



Schuyler Center’s *Next Look* at the NYS 2025-26 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) 2025-26 One-House Budget proposals, along with the Executive Budget proposals, would address some of the issues most critical to the health and wellbeing of low-income families and children, and New Yorkers living on the margins. With the 2021 enactment of the Child Poverty Reduction Act, New York has committed to cutting child poverty by 50% by 2031 with attention to racial equity. The law creates an expectation of public accounting for progress over time and assessment of how budget proposals would impact child poverty. In the fourth year since enactment, and with the Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council’s recommendations released in December 2024, all of us, in and outside of government, must systematically evaluate each and every budget decision as to its impact on child poverty and overall child and family wellbeing. Now is the time to take action to move New York swiftly toward meeting its child poverty reduction commitment. Highlighted below are State budget proposals that hold real opportunity to move New York toward fulfilling that commitment, and to concretely improving the lives of New York children, families, and marginalized New Yorkers. In the coming days, Schuyler Center’s team will be analyzing these proposals closely and working with partners to ensure that the enacted State budget seizes these opportunities to set up all New Yorkers to thrive.

CHILD WELFARE & YOUTH JUSTICE			
Executive	Senate	Assembly	Recommendation
\$11.8 million for a 2.1% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for human services workers	Accepts Executive proposal	Accepts Executive proposal	Support a 7.8% COLA for human services workers
\$338,750 for Permanency Resource Centers (PRCs), level funding; Eliminates all \$1.9 million in funding for local kinship caregiver support programs;	\$2.2 million for PRCs and kinship caregiver programs	\$2.2 million for PRCs and kinship caregiver programs	\$2.2 million for PRCs and local kinship caregiver programs
\$220,500 for the statewide Kinship Navigator, down \$100,000 from last year’s Enacted Budget.	\$320,500 for the NYS Kinship Navigator	\$220,500 for the NYS Kinship Navigator	\$320,500 for the NYS Kinship Navigator
No proposal to support legal representation for kinship caregivers	\$4 million to establish a Kinship Legal Network	No proposal	\$8 million to establish a Kinship Legal Network

Executive	Senate	Assembly	Recommendation
\$7.9 million for the Foster Youth College Success Initiative (FYCSI), down \$392,000 from last year's Enacted Budget	\$10 million for FYCSI	\$8.53 million for FYCSI	\$10 million for FYCSI in its tenth year!
No proposal to establish the Child and Family Wellbeing Fund	No proposal	\$80 million for the Communities Helping Improve Lives Daily (CHILD) program, including \$30 million for capital projects	Establish the Child and Family Wellbeing Fund (S.6431/A.63-A) with robust funding for eligible community-led organizations
\$250 million for Raise the Age, level funding No proposal to change Raise the Age funding by establishing the Youth Justice Innovation Fund	\$250 million for Raise the Age; sets aside \$25 million to establish the Youth Justice Innovation Fund \$50 million for the Youth Justice Innovation Fund via the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services	\$350 million for Raise the Age Requires all young people under 18 who are arrested to attend/meet with probation	Establish the Youth Justice Innovation Fund with \$25 million set aside from Raise the Age funding

CHILD POVERTY REDUCTION & AFFORDABILITY FOR FAMILIES

Executive	Senate	Assembly	Recommendation
<p>Proposes to expand the Empire State Child Credit (ESCC) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminating minimum income requirement and phase-in; • Increasing maximum credit from \$330 to \$1,000 per child under age 4 starting Tax Year (TY) 2025; • Increasing maximum credit from \$330 to \$500 per child for children ages 4 through 16 starting TY 2026. <p>Expansion would sunset SFY 2028</p> <p>No proposal to allow taxpayers filing with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), rather than Social Security Number, to claim the State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)</p>	<p>Establishes the Working Families Tax Credit, which would combine the ESCC and the Earned Income Tax Credit, and when it is fully phased in, give families (including those filing with an ITIN) a \$1,600 fully refundable credit per child for children 0-18</p>	<p>Includes the Executive Budget proposal to expand the ESCC, but limits the expansion to TY 2025</p> <p>Proposes to roll out – over the next 5 years – a tax credit that combines the ESCC and the Earned Income Tax Credit, and includes those filing with an ITIN, called the New York Works Tax Credit. The credit would increase year by year to \$1,600 per child by 2030 for children 0-18 years old</p>	<p>Establish a robust, refundable tax credit for families with children by eliminating the minimum income requirement and phase-in, being broadly inclusive of ITIN filers, and increasing the credit amount to reduce child and family poverty, as is proposed in the Senate one-house budget</p>

