



Schuyler Center's *Last Look* at the NYS 2021-22 Budget As It Intersects with Our Policy Priorities

In the first week of April, the New York State Legislature and Governor reached agreement on the 2021-22 New York State Budget. Schuyler Center's *Last Look* is our assessment of the enacted State budget and how it advances priorities that improve the health and well-being of all New Yorkers, especially children and families living in poverty.

The final 2021-22 New York State Budget contains some extraordinary investments in New York State children and families. Among the headlines: a commitment to fully fund the State's public schools to correct longstanding inequities in the State funding formula which led to sharply unequal funding for low-income schools; creation of the strongest-in-the-nation Excluded Workers Fund; \$2.3 billion in new (federal) funds for child care; \$105 million in new (federal) funds for pre-K; a first-in-the-nation guarantee of affordable broadband; and elimination of co-pays for vision care and dental care for hundreds of thousands of low-moderate income families who get coverage through New York's health care exchange. These investments, effectively rolled out, will make a real difference in the lives of New York families. Also to be celebrated: New York leaders agreed to raise revenue on high-income earners and corporations that will allow for sustained investments in low-income communities, moving toward a more equitable New York.

We remain concerned, however, about families left behind and essential services that again see inadequate investment as they did last year (and many years prior). We found ourselves in a familiar position during budget negotiations – fending off proposed cuts to services critical to family and child well-being, services that are lifelines in the midst of a global pandemic. Among services facing proposed budget cuts: preventing child welfare involvement, including community-based family-strengthening programs; foster care; and public health. While these proposed cuts were avoided because of legislative intervention, what these, and many other chronically underfunded services need – including maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting; Early Intervention; and pre-school special education – is bold new investment.

There is much to celebrate in this 2021-22 New York State Budget. Now, it is essential that New York leaders follow through and implement these new policies, and disburse new funds swiftly and effectively. We will spend the coming months doing all we can to monitor and support effective implementation to ensure New York families get supports they so urgently need so they, and New York State, can turn the corner to a just, equitable, and robust recovery.

CHILD WELFARE AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

Preventive, Protective, Independent Living, Adoption, and Aftercare Services

Final Budget

The **Final Budget** maintains funding at \$610 million for preventive, protective, independent living, adoption, and aftercare services.

Like last year's Enacted Budget, this budget requires \$382.3 million of the preventive, protective, independent living, adoption, and aftercare services funds be first drawn from the TANF Flexible Fund for Family Services (FFFS). The requirement for localities to draw from FFFS first is effectively a \$40 million increase to the amount localities must spend on child welfare before drawing down a portion of preventive services funding from the State.

The **Final Budget** once again reduces the State share for preventive, protective, independent living, adoption and aftercare services to 62% from 65% (as is written in statute).

The budget maintains funding at \$12.1 million for the Community Optional Preventive Services (COPS) programs, continuing to limit that funding to counties that were funded when the COPS program was cut in 2008. The Legislature restored this funding from the Governor's proposed 20% cut.

Background

Localities use the open-ended preventive funding stream to pay for child protective services and services for families at imminent risk of foster care to prevent children from entering, or re-entering, foster care. Counties use FFFS funding to support social services programs, including those for low-income seniors and families. Increasing the minimum spending threshold leaves counties with fewer dollars to use to draw down preventive services. At the same time, the budget continues to reimburse counties for only 62% of preventive services, rather than at the statutory 65%, as has been the case every year since 2008.

COPS programs are primary prevention services – available to families without an imminent risk of entering foster care – which include group parenting skills education, general community-wide education, school-based and “therapeutic” programs, and home visiting. The State should expand its investment in primary prevention, like COPS. A more strategic approach to prevention would make services available further upstream, before there is any documented risk of entry into foster care.

Foster Care Block Grant

Final Budget

The **Final Budget** maintains funding of the Foster Care Block Grant at \$383.5 million.

Background

Counties use the Foster Care Block Grant to pay for foster care and the Kinship Guardianship Assistance (subsidized guardianship) Program (KinGAP). The State imposed a deep cut to the

Block Grant of \$62 million in 2017-18 that has never been restored. The State's reduction in the FCBG results in counties assuming a higher share of spending for their foster care systems.

