

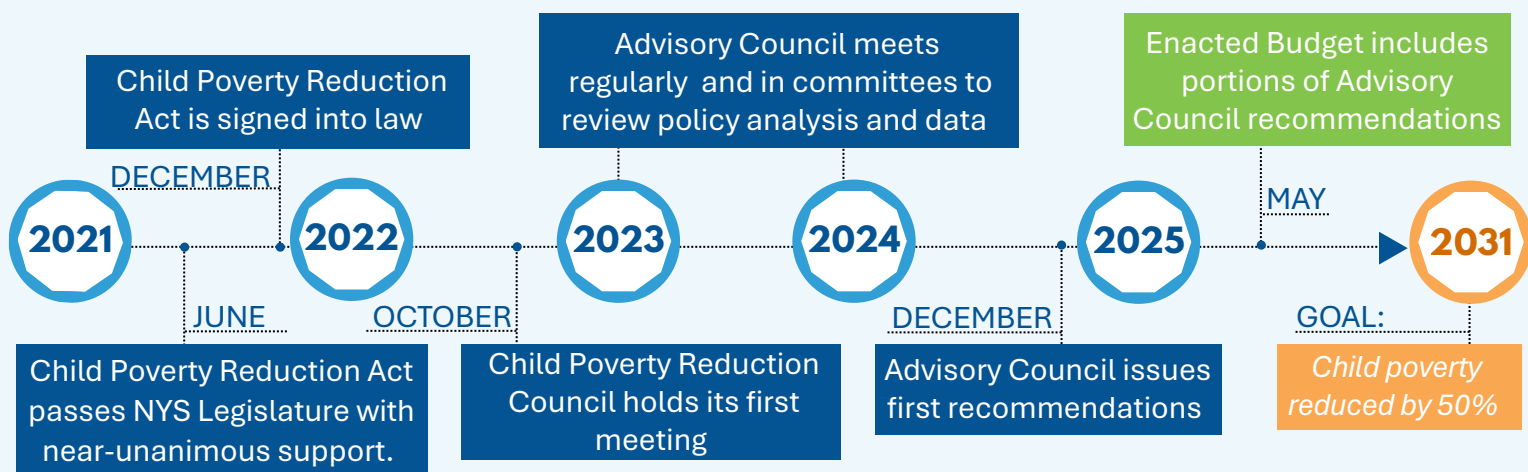
# New York's Nation-Leading *Child Poverty Reduction Act*

2026 Status Check: 5 Years In, 5 To Go

## The Child Poverty Reduction Act

Spearheaded by Schuyler Center, the Child Poverty Reduction Act was passed by the NYS Legislature and signed into law by Governor Kathy Hochul in 2021. The law commits New York State to cutting child poverty in half—with attention to racial equity—within a decade.

In December 2024, the Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council (CPRAC) released recommendations to help New York State achieve the historic goal of cutting child poverty by 50% by 2031.



## Accomplishments to Date



**Expansion of NY's Child Tax Credit:** expanded eligibility by removing the minimum income requirement and increased maximum credit to \$1000 per child per year for children under 4, and \$500 per child per year for children 4-17 years old.



**Birth benefit for Public Assistance recipients:** the Birth Allowance for Beginning Year (BABY) Benefit provides \$1800 to parents receiving Public Assistance following the birth of a child.



**Universal School Meals:** requires all schools that participate in the national school lunch program to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students regardless of family income.



**State-funded housing voucher pilot:** the Housing Access Voucher Program pilot will provide rental assistance vouchers to homeless households or at-risk households.

## Estimated Child Poverty Reduction Impacts to Date

↓ **17.9%**

Analyses by the Urban Institute for the Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council estimate that the policy changes to date will contribute to a 17.9% reduction in child poverty statewide.

## What's Next

To reach its child poverty reduction goal of 50%, New York must fully implement the recommendations of the CPRAC, including:

- Increasing the maximum amount of the child tax credit to \$1,500 for children 0-18, and indexing it to inflation
- Doubling the Cash Assistance basic allowance and making administrative changes that allow families to build long-term economic stability
- Fully funding and making permanent the Housing Access Voucher Program
- Establishing a state food benefit so that all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status, can access the food they need

