



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

FACTS ABOUT NEW YORK'S CHILDREN AND YOUTH

There are 4.5 million children (0-17) in New York:

- 875,086 children are living in poverty
- 744,778 children are receiving food stamps
- 308,207 children are receiving public assistance
- 347,248 children are without health insurance
- 38,137 children drop out of high school each year
- 32,832 are teen mothers
- 51,552 children were found to be abused or neglected last year
- 29,148 children are in foster care
- Over 1,400 babies each year die before their first birthday

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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CCC applauds the State FY08-09 Executive Budget proposal as it seeks to maintain and improve upon many essential supports for children and families – particularly given the state's budget deficit. However, CCC is concerned that there are numerous budget proposals, such as those related to Pre-School Special Education, Public Assistance, Youth Detention, Municipal Aid, and Education Aid, that are designed to shift costs from the state to the localities, or to reduce or eliminate state aid. Cost-shifting of this magnitude will negatively impact localities, including New York City, forcing them to cut essential services to children and families.

CCC calls on the Governor and the State Legislature to negotiate a budget that demonstrates shared state and county responsibility for meeting the economic, housing, and developmental security needs of all children.

SECURING EVERY CHILD'S BIRTHRIGHT



Healthy • Housed • Educated • Safe

CCC OPPOSES

Child Welfare

Oppose: Reducing the Foster Care Block Grant by \$2 million.

Early Care and Education

Oppose: Placing child care funding back into the FFFS to compete with other essential services.

Oppose: Altering Pre-School Special Education Reimbursement by:

- Excluding New York City from the phased-in county cap;
- Allocating programmatic and fiscal responsibility for evaluations to the counties; and
- Shifting CPSE administrative costs to the counties.

Education

Oppose: Reducing the state's commitment to education operating aid by \$350 million and delaying construction aid reimbursement to New York City for 18 months.

Income Security

Oppose: Altering the 50/50 shared state and local fiscal responsibility for family assistance and safety net assistance.

Oppose: Eliminating the local district hold-harmless provision regarding 2-parent families on public assistance.

Juvenile Justice

Oppose: Eliminating all state reimbursement for local detention.

CCC SUPPORTS

Child Welfare

Support: Maintaining uncapped 65% state/35% county reimbursement for child protective, preventive, adoption and independent living services.

Support: Opting into the federal Chafee provision so young people aging out of foster care will receive Medicaid coverage through age 21.

Support: Investing \$17 million to modernize CONNECTIONS, the state's child welfare information management system.

Early Care and Education

Support: Adding \$79 million for Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK).

Education

Support: Adding \$9 million to increase reimbursement for school meals to enhance their nutritional quality.

Health

Support: Expanding coverage of Child Health Plus up to 400% of the Federal Poverty Level with State funding.

Housing

Support: Creating a \$400 million Housing Opportunity Fund for affordable and supportive housing.

Juvenile Justice

Support: Closing 6 upstate and 1 New York City OCFS placement facilities.

Mental Health

Support: Reforming reimbursement for Article 31 clinics, removing barriers to specialty mental health treatment for children, and covering Family Services under Child and Family Clinic Plus.

Youth Services

Support: Maintaining youth services such as the Extended Day/ Violence Prevention program and Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP).

Support: Adding \$10 million for 21st Century Community Learning Centers to supplement federal funding.

CCC RECOMMENDS

Child Welfare

Include preventive service workers in the child welfare COLA.

Increase the housing subsidy from \$300 to \$500 per month to better assist reunifying families, families receiving preventive services and youth aging out of foster care.

Early Care and Education

Provide local districts with flexibility to use UPK funds for full-day for 4-year olds, retro-fitting classrooms, and/or transportation services.

Add \$90 million to the Child Care Block Grant to address increasing child care costs and the need to serve more infants and toddlers.

Health

Expand access to healthy affordable food in low income neighborhoods by adding resources to transport upstate farm produce to New York City's food deserts.

Housing

Identify and dedicate a permanent, recurring and dependable source of revenue for the Housing Opportunity Fund.

Provide tax relief to renters.

Judiciary

Amend the Family Court Act by adding 39 Family Court Judges.

Add enough funding to reduce client numbers for children's attorneys to be consistent with the client cap being developed in the OCA Workload Study.

Juvenile Justice

Create a shared state and local partnership to fund local alternatives-to-detention and incarceration programs and aftercare services.

Youth Services

Add \$6 million for the Advantage After-School program and \$13.9 million for 21st Century Community Learning Centers to maintain program services.