Prevention and Post-Adoption Services

Final Budget

The **Final Budget** invests \$8.8 million in adoption assistance savings, derived from a higher federal share of adoption assistance, into post-permanency services and services to prevent children from entering foster care. This amounts to a \$1.2 million increase compared to last year's Enacted Budget.

Background

Post-permanency services are available to families after an adoption or guardianship arrangement has been finalized. These services are intended to help support families in permanency and to meet the needs of children and youth who had been in foster care.

Family First Transition

Final Budget

The **Final Budget** funds the Family First Transition Fund at \$3 million. This amounts to level funding for the fund's third year.

The **Final Budget** enacts changes required to comply with the federal Family First Prevention Services Act regarding the placement of youth in a qualified residential treatment program (QRTP). These changes will take effect on September 29, 2021.

Background

The federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), which passed Congress in early 2018, fundamentally changes child welfare financing. Under the law, new requirements will be in place to limit the use of federal funding for children in group home settings as a means of encouraging states to place more children with foster families, including relatives. States will also be allowed to use some federal foster care dollars to fund evidence-based preventive services.

In the 2019-20 Enacted Budget, New York State created a state Family First Transition Fund, funded at \$3 million to support counties' efforts to recruit and support foster and kinship families in preparation for implementation of the FFPSA.

Last year, using one-time federal funds allocated to states to make final preparations for FFPSA implementation, New York created a Family First Transition Act account (which is separate and distinct from the state Family First Transition Fund), appropriating \$75 million as follows: \$25 million directed to Family First implementation and \$50 million for programs that have expiring projects with Title IV-E waivers. The State has five years to spend these funds as it implements FFPSA.

Kinship Navigator and Kinship Caregiver Services

Final Budget

The **Final Budget** funds kinship caregiver services at \$2.2 million, restoring a cut in last year's enacted budget.

The **Final Budget** maintains funding for the statewide Kinship Navigator information and referral network at \$320,500.

Background

Kinship caregiver programs offer support and services for people who care for relatives' children outside of formal foster care. Kinship caregiver programs provide information about family members' rights; support to meet children's education and health care needs; and assistance with obtaining benefits.

The Kinship Navigator is a statewide resource and referral network for kinship families, providing information and connections to important resources.

Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KinGAP)

Final Budget

The **Final Budget** continues to fund KinGAP within the Foster Care Block Grant, as was done in previous budgets.

Background

KinGAP provides relatives in certified foster care settings a permanency option when both adoption and family reunification are ruled out. Many of these families need financial assistance to continue caring for a foster child in their household. With KinGAP, kinship families can exit foster care, provide a stable, permanent home for a kin child and continue to receive financial support. KinGAP is a key way to promote permanency for children and youth.

Foster Care and Higher Education

Final Budget

The **Final Budget** allocates \$7.2 million in funding for the Foster Youth College Success Initiative (FYCSI) to support youth in foster care who pursue higher education to graduation. This amounts to an increase of \$1.2 million in funding compared to last year's Enacted Budget.

Background

The Schuyler Center is a member of the steering committee of the Fostering Youth Success Alliance (FYSA), which is working to provide a realistic path to higher education for the State's youth in care.

Juvenile Justice

Final Budget

The **Final Budget** includes \$250 million for services and expenses related to raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction, representing level funding compared to last year's Enacted Budget. Based upon language included in the statute, it is unlikely that New York City will be eligible to receive any of the funding.

The **Final Budget** directs the closure of two State-operated juvenile placement facilities, reducing New York's investment in youth incarceration. Institutional settings can pose significant risk to young people's well-being, and have been shown to neither reduce future contact with the system nor promote community safety. Moreover, juvenile placement facilities are sites of extreme racial disproportionality. During 2019, almost 75% of children admitted to Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) custody were Black or Latinx, while they represent only 40% of New York's children. Closing facilities is a crucial step for youth justice reform and racial equity in New York. The millions in dollars of estimated savings associated with closing these facilities should be reinvested in communities, including those most impacted by the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

Background

In 2017, New York State passed legislation to raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction. The legislation moved misdemeanors to Family Court, and created a new Youth Part of the criminal court for felonies, with the presumption that non-violent felonies would be moved to Family Court, unless the district attorney files a motion within 30 days showing "extraordinary circumstances" that the case should remain in the Youth Part. Family Court judges will also preside over the Youth Part of the criminal court. As part of the legislation, youth are expected to be provided with rehabilitative services.

