

## FACTS ABOUT NEW YORK'S CHILDREN:

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

- Every day 794,062 live in poverty
- Every day 754,462 children receive food stamps
- Every day 284,388 children receive public assistance
- Every day 374,000 children are without health insurance
- Every year 34,459 children drop out of high school
- Every year 31,932 become teen mothers
- Last year 76,014 children were found to be abused or neglected
- Every day 28,574 children are in foster care
- Every year over 1,435 babies die before their first birthday.



### 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.



**CITIZENS' COMMITTEE for CHILDREN**  
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**Healthy • Housed • Educated • Safe**

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

### Fiscal Year 2009-10



**Keeping Children  
Healthy • Housed • Educated • Safe  
Through Difficult Economic Times**

During severe economic downturns, like the unprecedented one we are in, it is more important than ever that core services for children and families be protected and supported. It is short-sighted to cut cost-effective programs that work for children, as New Yorkers will have to pay the price for more costly emergency and institutional interventions for years to come. New York's staggering budget deficit demands a thoughtful response that balances both the revenue and expense sides of the budget ledger through progressive tax increases and government spending reductions that do not impact core services for children and families.

We call on the Legislature and the Governor to negotiate a budget that ensures New York's children are healthy, housed, educated and safe.



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

# 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.

## CHILD CARE

Recommend increasing state support for child care funding to address local child care shortfalls and oppose putting child care into the FFFS.

Oppose imposing the \$25 SCR child abuse and neglect clearance fee on child care providers and their employees.

## CHILD WELFARE

Support Article VII legislation extending the current child welfare financing statute for three years.

Support Article VII legislation permitting use of the wage reporting system to increase federal foster care reimbursement.

Oppose eliminating \$34 million for the COPS waiver preventive service programs and \$50 million for other child welfare services including the preventive service COLA and post-adoption contracts.

Oppose reducing funding for homevisiting by 25% (\$5.8 million).

Oppose reducing the Bridges to Health Program to 610 slots and instead recommend funding 1000 slots.

Oppose reducing the state's commitment to New York/New York III, which would eliminate \$1.25 million in funding for 60 out of the 100 slots for foster youth.

Oppose increasing the child welfare offset in the FFFS by \$105 million, which would cost New York City \$40 million.

Recommend supporting foster youth by amending the Family Court Act to provide foster youth with notice and opportunity to be heard at permanency hearings and creating a foster youth college tuition payment program.

Recommend passing subsidized kinship guardianship legislation where the state match is funded outside the foster care block grant.

## COST-SHIFTS TO LOCALITIES / FFFS

Oppose eliminating the AIM / revenue sharing for New York City, which would cost NYC \$656 million.

Oppose capping state reimbursement for adult homeless shelter services for New York City.

Oppose shifting an additional 12.5% for pre-school special education to counties, which would cost NYC \$181 million in FY09-10.

Oppose adding child care and the Local Administration Fund to the FFFS to compete for funding with other social services.

Oppose increasing the child welfare offset in the FFFS by \$105 million, which would leave other services in the FFFS with less funding.

## EDUCATION

Oppose delaying full implementation of the \$7 billion CFE settlement by an additional four years or until 2014-15, which would reduce aid to NYC by \$589 million for the 2009-2010 school year.

Oppose reducing the 21st Century Community Learning Centers by \$9.8 million, which would eliminate approximately 8,000 slots statewide.

Support re-authorizing mayoral control, but recommend creating greater checks and balances, more meaningful public participation, and improved transparency around budgets and policy decisions.

Support funding for Universal Pre-Kindergarten, but recommend an Article VII amendment to give localities the flexibility to use these funds for full day UPK for four year olds.

## HEALTH

Oppose increasing monthly family contributions to Child Health Plus.

Support expanding health care coverage for children and youth ages 1-29 through proposals such as equalizing and increasing the income eligibility for Child Health Plus for all ages, expanding Family Health Plus for 19 and 20 year olds living alone, and allowing youth 19-29 to be covered under parents' private insurance policies.

Support simplifying Medicaid, Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus enrollment and retention by eliminating the face-to-face interview, adult asset test and finger-imaging requirements.

Support obesity prevention programs, including \$10 million for the Healthy Foods/Healthy Communities initiative to increase the number of healthy food markets in underserved communities.

Oppose imposing a monthly parental fee for Early Intervention services.

Oppose requiring Early Intervention providers to bill third party payors.

## HOUSING

Oppose decreasing capital funding for affordable and supportive housing including the \$6.5 million reduction to the Homeless Housing Assistance Program and the \$31 million reduction to the Housing Trust Fund.

## INCOME SECURITY AND HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

Support increasing the public assistance grant for the first time in 18 years.

Support increasing funding for food banks, pantries and soup kitchens by \$4.4 million.

Oppose eliminating the Homeless Prevention Program (\$5 million) and reducing the Homeless Intervention Program by \$1 million.

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

Recommend eliminating asset tests for TANF applicants and recipients.

Recommend allowing TANF recipients to attend four-year colleges as part of their work requirements.

## JUDICIARY

Recommend increasing the number of Family Court Judges by at least 39 statewide.

## JUVENILE JUSTICE

Support closing and consolidating 8 under-utilized facilities and 3 evening reporting centers, but recommend reinvesting cost-savings into community-based alternatives.

Support Article VII legislation that eliminates the 12-month notification requirement for OCFS to close a youth facility.

## MENTAL HEALTH

Support adding \$1.7 million to OMH to implement the Children's Plan, but recommend funding for the other child-serving agencies implementing the Plan.

Oppose delaying the start of family support services in the Child and Family Clinic Plus program until 2010-11 (\$5 million).

## TAX POLICY

Recommend increasing the tax on personal income above \$250,000 to raise \$4 - \$5 billion annually.

Support taxing sugar-sweetened beverages, but recommend amending the tax proposal to be an excise tax rather than a sales tax, and investing a portion of the revenue in obesity prevention programs. CCC's proposal raises \$1.2 billion annually.

Support increasing the tax on alcohol, but recommend amending the tax proposal to equalize and increase the tax per gram of alcohol on beer, wine and liquor and investing a portion of the revenue in substance abuse prevention programs. CCC's proposal raises \$538 million annually.

Recommend including relief for renters in property tax reform.

Recommend creating a Young Adult Earned Income Tax Credit for childless young adult workers 16-24 making less than \$12,590 per year.

Oppose eliminating the sales tax exemption on clothing and footwear under \$110.

## YOUTH SERVICES

Oppose creating a Youth Services Block Grant, which has a retroactive effective date of 1/1/09, cuts youth funding by 24% (\$28 million), and pits non-mandated youth services against mandated detention services.

Oppose reducing the Advantage After School Program by 25% (\$19.8 million), which would result in 3,166 slots eliminated in NYC.