Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy

Shaping New York State public policy for people in need since 1872
Message from the Chair and President

Dear Friends,

Louisa Lee Schuyler, founder of the Schuyler Center in 1872, had as a core principle that state government can and must be made to work for children and families. This idea is as true today as any other time in Schuyler’s history. The challenges facing New York children and families are substantial and include high poverty, homelessness, steep child care costs, disparities in educational and other outcomes, and the prevalence of toxic stress.

The data is overwhelming—underinvestment in children leads to exponentially higher costs to the State in the short- and long-term in education, public safety, health, and beyond. Child well-being crosses all these categories: economic insecurity causes toxic stress which negatively impacts children’s physical and behavioral health, and can increase the chance of child welfare involvement. Ill health can lead to family economic insecurity, which can lead to poor academic achievement.

At the Schuyler Center we identify and call out problems because we are hopeful. We’re hopeful and confident that together, we can build stronger foundations, beat inequity, and create opportunity for all New York children. In the following pages you’ll read about our work and the fights we think are worth fighting. We hope we can count on you to support our efforts.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Kaye, M.D.  Kate Breslin
Chair, Board of Trustees  President and CEO
**Our Impact**

**KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER**
Strengthened KinGAP, the program for children in the foster care system to remain permanently with relatives.

**PROTECT HEALTH INSURANCE OF LOW-INCOME NEW YORKERS**
Won fights against federal cuts to Medicaid.

**SHINE SPOTLIGHT ON YOUNGEST NEW YORKERS**
Helped lead the new Medicaid initiative to focus on the “First 1,000 Days” of a child’s life, a critical time for optimal development.

**PROTECT INVESTMENTS IN CHILDREN**
Headed off deep cuts to child care subsidies.
Educated the public about the effects of poverty on children.

**What’s Next**

**INVEST IN CHILDREN**
Push for better access to child care that is of high quality.
Fight proposed cap on child welfare services.

**INVEST IN FAMILIES**
Strengthen NYS policies around maternal depression screening and treatment.
Expand and strengthen the Empire State Child Credit.
Schuyler Center Focuses on Data to Understand the State of New York’s Children

Why this focus?

Why now?

Emotional and mental health is as important as physical health in the early years of a child’s life. Research shows that adverse experiences in childhood – including experiencing parental depression or substance abuse; suffering or witnessing abuse; or living in poverty – can negatively impact a person’s physical health, mental health and job retention long into adulthood.

What works?

Public policies that stabilize, support, and strengthen families including:

- Health coverage/access and strong community-based public health
- Early childhood development
- Family-oriented supports
- Economic security: paid family leave, higher minimum wage, family-friendly tax policy

New York leads the nation in insuring children.

More than 97% of NYS children have health insurance.

Uninsured children: 4.5%

Uninsured parents: 8.0%

Toxic stress is prevalent among NY’s children.

45.3% of NYS children have one or more Adverse Childhood Experience, including

38.3% of children ages 0 to 5
New York State convened a “First 1,000 Days” on Medicaid initiative to generate recommendations to improve health and well-being for young children covered by Medicaid.

Schuyler Center helped lead this effort, which has broad and enthusiastic engagement, and has primed many New York leaders to think about New Yorkers’ first 1,000 days of life.

**Pregnant women depend on Medicaid**
51% of all births are covered by Medicaid.

**Kids depend on Medicaid**
48% of New York’s children 0-18 are covered by Medicaid.

**Children in their first 1,000 days of life depend on Medicaid**
59% of kids 0-3 in New York are covered by Medicaid.

**Early Childhood: the most important years are the most publicly under-funded**

90% of public expenditures are after age 5, after up to 90% of brain development has occurred.


**What’s Next?**
The Medicaid Workgroup made ten recommendations including:

- Funding for early childhood mental health
- Statewide home visiting
- Expansion of the Centering Pregnancy group-based model of prenatal care
- Requiring managed care plans to have a kids quality agenda
How You Can Make A Difference

The Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization. Our independence allows us to advocate appropriately and effectively for New York’s most vulnerable citizens. We need your financial support to continue meeting our mission of helping those families in the greatest need.

Please contact Christopher Thompson, Director of Development at 917/841-1136 or cthompson@scaany.org, or visit our website at www.scaany.org.

Easy ways to give:
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