



March 11, 2021

Dear Legislator:

We urge you to include language in the 2021-22 Budget to ensure that New York children who are left out of the federal American Rescue Plan's child tax credit receive a meaningful State child credit this year.

The American Rescue Plan is arguably the most consequential investment in the nation's children in a generation. It will significantly reduce child poverty across the nation. The need for relief is extraordinary: in New York alone, prior to the pandemic, over 2 million New Yorkers, including 712,000 children, lived in poverty. By July 2020, the COVID economic downturn had pushed 325,000 additional New York children into poverty or near poverty. Due to structural and systemic racism, child poverty among New York State children of color approaches 30% and Black children are more than twice as likely to live in poverty than their Non-Hispanic white peers. The policy contained in the plan that will move the needle most decisively on child poverty is the bill's dramatic expansion of the **child tax credit**. Specifically, it will increase the maximum credit from \$2,000 to \$3,600 for young children and \$3,000 for older children; make the credit fully refundable, so children in the lowest income families can receive the maximum credit; and remove the lower income threshold, so families with little or no income will qualify. These are transformational reforms.

However, the Plan's child tax credit leaves out immigrant children without a Social Security Number. These children include immigrants who arrived without authorization: many are Dreamers who did not receive DACA, and many are children of essential workers. That is an estimated **72,000 of our New York children left behind**. These same children and families were cut out of the last round of stimulus checks, and the next one, along with many other family supports. The other shortcoming of the federal child tax credit expansion: it lasts just one year.

In this year's budget, New York State should help low-income children through the Empire State Child Credit as follows:

- **Immediately expand New York's child tax credit to provide children in low-income families left out of the American Rescue Plan a credit of \$1,000 for younger children (under four years of age) and \$500 for older children (4-17); and**
- **Apply and make permanent this expansion to all New York children, should the American Rescue Plan's child tax credit enhancement lapse.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Children's Defense Fund-New York
Citizens' Committee for Children of NY (CCC)
Community Service Society
Fiscal Policy Institute
Make the Road New York
NYS American Academy of Pediatrics, Chapters 1, 2 & 3
New York Immigration Coalition
Prevent Child Abuse NY
Robin Hood
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
The Children's Agenda
The Education Trust-New York
United Way of the Greater Capital Region
United Way of New York City
Westchester Children's Association