WORKING FAMILY TAX REFORMS

Child Tax Credit

Final Budget

The **Final Budget** does not expand the Empire State Child Credit to include children under age four in low-income families.

Background

New York's Empire State Child Credit provides eligible taxpayers a credit equal to 33% of the federal child tax credit at the levels that existed prior to the passage of the 2018 federal tax overhaul, or \$100 per qualifying child, whichever is greater, for children age 4 through 17. The 2020-21 Executive Budget (last year) contained a proposal to begin to fill in this omission by extending the credit to young children (under age 4) to taxpayers with a state adjusted gross income of \$50,000 or less. This proposal was dropped from the final budget after the pandemic hit New York, and was not introduced this year.

In the final weeks of budget negotiations, Schuyler Center joined with legislators and child advocates to urge inclusion of S.5866 (Cooney)/A.3146-A (Hevesi) in the final budget to ensure all of New York's low-income children receive some cash support through the Empire State Child Credit. The bill would immediately expand New York's child tax credit to provide children in low-income families left out of the American Rescue Plan's enhanced federal Child Tax Credit a state 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. Income transfers to families – even modest ones – can improve outcomes for children in all areas of well-being, from health, to educational achievement, and future earnings.

Employer Provided Child Care Tax Credits

Final Budget

The **Final Budget** expands a State Employer Provided Child Care Tax Credit – a credit for employers – from the current maximum of \$150,000 of qualified child care expenditures that may be claimed per year to \$500,000, and increases the credit percentage from 100 to 200% of the portion allowed the taxpayer under the federal employer child care tax credit for qualified child care services to employees beginning in tax year 2022.

The **Final Budget** also enhances tax credits associated with the Excelsior Jobs Program, a program of Empire State Development. These enhancements will allow for an expanded five percent Excelsior investment tax credit component and an Excelsior child care services tax credit component for six percent of ongoing net child care expenditures provided by the credit recipient.

Background

New York implemented the Employer Provided Child Care Tax Credit in the 2019-20 Budget. It closely resembles the federal Employer Provided Child Care Tax Credit. Data from other states that have created similar credits, and from the federal credit, show that employer provided child care tax credits have been underutilized. In fact, in recent years numerous states have let their employer provided child care credits lapse. It is possible the proposed expansion may increase the utility of this credit. The child care related enhancement to the Excelsior Jobs Program is a new proposal. In the coming weeks, Schuyler Center will be studying the specifics of both proposals to evaluate whether they avoid the shortcomings of similar federal and other state employer child care tax credits.

Earned Income Tax Credit

Final Budget

The **Final Budget** contains no stated expansion of the New York State Earned Income Tax Credit. The federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) temporarily raises the maximum federal EITC for adults without children from \$543 to \$1,502 and lowers the age of eligibility for childless adults from 25 to 19, and for qualified former foster youth and youth experiencing

homelessness to 18. Because eligibility for New York's EITC generally tracks eligibility for the federal EITC, it appears the federal increase and expansion of the EITC for childless adults under ARPA will result in a corresponding increase and expansion of New York's EITC to reach young childless adults, and provide them, and all childless adults a more robust state credit for tax year 2021.

Background

The EITC is one of the best ways to "make work pay" for low-income families and individuals, and research shows that children of EITC recipients are healthier and do better in school. The State's EITC provides eligible taxpayers a refundable credit equal to 30% of the federal EITC. Non-custodial parents are also eligible for a credit.

A number of groups that would benefit from the credit are excluded from the State EITC. Among them: young childless adults ages 18 to 25 at exactly the period in their lives when they are struggling to gain their footing in the workforce and build a nest egg for a future family. The poverty rate for young New York adults – pre-pandemic – was 20%, far exceeding the 14% poverty rate for New York State overall. Another excluded group: many hard-working immigrants. ARPA's expansion of the federal credit to cover young adults, and to provide a robust credit (maximum of \$1,500) (which appears to trigger a similar temporary expansion at the state level) is sound policy for a group that often struggles to achieve economic security; it should be made permanent.

At the same time, New York's EITC's structure should be reoriented around the state's rising minimum wage to ensure it continues to encourage work by phasing out slowly as recipients achieve economic security.

