Schuyler Center’s *First Look* at the NYS 2022-23 Executive Budget as It Intersects with Our Policy Priorities

Schuyler Center’s *First Look* is an initial assessment of New York State’s 2022-23 proposed Executive Budget and how it advances priorities that improve the health and well-being of all New Yorkers, especially those living in poverty.

In 2021, New York State enacted the Child Poverty Reduction Act, committing the State to reducing child poverty by 50% in the coming decade with attention to racial equity. The law creates an expectation of public accounting for progress over time and assessment of budget actions with regard to their impacts on child poverty. In this first year since enactment, we ask our partners in and outside of government to systematically evaluate each and every budget decision as to its impact on child poverty.

**CHILD WELFARE AND YOUTH JUSTICE**

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

### What’s in the Executive Budget

The **Executive Budget** proposes an appropriation of $610.1 million for preventive, protective, independent living, adoption, and aftercare services. This is the same level of funding compared to last year’s Enacted Budget.

For the third consecutive year, the Executive Budget proposes that $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, referred to as a spending threshold, is the amount localities must spend on child welfare before drawing down a portion of preventive services funding from the State. The FFFS spending threshold was first increased by $40 million in the 2020-21 Enacted Budget.

The Executive Budget once again proposes reducing the State share for preventive, protective, independent living, adoption and aftercare services from the 65% written in statute to 62%. Counties cover the balance of the funding for these services.

The budget proposes to reauthorize funding for preventive services for five years, through June 30, 2027.

The Executive Budget also proposes maintaining funding at $12.1 million for the Community Optional Preventive Services (COPS) program.

**Background**

This is an important year for child welfare funding in New York State. New York State currently invests state dollars in services for families to avoid deeper child welfare system involvement and support children remaining safely in their homes. This open-ended State reimbursement
has contributed to the 59% reduction of children in foster care since 2010 through supports including housing assistance, child care, clinical services, home visiting, transportation, job training, education, and emergency cash grants. Many of these kinds of resources are not eligible for federal reimbursement, making it a crucial State budget issue. State-funded and open-ended prevention funding is necessary to continue to build a broad continuum of ways to support family well-being.

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. Although it is written in statute that the reimbursement rate for preventive services should be 65%, for more than a decade the State has funded it at 62%; the Executive Budget proposal continues this reduction in State share/increase in county share.

Counties use FFFS funding to support social services programs, including those for low-income seniors and families. The budget’s proposal would maintain a $40 million increase made to the FFFS spending threshold in the 2020-21 Enacted Budget, which is effectively a $25 million cut to preventive services funding.

Community Optional Preventive Services (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 maternal-child home visiting. COPS funding is limited to counties that were funded when the program was cut in 2008.

Primary prevention services are aimed at getting families the resources they need independent of the child welfare system. 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.

New York State should robustly fund secondary and primary prevention services without cost shifts to local government by restoring the 65% State share of prevention; restoring funds transferred from FFFS to preventive services; expanding and strengthening primary prevention.

Human Services Workforce

What's in the Executive Budget

The Executive Budget proposes funding a 5.4% cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) for certain State-funded human services programs at $411 million. For the Office of Children and Family Services, the budget increase applies to the Foster Care Block Grant, the adoption subsidy, and supportive housing for transition-age and former foster youth, for a total of $10.4 million.

The Executive Budget also proposes funding for supportive housing for transition-age and former foster youth at $2.3 million, an increase of $81,000 compared to last year’s Enacted Budget. This increase would fund the COLA for the supportive housing workforce.
Background

The cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) is one-time, aimed to provide immediate fiscal relief needed to prevent program reductions in human services. If no action is taken in next year’s budget, the rates will revert back to 2021 rates. According to providers, a history of flat funding has been the primary driver of persistent staffing shortages, program reductions, and burdensome debt for human services providers.

Supportive housing for transition-age and former foster youth, also referred to as NY/NY III, provides permanent supportive housing for young adults ages 18 to 25 who are at risk of homelessness and have either recently left or are leaving foster care or have been in foster care for more than one year after their 16th birthday.

Foster Care Block Grant

What’s in the Executive Budget

The Executive Budget proposes funding of the Foster Care Block Grant at $390.7 million, an increase of $7.2 million as compared to last year’s Enacted Budget. The increased funding will support the 5.4% Human Services cost-of-living-adjustment for this program.

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 the 2017-18 Enacted Budget.

New York State needs a well-supported workforce to provide and expand the services that support New York children and families.

