



Testimony of

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Before the
New York City Council
Committee on Finance

Public Testimony
Fiscal Year 2020 Executive Budget

May 23, 2019

Good afternoon. My name is Alice Bufkin and I am the Director of Policy for Child and Adolescent Health at Citizens' Committee for Children of New York (CCC). CCC is a 75 year-old independent, multi-issue child advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring every New York child is healthy, housed, educated and safe.

Thank you Chair Dromm and members of the City Council Finance Committee for holding today's hearing on the Fiscal Year 2020 Executive Budget and for this opportunity to provide public testimony. CCC greatly appreciates our longstanding partnership with the City Council on issues impacting children and families in New York.

CCC appreciates the de Blasio Administration's efforts to make New York City the fairest big city in America. While the Executive Budget takes some steps toward these ends, we believe that the Administration and the City budget must go further to achieve these goals, and should include: creating salary parity for early education teachers; additional investments in reducing and preventing family homelessness and promoting the well-being of children and families who are homeless; supporting the nutritional needs of students; protecting community-based public health programs; creating universal after-school for elementary school students; and ensuring all children participating in after-school programs can participate in summer camp programming.

We were pleased to see the inclusion of \$22 million for Census outreach, \$25 million for NYC Care, and \$33 million for special education services, including the hiring of more school psychologists and speech teachers. We also appreciate the City stepping in to help fill the budget gap created by the State slashing New York City's public health and TANF funds. However, we remain concerned that these restorations will not fully mitigate the impact of state cuts, particularly Article 6 funding.

In addition, we are appreciative of the Mayor's plan to restore and baseline \$11.9 million for the Bridging the Gap program, which includes 53 social workers in schools with high numbers of homeless students. We also appreciate the recent agreement to restore the Council's add of \$2 million for an additional 16 social workers. However, the homelessness crisis demands that the City go much further. Once again, we urge the City to increase the number of Bridging the Gap social workers to 100, as there are still 100 schools with 50 or more students who are homeless without any social worker onsite. Lastly, we urge the City to baseline this funding so that it is not subject to the annual budget dance.

This year, the City Council's response to the Preliminary Budget also called for additional investments to better serve children who are homeless, including investing \$4.9 million in social workers to meet the needs of children and their families residing in hotels and \$500,000 to implement an Education Support Center at PATH to help families applying for shelter meet the educational needs of their children. We urge the Administration to make these investments to support the thousands of children and youth experiencing housing instability.

We are extremely disappointed that this proposed budget not only fails to invest, but also cuts programming for New Yorkers most in need, particularly children. This includes cutting \$6 million from Breakfast in the Classroom, failing to invest \$5 million to ensure foster children can be bused to their home schools, failing to invest in behavioral health supports in communities and schools, and once again cutting \$20.35 million for summer camp for 34,000 middle school children. While the Administration may perceive the annual summer camp funding as part of a budget dance with the City Council, leaving this funding uncertain until the end of June when the program starts in July

will once again leave low-income working parents uncertain about how their children will be safe this summer.

Finally, we are also profoundly disappointed that the Executive Budget fails to deliver salary parity between early childhood teachers in community-based organizations and DOE schools, a critical component for high quality early childhood programs. Teachers in CBOs continue to earn significantly less than their DOE peers, and the salary disparity grows over time. We thank the City Council for making salary parity a priority in their Preliminary Budget response and urge the Administration to work with the Council to address this inequity in the Adopted Budget.

This testimony will focus on the key areas where CCC supports the Administration's proposals and the areas where we are urging the City Council to negotiate an adopted budget that goes further for children and families. Following this testimony is the full list of proposals CCC supports and the full list of City Council initiatives CCC is asking be restored and baselined where appropriate.

Child Welfare

- **Add \$5.0 million to ensure all foster children in need of busing to school can have access to transportation.**

Two federal laws, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (2008) and the Every Student Succeeds Act (2015), require local school districts and child welfare agencies to collaborate on a plan to provide, arrange, and fund transportation so that students can remain in their school of origin when they enter foster care or change foster homes, if it is in their best interests to do so. For many foster children who are not placed near their school of origin, this requires busing.

For some children in foster care, New York City is fulfilling its obligation. Students in foster care who have special transportation recommended on their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) typically get door-to-door busing between their foster placement and their school. For other students in foster care, the Department of Education (DOE) will only provide bus service if the student is in kindergarten through sixth grade and can easily be added to an existing bus route. It is estimated that the Office of Pupil Transportation only approves approximately 50% of the requests it receives for foster student transportation.

