Schuyler Insider for October 7, 2022
Action for NYS Child Poverty Reduction and Upcoming Events

Just Announced:
Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council to Convene Next Week

On October 13, Governor Hochul’s office will convene the New York State Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council for the first time. The New York State Child Poverty Reduction Act was signed into law in December after passing both houses of the New York State legislature in June 2021.

Schuyler Center President and CEO Kate Breslin is an appointed member of the Advisory Council, along with several Schuyler Center advocacy partners.

The Child Poverty Reduction Act makes a bold and necessary commitment to the actions required to reduce child poverty in the state by 50% by 2033, and the Council’s convening is a critical first step.

Child Poverty Reduction is a Bipartisan Priority
For too long, New York has allowed hundreds of thousands of children to endure the hardships of poverty—in times of recession, and in times of plenty. In New York State last year, 747,000 children were living in poverty, representing 19% of all New York children, with that percentage a full 9 points higher for Black children, and 7 points higher for Latino children.

In 2021, NYS legislators made it clear that it was past time to firmly commit to doing better for New York’s children. That year, The Child Poverty Reduction Act, spearheaded by Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy, swept through the NYS Legislature. The Act had near-unanimous support from upstate and downstate, rural, urban, and suburban legislators and constituents, as well as having bipartisan co-sponsorship.

The time to solve New York’s child poverty problem is now. Governor Hochul has stated that child poverty reduction is a priority of her administration, and the coming year’s State budget will be the time to put that broad commitment into action.

First Advisory Council Meeting: A Step Toward Action
The Advisory Council’s first meeting is an important step toward meaningful, concrete action, and Schuyler Center applauds Governor Hochul for convening this initial group of dedicated policy advocates, service providers, community members, and NYS agency leaders.

Working toward a significant reduction in New York’s child poverty rate will require that New Yorkers with lived experience participate in the conversation. Centering New Yorkers who have been impacted by poverty is essential to putting the right solutions in place.

As advocates for poverty-fighting public policy, Schuyler Center is eager to work alongside the Advisory Council on concrete and transformative action, designed with the intention to reduce child poverty and its racial inequity. Our children deserve more than talk and empty promises, and the need for action is urgent.

“By enacting The Child Poverty Reduction Act, Governor Hochul boldly set the expectation that New York State will intentionally, significantly, and consistently cut child poverty, year over year,” said Kate Breslin, Schuyler Center President and CEO and Advisory Council appointee. “Beyond that, and just as important, the law holds policymakers publicly accountable for whether and how policy and budget decisions affect children living in poverty. The Child Poverty Reduction
Act creates the roadmap to a future in which New York is deliberate about reducing child poverty and addressing inequity. I am eager to get to work alongside other members of the Advisory Council.”

Read the full statement on our website.

Read the Governor’s Press Release.

The Legacy of Nursing in the Hudson Valley Region
An Evening with Schuyler Center & Russell Sage College

Thursday, October 13
6 - 7:30 p.m.
Opalka Gallery at Russell Sage College
140 New Scotland Ave.
Albany, New York

Russell Sage College founder, Margaret Olivia Slocum Sage, and SCAA founder, Louisa Lee Schuyler, were champions of one another’s work in philanthropy and organizing. We’re excited to bring the work and legacies of these two women together again!

Join us for a discussion on the history of Russell Sage College’s nursing program over the past 100 years, the relationship between SCAA and Bellevue Nursing School in NYC (the first nursing school in the country to teach Florence Nightingale’s hygienic methods), and Schuyler Center’s work in public health.

This program is in celebration of the RSC 100th Year of Nursing and the 150th Anniversary of the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy. The evening will include light refreshments and gallery tours.

Event Details and Registration

Oral Health Equity: Central to Child Health

On the Schuyler Insider Blog this week, Schuyler Center Senior Policy Analyst Bridget Walsh discusses the importance of childhood oral health.

Tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood illness. It is five times more prevalent than asthma, and potentially every bit as disruptive to a child’s ability to learn. Children who suffer from dental pain have, on average, lower grades than students with healthier teeth. Despite the fact that it is largely preventable, oral health challenges remain prevalent in many communities across New York State.