Adoption Subsidy

What’s in the Executive Budget

The Executive Budget would invest $225.9 million in the adoption subsidy program. This would amount to a $37.1 million increase compared to last year’s Enacted Budget. This increase will support additional investment for the adoption subsidies and the 5.4% Human Services cost-of-living-adjustment.

Background

Adoption subsidies are monthly maintenance payments for adoptive families that may be available based on the special needs of a child. These subsidies continue until the child is 21. The State pays a 62% share of these maintenance payments.

A lawsuit won by the Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition of New York on December 21, 2021, requires an increase in adoption subsidies and foster parent reimbursement rates. The proposed budget increase of $32.7 million this year will cover the increased rates for adoption subsidies. This budget included no increased funding to covered the increased costs for reimbursements to foster parents; for those the budget expects counties to shoulder 100% of the increased rates.
With no increase in state funding for the Foster Care Block Grant to cover the much-needed increase in rates for foster parents, counties, which must cover 100% of the increased costs, may have to cut back on other essential services for children and families to cover these costs.

**Post-Permanency Services**

**What’s in the Executive Budget**

The **Executive Budget** would invest $11.0 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.

**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**

**What’s in the Executive Budget**

The **Executive Budget** does **not** propose funding for the Family First Transition Fund. This would amount to a reduction of $3 million compared to last year’s Enacted Budget.

**Background**

The Family First Prevention Services Act, which passed Congress in early 2018, fundamentally changes the approach to child welfare financing. Under the law, new requirements are 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 are 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 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 new Family First Prevention Services Act.

In the 2020-21 Enacted Budget, using federal funds, the State created a Family First Transition Act account, appropriating $75 million in new, one-time federal funding 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 Family First.

**Family First Transition Fund**

Family First Transition Fund funding is designed to support localities. It could be more effective by allowing localities the flexibility to combine existing funding with unspent funds from previous years; adjust the allocation methodology; expand the allowable use of funds to make sure they truly enable counties to better implement Family First. Retooling could include allowing counties to draw down funds before expending them and allowing counties to join together to pool the somewhat limited resources and, for example, hire jointly for a shared position.
Kinship Navigator and Kinship Caregiver Services

**What’s in the Executive Budget**

The *Executive Budget* proposes funding for kinship caregiver services at $338,750. This is a significant cut compared to the 2021-22 Enacted Budget’s $2.2 million, which included $1.9 million added by the Assembly.

The Executive Budget also proposes $220,500 in funding for the statewide Kinship Navigator information and referral network. This is a significant cut compared to the 2021-22 Enacted Budget’s $320,500, which included $100,000 added by the Assembly.

**Background**

Kinship caregiver programs offer support and services to people who care for relatives’ children outside of formal foster care. 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.

*New York State should enact a unified, comprehensive kinship navigator service, funded at $10 million, which would more efficiently provide statewide and regional services, assistance, respite, information, and training to kinship families.*

Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KinGAP)

**What’s in the Executive Budget**

The *Executive Budget* proposes to continue funding KinGAP within the Foster Care Block Grant.

**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.

*The Schuyler Center, along with the statewide Child Welfare Coalition and CHAMPS-NY, urge the State to support permanency by funding KinGAP as separate, uncapped, and outside of the Foster Care Block Grant, with no reduction to the Foster Care Block Grant.*

Foster Care and Higher Education

**What’s in the Executive Budget**

The *Executive Budget* proposes $7.9 million in funding for the Foster Youth College Success Initiative (FYSI) to support youth in foster care who pursue higher education to graduation. This represents a $720,000 increase in funding compared to last year’s Enacted Budget.
**Background**

FYSCI was created in 2015 and supports costs for current and former foster youth attending college, including tuition and fees, books, transportation, housing, advisement, tutoring, medical expenses, academic support and personal expenses.

New York should include this $7.9 million in funding in the final enacted budget to continue to support this successful program as enrollment increases.

**Youth Justice**

**What’s in the Executive Budget**

The Executive Budget proposes $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.

**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 down 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.

New York should swiftly implement and fully fund this important legislation. Raise the Age, along with public health, mental health, and anti-poverty interventions are all critical to the safety and well-being of New York children, youth and families.

**CHILD POVERTY**

**Child Tax Credit**

**What’s in the Executive Budget**

The Executive Budget contains no proposals to expand the Empire State Child Credit to include children under age four in low-income families, or otherwise strengthen this credit.