EARLY CHILDHOOD WELL-BEING

Maternal Health

Final Budget

The **Final Budget** invests \$8 million to reduce maternal mortality and improve racial disparities in pregnancy by investing in the maternal mortality review board, developing implicit racial bias training, expanding community health workers and building a data warehouse to support quality improvement activities for maternal health outcomes.

Background

Women in the United States are more likely to die from complications relating to childbirth than in many other wealthy countries. Racial disparities in maternal deaths are significant: Black mothers in New York are four times more likely to die during childbirth than white or Asian mothers. Addressing maternal health is essential to ensure the health of children and, by extension, the whole family.

Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting

Final Budget

The **Final Budget** maintains funding for Healthy Families New York at \$26.1 million and increases funding for Nurse-Family Partnership by \$600,000 to \$3 million.

No funding was appropriated for other evidence-based home visiting programs.

The **Final Budget** maintains funding for the Maternal Infant Community Health Collaboratives (MICHC) sites around the state at \$1.8 million

Background

Maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting, a proven strategy for improving maternal and child outcomes, is available to less than five percent of families with young children in New York State and is entirely unavailable in some areas. A significantly higher investment is needed if New York aims to serve all communities with families in need and endeavor to ensure the best health and developmental outcomes for mothers, infants, and families. During the current fiscal year, the State has held back funding allocated to programs due to State fiscal concerns.

Child Care

Final Budget

The **Final Budget** appropriates an extraordinary \$2.4 billion in federal stimulus funds to expand child care subsidies, the principal means of assistance for working families to cover the high costs of quality child care, and to stabilize the child care sector which was hit hard by the impacts of the pandemic. In addition, the **Final Budget** maintains level funding for ongoing child care subsidies at approximately \$832 million. Those funds are derived from a number of funding lines. State General Fund investment is \$250.9 million. \$388 million is drawn from federal Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funds, with \$166.8 million of the total drawn from CCDBG funds rolled over from last year. The remaining \$192.9 million are drawn from federal TANF funds. The **Final Budget**, drawing upon recurring federal CCDBG funds, provides an increase in funding for the Infant-Toddler Resource Network, up to \$7 million, which provides critical training and supports to providers serving our youngest New Yorkers, and level funding of \$5 million for QUALITYstarsNY, the state's quality rating and improvement system.

The **Final Budget** also projects receipt of additional federal CCDBG funds of up to \$105 million (as has been the case for the last three years) which will be allocated primarily to cover infant and toddler activities and federal health, safety, and quality requirements.

Breakdown of how federal stimulus funds are to be invested: the Final Budget earmarks \$2.4 billion in federal child care stimulus funds New York has or is about to receive (drawn from child care stimulus funds awarded New York from the federal CARES Act COVID-19 (April 2020), Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (Dec. 27, 2020), and the American Rescue Plan Act (March 2021)). Some of the funds are to be used over the course of several years.

Use of Federal Child Care Stimulus Funds	Amount	Duration
To raise subsidy eligibility to 200% FPL statewide	\$225M	3 fiscal years
To cap subsidy co-pays at 10% over FPL	\$192M	3 fiscal years
Essential Worker Scholarships	\$25M	
To extend duration of subsidy certification to 12 months, rather than 6, statewide	\$291M	3 fiscal years
Facilitated Enrollment – which allows for expanded eligibility up to 275% of FPL in some communities	\$50M	2 fiscal years
Pay child care providers subsidies for up to 24 absences per year statewide	\$120M	4 fiscal years-including 2021
Start-up and other costs in communities with insufficient child care availability	\$100M	
PPE/cleaning supplies etc.	\$40M	
QUALITYstarsNY and technology improvements	\$39M	
Stabilization grants – paid up front as allowed under federal law for a variety of costs, including personnel costs; mental health supports for children and providers and more	\$1.2B	

Also included in the budget is oversight language which requires OCFS to make detailed, periodic reports on the disbursement of this funding to legislative leaders, including the Senate and Assembly Chairs of the Children and Families Committees, beginning with a report each of the first two quarters of fiscal year 2022, followed by annual reports.

Background

Currently, and for many years, child care subsidies are available for fewer than 20% of income-eligible families. In addition, high co-payments in some counties lead families to turn down subsidies because they cannot afford the co-payments. While child care represents a significant expenditure for families, much of the child care workforce struggles to get by on low wages. Child care challenges impede parents' ability to achieve economic security, driving or keeping many working families in poverty. It also deprives young children, disproportionately from low-income families, from critical early learning opportunities. The impacts of the pandemic have exacerbated these challenges – for families and for child care providers.