If no existing bus route is available, transportation is left up to the foster parent or foster care agency. Often, foster parents and foster care case planners are unable to transport children to and from school every day. Without bus service, many young children in foster care are forced to transfer schools even though such a transfer is not in their best interest. When students are removed from their homes and families, school is often the only source of stability in their lives.

We urge the Administration to meet the legal requirements and do what is best for these students by adding \$5.0 million to ensure busing is available to every foster child in need of busing to and from school.

Department of Education

- **Establish salary parity for early childhood education staff and create a stable 0-5 Early Childhood System that is fully funded and high quality, offering extended day and year-round services.**

Access to high-quality early childhood education is critical for all children and parents, allowing children to benefit from quality early childhood experiences with proven return on investments, and enabling parents to work. CCC appreciates the commitment from the de Blasio administration to ensure every four-year old has access to full day Pre-K, and to begin to expand this to three-year olds.

New York City's early education system is currently undergoing major changes with the expansion of Universal 3K and the transition of EarlyLearn early childhood programs from ACS to DOE. This budget offers an opportunity to make critical, necessary investments in a strong birth-to-five early education system. However, with the exception of funding for 1,900 new 3-K seats in the Bronx and Brooklyn, the budget fails to make needed investments in the early care system. In particular, the FY20 budget fails to invest in salary parity, despite the opportunity provided as the city commences rebidding the entire contracted early education system.

CBO early childhood teachers earn significantly less than DOE teachers with the same level of education, with first-year BA-certified CBO teachers earning \$42,000 compared to \$57,000 for a DOE teacher with the same education level and credentials. Teacher salary for MA certified CBO teachers their first year is \$47,000, compared to \$65,000 for their counterparts at DOE. After 8 years on the job, a BA teacher at a CBO would earn \$44,000 and an MA teacher would earn \$49,000, compared to their DOE peers who would earn \$77,000 with a BA and \$85,000 with a Masters. This has caused challenges for CBOs as their experienced staff continue to leave for jobs in DOE schools with higher pay. As the Mayor continues to emphasize equity in education, it is important to remember that teachers in CBOs are primarily black and Latina women, unlike their counterparts at the DOE.

As referenced above, the city administration is in the process of rebidding the entire contracted early education system, with the expectation that new contracts for Universal PreK, 3-K, and subsidy-eligible infant and toddler care will be announced next fall and will come online in July 2021. In addition to failing to fund salary parity, the new RFP fails to fund a number of other key areas that are necessary for a seamless 0-5 system.

First, the new RFP does not include cost escalation, meaning reimbursement remains flat for the full contract term, even if costs trend up over time. Second, the RFP does not consider extended and year-round services as "core hours," leading to disparities in funding for these important hours of care, and a potential bifurcation in quality. Third, the RFP returns reimbursement to a "pay for enrollment" structure that guarantees reimbursement for only 72% of costs. Fourth, the RFP fails to pay for indirect costs like management, HR, IT, communications/marketing, and development. Finally, the RFP forbids direct Head Start grantees from bidding to provide services, thereby impeding providers' ability to offer a full range of services or to meet funding federal requirements (which requires 20 percent of resources to be non-federal). Each of these areas must be addressed if New York wants to ensure a successful, high-quality early care and education system for children.

We urge the Administration to address salary parity and fix the limitations in the RFP addressed above. This will help ensure NYC has a high-quality and stable early childhood system that provides quality services all day and year round to meet the needs of children and working families.

Family Homelessness

- **Invest \$5 million to increase the number of Bridging the Gap social workers in schools with high numbers of students who are homeless from 69 to 100, and add \$500,00 to implement an Education Support Center at PATH.**

CCC was pleased to see a number of Executive Budget proposals to strengthen education for New York City's 1.1 million public school students. These include \$33.4 million for Special Education Investments, \$19.6 million provide struggling schools with greater TA supports with content experts, and \$73.7 million to mitigate the impact of state cuts.

That said, we are disappointed that the budget did not propose to do more for students in temporary housing, given the magnitude of a homelessness crisis where 1 in 10 NYC public school children identify as homeless (including doubled up), 38,000 students spent a portion of the 2016-2017 school year in shelter, and more than half of students in shelter miss at least a month of school each year.