**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. New York’s child credit is designed to be available to many of the state’s immigrant families. The 2020-21 Executive Budget 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 has not been re-introduced since.
Emerging national data tracking the impacts of the temporary expansion of the federal child tax credit in 2021 as a form of pandemic relief confirms how effective refundable tax credits can be in reducing child poverty and its many negative and lasting impacts, particularly if targeted to reach the poorest and youngest.

**New York State should expand its child tax credit to cover New York’s youngest children, along with children facing deep poverty, and to increase the maximum available credit.**

### EARLY CHILDHOOD WELL-BEING

#### Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting

**What's in the Executive Budget**

The **Executive Budget** increases funding for Healthy Families New York to a total of $41.5 million and is expected to serve an additional 1,600 families. Proposed funding for Nurse-Family Partnership is maintained at $3 million.

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

The **Executive Budget** also maintains funding ($1.8 million) for the Universal Prenatal/Postpartum Home Visiting program which provides funding for the Maternal Infant Community Health Collaboratives (MICHC) sites around the state.

**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.

**Additional funding for evidence-based Healthy Families New York is a positive step, if it is sustained so programs can build capacity. Additional investment in home visiting is necessary to meet need across the state.**

#### Child Care

**What's in the Executive Budget**

For child care subsidies—the principal public support for families to meet the high costs of quality child care—the **Executive Budget** proposes to increase child care subsidy funding to $894.6 million. Those funds are derived from: (1) the State General Fund with an investment of $301.1 million, representing a $50.1 million increase from last year; (2) $311.5 million drawn from federal Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funds; and (3) $282 million drawn from federal TANF funds.

The Executive Budget reports an extraordinary amount of reappropriated child care funds (funds not spent during the last budget year.) In 2020 and 2021, New York received a total of $2.4 billion from federal COVID-19 child care stimulus funds from the CARES Act, Consolidated
Appropriations Act of 2021, and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The 2022-23 Executive Budget has reappropriated $2,039,398,000 of those funds. While last year’s final enacted budget directed that these funds were to be invested to support specific reforms and delineated a portion of the whole to each (expanded access to child care subsidies, capping copayments, and investing in efforts to reduce child care deserts, among others), this Executive Budget does not direct that these reappropriated funds be invested in the manner agreed upon in last year’s final enacted budget.

The Executive Budget includes a proposal to expand child care subsidies to working and otherwise eligible families whose income is 300% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and below 85% State Median Income (SMI) in three years. The expansion will phase in at 225% of the FPL beginning October 16, 2022, 265% of FPL beginning April 1, 2023, and 300% of FPL beginning April 1, 2024. The Executive Budget also grants the counties the option to expand subsidies outright to 300% FPL and below 85% SMI beginning October 16, 2022.

The Executive Budget, drawing upon federal CCDBG funds, maintains funding at $7 million for the Infant-Toddler Resource Network, which provides critical training and supports to providers serving our youngest New Yorkers, and $5 million for QUALITYstarsNY, the State’s quality rating and improvement system. Drawing from the general fund, the budget invests $15.6 million to expand child care to all SUNY and CUNY campuses. Currently, 18 SUNY and 8 CUNY campuses do not have child care centers.

**Background**

Currently, and for many years, child care has been the largest monthly bill for many New York families with young children, costing an average of $2,047 per month for two children in a child care center, yet child care government subsidies are available for fewer than 20% of income-eligible families. At the same time, many of New York’s early childhood educators, nearly all women, largely women of color, live in poverty or near poverty due to the low wages paid by the sector. Child care challenges in the best of times impede parents’ ability to achieve economic security, and drive or keep, many low-income families in poverty. Lack of access to child care also deprives young children, disproportionately from low-income families, of critical early learning opportunities. These challenges and inequities have only grown due to the added costs and challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2021, the New York Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, legislation extending the tenure of the Child Care Availability Task Force, and expanding its mandate to “develop an implementation framework leading to a phased-in rollout of universal child care.” Schuyler Center participates on the task force and looks forward to this next, transformational phase of its work.

New York should make a $5 billion investment in child care in the Enacted Budget—drawing from remaining federal child care and unrestricted stimulus funds, existing federal CCDBG funds (including the significant rollover funds), and state tax revenues to enable New York to take large steps this year toward achieving universal access to child care, with approximately $2.8 billion to expand access to families for child care subsidies; $1.3 billion for workforce supports; and $600 million to increase child care provider reimbursement rates to come closer to reflecting the true costs of child care.
Pre-Kindergarten

What’s in the Executive Budget

The Executive Budget maintains an investment of $952 million for pre-K statewide, even with last year’s final enacted budget.

