

Budget Recommendations to the Governor and New York State Legislature Fiscal Year 2016-2017



CITIZENS' COMMITTEE for CHILDREN
OF NEW YORK INC

Citizens' Committee for
Children of New York, Inc.

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Ensure New York's Children are Healthy, Housed, Educated and Safe SFY 2016-2017

Raise the Age of Criminal Responsibility



Support comprehensive legislation that **raises the age of criminal responsibility** from 16 to 18-years old in New York.



Support **\$110 million capital and 100% State reimbursement** for services, including detention and probation, for youth 16 and over receiving services due to legislation that raises the age.

Combat Family and Youth Homelessness



Support adding 6,000 units of **supportive housing** over the next 5 years and 18,000 units over the next 15 years.



Urge State and City to enter into a New York/New York IV **supportive housing** agreement.



Support baselining the \$2.1 million legislative add for **Runaway and Homeless Youth Services (RHY)** bringing total State support to \$4.48 million. Recommend adding \$5.5 million (for a total of \$10 million) to create additional beds and services for RHY and fund an analysis of conducting a statewide count of youth homelessness.



Increase the **public assistance shelter allowance** to help public assistance recipients maintain stable housing.



Create a more **equitable State and local partnership** regarding housing and homelessness in New York City. Oppose proposal to withhold safety net appropriations for costs of human services delivered directly by the State in NYC.



Add \$100 million for the next 2 years for **NYCHA capital repairs**.

Ensure all Children Reach Their Academic Potential



Increase **Education Aid** significantly more than the \$991 million proposed by the Executive.



Support adding \$100 million for the expansion of **community schools**.



Restore \$15 million to maintain the existing **Community Schools Grant initiative**.



Support enacting the **Dream Act**.



Extend **Mayoral Control** of New York City schools for 7 years.



Restore \$2 million and add \$49.9 million for **Advantage After School** to address critical program needs including summer programming, serving the same number of children as in 2007-2008, and aligning reimbursement rates with 21st Century Learning Centers.

Promote Economic Stability for Children, Youth and Families



Support Article VII legislation to phase-in a **minimum wage increase to \$15 per hour** in New York City by 2018 and 2021 in the rest of the State. Add funding for non-profits with State contracts and those reimbursed by Medicaid to implement the minimum wage increase without decreasing services.



Support 12-weeks **Paid Family Leave** proposal that provides a wage replacement of two-thirds of a worker's weekly wage.



Enact S6229/A9065 to allow the NY State **tax refund to be split** in up to 3 accounts, including the New York State Child Savings Program Account (529 account).



Amend Social Service Law Section 131-n to **exempt 529 college savings accounts** from asset limit tests for Public Assistance recipients.



Add \$16.5 million to increase funding for the **Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP)** to \$51 million.



Support adding \$1 million to partially fund the impact of the January 2016 minimum wage increase on the **Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)**. Recommend adding \$17.2 million to fully address the minimum wage increase (\$1.23 million) and add 10,000 slots (\$15.97 million), which would bring SYEP funding to \$48.2 million.

Promote Safety, Permanency and Well-Being for Families Touched by Child Welfare



Restore the State share for **preventive, protective, independent living, and adoption administration** services to 65% as prescribed in Social Services Law Section 153-k. Recommend investing the 3% currently cut into a **new primary preventive program** to support families prior to abuse or neglect.



Support investing \$5 million in federal adoption savings into **post-adoption services**. Recommend strengthening appropriations language to ensure OCFS cannot use the funding for other purposes and/or decrease the appropriation level.



Amend the Social Services Law to fund the State share of **KinGAP (subsidized guardianship)** outside the Foster Care Block Grant, provide the subsidy to age 21 for all children leaving foster care with KinGAP, and allow KinGAP for half-siblings and non-relatives with significant prior relationships to the family.



Enact A7756, which increases the **child welfare housing subsidy** from \$300 to \$600 per month, enables youth to receive subsidy until age 24, and ensures those receiving housing subsidy can have roommates.



