

During difficult budget times, it is more important than ever to take steps to ensure that every New York child is healthy, housed, educated and safe.

#### CHILD CARE

Recommend increasing state support for child care by \$50 million to equal the state allocation passed down to counties in SFY09-10 (due to use of roll over).

#### CHILD WELFARE

Support maintaining state support for child welfare financing.

Support maintaining funding for Bridges to Health (B2H) Medicaid Waiver program and New York/NewYork III supportive housing.

Support Article VII legislation to create subsidized kinship guardianship in New York, but recommend it be funded outside the Foster Care Block Grant with an uncapped 65% state match and that this permanency option be available only after the fact-finding hearing or after the first permanency hearing, whichever is later.

Oppose severely cutting funds for home visiting programs and recommend restoring home visiting to \$25 million in state support and restoring \$5 million for Nurse-Family Partnership and \$2.9 million for COPS.

Oppose eliminating all funding for preventive service contracts (\$18.8 million), which includes resources for post-adoption services.

#### COST-SHIFTS TO LOCALITIES

Oppose eliminating the AIM/revenue sharing for New York City, costing NYC \$328 million.

Oppose \$18 million in cost-shifts to localities that result from requiring Title XX to be used for Adult Protective and Domestic Violence services.

#### EDUCATION

Support maintaining funding for Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) at \$400 million, but recommend allowing counties the flexibility to use funds for full day UPK.

Support increasing State support for the School Lunch and Breakfast program by \$600,000.

Oppose reducing school aid by 5% and delaying full implementation of the CFE settlement from 2013-2014 to 2016-2017, which would reduce aid to NYC by \$500 million for the 2010-2011 school year.

Oppose limiting state reimbursement for summer school special education, costing NYC \$51 million.

Recommend restoring funds for student MetroCards.

#### HEALTH

Support amending Section 3235-a of the State Insurance Law to allow the Individual Family Services Plan (ISFP) to be used to meet the medical necessity threshold and therefore maximize commercial insurance reimbursement for Early Intervention services.

Oppose imposing a quarterly parent fee for Early Intervention services, particularly for families earning between 250-400% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

Oppose requiring Early Intervention providers to bill Medicaid and private insurance directly.

#### HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Support expanding the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program.

Oppose eliminating \$5 million for supportive housing for families.

Oppose eliminating the \$3 million in state operating subsidy for the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA).

Oppose cutting \$1 million from the Homeless Intervention Program.

#### INCOME SECURITY

Oppose delaying the implementation of the public assistance grant increase.

Recommend eliminating the finger-imaging requirement for New York City food stamp applicants who are working.

Recommend passing A1827/S5846A to allow TANF recipients to attend four-year colleges as part of their work requirements.

#### JUDICIARY

Recommend increasing the number of Family Court Judges.

#### JUVENILE JUSTICE

Support closing and consolidating 4 under-utilized juvenile placement facilities, and recommend reinvesting cost-savings into community-based alternatives.

Support investing \$18.2 million for 169 new positions in juvenile facilities to improve staff to youth ratios and medical and mental health services for youth.

Oppose reducing state support for Alternative to Detention/Alternative to Incarceration Programs by \$15.75 million (\$10.75 million TANF for ATD/ATI and \$5 million for Community Reinvestment/Alternatives to Detention).

Oppose Article VII legislation to allow electronic appearances in Juvenile Delinquency and Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) cases. Recommend only allowing electronic appearances when the party appearing electronically knowingly consents.

Recommend that the state establish 50/50 state/local reimbursement outside of the foster care block grant to cover the costs associated with the placement of youth in private residential facilities.

Recommend the state develop a permanent funding stream to reimburse counties for a share of local alternative to detention and incarceration programs.

#### MENTAL HEALTH

Support extending the current social worker and mental health professional licensing exemptions until 2014, and recommend making the exemptions permanent.

Support making clinic rates of reimbursement equivalent under Medicaid Managed Care and Medicaid Fee-for-Service coverage and recommend working to ensure that clinic rates of reimbursement provided by commercial insurance are also made equivalent.

#### TANF - FUNDED PROGRAMS

Oppose zeroing out programs funded by TANF without making deliberate choices about which programs are cost-effective and should be preserved.

Recommend restoring funds for TANF-funded programs including \$35 million for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), \$11 million for Advantage After School, \$15.75 million for Alternative to Detention/Alternative to Incarceration Programs, \$5 million for Nurse-Family Partnership, \$5.8 million for home visiting, \$18.8 million for preventive service contracts and \$5 million for supportive housing.

#### REVENUE

Support the *Healthy New York Campaign* to raise \$1 billion annually through the sugar-sweetened beverage excise tax and \$200 million through an increased \$1 per pack increase to the tax on cigarettes.

Recommend a 10-cent per bottle excise tax on beer to raise over \$300 million annually and reduce teen drinking; by extending the tax increase to wine and liquor an additional \$200 million would be raised.

#### YOUTH SERVICES

Support adding \$3 million for long-term safe house(s) for sexually exploited youth pursuant to the Safe Harbor Act, and recommend also creating short-term centers for these youth.

Oppose eliminating all state support for the Summer Youth Employment Program (\$35 million).

Oppose reducing funding for the Advantage After School Program by \$11 million.



#### FACTS ABOUT NEW YORK'S CHILDREN:

There are 4.4 million children (0-17) in New York:

- Every day 829,000 live in poverty
- Every day 851,116 children receive food stamps
- Every day 276,114 children receive public assistance
- Every day 361,000 children are without health insurance
- Every year 32,602 children drop out of high school
- Every year 17,356 become teen mothers
- Every day 25,925 children are in foster care
- Every year over 1,398 babies die before their first birthday.
- Last year 25,925 children were found to be abused or neglected



#### ABOUT CCC

Since 1944, Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, Inc. (CCC) has convened, informed and mobilized New Yorkers to make the city a better place for children. CCC's approach to child advocacy is fact-based and combines the best features of public policy advocacy with a tradition of citizen activism. Casting light on the issues, engaging allies, fueling civic discourse, identifying improvements and envisioning alternatives has helped CCC make children a priority in New York.



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#### Budget Recommendations to the Governor and New York State Legislature

Fiscal Year 2010-11



Keeping Children  
Healthy • Housed • Educated • Safe  
In Difficult Economic Times

While we appreciate the severity of the budget crisis, the Governor's Executive Budget for SFY10-11 does not go far enough to protect children from shouldering a disproportionate burden of the economic downturn. Furthermore, proposed cost-shifts to localities included in the Governor's budget, should they stand, would trigger additional reductions to children's services at the local level.

As the State's economic forecast remains grim, making reductions in expenditures is clearly necessary, but budget cuts must not be penny-wise and pound foolish. While the SFY10-11 Executive Budget protects some critical children's programs such as Child Health Plus, Universal Pre-Kindergarten, and child welfare services - it is deeply troubling that the budget also reduces or eliminates funding for cost-effective programs that produce good outcomes for children, including home visiting, Summer Youth Employment, homelessness prevention programs, post adoption services, and alternative to detention and incarceration programs.

Because the State's budget deficit is profound, it is also critical that innovative tax policy options be considered. CCC supports the *Healthier New York Campaign* to improve health outcomes and raise revenue by imposing a penny an ounce excise tax on sugar-sweetened beverages and increasing the tax on cigarettes by \$1 per pack. CCC recommends taking this campaign further by introducing a ten cent per bottle excise tax on beer to raise additional revenue and help combat adolescent drinking.

CCC calls on the Legislature and the Governor to negotiate a budget that ensures that all of New York's children are healthy, housed, educated and safe.



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