CCC does appreciate that the Executive Budget includes \$11.9 million to restore the Bridging the Gap program and adds \$2.0 funded by the City Council in FY19 for 16 additional social workers (for a total of 69 social workers), two additional students in temporary housing experts (for a total of 10), and additional enrollment support. Unfortunately, not all of this funding is baselined (\$11.9 million is baselined).

While this is a step in the right direction, CCC urges the Council to negotiate a budget that goes further to better meet the needs of homeless students. We appreciate that the City Council's Preliminary Budget response recommended funding for an education support center at PATH, which would allow families applying for shelter to have the opportunity to meet with Department of Education staff and receive important information about their children's educational options as they enter shelter.

We urge the Administration to better meet the needs of students in transitional housing by investing an additional \$5 million to reach 100 Bridging the Gap social workers, and by investing \$500,000 to implement an Education Support Center at PATH.

- **Invest \$4.9 million for 57 social workers to better meet the needs of children and families residing in DHS-contracted hotels.**

CCC appreciates the efforts the Administration has made to try to prevent homelessness, create rental assistance programs, and increase affordable housing options. CCC also appreciates the administration's commitment to increasing purpose-built shelters and moving to a borough-based placement system. CCC is also pleased that last year the Mayor signed into law the City Council bill to ensure all low-income New Yorkers have access to counsel in Housing Court.

With all of these efforts, there are still nearly 23,000 children in DHS shelters, with an average length of stay of 438 days. Only half of the homeless families with children are in Tier II shelters, with the other half in cluster sites and hotels/motels.

Hotel rooms are often far from transportation, far from communities of origin, and lacking in services provided by Tier II shelters. Hotel rooms typically lack kitchens, and some hotels lack

cooking facilities completely, meaning only microwavable meals are provided. Hotel sites often lack laundry facilities for family use, play areas for children, and communal space for visitors. Due to the hotels' attempt to prevent homeless families from claiming tenancy rights, families are forced to move rooms in the hotel every 29 days—removing any potential stability a family in crisis could try to create. Furthermore, hotels have not been designed or funded to have appropriate shelter staff, such as housing specialists, educational specialists, recreational specialists, etc.

The Administration has committed to eliminating the cluster sites by 2021 and hotels by 2023, but these deadlines are years from now. In the meantime, children are growing up in shelters that are not appropriate places for them to live. The trauma and stress of homelessness, coupled with educational instability and/or long commutes to school, has also been proven to negatively impact educational outcomes.

We urge the Administration to support the City Council's call to invest \$4.9 million for 57 social workers to better meet the needs children and families residing in DHS-contracted hotels.

Children's Health

1) Reject \$6.0 million in proposed cuts to Breakfast in the Classroom.

CCC strongly opposes the proposal in the Executive Budget to cut \$6.0 million from the Breakfast in the Classroom (BIC) program in Fiscal Year 2020, for a total of \$24 million in cuts over the next four years. Serving breakfast in the classroom is among the most successful strategies for reducing child hunger. That success has been apparent in NYC's Breakfast in the Classroom program, which has led to 79,771 additional children receiving school breakfast since it was first initiated in the 2014/2015 school year.

In NYC, nearly one in five children live in a food insecure household.¹ New York City also has one of the lowest big city school breakfast participation rates in the country, with only one in four eligible public school students receiving school breakfast.² Food insecurity can have serious cognitive, emotional, and physical repercussions for children, and can seriously impact their ability to thrive at home and in school.

The Executive Budget proposes allowing "flexibility" in implementing BIC, which the Administration has indicated will make serving breakfast in the classroom optional. The result will be fewer options for hungry students, and fewer students accessing crucial nutritional services. This is a time for NYC to *expand*, not reduce, its school breakfast program. In fact, by not further expanding school breakfast, New York is leaving nearly \$45 million in federal reimbursements on the table.³

¹ Hunger Free America. "The Uneaten Big Apple: Hunger's High Cost in NYC, New York City Hunger Report, 2018." 2018.

https://www.hungerfreeamerica.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/NYC%20and%20NYS%20Hunger%20Report%202018_0.pdf

² Hunger Solutions New York. "Bridging the Gap: Creating Pathways to Student Success with Breakfast After the Bell. 2019 New York State School Breakfast Report." 2019. https://hungersolutionsny.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/School-Breakfast-Report-web-view-4_17_19.pdf

³ Ibid.

