



CHAMPS-NY Response to Senate and Assembly One-House Budget Proposals 2022

Long overdue investments proposed for child welfare preventive services; funding to support kinship families and foster parents need to be in the enacted budget

March 21, 2022

CHAMPS-NY, a statewide coalition of organizations, providers, advocates, and people impacted by New York State's child welfare system, applauds the Assembly and Senate for proposing systemic investments in child welfare preventive services. These investments are long overdue and it is encouraging that both houses are united in prioritizing the restoration of the State share of funding to 65%. We urge our State leaders to ensure this funding is in the enacted budget.

The Senate proposes to fund the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KinGAP) outside of the Foster Care Block Grant. This would facilitate counties in supporting kinship caregivers that provide permanent care for children and youth in foster care. We urge policymakers to ensure this funding is in the enacted budget.

The Assembly proposes investing an additional \$82.1 million to support pending increases to foster parent reimbursement rates required under the terms of a settlement of a lawsuit filed by the Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition of New York. This proposal is substantially more than the Governor's proposed \$37.1 million in the executive budget, yet falls short of the estimated cost of \$200 million¹ that would otherwise fall completely on counties. We urge policymakers to ensure the State supports counties in paying the modernized foster parent reimbursement rates in the enacted budget.

Each of these investments will facilitate the implementation of the federal Family First Prevention Services Act, which positions New York to transform the child welfare system into one that improves family well-being and self-determination, increases non-coercive support, and strengthens community-based services that meet the needs of our diverse communities. By funding the programs that support children and families involved or at-risk of being involved in the system, we can address the persistent racial disparities in it.

##

¹ \$200 million based on a New York Public Welfare Association statement released February 14, 2022.



CHAMPS-NY is a statewide coalition of advocates, providers, and impacted New Yorkers working to promote state policy and practice change that builds a more family-centered, equitable child welfare system.

Contacts:

Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy

- Crystal Charles
- 347-670-9730, ccharles@scaany.org

Families Together in New York State

- Brad Hansen
- 518-572-7649, bhansen@ftnys.org