Schuyler Insider for February 10, 2023

**Budget Priority:**
Fighting Child Poverty Through Tax Credits

On Thursday 2/9, the Joint Legislative Budget Hearing on Taxes was held in Albany. [The recording of the hearing can be found here.](https://email.everyaction.com/EmailMessage/PreviewMessage/259f2db8-69a9-ed11-994d-00224832eb73)

Schuyler Center submitted written testimony urging New York to strengthen and expand its refundable tax credits to have the greatest impact on child poverty and deliver the greatest tax savings to New York families struggling under the weight of record inflation.

When wielded wisely, tax policy is a powerful tool in the fight to reduce poverty. This year’s state budget must prioritize poverty reduction as New York State pursues its commitment to reduce child poverty by 50%.

**Schuyler Center’s top recommendations for tax policy that cuts child poverty are:**

- Including a robust state child credit for children under age four, a group currently excluded from New York’s Empire State Child Credit (ESCC);
- Restructuring the ESCC and NYS Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) so the highest credit goes to the lowest-income families, by ending regressive minimum income requirements and phase-ins;
- Increasing the credit amount of the ESCC and EITC to provide families meaningful support;
- Making the EITC available to as many immigrant families as possible; the ESCC already includes immigrant families who claim children with Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITINs); and
- Paying credits monthly or quarterly to smooth-out income and help families keep up with bills.

Notably, the Working Families Tax Credit, described within the testimony, does all of the above.

It’s time for New York State to turn the tide on child poverty. Robust refundable tax credits *must* be a part of the solution.
Robust, refundable tax credits are one proven strategy for reducing child poverty, BUT

NEW YORK'S CHILD TAX CREDIT IS FLAWED, LEAVING OUT

40% OF THE HIGHEST NEED CHILDREN.

2023 is the year to fix it.

Connect with us to stay up to date on poverty-fighting advocacy:

Child Care Advocacy Day in Albany

Members of the Empire State Campaign for Child Care will be in Albany for the annual Child Care Advocacy Day on February 14th.

The Campaign also held its third annual virtual advocacy event earlier this week, with over 350 participants, including legislators, providers, parents, and advocates, energetically calling for #NYSUniversalChildCare.

You can join in the Campaign's advocacy by sending a letter to your legislators, urging them to invest in the child care workforce:

Send an email to let your legislators know:

Investing in the Child Care Workforce is an Investment in New York’s Families

State of New York's Children 2023

Schuyler Center has released the 2023 State of New York’s Children Data Book.
One of the key learnings of the last three years is that government policy can make a real and immediate difference in the lives of children and families who are struggling to make ends meet. Those policies include tax credits, food assistance, child care supports, and expanded health coverage.

New York is at a pivotal moment: armed with compelling data about the policies that meaningfully improved the well-being of New York’s children, what actions will our state leaders take? Our policy recommendations outline the actions needed this year.

Find all State of NY’s Children resources here, including the Data Book, a recording of the Data Briefing, slides highlighting key data, and a press release.

Policy Guide for Child and Family Well-Being

A resource for legislators and partners, Schuyler Center's 2023 Policy Guide for Child and Family Well-Being outlines policy priorities, data resources, and Schuyler Center's availability as a partner in policymaking.

The Latest Advocacy Resources and Actions


Child Care

- Let your legislators know: Investing in the Child Care Workforce is an Investment in New York's Families
- Testimony delivered by Dede Hill before the Senate Standing Committee on Children & Families on The Child Care Crisis in New York State - 1/26/23
- Empire State Campaign for Child Care 2023 Policy Priorities - In Light of 2023 State of State Proposals
- Schuyler Center Statement on Early Care and Learning in 23-24 Executive Budget - 2/1/23
Senators, advocates outline budget fight for universal child care - Dede Hill on Capital Tonight, 1/20/23
Lawmakers, Hochul clash on plans to fix child care crisis - Spectrum News, 1/26/23

Child Poverty

- Schuyler Center Testimony for the Joint Fiscal Committees Budget Hearing on Taxes - 2/9/23
- Gov. Hochul wants New Yorkers to cover actor, director pay under film tax plan - Gothamist, 2/7/23
- Second Meeting of the NYS Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council - 1/12/23
- Budget Priorities for Child Poverty Reduction in 2023 - Letter to Governor Hochul from Child Poverty Reduction advocates - January 11, 2023
- Following the road to reducing child poverty - Kate Breslin on Capitol Pressroom, 1/26/23
- Schuyler Center’s Kate Breslin: It’s time to implement policies we know work against child poverty - Capital Tonight, 12/22/22

Child Welfare

- New York Child Welfare Advocates Call on Lawmakers to Prevent Foster Care Through Community Investment - The Imprint, 2/7/23

On the Schuyler Insider Blog:

Governor Hochul's Budget Proposal: Modest Investments in Child and Family Well-Being, But Bold Action is Needed
Press Release: Schuyler Center Releases Data on the State of NY’s Children, Policy Recommendations
State of the State: We’re Listening for Real Investments in Children and Families
Centering Child Well-Being: Policy Priorities for 2023
Statement: Schuyler Center Congratulates Governor Hochul
Schuyler Conversations: Childhood Oral Health Policy
Schuyler Conversations: Kids and Medicaid

Support Schuyler Center's Poverty-Fighting Mission
Child poverty is a policy choice, with policy solutions.

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.

{{Disclaimer}}

SCAA, 540 Broadway, Albany, NY 12207, United States