

## FACTS ABOUT NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN:

- 1.9 million children live in New York City
- More than half of New York City Children are born into poverty
- 98,000 have no health insurance
- Over 16,000 are homeless and living in shelters
- 18,000 have been abused or neglected
- 27,000 are hospitalized for preventable illnesses
- 215,000 elementary and middle school students read below state and city standards
- 9,000 babies were born to teen mothers in 2003
- 100,000 young children 0-5 years of age need child care
- 450,000 youth age 5-19 years need out-of-school time services



Despite modest gains, too many children still face daily conditions that challenge healthy development and a future where achievement and economic stability will be out of reach unless steps are taken to reverse these trends. *Securing Every Child's Birthright*, CCC's new communication and action campaign, champions bold policies and initiatives that will produce lasting, structural improvements in well-being that benefit all New York City children. The campaign harnesses the power and commitment of New Yorkers to ensure that every child is healthy, housed, educated and safe.

## 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 City.

**Securing Every Child's Birthright  
Healthy • Housed • Educated • Safe**

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

### Fiscal Year 2006-07



## Securing Every Child's Birthright Healthy • Housed • Educated • Safe

Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, (CCC) calls on the Governor and Legislature to develop a budget for SFY06-07 that works towards *Securing Every Child's Birthright* to be healthy, housed, educated and safe.

The strong revenue forecast provides an opportunity for state policy-makers to take bold action and make demonstrable improvements in children's lives. The SFY06-07 budget should finance a sound basic education, address unmet needs in the state's child care, children's mental health and child welfare systems, and provide tax relief to renters.

We call on the Governor and the New York State Legislature to find common ground and negotiate an on-time budget that advances an agenda to promote economic, housing and developmental security for New York's children.



**CITIZENS' COMMITTEE for CHILDREN  
OF NEW YORK INC**

# SFY06-07 Budget Recommendations

## FLEXIBLE FUND FOR FAMILY SERVICES

Maintain the Flexible Fund for Family Services (FFFS) as adopted in SFY05-06 with critical programs carved-out and increase funding. The SFY06-07 Executive Budget proposes an FFFS that does not reflect the carve-outs negotiated last year for: child care, supportive housing and summer youth employment services. Funding for these programs is once again combined into a block grant along with work-related supports and Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) and child welfare services, causing children to compete with adults for essential services. While the proposed FFFS includes a trend factor of 2.15%, greater funding is needed to ensure that counties have the capacity to address critical new needs such as homelessness prevention, training and employment and child welfare.

## CHILD WELFARE

Support the proposal to add \$5 million to create demonstration projects for Enhanced Detection and Treatment of Substance Abuse for families and children in the child welfare system.

Support the proposal to add \$5 million to the Foster Care Block Grant to support a cost of living increase for foster care providers.

Support the proposal to add \$2 million to enhance CONNECTIONS, the statewide child welfare information system. The current system does not allow for timely completion of required permanency reports, slows documentation of alleged abuse and neglect, and impedes effective case management.

Enact legislation to allow counties to increase Foster Care Housing Subsidies above \$300 per month with approval from OCFS, for families in need of support services and young adults transitioning out of the child welfare system.

Add \$18 million to ensure ongoing safety assessments and intensive case management by trained and experienced preventive service workers, outside of the 65/35% preventive services funding stream. This funding would allow for enhancements in caseload standards, qualifications of workforce, and technical support needed, to increase child safety in high-need districts.

## HEALTH

Support the proposal to add \$500,000 to develop a federal Medicaid waiver that would allow New York State to provide proper health insurance coverage for children in foster care. The existing Medicaid per diem rate neither covers the actual cost of care nor allows for quality, comprehensive, and coordinated treatment.

Provide continuous health insurance coverage to 18 to 21 year olds leaving foster care for independent living.

Support the proposals to add \$2 million to provide respite services for severely disabled children under the age of three and require commercial health insurance plans to cover costs associated with Early Intervention services.

Enact Senate Bill #6606 and Assembly Bill #9726 to increase Medicaid rates of payment for continuous nursing services for medically fragile children and authorize targeted case management services to such children.

Support the Article VI proposal to reimburse localities for at least 36% of the costs for core (i.e., family health, disease control, health education and guidance, community health assessment, and environmental health) and optional public health services.

# Securing Every Child's Birthright

## CHILD CARE

Maintain \$379 million in TANF funds outside of the FFFS for the Child Care Block Grant and add \$140 million for child care subsidies to serve an additional 22,000 children. Allocate \$3 million to expand facilitated enrollment demonstrations for families up to 275% of the FPL.

