



**Statement from Jennifer March-Joly
Executive Director of Citizens' Committee for Children**

**CCC Supports City Demonstration Project to
Exclude Sugar-Sweetened Beverages from Allowable SNAP Purchases**

The food stamps program has long served as a vital support to enable families to buy wholesome foods. Allowing the purchase of sugar-sweetened beverages with food stamps runs counter to the program's purpose and goals. Recent research shows that nearly 40 percent of New York City children are overweight or obese, and sugar-sweetened beverages are the single biggest driver of these trends. For each additional sugary drink consumed, a child's risk of obesity increases by 60 percent.

This is why CCC not only endorses the City's proposal to the USDA to exclude sugar-sweetened beverages from food stamp purchases, but has also long supported proposals to implement a statewide tax on sugar-sweetened beverages to deter consumption and help to combat obesity.

These initiatives complement many other City efforts to increase access to nutritious foods and improve child nutrition, including the Green Carts initiative, the FRESH financing program, the Health Bucks program, and the revision of nutritional standards for foods served in schools and child care centers.

Given the urgency of the obesity epidemic, we must use every tool at our disposal to combat childhood obesity and help give all of our children a healthy start.

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