Background

In 2013, then-Governor Cuomo promised full-day pre-K for all four-year-olds. More than 75,000 4-year-olds outside of New York City, or 78%, are still waiting for the opportunity to attend full-day pre-K.

New York should continue to expand pre-K to the tens of thousands of 4-year-olds who have been left behind, by investing $500 million to expand access to quality full-day pre-K for all children in the state; $10 million for Regional Technical Centers; and $240 million for pre-School Special Education.

Early Intervention

What’s in the Executive Budget

The Executive Budget proposes to invest $205 million in Early Intervention services, a $40 million increase over last year’s budget amount. This may reflect, in part, the implementation of a law passed in 2021 that will raise revenue for the program through an assessment on health insurance companies.

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 services, and racial disparities—already of great concern before the pandemic—have widened. One reason for the dearth of services: the reimbursement rates the state has paid providers and evaluators are so low, providers have left the field, unable to afford to provide these services.

New York should use the additional funding to increase rates for all Early Intervention providers and evaluators by 10% to retain and rebuild the base of providers and evaluators and move New York State closer to meeting the needs of young children in New York with developmental delays or disabilities.

Afterschool Programs

What’s in the Executive Budget

The Executive Budget proposes $28,041,000 for Advantage After School, $5 million less than last year’s final budget of $33 million. If the funding is not restored in the final enacted
budget, 2,500 to 5,000 children will lose their current Advantage After School programs. The Executive Proposal provides level funding for the Empire State After School Program.

**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.

**New York should restore $5 million to the Advantage After School Program and provide $169 million to align the afterschool reimbursement rate to reflect the true cost ($4,300) of providing quality care, including a language amendment to set a higher per student rate for the Empire State After-School Program.**

**PUBLIC HEALTH, HEALTH COVERAGE, ACCESS AND CARE**

**Postpartum Health Coverage**

**What’s in the Executive Budget**

The **Executive Budget** proposes to extend Medicaid postpartum coverage for one year following the last day of pregnancy once a federal waiver is obtained.

The Executive also proposes including coverage of pre-natal and post-partum services recommended by a physicians or other licensed practitioner as “standard coverage” for Medicaid.

**Background**

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) established a new state option to extend Medicaid coverage for one year following the baby’s birth. This state option enables New York to take a major step toward improving health outcomes for postpartum women and their babies by reducing coverage loss, providing comprehensive coverage (including mental health) in the postpartum period. Addressing maternal health is essential to ensure the health of children and, by extension, the whole family.

**This is a positive proposal that New York should build on to provide three years of continuous coverage for both moms and babies to ensure that uninterrupted health, mental health, developmental services and supports are available during this critical time of brain development and mother-child bonding.**

**Access to Prenatal and Postnatal Care**

In the State of the State, the Governor proposed new or expanded services to ensure mothers get the prenatal and postnatal care they need. These include providing social work services in clinical and non-clinical settings, reimbursing community health workers for care in maternal health settings, and increasing availability of dyadic care, in which the caregiver and baby receive services that promote positive parent-child interaction. This proposal will expand the New York State Healthy Steps program and integrate behavioral health professionals into pediatric primary care well-child visits. The Executive Budget does not include appropriations or bill language about these proposals.
These proposals are positive developments for the promotion of maternal and child well-being, but details of funding and implementation will be critical to ensure they reach their potential.

**Essential Plan Health Coverage**

**What’s in the Executive Budget**

The Executive Budget proposes to seek federal approval to expand the Essential Plan (EP) by raising the income cap from 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) to at least 250%. This would allow 14,000 currently uninsured eligible New Yorkers to enroll free of cost and increase affordability for an additional 92,000. With federal approval, the EP would be expanded to provide coverage for individuals with long-term, chronic illnesses.

**Background**

New York launched the Essential Plan in 2016 as an affordable option for low- and moderate-income New Yorkers. Over 892,000 people are currently enrolled. These changes will encourage additional participation in the program and reduce the number of the uninsured adults.

New York should include this important proposal to increase coverage in the final enacted budget. In addition, income-eligible immigrants should be able to enroll in the Essential Plan if they are barred from other coverage due to their status. Immigrants are the largest group of uninsured New Yorkers and have been hit hard by the pandemic physically and financially.

**Child Health Plus**

**What’s in the Executive Budget**

The Executive Budget proposes $11 million to improve access to children’s mental and behavioral health services by aligning Child Health Plus services with Medicaid services. The Executive Budget also proposes $4 million to eliminate the $9 per month premium for children whose family household income is less than 223% of the Federal Poverty Level.

