

## Schuyler Center's Next Look at the NYS 2023-24 Budget: Senate and Assembly One-House Budget Proposals as They Intersect with Our Policy Priorities

Schuyler Center's *Next Look* is an initial and targeted assessment of how the New York Senate and Assembly State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023-24 One-House Budget proposals would address some of the issues most critical to the health and well-being of low-income families and children, and all New Yorkers living on the margins. Chief among these issues is child and family poverty. Highlighted below are State budget actions that hold real opportunity to concretely improve the lives of New York children, families, and marginalized New Yorkers. In the coming days, Schuyler Center's team will be analyzing the proposals more closely and working with our partners to ensure that the enacted State budget seizes these opportunities to set up all New Yorkers to thrive.

CHILD WELFARE			
Executive	Senate	Assembly	Recommendation
<b>\$900 million for preventive, protective, independent living, adoption, aftercare services at 62% State share (balance paid by county)</b>	Increases State share to 65%, adds \$35 million	Increases State share to 65%	Increase State share to 75%
<b>No proposal to update the Preventive Services housing subsidy, which currently provides a maximum of \$300/month and ends at age 21 for transition-age youth</b>	No proposal included	Increases allowable subsidy to \$725/month, available until age 24 for transition-age youth	Support increase to \$725/month, with yearly increases calculated based on inflation, available until age 24 for transition-age youth
<b>\$8.5 million for a 2.5% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for human services workers</b>	Adds \$20.4 million for an 8.5% COLA	Includes 8.5% COLA	Support 8.5% COLA for human services workers
<b>\$338,750 for Permanency Resources Centers (PRCs), \$220,500 for the statewide Kinship Navigator</b>	\$2.2 million for PRCs and kinship caregiver programs \$220,500 for the NYS Kinship Navigator	\$2.2 million for PRCs and kinship caregiver programs \$320,500 for the NYS Kinship Navigator	\$2.2 million for kinship caregiver programs \$320,500 for the NYS Kinship Navigator
<b>\$7.9 million for the Foster Youth College Success Initiative (FYCSI)</b>	\$9 million for FYCSI	\$8.6 million for FYCSI	\$10 million for FYCSI

## REFUNDABLE TAX CREDITS

Executive	Senate	Assembly	Recommendation
<b>No proposal related to expanding Empire State Child Credit (ESCC). Currently, ESCC provides a credit to income-eligible families with children ages 4 through 16. Full credit not available to children under 4 and children in very low-income families</b>	Adds language expanding eligibility for the Empire State Child Credit to include children under the age of 4	\$225 million to expand eligibility for the Empire State Child Credit to children under the age of 4 beginning FY 2025	End the exclusion of young children from NY's child tax credit, eliminate the minimum income requirement and phase-in at an estimated cost of \$229M, and increase credit amount to reduce child and family poverty
<b>Taxpayers filing with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), rather than Social Security Number, are excluded from receiving the State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)</b>	Adds language expanding eligibility for the State EITC to include taxpayers who file with an ITIN	\$65 million to expand eligibility for the state EITC to include taxpayers who file with ITIN beginning FY 2025	Support Assembly and Senate proposals so ITIN filers qualify for EITC to cut child and family poverty
<b>No proposal related to extending last year's supplemental ESCC</b>		\$288 million to extend the 2022-23 supplemental Empire State Child Credit for one year, FY 2024. This additional credit is equal to 100% of the current credit for families with federal adjusted gross income less than \$10,000, incrementally scaling down to a supplemental equal to 25% of the current credit for families with federal adjusted gross income equal to or greater than \$50,000	Support increases in the credit amount, particularly those structured to permanently direct a larger credit to the lowest income and youngest New York children. Robust, fully refundable tax credits without minimum income requirements and phase-ins are among the most effective tools for reducing child and family poverty
<b>No proposal related to extending last year's supplemental EITC</b>	Adds language to extend the 2022-23 supplemental EITC  The enhanced credit will pay a supplement equal to 25% of the current credit	\$182 million to extend the 2022-23 supplemental Earned Income Tax Credit for one year, FY 2024  The enhanced credit will pay a supplement equal to 25% of the current credit	Support increases in the amount of the EITC, particularly those structured to permanently direct larger credits to the lowest income and historically excluded New York families. Robust, fully refundable tax credits without minimum income requirements and phase-ins are among the most effective tools for reducing child and family poverty

## MINIMUM WAGE

Executive	Senate	Assembly	Recommendation
<b>Automatic increases to the state minimum wage indexed to inflation. Once every region of the state reaches \$15/hour, the minimum wage would increase each year based on the Consumer Price Index for the Northeast Region that particular year but no more than 3% a year</b>	No proposal included	Accepts the Executive's proposal	Increase New York's minimum wage and adjust it each year to keep up with rising costs (S.1978-A/A.2204-A). The Raise the Wage Act would give 2.9 million workers an average raise of \$63 per week, and could greatly reduce child poverty across New York State

