



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, all children of New York State, our nation, and the world need to be raised with love, stability, positive relationships, and within safe and secure environments; it is critical that every child have the best opportunities for healthy physical, social, and emotional development, be ensured basic daily needs are met, and be protected from any potential harm; and

Whereas, research shows that strengthening and supporting families by building protective factors—nurturing and attachment, knowledge of parenting and child development, social connections, parental resilience, children’s social and emotional well-being, and concrete supports in times of need—promotes the optimal development of children and reduces child maltreatment; and

Whereas, New York State continues to provide important services that help expectant families and new parents through the Healthy Families New York home visiting program, with its positive impact reflected in improved birth outcomes and decreased child abuse and neglect, and over 6,000 families have benefited from more than 80,200 home visits between April of 2023 and March of 2024; and

Whereas, New York State supports Family Resource Centers and Family Opportunity Centers to promote positive childhood experiences and increase protective factors, and also supports the HEARS Family Line—a multilingual resource of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services that assists parents and families by providing information and referrals to a variety of services including food, clothing, housing, medical and behavioral health care services, parenting education, and child care; and

Whereas, every New Yorker should know that they can take action to support families and help prevent any harmful act committed upon a child by reporting suspected child abuse or maltreatment to the Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment, the state’s child abuse hotline, which is available 24 hours a day/seven days a week; and

Whereas, New York State, its Office of Children and Family Services, and county-based resources and agencies join to observe “Child Abuse Prevention Awareness and Supporting Child and Family Well-Being Month” throughout April, and New Yorkers are encouraged to support programs that build families’ protective factors and promote the safety and security of children; and

Whereas, we take this opportunity to recommit ourselves to the safety of all New York’s children and acknowledge the many dedicated caseworkers across our state who have devoted countless hours to ensuring the welfare and well-being of our precious young; since 2008, the pinwheel has been a national symbol for the prevention of child abuse and neglect, and we embrace it as a simple reminder that we all want great childhoods and futures for our youngest New Yorkers;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 2025 as

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AWARENESS & SUPPORTING CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this thirty-first day of March in the year two thousand twenty-five.

Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh

Governor