Finally, by implementing these cuts, NYC is in danger of violating State law, which requires all public elementary or secondary schools with at least seventy percent of its students eligible for free or reduced-price meals to offer all students a school breakfast after instruction begins.

We strongly urge the City Council and the Mayor to reject the \$6.0 million cut to Breakfast in the Classroom.

2) Fully mitigate state cuts to New York City's Article 6 public health program.

In his Fiscal Year 2020 Budget, Governor Cuomo made a devastating cut to NYC's Article 6 public health works program by cutting the State's reimbursement to New York City from 36% to 20%. Article 6 funding supports health initiatives that are the foundation of New York City's public health infrastructure, including Family Health, Communicable Disease Control, Chronic Disease Prevention, Community Health Assessment, Emergency Preparedness, and Environmental Health.

Community based organizations, advocates, the City Council, and the Mayor must all fight to have these funds restored in next year's State budget. In the meantime, however, vital programs providing critical public health services are in jeopardy if the City Council and Mayor do not step in to cover these cuts. CCC is very appreciative that the Mayor's Executive Budget includes \$59 million to restore funding cuts to programs funded through the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. However, these funds do not fully mitigate cuts to community-based organizations who receive Article 6 matching funds through the City Council's discretionary budget public health programs. Even with the restoration of \$59 million, CBOs are on track to lose at least \$3.4 million for vital public health programs.

These cuts will hurt some of the most essential community-based services assisting vulnerable children and families in New York City, including:

- Access Health Initiative
- Child Health and Wellness
- Children Under Five
- Dedicated Contraceptive Fund
- Immigrant Health Initiative
- Maternal and Child Health Services
- Reproductive and Sexual Health Services

These cuts put the health and well-being of children and families at risk, at a time when our city and state should be investing *more* in public health. We cannot let health disparities widen, particularly as we face new threats to immigrant communities and striking inequities in child and maternal health. ***We urge the Mayor and the City Council to fully mitigate the impact of Article 6 cuts in this year's city budget.***

3) Increase funding for Nurse Family Partnership by \$1.0 million.

New York's Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) program provides evidence-based home visiting services to low-income first-time moms. These services have been shown to lead to better maternal and child health outcomes, stronger parent/child relationships, and increased family economic

security. Data on NYC's NFP program shows benefits including better safe sleeping practices, increased developmental screenings, higher immunization rates, and healthier birth spacing.⁴

CCC strongly appreciates the City Council's long-standing commitment to this program, which helped lead to the baselining of \$4 million in last year's budget for NFP. Despite the well-documented effectiveness of NFP and the city's continued support for the program, NFP needs additional support to continue serving families in NYC. Many NFP providers already rely on philanthropic contributions to keep their doors open, and one program in NYC has seen a loss of \$380,000 as a result of federal funding cuts. ***We therefore strongly support the City Council's proposal in its Preliminary Budget response to increase funding for NFP by \$1.0 million to sustain existing sites and grow in new communities.***

4) Fully fund lead reduction strategies identified in the Mayor's LeadFreeNYC plan.

CCC appreciates the City Council's and the Mayor's commitment to reducing childhood exposure to lead, and we support the additional investments laid out in the Mayor's Roadmap to Eliminating Childhood Lead Exposure. Screening every apartment for potential lead hazards, eliminating lead risks in NYCHA apartments and family shelters, and providing children with dedicated nurses are among the important proposals included in this action plan.

The FY 2020 Preliminary and Executive Budget includes funding for some critical lead initiatives, including \$1.23 million for Coordinated Care for Elevated Blood Lead Levels, \$227,000 to improve the citywide immunization registry for lead-related notifications, and \$4.263 million for the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) to undertake initiatives including expanding Local Law 1 to one and two family homes, lowering the definition of lead-based paint, increasing compliance and enforcement activities, and providing building owners with aid for lead paint abatement.

However, the Executive Budget appears to fall short of the investments outlined in the LeadFreeNYC plan. The \$4.26 million in the Executive Budget for HPD in FY20 falls to \$1.55 million in the outyears. The Roadmap, on the other hand, recommends \$25 million over the course of four years. Enforcement of Local Law 1 is among the most important ways for our city to address unacceptably high rates of lead exposure among children. ***We urge the City Council and the Administration to ensure that funding in the budget - including funding for HPD - matches or exceeds the commitment laid out in the LeadFreeNYC Roadmap.***

Children's Behavioral Health

1) Support and expand initiatives that improve school climate.

