

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 WELFARE

Support preserving 62% state matching reimbursement for child protective, preventive, independent living and adoption administration, but recommend returning to the statutory reimbursement level of 65%.

Oppose reducing the state's adoption subsidy match from 73.5% to 62% (from what had been a 75% state match). This proposal reduces the state's commitment to children adopted from foster care.

Oppose eliminating all state support for children in special education placements (Committee on Special Education Placements).

Oppose failing to include a state match for subsidized kinship guardianship, which becomes effective April 1, 2011. Recommend developing a state match for subsidized kinship guardianship akin to adoption subsidy and funded outside the foster care block grant.

Oppose eliminating programs that prevent foster care placement including \$2 million for Nurse-Family Partnership and \$6 million for preventive contracts such as post-adoption services (formerly funded with TANF-resources).

Oppose eliminating all state support for sexually exploited youth by cutting the \$3 million allocated to the implementation of the Safe Harbor Act.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Support maintaining the \$393 million funding commitment for child care subsidies and funding it outside the Flexible Fund for Family Services (FFFS). Oppose reducing overall child care support by \$55 million due to loss of TANF-funded programs and the ARRA funding. Recommend increasing state support for child care to keep up with increasing costs so that counties are not forced to cut child care subsidies from low-income working families.

Support maintaining funding for Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) at \$393 million, but recommend allowing counties the flexibility to use funds for full day UPK.

Oppose increasing the fee for child abuse and neglect background checks from \$5 to \$60, and eliminating the fee exemption for child care providers who must get these checks bi-annually. This fee increase for low-income child-serving providers is one of the only revenue-raising proposals in the Executive Budget.

Support allowing local social service districts to access food stamp employment and training funding (FSET) to support eligible child care expenses.

EDUCATION

Oppose decreasing School Aid by \$1.5 billion, or 7.3%, year-to-year. This reduction undermines the implementation of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity's settlement.

Recommend targeting the \$500 million competitive grants for school district performance and efficiency to initiatives proven to retain teacher positions, prevent increases in class size, and improve quality instruction in the classrooms throughout the state.

Support increasing state support to supplement federal funding for the School Lunch and Breakfast Program and the Summer Food Program by \$800,000, for a total of \$36 million.

Oppose reformulating building aid, as it would negatively impact school construction and improvement projects, overcrowding and class size.

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

Recommend ensuring that Medicaid Redesign results in health care coverage options that protect and address the specific health and mental health care needs of children, including children currently covered by Medicaid, Child Health Plus, and Family Health Plus; children served by waiver programs due to fragile health, behavioral health, and/or developmental disability; and children in foster care.

Recommend establishing a children's work group to inform whether and how to implement managed care for special populations of children, including children with serious emotional disturbance, children participating in waiver programs, and children in foster care. Recommend that if special populations of children are required to enter managed care plans, benefit packages meet their complex health and behavioral health needs. (Medicaid Redesign Proposal #1458)

Oppose creating co-payments for Child Health Plus B. (Medicaid Redesign Proposal #104)

Support establishing interim regional Behavioral Health Organizations to manage carved out behavioral health services. (Medical Redesign Proposal #93) Recommend developing a child and adolescent specific Behavioral Health Organization that would address the multiple needs and service integration issues of children and adolescents.

Support enabling DOH, OMH, OASAS and OPWDD facilities to add services licensed by another agency to facilitate the integration of physical, behavioral and developmental services. (Medicaid Redesign Proposal #1021)

Oppose developing utilization controls on behavioral health clinic visits for children where reimbursement rates would decrease from 100% to 75% to 50% of the rate depending on the number of visits. Utilization controls are particularly harmful to children because collateral contacts with parents, teachers, and significant individuals in a child's life are billed as visits under children's Medicaid. (Medicaid Redesign Proposal #26)

Oppose lifting prescriber prevails protections as medications are not necessarily clinically interchangeable and prescribers must be able to select the most appropriate, clinically indicated medications for their patients. (Medicaid Redesign Proposal #15, attachments E and H)

Oppose changing policies and reimbursement rates related to Early Intervention Services (such as the 10% across the board reduction and requiring providers to bill Medicaid directly). Recommend allowing programmatic and rate reforms enacted in SFY10-11 to have a chance to produce savings.

Recommend reinvesting the savings from restructuring Child and Family Clinic-Plus into pediatric screening and children's mental health treatment.

Oppose eliminating family-based treatment program beds that are serving children with mental illness.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Oppose eliminating programs that prevent homelessness including \$1 million for the Supplemental Homeless Intervention Program, \$2.5 million for Supportive Housing for Families, and \$125,000 for Emergency Homeless Services (formerly funded with TANF resources).

Oppose eliminating the state's share of funding for shelter supplements (\$35 million) for families in permanent housing through the New York City Work Advantage Program.

