

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 6, 2018

CONTACT: Maria Pisano

Trying Together (formerly PAEYC)

412-421-3889

maria@tryingtogether.org

PENNSYLVANIA GOVERNOR'S 2018-2019 BUDGET PROPOSAL ALIGNS WITH PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD NON-PROFIT

Governor Tom Wolf Does What's Best for Children by Expanding Early Learning Investments

PITTSBURGH--Governor Tom Wolf's 2018-2019 budget proposal with increased investments for young children is being applauded by principal partners of the <u>Pre-K for PA</u> and <u>Early Learning PA</u> campaigns including the Southwestern Pennsylvania-based non-profit <u>Trying Together</u>.

The proposal includes:

- \$40 MIL for Pre-K Counts and Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program;
- \$6.5 MIL for evidence-based home visiting programs;
- \$10 MIL for child care subsidy;
- \$10 MIL for increased tiered reimbursement rates for Keystone STAR two, three, and four child care providers;
- \$3 MIL for high-quality child care programs serving infants and toddlers; and
- \$14 MIL for early intervention to continue to support current programs.

Executive Director Cara Ciminillo says these proposed investments align with the Trying Together <u>2017-2018 Public</u> <u>Policy Agenda</u>.

"One of our [public policy] agenda positions is to 'invest adequately' in order to increase access to high-quality infant and toddler care and pre-kindergarten classrooms. This includes providing resources for child care providers to improve and maintain quality. If the Governor's pre-k budget proposal is approved by the state legislature, 4,400 more children, along with their families and providers, will benefit from these investments."

Early childhood advocates who are interested in supporting the Trying Together public policy agenda and participating in future action alerts may sign-on at tryingtogether.org.

ABOUT

Trying Together supports high-quality care and education for young children. **Trying Together** provides advocacy, community resources, and professional growth opportunities for the needs and rights of children, their families, and the individuals who interact with them. Trying Together works regionally (in Southwestern Pennsylvania) and takes its expertise and models to statewide and national audiences. To learn more visit www.tryingtogether.org.