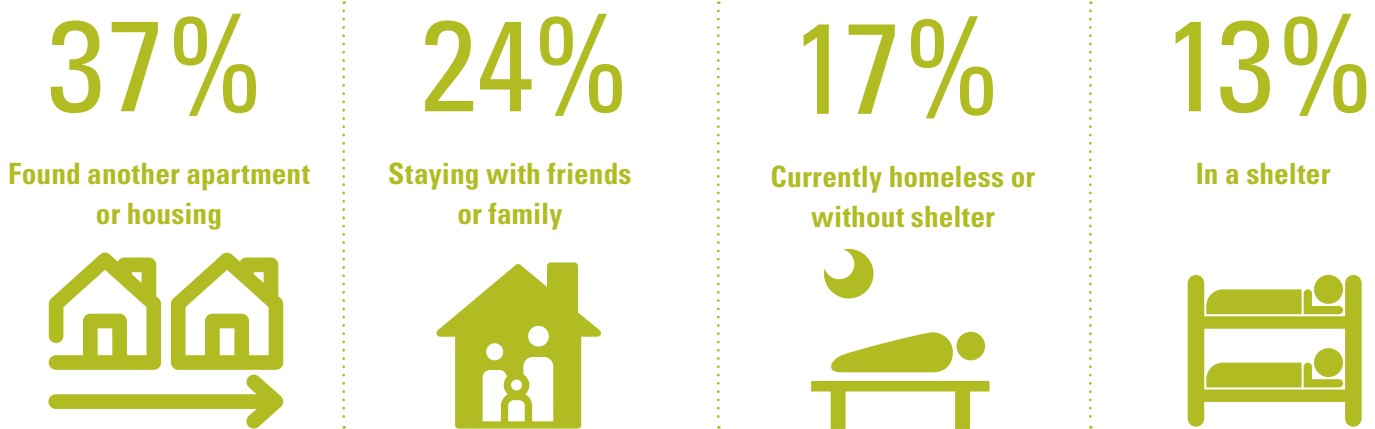
HAD TROUBLE PAYING FOR BASIC EXPENSES



Survey conducted by Global Strategy Group on behalf of The Education Trust-New York. The Survey was conducted 7/12 - 7/26 and had a confidence interval of +/-2.5%. Learn more at EdTrustNY.org/OurFuture.

Of parents who indicated they had trouble paying for expenses, an astounding **1 in 2** lost housing or were evicted.

Of those who lost housing or were evicted, nearly **1 in 3** is either currently homeless or living in a shelter.



No parent should be forced to make the difficult choices that New York City families are faced with every day in order to provide child care for their children.

FINDING 3:

Residents support a number of critical solutions to keep infants and toddlers healthy and developmentally on-track including access to high-quality child care, investing in early childhood programs, and improving resources that would be helpful to parents.

While residents see access to high-quality child care as critical to ensuring children are prepared for school, they identified many obstacles to obtaining access.

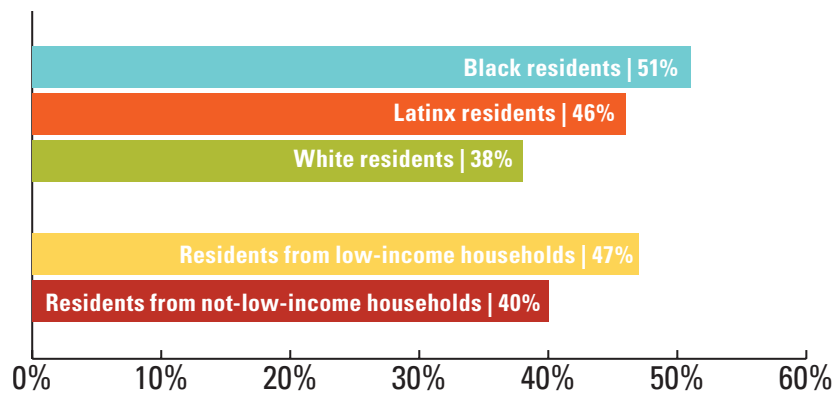
	Major Obstacle						
	Obstacle	All Residents	Black	Latinx	White	Low-income	Not Low-Income
Parents are unable to afford high-quality child care	84%	52%	59%	54%	49%	56%	49%
Parents of color and those from low-income households don't have access to high-quality programs	80%	48%	60%	50%	43%	54%	45%
Parents often do not have access to child care outside typical working hours	82%	46%	50%	50%	43%	50%	43%
New parents don't have access to mental health support	77%	42%	51%	46%	38%	40%	50%
Parents often do not have access to child care during the summer months	79%	42%	49%	46%	37%	47%	39%
Parents don't have access to adequate counseling, crisis management, and health services for them and their families	80%	41%	49%	50%	34%	47%	37%
Parents cannot access linguistically responsive early childhood programs	77%	36%	41%	40%	33%	39%	34%
Parents are unable to find child care providers who share their language and culture	74%	34%	41%	39%	30%	37%	32%
New parents don't have access to home visits from community-based programs or other providers to help them navigate new parenthood	72%	34%	43%	40%	30%	39%	32%