Executive	Senate	Assembly	Recommendation
Establishes the Birth Allowance for Beginning Year (BABY) benefit for public assistance recipients. The allowance would provide \$100 a month during pregnancy and \$1,200 upon the birth of a child	<p>\$247 million to establish the BABY benefit program</p> <p>Proposes Article VII language to establish the Baby Bucks program which would provide a subsidy of \$1,000 per month during the last three months of pregnancy and the first nine months of a child’s life, plus \$500 per month for the next nine months of the child’s life</p>	<p>\$200 million to establish the Increasing Nutrition Support for Prenatal and Infant Resiliency (INSPIRE) one-year pilot program. INSPIRE would provide a \$400 monthly stipend to parents during the last three months of pregnancy and the first 12 months of a child’s life.</p>	<p>Establish an allowance program for parents of infants that provides robust support to families during this critical period in their lives</p>

HOUSING ACCESS VOUCHER PROGRAM

Executive	Senate	Assembly	Recommendation
No proposal to establish the Housing Access Voucher Program, a state-level voucher program to provide housing stability to New York families at risk of homelessness	<p>\$250 million to establish the Housing Access Voucher Program</p>	<p>\$250 million to establish the Housing Access Voucher Program</p>	<p>\$250 million to establish the Housing Access Voucher Program (S.72/A.1704)</p>

HUNGER AND NUTRITION

Executive	Senate	Assembly	Recommendation
Establishes universal free school meals	<p>\$340 million to fully fund universal free school meals</p>	<p>\$340 million to fully fund universal free school meals</p>	<p>Fully fund universal school meals</p>
No proposal to establish a minimum Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit program	<p>\$16.25 million to establish the NYS SNAP Minimum-Benefits program, creating a \$50 per month minimum benefit for SNAP recipients</p>	<p>No proposal for a SNAP minimum benefit program</p>	<p>Establish a \$100 monthly minimum SNAP benefit to ensure that eligible New York families receive a benefit that will have a meaningful impact on their household budget</p>

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Executive	Senate	Assembly	Recommendation
No proposal to increase cash assistance’s basic allowance	<p>Proposes an increase in cash assistance levels for those individuals and families who live in a shelter that provides three meals a day (currently receiving a reduced grant) to double that of the basic allowance</p> <p>Individuals who fall under this category had received \$45 per month since 1997</p>	No proposal to increase cash assistance’s basic allowance	Act on the recommendation of the Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council to increase cash assistance’s basic allowance by 100%

CHILD CARE

Executive	Senate	Assembly	Recommendation
<p>Approximately \$2.07 billion allocated for child care assistance (CCAP or subsidies): \$1.8 billion cash amount, according to Exec Budget Briefing book - level with last year’s final budget</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Breakdown</p> <p>General Fund: \$997.2 million (\$1.079 billion cash amount)</p> <p>CCDF: up to \$576 million</p> <p>TANF: \$497.2 million</p> <p>Bottom line: Flat funding for CCAP</p>	<p>Approximately \$2.12 billion allocated for CCAP</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Breakdown</p> <p>General Fund: \$1.37 billion (cash amount TBD)</p> <p>CCDF: up to \$576 million (cash amount TBD)</p> <p>TANF: \$175.3 million</p> <p>Bottom line: adds \$50 million to CCAP</p>	<p>Approximately \$2.283 billion allocated for CCAP</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Breakdown</p> <p>General Fund: \$1.006 billion (cash amount TBD)</p> <p>CCDF: up to \$576 million (cash amount TBD)</p> <p>TANF: \$88.63 million</p> <p>Bottom line: adds \$212.5 million to CCAP</p>	<p>143,561 children received CCAP in December 2024. This amounts to a small fraction of the more than one million New York children eligible for child care assistance. With the number of families applying for CCAP rising every month, some counties are facing an imminent CCAP shortfall. To prevent families from being prevented from enrolling or recertifying for CCAP, the final budget must include at least an additional \$500 million for CCAP.</p>
No proposal to provide compensation supplements, bonuses or any investment in the child care workforce	Proposes \$500 million “for services and expenses of the Child Care Worker Retention Grant Program”	No proposal	Include at least \$500 million for a “permanent child care workforce pay equity fund” (S.5533/A.492-A)

