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What New York's Children and Families Need for a Successful Recovery



New Yorkers are facing unprecedented challenges from COVID-19, with nearly every aspect of health, mental health, housing, child welfare, education, and economic security impacted. But austerity measures at the state and local level will only worsen the effects of the pandemic, particularly on children from Black, Latinx, and immigrant households. Now is the time to protect funding for crucial health and human services, and invest in our children to ensure they not only recover from this crisis but thrive.

Every Child Healthy

There has been a 22% decline in vaccinations, 44% decline in child screenings and mental health services, and 69% decline in dental services for children in Medicaid/CHIP.

- Protect children and families from harmful cuts to behavioral health services.
- Ensure equitable access to telehealth.
- Extend CFTSS to the Child Health Plus plan.
- Increase access to emergency food assistance program, and streamline enrollment in anti-hunger programs.
- Support proactive efforts to boost preventive and primary care services that declined as a result of COVID-19, including Early Intervention.

Every Child Educated

1 in 5 NY adults aged 25 to 44 - including 1 in 4 women - report child care as the primary reason for being out of work.

- Child care grants awarded through CARES must be expedited, with less restrictions and better communication.
- Prevent cuts to Universal Pre-K and invest in child care with an enhanced pandemic rate.
- Fully fund schools to prevent devastating cuts and to help the most vulnerable students at risk of falling further behind.

Every Child Housed

30% of NY households with children were unable to pay last month's rent.

- Enhance eviction prevention by combining eviction moratoria with rent relief, including rent arrears grants and long-term rent assistance.
- Streamline eligibility for rent subsidies during COVID-19, and improve rent assistance by raising subsidy limits to Fair Market Rates.
- Sustain commitment to construction and preservation of affordable and supportive housing for families.

Every Child Safe

2/3rds of child maltreatment reports are due to economic insecurity, and over 60% of NY households with children report loss of income since March.

- Protect state investments in child welfare prevention by maintaining state reimbursement for preventive services.
- Include families' input in the Family First Prevention Services Act planning process.
- Invest in behavioral support and other services for court-involved youth.

Funding Children's Futures

- State leaders, advocates, CBOs all need to continue to advocate for further federal relief.
- The state must grant borrowing authority to New York City.
- The state must pursue tax policy reforms that raise revenue.