



For Immediate Release: February 1, 2011

Contacts:

Stephanie Gendell, (212) 673-1800 x17 or (646) 232-6721

Danielle Marchione (212) 673-1800 x18

**CCC Executive Director Issues Statement Expressing Concerns
About Governor Cuomo's Executive Budget Impact on Children**

Citizens' Committee for Children of New York (CCC) is deeply concerned that Governor Cuomo's Executive Budget Proposals do not protect the well-being of New York's children and in fact, place our most vulnerable children at even greater risk. To help close a \$10 billion budget deficit, Governor Cuomo's budget shifts traditional state supports to struggling counties and reduces spending on a wide-array of services and programs for children and youth that have already been proven effective at producing positive outcomes and preventing more costly interventions.

Notably, the Executive Budget proposes to shift over \$114 million in Human Services costs to counties for services such as adoption subsidy, juvenile detention, special education placements and homeless and housing subsidy programs. In addition, the budget fails to fund programs such as home visiting, which have historically produced good outcomes and saved the state money. Instead the budget creates a new Primary Prevention Incentive Program, which is unnecessary since counties have already developed programs that work and now is not the time for them to create new programs to replace programs that were already proven effective.

While CCC is pleased that Governor Cuomo is committed to improving New York's deeply flawed and costly juvenile justice system, we do not believe that the Executive Budget goes far enough to ensure counties have the resources to truly reform this system. Notably, while the Budget proposes to close facilities and eliminate the 12-month waiting period rule, the budget also cuts detention funding to counties. While we are supportive of efforts to reduce detention and create services that enable youth to remain in their communities, CCC believes that this cost-shift will leave counties without the resources needed to develop new programs and/or access the new Supervision and Treatment Services Program.

While we appreciate the severity of the state's budget deficit and understand that budget reductions were inevitable, we believe that the well-being of the state's children could be better protected if the budget included revenue proposals, such as maintaining the temporary income tax surcharge and enacting a sugar sweetened beverage tax, so that the state budget was not balanced on the backs of our youngest and most vulnerable.

Jennifer March-Joly
Executive Director