Looking ahead

In 2018, New York took an important step in convening a Child Care Availability Task Force. Under the statutory authority that convened the Task Force, recommendations were due to be released in December 2020. Schuyler Center participated on the Task Force and urges the Governor to release the recommendations, which we expect to be ambitious, comprehensive recommendations for transforming New York's child care system, and use the extraordinary influx of federal child care stimulus funds to both stabilize the state's struggling child care sector and kickstart implementation of the Task Force recommendations.

Pre-Kindergarten

Final Budget

The **Final Budget** provides an increase in funding for pre-K by \$105 million to expand access to pre-K outside of NYC, and to maintain funding for the Long Island Pre-K initiative (\$500,000). The program will use \$90 million for expansion of pre-K in low-income and average wealth school districts through the existing formula. The additional \$15 million will be allocated through a request for proposals process and will be allocated on a \$10,000 per child rate.

Background

In 2013, Governor Cuomo promised full-day pre-K for all four-year-olds. Many young children outside New York City are still waiting. It has been estimated that a minimum of \$775 million in additional funding is necessary to implement quality pre-K programs for all children that need it, which includes funding (\$5 million) for technical assistance centers. This new investment of \$105 million will allow New York to take significant strides this year to achieve this goal.

Early Intervention

Final Budget

The **Final Budget** restores the Governor's proposed cuts and maintains funding for the Early Intervention (EI) program at \$165 million. The budget did not include a Covered Lives Assessment to stabilize funding or a cost study to better understand Early Intervention needs and services so rates better reflect the costs of delivering services.

Background

Early Intervention provides therapeutic and support services to eligible infants and toddlers under the age of three who qualify due to disabilities or developmental delays. Access to timely services is critical when delays are identified, yet even before the pandemic, data showed that one in four children did not receive mandated Early Intervention services within the required timeframe. The pandemic has disrupted service delivery, with many children missing out on evaluations and services.

Afterschool Programs

Final Budget

The **Final Budget** provides level funding for Advantage After School at \$33 million. The Final Budget provides level funding for the Empire State After School Program at \$55 million.

The American Rescue Plan makes critical investments to support afterschool, summer, and other expanded learning opportunities. New York State received about \$629 million; an additional \$1.6 billion went directly to New York local school districts. The final state budget, however, dedicates the entire amount of state funds to local school districts through additional Learning Loss grants. We share the concern of our partners at the NYS Network for Youth

Success that the lack of dedicated funds to support afterschool community partners is a sharp blow to struggling expanded learning programs, a critical continuum of child care, and an essential component of New York's diverse delivery system of child care and afterschool care.

Background

High-quality afterschool programs have been shown to help close the achievement gap for low-income children and enable families to achieve economic stability.

PUBLIC HEALTH, HEALTH COVERAGE, ACCESS AND CARE

Health Coverage

Final Budget

The **Final Budget** eliminates premiums for Essential Plan coverage for 400,000 New Yorkers earning between \$39,300 and \$52,400 for a family of four. It is estimated that with this change, an additional 100,000 people would enroll in the Essential Plan. Premiums are also eliminated for vision and dental coverage.

The **Final Budget** allows post-partum women to enroll in a qualified health plan (QHP) for a period of 12 months at no cost when the individual was eligible for Medicaid coverage following a pregnancy, has an income between 200% and 233% of the federal poverty level, and is otherwise qualified for QHP coverage. Only citizens and lawfully residing immigrant women can enroll.

Background

New York launched The Essential Plan in 2016 as an affordable option for low- and moderate-income New Yorkers. Over 800,000 people are currently enrolled. Removing premiums will encourage additional participation in the program and reduce the number of the uninsured adults.

Telehealth

Final Budget

The **Final Budget** includes language to codify a number of reforms enacted by the State during the pandemic that expanded access to telehealth services.

Background

New York enacted broad changes to modernize telehealth regulations to expand access to critical medical, behavioral and dental health services during the pandemic. This includes many services that are essential for maternal and child health when people were not able to travel to an office for care.

Local Public Health Funding

Final Budget

The **Final Budget** funds the General Public Health Work (GPHW) program at \$163.5 million, an increase of \$2.1 million over the SFY 2020-21 Budget.