Strong policies and programs that equitably support children’s oral health require continued advocacy. Schuyler Center is proud to co-sponsor the upcoming Early Childhood Oral Health Summit. The free, one-day event will be held in Albany on Monday, November 14. Please register to join us.
Decline in Child Poverty Rates Linked to Successful Policies

Schuyler Center’s advocacy is rooted in this: child poverty and the racial inequity embedded in it, are policy choices, and there are proven policy solutions that must be pursued. Recently released Census data and a new ChildTrends report are evidence of just that.

As you’ve likely seen in extensive media coverage, child poverty rates have fallen dramatically in recent years. The latest data on child poverty is both heartening and revealing. Some recent stories in the news include:

- Lessons from a historic decline in child poverty (ChildTrends, 9/11/22)
- Pandemic Aid Cut U.S. Poverty to New Low in 2021, Census Bureau Reports
- (New York Times, 9/13/22)
Poverty and uninsured rates drop, thanks to pandemic-era policies (NPR, 9/13/22)
The child poverty rate fell by nearly half in 2021 as enhanced child tax credit sent billions of dollars to families (CNN, 9/13/22)
How Poverty Programs Aided Children From One Generation to the Next (New York Times, 9/12/22)
New evidence on how bringing back the expanded Child Tax Credit will help America's kids (Daily News, 9/14/22)
'I didn't have to worry' – How the Child Tax Credit Helped Families Catch Up on Rent and Improved Health (8/5/22)

Also released last month was the latest report from the Raising NY coalition, of which Schuyler Center is a member. The report analyzes the Empire State Child Credit (ESCC), compares it to other states' tax credits, and provides concrete recommendations on how New York can ensure the ESCC effectively reaches families to tackle our state’s child poverty problem. Read the press release and report.

As Schuyler Center prepares for the 2023 NYS budget and legislative session, we will continue to fight for policies that have been proven to meaningfully reduce child poverty and inequity, including strengthening the Empire State Child Credit so it can be a powerful tool in the fight to eliminate child poverty. Learn more about Schuyler Center's policy priorities.

Support Schuyler Center's Poverty-Fighting Mission

Back to School: Bringing Health Services to Children

On the Schuyler Insider Blog, President and CEO Kate Breslin takes a look at Medicaid and CHIP funding to support child health through school-based services.

As children around the state return to school – the first nearly-normal return to school since 2019 – there is fresh attention on how to best support our children after an extended period of disruptions.

In the two and a half years since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, researchers and government agencies have been exploring what we know about education, child health, and mental health – and questioning traditional approaches, especially when it comes to children and families with access to fewer resources.

Recent bulletins published by the federal Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services focus on strengthening mental health care and access and expanding care in schools.

With 78% of low-income children in New York covered by Medicaid and CHIP, it is critical that the state use these resources to ensure that children have access to critically needed services and care. These recent bulletins and recommendations provide examples of how to do so.

Upcoming Events From Our Partners:

PowHer New York's Equity Summit - October 13

In the News

Recent news featuring Schuyler Center staff, partners, and policy priorities:

The Reason Child Care Is So Hard to Afford (The Atlantic, 10/1/22)
Opinion | The Sad, Familiar Demise of the Expanded Child Tax Credit (Politico, 9/28/22)
The child care crisis just keeps getting worse (Vox, 9/27/22)
U.S. Child Care: Parents Can’t Afford It and Workers Can’t Afford to Live (Capital & Main, 9/21/22)

How many people are really facing poverty in the U.S.? (Marketplace, 9/15/22)

New evidence on how bringing back the expanded Child Tax Credit will help America’s kids (Daily News, 9/14/22)

Pandemic Aid Cut U.S. Poverty to New Low in 2021, Census Bureau Reports (New York Times, 9/13/22)

Poverty and uninsured rates drop, thanks to pandemic-era policies (NPR, 9/13/22)

How Poverty Programs Aided Children From One Generation to the Next (New York Times, 9/12/22)


Hochul: Child tax credit checks to hit mailboxes soon - Spectrum News, 9/8/22

Women still exhausted, burnt out by COVID-era workforce challenges - Times Union, 9/2/22

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We are a statewide, nonprofit, policy analysis and advocacy organization working to shape policies to improve health, welfare and human services for all New Yorkers, especially children and families impacted by poverty.

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