Add \$20 million to restore child care recruitment and retention grants for early education professionals. Funds for this important program expired in SFY04-05.

Enact legislation to assure equal access to quality child care by capping co-payments at 10% of household income.

## EDUCATION

Add \$5.6 billion for school operating aid over four years and \$9.2 billion for school facilities over five years to provide New York City students with a sound basic education.

Add \$100 million to provide children in every school district with a Universal Pre-Kindergarten program and increase per-child funding.

Add \$6 million to create a pilot Universal Pre-Kindergarten Workforce Incentive Plan to ensure that a qualified teacher is placed in every pre-kindergarten classroom.

## MENTAL HEALTH

Support the proposal to add \$16.6 million for the first of three annual cost of living increases for residential and various non-residential community-based mental health programs.

Support the proposal to add \$62 million annually to create the "Achieving the Promise for New York's Children and Families" initiative and provide accessible and comprehensive mental health care services to children to reduce crises and problems associated with mental illness by: enhancing access to mental health assessment and treatment; enhancing community-based programs to recruit and retain a qualified workforce; expanding home and community-based waiver slots; disseminating evidence-based treatment models; and creating telepsychiatry services for children and adolescents in rural/shortage areas.

## JUVENILE JUSTICE

Support the proposal to close three OCFS community residential homes and reinvest savings in Evidence-based Community Initiatives (EbCI)

Support the proposal to add \$300,000 to expand EbCI to reduce out-of-home placements and provide delinquent youth and their families with intensive family-based counseling, support services and after school programs.

Support the proposal to create a pilot non-secure detention facility that will lower recidivism and improve outcomes for delinquent youth.

Support the proposal to add \$1.4 million to expand community-based programming and services for court-involved youth to address legislation enacted in SFY05-06 that requires localities to exhaust community-based alternatives prior to the use of detention for PINS.

## HOUSING

Restore \$25 million to affordable housing initiatives that include the Affordable Housing Corporation and the Low-Income Housing Trust Fund. Additionally, dedicate recurring revenue for the Housing Trust Fund.

Add \$21.8 million (50% state share) to phase-in the creation of a Housing Security Subsidy Program for 5,000 New York City working families. Eligible families would earn up to 80% of the AMI and pay more than 50% of their income in rent or mortgage.

# Healthy • Housed • Educated • Safe

## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Support the proposal to add \$7.3 million to expand the Advantage After School program.

Restore \$1.1 million and add \$7 million for Youth Development Delinquency Prevention to provide more youth with out-of-school time programming; and add \$3 million for the Special Delinquency Prevention Program to serve more at-risk youth.

Maintain \$2.5 million and add \$3 million for the Supportive Housing for Families and Young Adults program outside of the FFFS, to help more young adults avoid shelter.

Add \$1.5 million for the Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) programs in order to serve PINS; add \$1.5 million to serve vulnerable and exploited youth with specialized crisis-intervention programs and services; and add \$1 million to expand technical assistance for providers seeking RHY certification and funding.

Maintain \$25 million and add \$10 million to the Summer Youth Employment Program outside of the FFFS, to again serve 19,000 youth statewide at the new state minimum wage.

Add \$1 million for the first of three annual cost of living increases for youth services providers.

## INCOME SECURITY

Oppose the proposal for a Full Family Sanction that will endanger children and increase homelessness, hunger and economic insecurity for children and families.

Oppose the proposal to decrease the Earned Income Disregard to 25% for households that have received public assistance for more than five years. Support the proposal to increase the Earned Income Disregard to 50% for households receiving public assistance for less than five years.

Oppose the proposal to enact legislation that includes Supplemental Security Income as income when determining the welfare grant of public assistance families. Already in regulation, it decreases the public assistance grants to families with disabled household members.

## TAX POLICY

Enact a Renter's Tax Credit to provide tax equity for one million renter households with children who do not qualify for STAR or other tax credits and reductions available exclusively to homeowners.

Support the proposal to add \$13 million to expand the New York State Earned Income Tax Credit to non-custodial parents age 18 to 35 years of age.

Lift the provision of tax law that prohibits concurrent filing for the EITC and the New York State Household Tax Credit, to allow families to receive an additional \$20 to \$180, depending on income and family size.

Add \$2 million to expand tax credit outreach activities and provide application filing assistance to eligible households.

Redirect \$400 million from the proposed Education Tax Credit to fund a sound basic education for all New York City public school students.