Residents overwhelmingly indicated that they do not believe new parents have access to mental health support.

81%

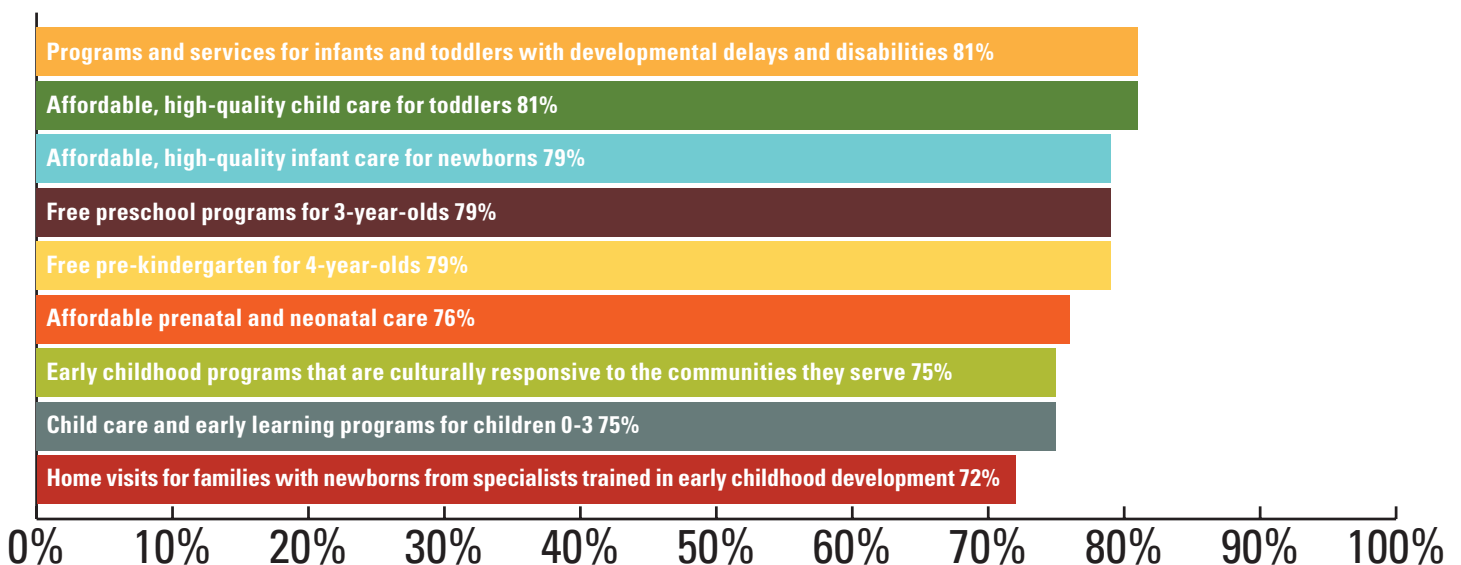
OF PARENTS INDICATED THIS IS AN OBSTACLE

INDICATED LACK OF ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT IS A MAJOR OBSTACLE



1 in 3 parents indicated their child had been turned away from a center- or home-based program because the provider could not offer enough support for a child with a learning or physical disability.