**Background**

Child Health Plus is an important component to New York’s system of health insurance options for families by providing coverage for families above the Medicaid threshold but without or with unaffordable private coverage. The expansion of services is extremely important as COVID has taken a toll on children’s mental health. The elimination of the premium will help ensure continuity of services.

Schuyler Center supports making Child Health Plus more affordable and ensuring children covered by Child Health Plus can access a full scope of mental health services.
Transfer of Oversight of Health Professions

What’s in the Executive Budget

The Executive Budget proposes to transfer the oversight authority for licensed health professions from the State Education Department to the Department of Health.

Background

Authority for the licensing of health professionals and for statutes governing scope of practice reside at the State Education Department. This change would shift oversight to the Department of Health for all health professions. Initiatives to streamline licensing of health professionals, improve the ability of health professionals to practice effectively as teams, and expand underserved communities’ access to crucial services have long been stymied by lengthy and byzantine processes.

The workforce is the heart, brain, and backbone of prevention and care. This proposal should ignite policymaker attention and debate to the urgency of strengthening the health workforce by improving New York’s processes for licensing, credentialing, and addressing scope of practice.

Local Public Health Funding

What’s in the Executive Budget

The Executive Budget increases local public health funding (Article 6) to $189.2 million, a $25.7 million increase over last year’s budget amount. This funding increases the base grants to local health departments and allows for local health departments to claim partial reimbursements for fringe benefits to support hiring and retention of staff.

Background

Local public health departments are essential part of the infrastructure in 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.

This long-overdue increase in State funding for local health departments will contribute to healthier communities in every corner of the state.

Medicaid

What’s in the Executive Budget

The Executive Budget extends the Medicaid spending cap and changes the metric used to calculate the spending cap from the ten-year rolling average of Consumer Price Index to the five-year rolling average of Medicaid spending projections within the National Health Expenditure Accounts produced by the Office of the Actuary in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. This proposal would provide additional spending authority of $366 million for FY 2023 and $534 million for FY 2024.
**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.

**New York State should develop less arbitrary and more transparent ways of assessing Medicaid spending.**

**Center for Health Workforce Studies**

**What's in the Executive Budget**

The Executive Budget does not include critical funding ($250,000) for the Center for Health Workforce Studies (CHWS) that is necessary to implement the health professions data law that was signed in 2021.

**Background**

The health professions data law, enacted in December 2021, requires all licensed health professionals (inclusive of nurses, therapists, social workers, technicians, etc.) to answer a small number of questions as part of the tri-annual re-registration process, providing information on their demographics, education, and practice activities to assist the State in health planning, education, etc.

Consistent and on-going funding in the form of a minimum annual allocation of $250,000 is needed to launch, manage, and sustain the successful collection of data and continued analysis for the State’s licensed health professionals.

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.

**New York should include funding for the Center for Health Workforce Studies in the SFY 2022-23 Budget to ensure that New York has the data necessary to develop the right workforce for a changing health care landscape.**

**Adult Homes**

**What’s in the Executive Budget**

The Executive Budget maintains funding for the Enhanced Quality of Adult Living (EQUAL) Program at $3.27 million. The grants made available through the program support independent skills training, mental hygiene staff trainings and capital improvement projects.
Background

Adult home residents are low-income adults, many of whom struggle with mental and other health concerns that can make it difficult to live on their own without supports, and leaving them particularly vulnerable to abuse and neglect. 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 Schuyler Center and NYS Coalition for Adult Home Reform support this funding.

About the budget process

The Governor’s Executive Budget proposal was released on Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

What happens next?

✓ The State constitution allows the governor to submit revisions to the budget within 30 days of submitting the budget to the legislature (referred to as 30-day amendments).
✓ The Senate and Assembly hold a series of joint legislative hearings on the governor’s proposed budget.
✓ In early to mid-March, each house of the legislature presents and passes its own version of the budget, accepting, rejecting, or amending items in the governor’s proposed budget.
✓ An agreement on the final budget should be reached by April 1st, when the new state fiscal year will begin.

Budget legislation includes:

Appropriations bills: These contain the line-item appropriations. The legislature may not alter appropriations bills except to reduce or strike-out appropriations, or can add distinct, separate items (“legislative adds”). The governor can line-item veto legislative additions (but not reduce or eliminate the provisions that the legislature did not alter).

Article VII bills: These include statutory provisions necessary to implement the budget as proposed. These bills are treated like any other legislation, and they are either be accepted, amended or intentionally omitted by both the Governor and Legislature.