



CHAMPS-NY Disappointed by the New York State Budget

Long overdue funding for programs that reduce the number of children placed in foster care, support kinship families and foster parents are once again left out of the budget despite support from the legislature

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CHAMPS-NY, a statewide coalition of organizations, providers, advocates, and people impacted by New York State's child welfare system, is dismayed the Governor blocked strong proposals from the Assembly and Senate to increase funding for family-serving programs that keep children out of foster care, support kinship families, and provide state funds to finally fully reimburse the amazing New Yorkers who step-up to be foster parents for their unselfish contributions. Absent from the final budget:

- Restoration of state child welfare preventive services funding to the 65% required in statute;
- Reform of the way Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KinGAP) is funded to an independent and open-ended stream that would facilitate more kinship caregivers in providing permanent care to children and youth in foster care;
- State funding to support modernizing foster parent reimbursement rates.

Children and families need a child welfare system that is well equipped and ready to provide support during crises. The failure of this budget to include any of these critically-needed child welfare investments is particularly egregious given that New York has persistently underinvested in child welfare for more than a decade, robbing some of the most challenged New York families of resources and support.

New York cannot 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 without adequately funding that system. New York cannot address the persistent racial disparities in the child welfare system without funding the programs that support children and families involved or at-risk of being involved in the system.

In the coming months, CHAMPS-NY is committed to supporting policies that reduce the number of children in congregate care, increase accountability and transparency, and foster racial equity in New York's child welfare system.



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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.

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