Half in Eleven: New York Commits to Cutting Child Poverty Starting Now

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Since 1872, the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy has advanced policies that improve child health and well-being, enable families to achieve economic security, and augment quality early childhood opportunities with a focus on equity, so all New York children have a fair opportunity to thrive.

In 2022, the Schuyler Center celebrates the 150th anniversary of our founding by Louisa Lee Schuyler. Today, our work remains grounded in her ideals of compassion, advocacy, leadership, and partnership.

There are more than 6,000 registered lobbyists in New York State; most of them are not focused on disenfranchised children and families. We are.
Declares NYS should take steps necessary to reduce child poverty by 50% in 11 years with attention to racial equity.

Establishes Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council, tasked with developing a plan to cut New York's child poverty rate in half over 11 years, measuring and publicly reporting on progress over time.

Requires an evaluation of the effects on child poverty of the Governor’s State Budget proposal, to be made available to the public.
Why the Child Poverty Reduction Act?

- Every year, Schuyler Center and allies advance policies to address and mitigate child poverty.
- Every year, policymakers cut, increase, or maintain critical child and family-serving programs, making decisions in silos with limited understanding of holistic and long-term impacts of budget and policy decisions on families and communities.
- CPRA instills holistic perspective, focus on equity, accountability via measurement of progress over time, linking state budget decisions to child poverty.
Before the pandemic, over 2 million New Yorkers, including 712,000 children, lived in poverty (2019).

New York children are more likely to live in poverty than in 32 other states, with 18% (nearly 1 in 5) experiencing poverty in 2019.

In 2020, a family (2 adults, 2 children) fell below the poverty threshold if annual income fell below $26,246 ($2,187/month).

New York State’s Constitution says “The aid, care and support of the needy are public concerns and shall be provided by the state.”
The poverty rate approaches 1 in 3 among children of color and in some communities.

Due to structural and systemic racism, child poverty among New York State children of color approaches 30%.

Black and Latino children are more than twice as likely to live in poverty than their white peers.
The need to be intentional about reducing child poverty

- New York’s child poverty after the Great Recession rose to 23% in 2011, where it stayed until 2014.
- For Black children, child poverty hit a post-Great Recession peak of 35% in 2013.
- For Latino/Hispanic children, child poverty hit a high of 36% in 2011.

It was a decade before New York’s child poverty rate returned to pre-Great Recession levels. New York State must be intentional this time, post-pandemic.
Steps we took to achieve this legislative win

- Tilling the soil
  - Op Eds + other earned media, social media; testimony; raising the issue of child poverty and its sharp impacts at every table – health, child welfare, early childhood, tax

- Building a powerful coalition; a deep bench of experts; concentric circles of engagement.
  - Arming this group with data; coordinating public speaking opportunities

- Educating as many policymakers as possible
Our work has just begun

- We launched this effort understanding that passage of the bill was just the first step of a ten-year campaign.

- For this goal to be realized, we are gearing up to engage from within the Advisory Council and from the outside, to ensure the state honors its statutory commitment to cutting child poverty in half in a manner that reduces racial inequities.

- For this year, we have arrived at our top three child poverty reduction priorities:
  - Strengthen and expand New York’s child tax credit
  - Take large steps toward implementing universal child care
  - Secure three-year continuous Medicaid coverage for mothers and babies