In the final budget New York must support youth and families involved in the child welfare system

A statewide group of advocates, providers, and New Yorkers impacted by the child welfare system calls on New York leaders to ensure the following critical—and overdue—investments in human services workers and child welfare services are included in the 2023-2024 NYS Budget.

Increase the child welfare Preventive Services housing subsidy to $725 per month, index to inflation, and allow youth to be eligible until 24 (S.2038-A, Brisport/A.2525-A, Hevesi). The current subsidy offers $300 a month to youth and families involved in the child welfare system and is only available to youth in foster care until 21, depriving youth who age out of care at 21 any housing support as they transition to living independently. This is a critical housing support families and youth can access quickly; if increased, it will help keep families safely together and prevent youth from experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness. This subsidy is funded through open-ended Preventive Services funding and needs no new appropriation.

- Assembly proposes increase to $725 per month, and makes youth eligible to 24

Restore the statutory State reimbursement rate of 65% for child welfare Preventive Services funding, enabling counties to provide more services and resources to support families in staying together as they navigate the child welfare system and youth who age out of the system in living independently.

- Senate proposes $35 million to support a 65% state share, Assembly proposes 65% state share

Fully fund the Foster Youth College Success Initiative (FYSCI) at $10 million to ensure this hugely successful and growing program can fully support all of the youth with foster care experience who are navigating college and currently in the program, a new class of first-year students, and additional students as outreach expands.

- Senate proposes $9 million for FYSCI, Assembly proposes $8.6 million for FYSCI

Fund an 8.5% cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) for the caring workforce, including children’s health home care and Prevention Services managers.

- Senate proposes $20.4 million to fund the COLA, Assembly proposes 8.5% COLA

We call upon New York leaders to ensure that youth and families involved in the child welfare system are not left behind in the final budget.

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