INCOME SUPPORT

Oppose enacting stricter Public Assistance work requirement sanctions that, upon a parent's second infraction, close and terminate the entire family's case until the parent complies, and, upon a third infraction, close and terminate the entire family's case until the parent complies, followed by a six-month pro rata sanction.

Oppose restructuring Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) financing by funding Family Assistance with federal dollars previously used to fund other services for families and children. Oppose restructuring Safety Net (SN) financing by increasing local contributions from 50% to 70%, leaving counties with higher costs in the out-years as SN caseloads are projected to grow.

Oppose delaying the implementation of the public assistance grant increase.

JUDICIARY

Recommend increasing the number of Family Court Judges statewide and in New York City.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Support downsizing the juvenile justice facility capacity by eliminating unused beds and eliminating the 12-month waiting period rule. Recommend facility closure decisions a) ensure youth can be placed close to their homes and b) maintain the array of facility types (secure, limited secure and non-secure) so downsizing does not result in a cost-shift to the counties given state law currently provides reimbursement for private placements through the capped foster care block grant.

Support increasing state support for more cost-effective community-based alternative to detention and incarceration programs through the development of the Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program. Recommend that the state make this funding stream permanent and open-ended so that counties can rely on state support. Recommend modifying the proposal in the first year so that counties are able to access the funds without a match and develop new and expand existing programs before the capped detention block grant is in effect.

Oppose eliminating cost-effective services that keep youth out of the juvenile justice system, such as home visiting programs, after school programs, runaway and homeless youth services and the Summer Youth Employment Program.

PRIMARY PREVENTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (PPIP)

Oppose creating the Primary Prevention Incentive Program (PPIP), which reduces funding for programs, such as homevisiting, after school programs, and runaway and homeless youth services, that have historically produced good outcomes for children by preventing foster care and juvenile justice involvement. The PPIP cuts state funding in half and requires a county match to access funds as reimbursement is 62% state / 38% local, saving the state \$35 million in SFY 11-12.

REVENUE AND COST SHIFTS

Recommend raising revenue by maintaining the temporary Personal Income Tax increase on New York's highest earners, creating an Excise Tax on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages, and reforming Pensions.

Oppose balancing the state's budget by shifting costs to localities, such as through eliminating the AIM for New York City, shifting Title XX funds to child welfare, reducing the state's share of adoption subsidies, Safety Net assistance, shelter for homeless adults, and eliminating the state's support for Committee on Special Education placements and the Work Advantage Program

YOUTH SERVICES

Oppose eliminating the state's \$15.5 million of support for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), which would result in a loss of 11,000 summer jobs statewide, about 6,000 of which are in New York City.

Oppose eliminating all \$4.7 million of state funding for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program (RHY), which would force RHY service providers to compete for funding from the Primary Preventive Incentive Program, and eliminate state support for residential programs that would not be eligible for PPIP preventive funds.

Oppose reducing funding for the Advantage After School Program by \$5.34 million, which would eliminate access to after-school programs for nearly 5,000 children.

FACTS ABOUT NEW YORK'S CHILDREN:

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

- Every day 878,114 live in poverty
- Every day 1,043,142 children receive food stamps
- Every day 293,711 children receive public assistance
- Every day 346,000 children are without health insurance
- Every year 32,320 children drop out of high school
- Every year 22,561 become teen mothers
- Every day 24,620 children are in foster care
- Every year over 1,379 babies die before their first birthday.
- Last year 80,707 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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Healthy • Housed • Educated • Safe

Budget Recommendations to the Governor and New York State Legislature Fiscal Year 2011-12



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

It is clear that New York's troubled economy and staggering budget deficit demand long-term structural budget changes and not short-term fixes. While addressing the state's fiscal shortfall is critical, New York State residents are still reeling from the economic downturn, and few have been hit harder than poor children and their families. We must not allow the State Budget to eliminate the safety net needed to ensure that the next generation of New Yorkers can reach their full potential.

The Governor's \$132.9 billion Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2011 - 2012 proposes to close a \$10 billion gap, almost entirely through spending reductions and cost-shifts to counties. While shifting costs of mandated programs to counties saves the state government money, it does not reduce the need to fund these programs, leaving struggling counties burdened with paying for them and faced with tremendous service reductions. In addition to the proposed \$2.85 billion reduction to Education and \$2.3 billion reduction to Medicaid, the Executive Budget proposes to reduce its commitment to Human Services by over \$300 million, \$114.2 million of which is Human Services cost shifts to localities.

For New York City, Mayor Bloomberg has estimated that the reduction in State Aid totals \$2.1 billion, including a \$1.4 billion in aid to public schools; \$361 million in cuts and cost shifts in social services; and \$300 million due to the elimination of the AIM for New York City.

While there are some proposals included in the State Executive Budget that protect essential programs for children and families, and laudable efforts have been made to address the State's broken juvenile justice system, CCC urges the Governor and the State Legislature to negotiate a State Budget for Fiscal Year 2011 - 2012 that goes further to protect New York's children.



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