Schools play an essential role in providing students with the supportive environment they need to thrive. Unfortunately, NYC schools are under-resourced, and too many children lack adequate behavioral supports both inside and outside of school. Too often, schools respond to a child's need for emotional or behavioral support with suspension, expulsion, or a call to the NYPD or Emergency Medical Services.

⁴ NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Nurse-Family Partnership. "NYC Nurse-Family Partnership: Data from 2015-2017." 2018.

We urge the City Council and the Administration to make investments that improve school climates citywide and help combat the school-to-prison pipeline.

First, CCC urges the administration to invest and baseline \$15 million to launch and sustain a Mental Health Support Continuum. This proposal is based on the Mayor’s Leadership Team on School Climate and Discipline’s 2016 Recommendations.⁵ These recommendations included strategies to address in-school environment and student behavior to promote a safe learning setting for everyone, one that ensures students who misbehave or make a mistake are provided the supports to stay engaged in school for their academic and social well-being.

Building on recommendations of the Mayor’s Leadership Team on School Climate and Discipline, the continuum would implement strategies including direct mental health supports, school partnerships with hospital-based mental health clinics, whole-school trainings, and call-in centers to serve 100 high-needs schools with students in crisis. We appreciate the City Council’s inclusion of the continuum in its response to the Preliminary Budget, and strongly urge the City to implement this initiative.

Second, we urge the City to invest at least \$20 million to add 150 full-time social workers for high-needs schools, as well as supervising social workers to help bring NYC closer to recommended ratios.

Social workers play a critical role in addressing the social and behavioral health needs of students. However, social workers in NYC deal with overwhelming caseloads, with a ratio of 769 students for every full-time social worker. In contrast, the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) recommends a ratio of one social worker per 250 students in all schools and one social worker for every 50 students in high-needs schools. Almost half of all NYC schools had no full-time social worker.

In addition to new investments in high-needs schools, we believe the budget should also phase in an additional expansion of school social workers each year in order to bring the ratio up to at least one full-time social worker for 250 students.

Third, we urge the City to invest \$30 million to expand whole-school restorative practices citywide. We commend the City Council’s leadership in funding the initial restorative practices pilot program in 25 schools. Restorative practices help build healthy school communities, promoting inclusiveness, relationship-building, and problem-solving to help address student behavior and reduce harmful disciplinary practices. The successes provided this program should now be expanded citywide. We recommend the FY20 budget include and baseline \$30 million for whole-school Restorative Practices in 100 high-needs schools. This funding would increase staffing at the central DOE office and Borough Field Support Centers, as well as pay for a full-time Restorative Practices coordinator in each high-needs school.

2) Support community-based behavioral health services.

⁵ The Mayor’s Leadership Team on School Climate and Discipline. “Maintaining the Momentum: A Plan for Safety and Fairness in Schools.” July 2016.

For years, programs in the City Council's Mental Health Initiatives have used non-traditional, community-based settings to help identify children and families in need and offer developmentally appropriate services and support. We join other behavioral health advocates in recommending additional investments in the following programs:

- The **Mental Health Services for Children under Five Initiative** (CU5) allows organizations to work with children to develop psychosocial and educational skills, as well as cope with trauma resulting from witnessing or experiencing domestic violence, sexual abuse, or physical or mental abuse. CU5 has provided screening and psychotherapy to thousands of families, as well as mental health consultation services to numerous pediatricians, preschool teachers, and child welfare workers.

CCC urges the City Council and the Administration to restore \$1.002 million for Children Under Five, and to add an additional \$998,000 to the program for a total of \$2.0 million.

With this funding, providers will be able to strengthen referrals, add additional staff to serve more children, increase training on trauma-informed care, and expand programs to new community partners.

- The **Court-Involved Youth Initiative** helps identify youth involved in the justice system who require mental health services, and provides family counseling and respite services to families of court-involved youth.

CCC urges the City Council and the Administration to restore \$2.85 million for Court-Involved Youth, and to add an additional \$175,000 to the program for a total of \$3.025 million.

Additional funding will enable additional trainings for organizations working with court-involved youth who have experienced trauma, increase collaboration and referrals between programs, and improve therapies for youth who may face challenges due to mental illness, substance abuse, and extreme poverty.

- **Autism Awareness** supports wraparound services for children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) in after-school and summer programs and during school closings.

