What all children need to thrive

- Strong and economically stable families
- Healthy bodies and minds
- Safe homes and communities
- A sound education
Childhood poverty and inequity are prevalent in New York

- **Children in poverty by race and ethnicity in New York, 2018**
  - American Indian: 23%
  - Asian and Pacific Islander: 16%
  - Black or African American: 27%
  - Hispanic or Latino: 28%
  - Non-Hispanic White: 12%
  - Two or more races: 19%

- **Children near poverty by race and ethnicity in New York, 2017**
  - Total number of children in poverty: 743,000
The younger the New York child, the more likely the child is to live in poverty.

- **Children under 18 living in poverty, 2018**: 19% [743,000]
- **Children 0 to 5 living in poverty, 2018**: 20% [260,000]
- **Infants & toddlers living in poverty, 2019**: 23%
Child care is unaffordable for nearly all New York families

To afford the annual cost of center-based child care, a family with one child must earn a minimum of $150,000; a family with two children in care, close to $300,000.
New York child care workforce earns poverty wages

Many child care educators earn wages that leave them at or near poverty, leading dedicated professionals to leave the field to find economic stability.

The median wage for a child care worker in New York, 2018

$26,770 annual
$12.87 an hour
Solutions

Set child poverty targets; strengthen NYS refundable tax credits

Expand access to quality child care

Increase full-day seats pre-K outside NYC

Fairly compensate and support early childhood workforce
Health in the earliest years — beginning with the future mother’s well-being before she becomes pregnant — strengthens developing biological systems that enable children to thrive and grow up to be healthy adults.

–Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University
Coverage provides opportunity

Percentage of uninsured children under 6 by year, 2018

- National
- NY

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>National</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
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<td>2018</td>
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Families play a crucial role in building healthy environments and engaging in healthy behaviors children need to thrive.
Solutions

- Protect and expand access to coverage
- Improve screening, referral and treatment
- Think outside health care system
- Ensure a robust public health system
By strengthening birth, kin, and foster families, New York can improve outcomes for children

"I think children need to have a good environment with loving parents who inspire them and have goals for what they wanna strive for, most importantly, having fun doing things they’re passionate about."

- ANTONIO, 18

#worldchildrensday
New York has reduced the number of children in foster care by 71% in 23 years

Percentage reduction of children in foster care, 2018

- **NYC**: 78.7%
- **Rest of state**: 46.5%
- **Total**: 70.6%

% difference 1995-2018
Black children continue to be disproportionately represented in New York’s foster care system.
Children experience better outcomes when they are cared for by supportive families.
KinGAP is underused
Solutions

Invest in **primary prevention** to strengthen families before any risk of abuse or neglect

Expand evidence-based prevention through Family First Act

Strengthen & prioritize family-based foster care

Increase support for kinship families
Medicaid provides vital coverage

Children make up 38% of New York residents covered by Medicaid and Child Health Plus.

- 100% children in foster care
- 84% of children who live in or near poverty
- 51% of children born to moms covered by Medicaid
- 50% of children with disabilities or special health care needs
- 45% of all infants, toddlers and preschoolers

Georgetown University Center for Children & Families and American Academy of Pediatrics, March 2019
Children with Medicaid:

- Miss less school
- Do better in school
- Graduate and attend college
- Become healthy adults
- Earn higher wages
- Pay more taxes
Medicaid Matters to children and families

By making health insurance accessible to children and parents, Medicaid keeps families healthy while also protecting them from financial hardship. For millions of New Yorkers, Medicaid is a lifeline that keeps them living above the poverty line.
Solutions

Family economic security

Essential for overall well-being

Look beyond one budget year

Remember intent of the program