Support baselining \$1.5 million for the **Foster Youth Success Initiative**. Recommend adding \$3 million to support more foster youth going to college.

Invest in the Youngest New Yorkers Ages 0-5



Add \$190 million to the **Child Care Block Grant** to address costs associated with implementing new federal rules related to background checks, inspections, training, 12-month eligibility, and ensuring **no child loses subsidies**. (The Executive Budget proposal to just add \$10 million for inspections is insufficient.)



Add \$150 million to expand **pre-kindergarten** for high-need three and four year olds.



Add \$11.5 million for **home visiting programs**, including \$4.5 million for Healthy Families New York, \$2 million for Nurse-Family Partnership, \$3 million for Parents as Teachers, and \$2 million for Parent-Child Home (bringing total funding to \$37.8 million).



Reject proposal to restructure **Early Intervention (EI)** referral, eligibility determination, screening and evaluation process.

Promote Health and Mental Health



Support adding \$7.5 million to create **six new children's mental health services** in the Medicaid program including: crisis intervention; community psychiatry support and treatment; psychosocial rehabilitation services; family peer support services; youth peer training and support services; and services from other licensed practitioners.



Add \$30 million for **children's behavioral health capacity building and start-up** needs, comparable to funds dedicated to adult behavioral health to support workforce development, training, credentialing fees, and expanding the existing provider network.



Add at least \$10 million to support the workforce and technology needs related to the creation of **children's health homes**.

Cost-shifts to New York City



Reject all proposals that shift **additional costs to New York City**, including Medicaid, CUNY and shelter costs.



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Additional CCC Priorities in Response to the Executive Budget SFY 2016-2017

Child Welfare

Support Article VII legislation that implements the federal **Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act**, including provisions that provide qualified immunity for those using the reasonable and prudent parent standard.

Restore \$2.57 million for **child advocacy centers**.

Restore \$3 million for **sexually exploited youth** (safe harbor).

Restore \$1 million for **Kinship Care Programs**.

Early Childhood Education

Support adding \$2 million for **QUALITYstarsNY**.

Support adding \$22 million to expand **pre-kindergarten** to three year olds in high-needs school districts.

Economic Security

Support permanently extending the non-custodial **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**.

Support adding \$25 million to expand the State's **anti-poverty initiative** in upstate New York.

Support the Governor using his administrative authority to raise the Gross Income Test for **SNAP eligibility** from 130 percent of the federal poverty level to 150 percent.

Education

Support adding \$4 million to expand the State's **early college and career technical high school education (CTE)** programs. Recommend adding \$61 million for CTE as proposed by the Board of Regents.

Reject creating a waiver process that would allow school districts to petition State DOE for flexibility regarding **special education** requirements.

Health and Mental Health

Add funds to support adequate rates for home and community based waiver services and to protect and strengthen service capacity during the **Medicaid reform transition**.

Support reinvesting \$16 million in savings from the downsizing of State psychiatric centers into **community based services** (including children's mental health services).

Allocate 25 percent of the \$195 million allocated to health facility transformation to **safety net community health providers** (e.g. behavioral health, family planning, health home providers, and Federally Qualified Health Centers) in order to ensure their essential participation in health service transformation efforts.

Restore **EI reimbursement rates** by increasing current rates by 5% (rather than the proposed 1%).

Support proposal to increase **health insurance reimbursement** for EI services. Recommend reinvesting savings from proposed health insurance changes into the EI program to begin to address State's investment which has decreased by 30% since FY11.

Human Services

Support revenue options proposed in **Stand UP for Kids Campaign** including closing the carried interest loophole and altering top PIT tax brackets to raise \$2.3 billion in revenue that would be invested in services and programs for children and youth.

Support extending the current exemption for 5 more years for certain **social work and mental health** professional licensure requirements.

Juvenile Justice

Restore \$1.75 million for **community reinvestment** (alternative to detention programs).

Youth Services

Restore \$1.3 million for the **Youth Development Program**.



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