CCC urges the City Council and the Administration to restore \$3.237 million for Autism Awareness, and to add an additional \$763,154 to the program for a total of \$4.0 million.

Additional funding would enable providers to serve more children, expand program days, strengthen pre-vocational and vocational training programs, and increase the number of social and recreational programs and social skills groups that are available.

- **The Medicaid Redesign Initiative** helps community-based organizations that provide mental health services prepare for the state's redesign of Medicaid behavioral health services. This funding is more important than ever now that the children's behavioral health system has begun the transition too. ***CCC urges the City Council and the Administration to restore \$500,000 for Medicaid Redesign, and to add an additional \$500,000 to the program for a total of \$1.0 million.***

Youth Services: Department of Youth and Community Development

CCC appreciates the City Council's longstanding commitment to strengthening and expanding services available for youth.

CCC strongly urges the Administration and the City Council to negotiate an adopted budget that restores and baselines \$20.35 million for summer camp programs for 34,000 middle school students; restores and baselines \$1.8 million for elementary after-school programs for 9,000 children; restore and baselines \$19.0 million for Work, Learn, & Grow year-round youth employment program; and adds \$7.2 million to expand runaway and homeless youth programs.

- **Summer Programing**

After school programs typically include summer activities as part of their model, both because parents need care for their children when schools are closed, and because keeping kids active and engaged is the most effective strategy for combating summer learning loss. The inclusion of a summer component is a key part of SONYC's success up until this point.

For the fifth time, the Mayor has proposed cutting summer programs for more than 34,000 middle school students. This cut will affect middle school students and their families in all five boroughs and across fifty City Council Districts. Prior to the de Blasio administration's expansion of after-school programming, all after-school programs included summer programming in addition to school-year and holiday programming, in recognition that these programs were meant to provide structured programming during all out-of-school times. In 2014, Mayor de Blasio expanded access to after-school programming to more than 34,000 additional middle school students, noting that "[l]earning shouldn't stop when the school bell rings"⁶

We deeply appreciate the strong support that SONYC summer programs has from the City Council at large. However, the Mayor must also act. Because the City Council can only put funds into programs in the Adopted Budget, providers end up being forced to launch programs with as little as a week's notice and many are unable to do so. Before bringing youth into a program, providers need to:

- Secure space and make sure it complies with all relevant standards including many requirements that are part of the School Aged Child Care (SACC) regulations that do not apply to the public school sites where many summer programs take place;
- Recruit, train and clear staff, including a background check to ensure that nothing in a job applicant's history would prevent them from holding a position where they interact with minors;
- Enroll program participants; and
- Plan activities such as group projects and trips.

We urge the City to immediately restore and baseline \$20.35 million for 34,000 SONYC summer slots.

- **Afterschool**

⁶ "New York City Launches 'SONYC,' Largest After-School Expansion for Middle School in City's History." NYC.gov (website). September 12, 2014. Available at <http://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/439-14/new-york-city-launches-sonyc-largest-after-school-expansion-middle-school-city-s-history#/0>.

While CCC is grateful for expanding middle school after-school programming to all middle school students, there is still a large need to serve more elementary school children. We urge the Council and the administration to adopt a budget, which at a minimum restores full funding for elementary after-school programs from the FY19 Adopted Budget, and to work towards making elementary after-school programs a universally available program.

After-school programming enables parents to work while their children are safe and participating in academically and developmentally appropriate activities. This is particularly critical for children in elementary school who are too young to care for themselves.

We urge the City to restore \$1.8 million to maintain current afterschool elementary school capacity and work towards universal elementary afterschool.

- **Runaway Homeless Youth (RHY)**

The RHY system provides safe and developmentally appropriate shelter to some of the City's most vulnerable youth. Serving older youth and young adults, for longer timeframes, will clearly require additional capacity in the RHY system, so as to prevent displacing younger RHY.

We urge the Council to negotiate a budget with the Administration that adds \$7.2 million of funding to enable DYCD to add additional beds to reach a total of 100 beds for 21-24 year olds.

- **Work, Learn, and Grow (WLG)**

Work, Learn, and Grow (WLG) is the school year component to the Summer Youth Employment Program. WLG provides participants of SYEP with career readiness training and paid employment opportunities. Since it began in FY16, WLG has allowed more than 6,000 youth to participate in employment activities during the school year.

The program began at \$16.2 million and was increased to \$19.0 million in FY 2018. This program provides important work experience during the school year, and gives providers the year-round staff they need to recruit and inspect worksites outside of summer months.