## HOUSING VOUCHER PROGRAM

Executive	Senate	Assembly	Recommendation
<b>No proposal for Housing Access Voucher Program included</b>	\$250 million for the Housing Access Voucher Program	\$250 million for the Housing Access Voucher Program	\$250 million for the Housing Access Voucher Program, (S.568-A/A.4021), a state-level voucher program to provide housing stability to New York families at risk of homelessness

## UNIVERSAL SCHOOL MEALS

Executive	Senate	Assembly	Recommendation
<b>No proposal for universal school meals</b>	Adds \$280 million for universal school meals	Adds \$280 million for universal school meals	Add \$280 million for universal school meals

## PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Executive	Senate	Assembly	Recommendation
<b>Disregard earned income received by recipients of public assistance participating in a work activity or training program, including 2-year degree programs; also provides a one-time income disregard up to 6 months following job entry for recipients earning 200% of the federal poverty level or less</b>	Adds to the proposal qualifying programs under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, public assistance employment, training, skills certification program, or adult education program	Adds to the proposal uninterrupted support for recipients should they move from one social services district to another	Effective policies that prevent benefits cliffs as recipients of public assistance become more economically secure
<b>No proposal for a diaper allowance</b>	Provides \$80 every 3 months per eligible child for the cost of diapers for recipients of public assistance	No proposal for a diaper allowance	Robust economic supports for families with children ages zero to three

## CHILD CARE

Executive	Senate	Assembly	Recommendation
<b>\$389 million for the Child Care Workforce Retention Grant Program to support workforce retention initiatives</b>	Accepts the Executive proposal of \$389 million for the Child Care Workforce Retention Grant Program to support workforce retention initiatives; adds \$500 million, to cover up to \$12,000 in salary enhancements for child care workers employed at child care facilities serving subsidized child care. Amount per employee will be a proportional share of \$12,000 based on the number of enrolled children receiving subsidized care	Accepts the Executive proposal of \$389 million for the Child Care Workforce Retention Grant Program, but expands allowable uses to support workforce retention initiatives, provider expenses for personnel costs, rent, facility maintenance and improvements, PPE, public health emergency related supplies, goods and services necessary to resume providing care, mental health supports for children and early child care educators and reimbursement for costs associated with the current public health emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add \$1 billion to create the Child Care Workforce Compensation Fund that will give <u>all</u> members of the child care workforce an average compensation increase of \$12,500 per year until the State has transitioned to a new reimbursement methodology and pay scale; compensation should <u>not</u> be tied to number of children receiving subsidy in a program</li> <li>• \$190 million to provide health insurance premium support for child care workers and providers</li> <li>• Enact legislation committing NYS to transition to a new provider reimbursement methodology and pay scale by 2025</li> </ul>

<b>No proposal included regarding presumptive eligibility</b>	Presumptive eligibility for child care subsidies (S.4667/A.4099)	No proposal included	Implement presumptive eligibility, a proven solution to reduce processing times for child care assistance applications so parents do not lose job opportunities while waiting
<b>Proposes to expand child care subsidy eligibility to 85% of state median income (SMI)</b>	Adds \$623 million in state funding to expand eligibility for child care subsidies to 103% SMI in 2023. The Senate also proposes in its budget resolution to increase eligibility to 129% SMI in 2024	Accepts the Executive's proposal	Raising income eligibility for child care assistance can help shield working families from steep benefits cliffs and bring NY closer to universal child care. The first step must be workforce investments and expanding eligibility for immigrant children.
<b>\$487 million in reappropriated funds to supplement existing federal, state, and local funding to subsidized child care proposes to:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• limit family co-pays to no more than 1% of income over FPL</li> <li>• cover 80 absences per child, per year</li> </ul>	Accepts Executive proposal	Accepts Executive proposal	These are important proposals to help families afford child care and help child care providers be able to cover the costs of providing high-quality child care
<b>No proposal for child care Facilitated Enrollment Programs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$8.4 million for OTDA Facilitated Enrollment Programs</li> <li>• \$4.5 million for OCFS Facilitated Enrollment Programs (NYC, Onondaga, Erie, Nassau and Suffolk Counties)</li> </ul> <p>In Budget Resolution: Senate expresses support for providing child care assistance for children who are not currently eligible for State coverage; will explore new coverage options, including expanded use of the Facilitated Enrollment Program</p>	\$8.4 million for OTDA Facilitated Enrollment Programs	<p>Facilitated enrollment is a program proven to break down administrative and other barriers that too often prevent families from accessing child care assistance</p> <p>We look forward to learning more about the Senate pledge to expand child care assistance to reach children currently not eligible for assistance, possibly using the Facilitated Enrollment Program</p>
<b>\$4.8 million for the Employer Supported Child Care Pilot Program</b>	No proposal	Accepts the Executive Proposal	We are studying this proposal