Executive	Senate	Assembly	Recommendation
No proposal ending New York’s rule barring parents/caretakers from accessing CCAP if they earn less – on average – than the minimum wage	Proposes Article VII language ending the minimum earnings’ requirement	Proposes Article VII language ending the minimum earnings’ requirement	Adopt Article VII language to end the minimum earnings’ requirement to ensure the lowest income working families are not excluded from CCAP
No proposal to end the state’s practice of tying child care assistance to caretakers’ exact hours of work (decoupling)	No proposal	Proposes Article VII language to end the state’s practice of tying child care assistance to caretakers’ exact hours of work, and appropriates at least \$25 million to cover costs associated with this expansion	End the practice of tying child care assistance to caretakers’ exact hours of work
No funding for enhanced rates for non-traditional hour care. In last year’s final budget, NYS raised the differential payment rate for providing care during non-traditional hours from a minimum of 5% to 10%.	Proposes \$25 million to provide enhanced rates for providers caring for children during non-traditional hours	No funding for enhanced rates for non-traditional hour care	Funding enhanced rates would help providers cover the higher costs of non-traditional hour care, and will help New York come closer to meeting the significant unmet need for this kind of care
No proposal directing OCFS to conduct a cost estimation model to determine the actual cost to providers of offering high quality child care	No proposal	Directs OCFS in Article VII to “utilize a cost estimation model to determine the actual cost providers incur when providing child care”	Require OCFS to use a cost estimation model to set rates and ensure all providers are automatically paid the most up-to-date rate based on the true cost of care
\$100 million in capital funding for construction and renovation of child care centers; \$10 million in federal funding for family child care	Accepts Executive proposal	Accepts Executive proposal	Infrastructure is a challenge for child care, but the more pressing issue providers face is that staffing shortages due to low pay have left many unable to operate at full licensed capacity
\$3 million to create a Child Care Worker Substitute Pool	Accepts the Executive proposal of \$3 million for the substitute pool and proposes Article VII language creating the pool (slightly different from the Assembly language)	Accepts the Executive proposal of \$3 million for the substitute pool and proposes Article VII language creating the pool (slightly different from the Senate language)	Create a substitute pool that is available to all licensed registered modalities, in regions across the state, coordinated by a trusted NY nonprofit, with input from providers

Executive	Senate	Assembly	Recommendation
\$1 million to create the New York Coalition for Child Care, which would “formalize the partnership between businesses, unions, and providers”	Rejects Executive proposal	Accepts the Executive proposal of \$1 million, proposes Article VII language defining the charge of the Coalition and membership	This is a promising proposal if this Coalition is directed to develop a sustained funding plan ambitious enough to support universal child care and the Executive intends to include the proposal in the 2026-27 Executive Budget
No funding for child care Facilitated Enrollment (FE) Programs’ pilot programs to offer child care assistance scholarships to children regardless of immigration status, to episodic workers, and to other FE programs	Proposes \$10 million for the FE Pilot Program for episodic workers and excluded immigrant children up to 400% FPL (\$5 million for NYC and \$5 million for Rest of State) – level funding with last year’s final budget	Proposes \$10 million for the FE Pilot Program for episodic workers and excluded immigrant children up to 400% FPL (\$5 million for NYC and \$5 million for Rest of State) – level funding with last year’s final budget	Include \$10 million in the FE pilots for children barred from assistance due to immigration status and episodic workers and reinvest any remaining funds from last year into the pilots
\$5 million for QUALITYstarsNY, the State’s quality rating and improvement system, level with last year’s final budget	Accepts Executive proposal	Accepts Executive proposal	Include \$5 million for QUALITYstarsNY; all children in child care need and deserve a high-quality, culturally responsive, safe child care program staffed by well-supported, fairly-compensated educators
Up to \$5 million to support a pilot of staffed Family Child Care Networks around the state, focused on supporting and growing the capacity of family and group family child care providers, level with last year’s final budget	Accepts Executive proposal	Accepts Executive proposal, and proposes language specifying that networks should engage in “recruitment and expansion of providers located in child care deserts”	Adopt the proposal; family child care plays a critical role in the child care sector, serving a disproportionately high percentage of families receiving child care assistance and are more likely to serve families needing care during the early mornings, nights, and weekends
Up to \$10.7 million, drawing upon federal CCDF funds, for the Infant-Toddler Resource Network, level with last year’s final budget	Accepts Executive proposal	Accepts Executive proposal	Adopt the proposal; the Infant-Toddler Resource Network provides critical training and supports to providers serving our youngest New Yorkers

Executive	Senate	Assembly	Recommendation
\$4.8 million for an Employer Supported Child Care pilot program which will serve families between 85 and 100% of SMI in three regions of the state	Accepts Executive proposal	Accepts Executive proposal	This is the third year this program has been funded at this same level, and yet, the program still has not been launched. While business must be a partner in addressing the child care needs of New York families, treating it like an employee benefit can deepen inequities in access and quality.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND WELLBEING