Background

Local public health departments are essential infrastructure to protecting the health of communities – including preparing and responding to infectious diseases such as COVID-19. Public health programs maintain the health of populations and provide important services, such as maternal and child health programs, teen pregnancy prevention, tobacco control and disease prevention.

Medicaid

Final Budget

The **Final Budget** extends the Medicaid spending cap.

Background

The Medicaid spending cap was put in place in 2011 as a mechanism to instill discipline in Medicaid spending. Efforts to keep expenditures within the self-imposed cap have resulted in reductions particularly affecting Medicaid enrollees who have disabilities and are in need of home health services and people who rely on safety-net providers.

Center for Health Workforce Studies

Final Budget

The **Final Budget** does not restore critical funding (\$148,000) for the Center for Health Workforce Studies (CHWS) that was eliminated in the SFY 2020-21 Budget.

Background

The health workforce is a vital part of New York's health care delivery system. Efforts to improve the quality of health services and expand access to care depend on the availability of an adequate supply of appropriately trained health workers. It is particularly critical now to understand the availability of health professionals in response to the pandemic and to analyze providers of behavioral health to determine unmet need.

Adult Homes

Final Budget

The **Final Budget** maintains funding for the Enhanced Quality of Adult Living (EQUAL) Program at \$6.5 million. EQUAL provides adult home residents with services and programs that improve their quality of life. These include clothing allowances, air conditioners for resident rooms, improved food choices, capital improvements, and other items residents decide are important.

The **Final Budget** also maintains funding for adult home advocacy at \$230,000.

Background

Adult home residents are low-income adults, many of whom struggle with mental and other health concerns. The EQUAL program and advocacy funding commenced more than a decade ago to help remediate what are often substandard – or worse – living conditions in adult homes and lack of basic necessities. During the height of the pandemic in New York City, residents died as homes went without PPE or basic safety protections. These modest programs have made incremental, yet critical improvements in the quality of life for adult home residents. EQUAL enables adult home residents to identify specific needs, such as clothing, coats, air conditioners for resident rooms, better food, and other items. Core to the EQUAL funding is a requirement that adult home residents have a voice in how adult home operators spend these funds.

The advocacy budget funds four community and legal services organizations to help ensure that residents know their rights and have advocates protecting their exercise of those rights.

HIGH-SPEED AND BROADBAND INTERNET

Low-Cost High-Speed Internet Service

Final Budget

The **Final Budget** mandates a \$15 per month high-speed internet service for low-income families. This is a first-in-the-nation guarantee of affordable internet for families.

The State also partnered with Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors and Digital Promise to establish a \$10 million hardship fund for families funded by the Schmidt Fund and Ford Foundation. The fund, referred to as the ConnectED NY program, will provide data-enabled hotspots to approximately 50,000 students.

Background

Since COVID-19 put the state on pause, access to the internet and devices has become an essential lifeline for participating in on-line school; attending appointments with doctors and social workers; and working remotely. Yet, [23%](#) of New York households do not have home internet and 10% (314,656) of students have no device or use a shared device.

The Comprehensive Broadband Connectivity Act

Final Budget

The **Final Budget** establishes a commission to study the availability, reliability, and cost of high-speed internet and broadband services in New York State. The Commission will:

- Identify areas that are served by a single provider and assess any barriers related to the delivery of statewide access to high-speed internet.

- Review available technology to identify solutions that best support high-speed internet service in underserved or unserved areas, and make recommendations on ensuring deployment of such technology to those areas.
- Identify instances where local governments notify the commission of alleged non-compliance with franchise agreements during the study period, and instances of commission or department enforcement actions that have had a direct impact on internet access.
- Identify locations where insufficient access to high-speed internet and/or broadband service and/or persistent digital divide is causing negative social or economic impact on the community.
- Produce and publish on its website a detailed internet access map of the state indicating access to internet service by location.

The commission will submit a report one year after the effective date (30 days after the budget was enacted). The report will include:

- The overall number of residences with access to high-speed internet, identifying which areas are served, unserved, and underserved.
- A regional survey of internet service prices in comparison to county-level median income.
- The internet access map.

Background

The Reimagine NY Commission was launched in May 2020 to determine how New York State can best leverage technology to build back better. The Commission submitted its [final report](#) on March 31, 2021, which focused on connectivity, telehealth and work.