<b>\$25 million for Child Care Business Tax Credit</b>	Accepts the Executive Proposal	Accepts the Executive Proposal	Business child care tax credits have historically been underutilized and ineffective at expanding capacity or increasing child care affordability
<b>Up to \$23 million of the Federal Child Care Development Fund may be used to support Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies</b>	Includes the Executive's proposal	\$23 million of the Federal Child Care Development Fund <u>shall</u> be used to support Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies	\$23 million of Federal Child Care Development fund <u>shall</u> be used to support the vital work of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies
<b>No proposal included</b>	\$250,000 for a Non-Traditional Employment for Women Child Care Pilot Program	No proposal included	We are studying this promising proposal
<b>\$50 million reappropriated funds for infrastructure expansion of child care programs</b>	\$50 million reappropriated funds for capital costs to support the construction, conversion and rehabilitation of properties to create and expand access to child care	Accepts the Executive's proposal	Child care providers must be involved in planning for the distribution of these funds to ensure they are available to and meet the needs of all modalities of care across the state

## PRE-K, AFTERSCHOOL, AND HOME VISITING

Executive	Senate	Assembly	Recommendation
<b>\$125 million for the expansion of Pre-K slots and to increase rates for slots funded at less than \$10,000 per child</b>	<p>Accepts \$125 million for the expansion of Pre-K slots and modifies the Executive proposal to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• require school districts that are eligible for universal prekindergarten aid but have not utilized it to provide information on the barriers in utilizing funding in the universal prekindergarten enrollment reporting proposal and create a three-year implementation plan</li> <li>• increase aid for early adopters of universal prekindergarten programs</li> <li>• include building aid eligibility to school districts for universal prekindergarten classrooms and require SED to release guidance to all school districts</li> </ul>	\$125 million for the expansion of Pre-K slots and \$75 million for Statewide Universal Full Day Prekindergarten programs	Increase investment in Pre-K to move toward adequate funding per child (at least \$10,000) and get closer to fulfilling the promise of universal full-day Pre-K for all 4-year-olds across NYS

<b>\$28 million for Advantage Afterschool Program</b>	\$37.4 million for Advantage Afterschool Program	\$33 million for Advantage Afterschool Program	Support robust investment in afterschool programs, and streamlined State administration, to meet need and pay the workforce a living wage
<b>\$55 million for Empire State Afterschool Program and moves funding from State Education Department to Office of Children and Family Services</b>	Accepts the Executive proposal	Accepts the Executive proposal	Support robust investment in afterschool programs, and streamlined state administration, to meet need and pay the workforce a living wage
<b>Maintains funding for: Nurse-Family Partnership at \$3 million; Healthy Families NY at \$37 million; Maternal Infant Community Health Collaboratives at \$1.8 million</b>	Adds \$1 million for Nurse-Family Partnership	Adds \$1.2 million for Nurse-Family Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accept additional \$1.2 million for Nurse-Family Partnership</li> <li>• Add \$500,000 for ParentChild+</li> </ul>

## PUBLIC HEALTH, HEALTH COVERAGE, ACCESS AND CARE

Executive	Senate	Assembly	Recommendation
<b>Maintains \$205 million for the Early Intervention program that provides services for very young children with delays and disabilities</b>	Adds \$23 million to increase Early Intervention rates	Adds \$61 million to increase Early Intervention rates	Add \$61 million for an Early Intervention rate increase
<b>Expands the Essential Plan (subject to federal waiver) to individuals up to 250% of the FPL. Excludes people without immigration documentation; delays Medicaid coverage to immigrants 64 and older without immigration documentation</b>	Accepts expansion of the Essential Plan. Includes coverage for persons without immigration documentation regardless of age. Rejects implementation delay	Accepts expansion of the Essential Plan. Includes coverage for persons without immigration documentation regardless of age. Rejects implementation delay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand Essential Plan</li> <li>• Cover persons without immigration documentation regardless of age</li> <li>• Reject implementation delay</li> </ul>
<b>Maintains funding at \$2.5 million for Community Health Advocates; adds COLA for Patient Navigator</b>	Adds \$1 million to support Community Health Advocates	Adds \$1 million to support Community Health Advocates	Accept additional \$1 million for Community Health Advocates

<b>Provides Medicaid reimbursement to community health workers providing services to children and adults with health-related social needs</b>	Accepts proposal	Accepts proposal and adds language delineating duties of community health workers	Support proposal to expand services of community health workers
<b>No proposal included</b>	\$10 million to support Doula services and provide reimbursement rates for providers	No proposal included	Accept \$10 million for Doula services and provider rates
<b>The Executive proposes a lead poisoning primary prevention initiative, requiring the development of a state rental registry with proactive inspections to identify lead hazards. Adds \$18 million</b>	Accepts the proposal with modifications on program administration but accepts \$18 million	Rejects program language but accepts \$18 million	Accept primary prevention program and funding. Include funding for children already exposed to lead
<b>Includes \$2 million to create an independent advocacy assistance program for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities</b>	Includes the provisions of S.3108, which would create the program in the Mental Hygiene law and provides parameters for the program	No proposal included	Accept \$2 million to create the program and enact the legislation to codify the program in law