Executive	Senate	Assembly	Recommendation
\$1.2 billion for universal Pre-Kindergarten, including \$143 million from last year's Enacted Budget	Adds \$150 million for universal Pre-K. Proposes to increase the minimum per pupil funding distributed via formula from \$5,400 to \$6,700 per pupil, and expanding the number of seats allocated to districts	Adds \$302.4 million for universal Pre-K. Proposes to increase the minimum per pupil funding distributed via formula from \$5,400 to \$10,000 per pupil Adds \$25 million to the Statewide Full Day Pre-K program, which funds every slot at \$10,000	Increase investment in Pre-K to move toward adequate funding per child (at least \$10,000) for all children and get closer to fulfilling the promise of universal full-day Pre-K for all 4-year-olds
\$109.74 million combined funding for Advantage Afterschool and Empire State Afterschool Programs, now called Learning and Enrichment After-school Program Supports (LEAPS), a \$6.485 million increase over last year's Enacted Budget to cover increases in the state minimum wage	Provides an additional \$70.3 million to expand LEAPS for a total of \$180 million Adds language to ensure eligible-but-unfunded LEAPS applicants from previous RFP receive funding	Adds: - \$100 million for afterschool programs in high need districts serving youth up to age 18, and - \$5 million for afterschool providers whose programs are not eligible for other state-funded afterschool grants and whose programs serve primarily economically disadvantaged students	Support robust investment in afterschool programs, and streamlined State administration, to meet need and pay the workforce a thriving wage

Executive	Senate	Assembly	Recommendation
<p>\$3 million for Nurse-Family Partnership, down \$1.2 million from last year’s Enacted Budget;</p> <p>\$26 million plus supplemental funding (TBD) for Healthy Families NY, similar to last year’s Executive and Enacted budgets, which allocated \$11 million in supplemental funding;</p> <p>\$1.8 million for Maternal Infant Community Health Collaboratives, level funding.</p>	<p>Adds \$1.7 million for Nurse-Family Partnership</p> <p>Accepts Executive proposal</p> <p>Accepts Executive</p>	<p>Adds \$1 million for Nurse-Family Partnership</p> <p>Accepts Executive proposal</p> <p>Accepts Executive</p>	<p>\$4.7 million for Nurse-Family Partnership</p> <p>Adopt proposal for Healthy Families NY; add \$500,000 for ParentChild+</p>
<p>\$205 million for the Early Intervention (EI) program that provides services for very young children with delays and disabilities, level funding</p> <p>No proposal to fund a comprehensive review of New York’s EI program</p>	<p>Proposes \$45 million for a rate increase</p> <p>Proposes \$250,000 to fund the EI Reform bill (S.1222/A.283), which would require a comprehensive review of New York’s EI program</p>	<p>Includes \$12 million for a rate increase</p> <p>No proposal</p>	<p>5% increase in payment rates (in addition to the 5% rate increase from the SFY25 budget), which could be funded through an increase in the Covered Lives Assessment</p> <p>Fund a comprehensive review of New York’s Early Intervention funding, program model and regulations</p>
<p>\$250 million for community schools, level funding;</p> <p>\$1.2 million for Community Schools Regional Technical Assistance Centers, level funding.</p>	<p>Adds \$105 million in categorical funding for community schools</p> <p>Accepts Executive proposal</p>	<p>Accepts Executive proposal for community schools and Regional Technical Assistance Centers</p>	<p>Invest in separate, categorical funding for community schools, in addition to Foundation Aid funding, which will allow more schools to more fully adopt the community schools model</p>
PUBLIC HEALTH, HEALTH COVERAGE, ACCESS AND CARE			
Executive	Senate	Assembly	Recommendation
<p>Proposes language to expand where dental hygienists can practice under a collaborative agreement</p>	<p>No proposal</p>	<p>No proposal</p>	<p>Support language that would expand where dental hygienists can practice under a collaborative agreement</p>

Executive	Senate	Assembly	Recommendation
\$5.5 million for the Community Health Advocates (CHA) program	Adds \$1.5 million	No additional funding	\$7 million for CHA
Eliminates all \$6.5 million in funding for the Enhanced Quality of Adult Living (EQUAL) program, which provides adult home resident councils with a small amount of funding to improve the quality of life in the home	Accepts Executive proposal	\$6.5 million for EQUAL	\$6.5 for EQUAL
Eliminates all \$175,000 in funding for the Coalition for Institutionalized and Aged Disabled (CIAD), which provides advocacy services to residents of adult homes	Accepts Executive proposal	\$75,000 for CIAD	\$175,000 for CIAD
Does not propose funding for the Center for Health Workforce Studies (CHWS), which would need \$350,000 to implement the Health Professions Data Law enacted in 2021	No proposal	No proposal	\$350,000 to implement the Health Professions Data Law that was enacted four years ago