Parents indicated that New York City should be investing more in the following services that would be helpful to them:



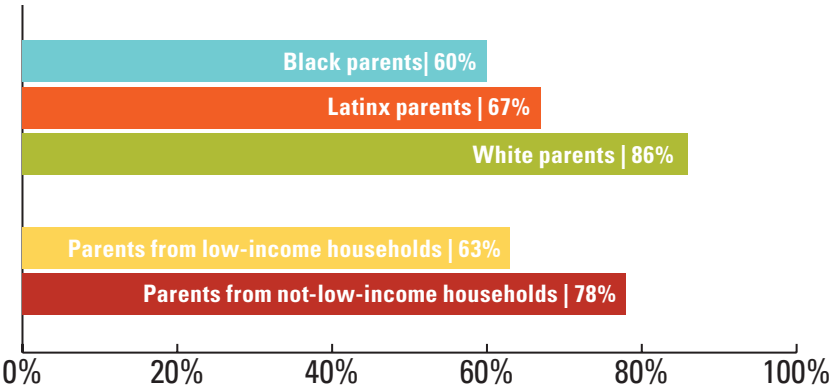
FINDING 4:

Parents are largely satisfied with their family-based or center-based child care centers, although Black and Latinx parents and parents from low-income households are much less likely to rank their experience as positive. Residents broadly support further investments in these programs.

72%

OF PARENTS DESCRIBED THEIR **CENTER-BASED** CHILD CARE PROGRAM QUALITY AS POSITIVE

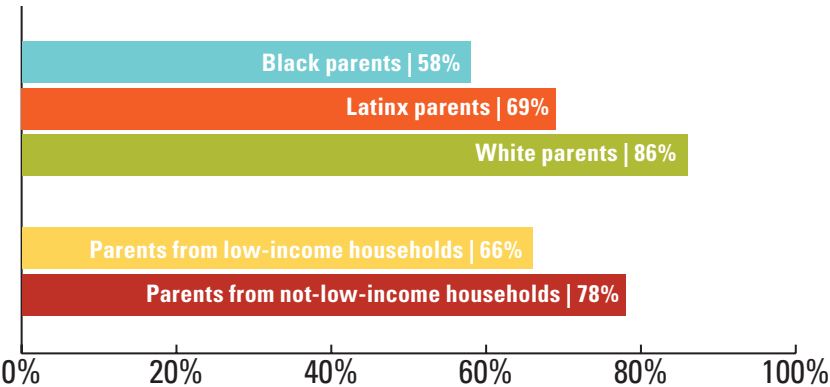
BUT PARENTS OF COLOR AND PARENTS FROM LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS WERE LESS LIKELY TO HAVE A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE.



73%

OF PARENTS DESCRIBED THEIR **FAMILY-BASED** CHILD CARE PROGRAM QUALITY AS POSITIVE

BUT PARENTS OF COLOR AND PARENTS FROM LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS WERE LESS LIKELY TO HAVE A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE.



Residents overwhelmingly support local officials taking steps to help ease the financial burdens that child care providers at center- or home-based care programs face.

Strongly supports							
	Supports	All Residents	Black	Latinx	White	Low-income	Not Low-Income
Financial assistance for pandemic-related protective gear and cleaning supplies	90%	54%	61%	58%	50%	57%	52%
Increased financial assistance to low-income parents to cover tuition and other fees paid for by the child's parents	87%	50%	62%	55%	41%	56%	47%
Financial assistance for providers to cover wages and employee benefits	86%	48%	55%	53%	44%	54%	45%
Financial assistance for providers to cover the costs of repairs and additions like creating a fenced-in yard, adding a sink or bathroom, or building updates due to fire or building codes	87%	48%	55%	54%	45%	52%	47%
Subsidies or other financial help from government agencies to providers	86%	46%	56%	50%	40%	50%	43%

It is critical that the next mayor act with the greatest urgency to create an early childhood system that works for all families. Our city's future depends on it.