We urge the City to restore and baseline Work, Learn, and Grow at \$19.0 million for FY20.

Census Outreach

- **Increase funding for Census Outreach to \$40 million.**

CCC appreciates the inclusion of \$4.0 million in the Preliminary Budget and an additional \$22 million in the Executive Budget for Census outreach. However, we know additional investments are needed to counter the challenges facing Census outreach.

Much attention has been placed on the addition of an unvetted question on citizenship undermining a full and accurate decennial census, and we share this concern. Yet in addition to the harmful inclusion of a citizenship question, we are also concerned about the historically high undercount of

children under the age of five, an undercount that has only worsened over time.⁷ Inaccurate data on children and families has far reaching consequences for everyone, including significant cuts to federal programs that support children and families, overcrowded classrooms, understaffed hospital emergency rooms, more kids without health care, less representation in Congress, and continued difficulty meeting people's transportation needs.⁸

We recommend the City Council and the Administration to invest an additional \$14 million in Census outreach, and that half of this \$40 million total should support outreach and education by community-based organizations. Funding non-profits and local community-based organizations to do census work is critical in achieving an accurate count, as they have developed deep relationships that makes them trusted ambassadors of the census in their communities and can offer spaces for people to complete their census forms.

Additional City Council Initiatives that CCC Urges the City Council to Restore

CCC urges you to ensure the following City Council initiatives, which support the most vulnerable New Yorkers, are also restored:

Behavioral Health Services

- \$2.179 million for Developmental, Psychological and Behavioral Health Services
- \$1.2 million for the LGBTQ Youth All-Borough Mental Health Initiative
- \$1.794 for Mental Health Services for Vulnerable Populations

Early Childhood Education/Child Care:

- \$4.44 million for the City's First Readers Initiative (DYCD)
- \$9.855 million for discretionary child care programs

Education:

- \$4.39 million for Educational Programs for Students
- \$3.0 million total for community schools
- \$2.485 million for the Dropout Prevention and Intervention initiative
- \$250,000 total for the Jill Chaifetz Helpline
- \$600,000 for LGBTQ-Inclusive Curriculum
- \$1.925 million for Physical Education and Fitness
- \$20.805 million for Support for Educators
- \$2.0 million for Guidance Counselors for All Schools

Food and Economic Security

- \$2.8 million for the Anti-Poverty Initiative
- \$1.055 for Access to Healthy Food and Nutritional Education, including EBTs in Farmers' Markets
- \$725,000 for Food Access and Benefits
- \$4.6 million for food pantries
- \$3.499 million for Worker Cooperatives

⁷ U.S. Census Bureau (2014). The Undercount of Young Children. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/working-papers/2014/demo/2014-undercount-children.pdf>

⁸ See also George Washington Institute of Public Policy (2019). Counting for Dollars 2020: The Role of the Decennial Census in the Geographic Distribution of Federal Funds. Retrieved from https://gwipp.gwu.edu/sites/g/files/zaxdzs2181/f/downloads/IPP-1819-3%20CountingforDollars_NY.pdf

Health

- \$1.693 million for Maternal and Child Health Services Initiative
- \$2.5 million for Access Health NYC
- \$646,000 for Child Health and Wellness, including NYU Dental Van, asthma initiative and obesity prevention initiative
- \$344,788 for Reproductive and Sexual Health Services
- \$350,000 for Beating Hearts (automated external defibrillators)
- \$1.775 million for Trans Equity Programs

Housing and Homeless Services

- \$1.35 million for children and families in the homeless system
- \$820,000 for Citywide Homeless Prevention Fund and \$2.5 million for Stabilizing NYC.

Legal Services and Justice Services

- \$5.3 million for Legal Services for Low-income New Yorkers, \$485,000 for LIFT, \$3.205 million for Legal Services for the Working Poor, and \$10 million for NY Immigrant Family Unity Project
- \$2.81 million for the Initiative to Combat Sexual Assault, which includes child advocacy centers
- \$8.107 for Alternative to Incarceration Programs
- \$1.2 million for Support for Victims of Human Trafficking
- \$2.0 million for the Unaccompanied Minors and Families Initiative

Youth Services

- \$6.303 million for After-School Enrichment initiative

Young Women's Initiative

- Restore and baseline \$4.242 million for all YWI Initiatives (funding was \$5 million in FY 2018)