

## **Schuyler Center Statement on Governor Hochul's 2026 State of the State Address**

*Key investments will protect and support children experiencing poverty.*

January 13, 2026

As advocates for policies that support children and families experiencing poverty, [Schuyler Center](#) applauds Governor Hochul's State of the State proposals that will both protect and bring meaningful investment in New York's children and families.

The right state investments can ensure family wellbeing and make New York State the best place for a child to learn, play, grow, find their passion, and participate in a vibrant future for our state. That remains true, regardless of threats from the federal government. We look forward to working with Governor Hochul and state leaders to implement the policies and investments that will make that future possible.

### ***Universal Child Care***

[Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy](#) celebrates this landmark proposal as New York State and Governor Hochul continue to lead the way on investments that lay the foundation for universal child care. Crucially, the Governor's child care proposal prioritizes low-income families and communities by making sure there is enough funding for the Child Care Assistance Program, while also investing in universal child care community pilots and pre-K in New York City and the rest of the state. The Child Care Assistance Program is the foundation of universal child care and a powerful tool for reducing child poverty.

This historic proposal is a testament to decades of unflagging efforts from parents, child care educators, grassroots organizers, and advocates from communities across the state.

We applaud the leadership of Governor Hochul, who has championed child care for decades - long before it was a widely popular policy. We are eager to partner with state leaders to achieve the vision of universal child care for all New York State families.

- [Read the full Schuyler Center statement on Governor Hochul's child care proposal.](#)
- [Read the \*Empire State Campaign for Child Care's\* response to Governor Hochul's child care proposal.](#)

### ***Protecting Immigrant Children and Families***

No matter where they were born, all New Yorkers should feel safe in their homes, their schools, their child care centers, their places of worship, and their communities.

We look forward to partnering with Governor Hochul, the Legislature, and partners across the state to ensure that our immigrant neighbors can safely access the resources, legal services, and protections they need to live and thrive in New York State.

***Additional Proposals that Support Children and Families***

Schuyler Center looks forward to learning more about additional proposals that will support children and families with low-incomes. These include:

- Boosting awareness of the Child Tax Credit - following last year's historic expansion of the state child tax credit, ensuring that all families are aware and know how to file so that they receive the full credit for which they are eligible.
- Expanding free school meals during the summer to “help make sure New York’s children have access to healthy meals 365 days a year.”
- Protecting SNAP benefits from being stolen electronically by upgrading New York’s EBT cards, secure chip-based technology.

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Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy is a leading statewide, nonpartisan, policy analysis and advocacy organization based in Albany. For over 150 years, Schuyler Center has worked to shape policies to improve health, welfare, and human services for all New Yorkers, especially those impacted by poverty and inequitable systems. Schuyler Center is focused on statewide policy related to universal child care, family economic security, family wellbeing, and child health. Learn more at [www.scaany.org](http://www.scaany.org).