

The Children's Agenda

Review of the Impact of the 2016-17 NY State Enacted Budget on Children & Youth

The enacted FY2017 New York State budget establishes two important policies that will benefit Monroe County's children and families. Paid family leave and an increased minimum wage will bring needed stability and income to working parents. While The Children's Agenda (TCA) commends these gains, we are concerned about missed opportunities for children and families in this budget, which we fear will impact negatively on the needs of working families and the long term outcomes of New York's children.

TCA recommendations and final budget allocations:

RECOMMENDATION 1: Invest an additional \$190M for child care subsidies in the 2016-17 Budget.

FINAL BUDGET: *There are no additional funds for child care subsidies for working families.*

RECOMMENDATION 2: Allocate \$2M annually for 5 years to Monroe County to expand evidence-based home visiting programs, with a required 2-to-1 match of public/private funds, (\$1 of private funding for every \$2 of public funding). In addition, allocate \$5M to expand NFP in other areas of the state.

FINAL BUDGET: *Nurse-Family Partnership is funded at \$3.5M statewide, a cut of \$500,000 from last year. There are no allocations for other evidence-based home visitation programs.*

RECOMMENDATION 3: Pass Paid Family Leave Insurance legislation that uses the Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) system to support all workers during times of family crises.

FINAL BUDGET: *New York passed the most comprehensive and strongest paid family leave program in the nation, with up to 12 weeks of paid leave every year (at full implementation in 2021) for workers welcoming a new child, caring for an ill relative or adjusting to military deployment. The program is funded with employee payroll deductions, provides (at full phase-in) 2/3 of a worker's weekly wage during leave, and covers individuals working in businesses of all sizes after their first 6 months of employment.*

RECOMMENDATION 4: Expand access to quality out-of-school time care by increasing funding for the Advantage After-School Program to \$62.9M.

FINAL BUDGET: *The Advantage After School program received a \$3M increase in funding above last year's allocation, for a total of \$22.3M.*

RECOMMENDATION 5: Pass Raise the Age legislation with sufficient funding to provide for appropriate facilities, programs and services for 16- and 17-year old youth being moved out of the adult criminal justice system.

FINAL BUDGET: *No action was taken on a Raise the Age policy. \$110M in capital funding is reauthorized for land acquisition, construction or rehabilitation of facilities and other costs associated with raise the age. These funds were included in last year's budget but were not used because the policy was not enacted.*

Early Childhood Education

RECOMMENDATION:

INVEST AN ADDITIONAL \$190M FOR CHILD CARE SUBSIDIES.

High quality early childhood experiences have been proven to have a positive lifelong impact on children. Only one out of five eligible low income working families in New York can access child care subsidies due to inadequate funding. In 2014 the re-authorization of the federal Child Care Development Block Grant Act included new health and safety provisions that will require a significant investment to implement.

Enacted budget provisions:

- 1) **CHILD CARE SUBSIDIES:** *There are no additional funds for child care subsidies for working families. \$10.7M is allocated to partially cover the costs of the implementation of new federal regulations.*
- 2) **PREK:** *\$22M is allocated for additional 3 year old PreK classrooms in high-need districts; 4 year old PreK is level-funded.*
- 3) **QUALITYstarsNY:** *\$2M is allocated for QUALITYstarsNY.*
- 4) **EARLY INTERVENTION:** *There were no changes to the Early Intervention system.*

History:

- *Child care subsidy funding was increased by \$6.9M in the 2015-16 NYS budget.*
 - *PreK funding was increased by \$30M in the 2015-16 NYS budget.*
 - *QUALITYstarsNY was funded at \$3M in the 2015-16 NYS budget.*
 - *There were no changes to the Early Intervention program in the 2015-16 NYS budget.*
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Parent Support and Education

RECOMMENDATION:

ALLOCATE \$2M ANNUALLY FOR 5 YEARS TO MONROE COUNTY TO EXPAND EVIDENCE-BASED HOME VISITING PROGRAMS, WITH A REQUIRED 2-TO-1 MATCH OF PUBLIC/PRIVATE FUNDS (\$1 OF PRIVATE FUNDING FOR EVERY \$2 OF PUBLIC FUNDING). IN ADDITION, ALLOCATE \$5M TO EXPAND NFP IN OTHER AREAS OF THE STATE.

Parenting support and education programs are a proven cost-effective investment of public and private dollars, leading to improved outcomes for both parents and children, and saving future expenditures on special education, mental health care, juvenile justice and public assistance.

Enacted budget provisions: *Nurse-Family Partnership is funded at \$3.5M statewide, a cut of \$500,000 from last year. There are no allocations for other evidence-based home visitation programs.*

History:

- *Nurse-Family Partnership was funded at \$4M in the 2015-16 NYS budget, a \$1M increase over the previous year.*
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Paid Family Leave Insurance

RECOMMENDATION:

PASS PAID FAMILY LEAVE LEGISLATION THAT USES THE TEMPORARY DISABILITY INSURANCE (TDI) SYSTEM TO SUPPORT ALL WORKERS DURING TIMES OF FAMILY CRISES.

Paid Family Leave Insurance allows workers to be with their families during times of crisis or major events such as birth or adoption of a child, a serious illness of a family member, or military deployment. Despite the federal family leave law, across the country just 12 percent of the workforce gets paid family leave at work.

Enacted budget provisions: A Paid Family Leave policy will be gradually implemented starting on January 1, 2018, reaching full implementation in 2021. The policy, funded through a weekly payroll deduction for all New York workers,

includes:

- ***Twelve weeks of leave that is phased in over four years to care for a new child or seriously ill loved one or to adjust to a military deployment.***
- ***A benefit level that starts at 50% of a worker's own weekly wage up to a maximum benefit of 50% of the statewide average weekly wage in year 1, gradually reaching 67% of a worker's own wage, and 67% of the statewide average weekly wage in year 4.***
- ***Job protection so New York's workers know they have a job to come back to after taking leave.***
- ***Coverage for all 6.4 million private sector workers in New York who currently lack access to paid family leave. Public sector unions can opt their members in. Employees must work for an employer for at least 6 months before accessing paid leave.***

History:

- *Paid Family Leave was not included in the 2015-16 NYS budget.*

After School Programs

RECOMMENDATION:

INCREASE ACCESS TO QUALITY OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME OPPORTUNITIES BY FUNDING THE ADVANTAGE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM AT \$69.2M.

A December 2015 report authored by The Children's Agenda found that:

- *14,076 children who could benefit from high-quality after-school care in Rochester are not currently accessing it.*
- *Research shows that participation in quality after-school and summer learning programs can result in higher academic achievement and improved social competencies.*

Enacted budget provisions: The Advantage After School program received a \$3M increase in funding above last year's allocation, for a total of \$22.3M.

History:

- *The Advantage After School program was funded at \$19.2M in the 2015-16 NYS budget, an increase of \$1.5M over the previous year.*

Raise the Age

RECOMMENDATION:

PASS RAISE THE AGE POLICY WITH SUFFICIENT FUNDING TO PROVIDE FOR APPROPRIATE FACILITIES, PROGRAMS & SERVICES FOR 16-17 YEAR OLD YOUTH MOVED OUT OF THE ADULT CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

New York State is currently one of only 2 states in the nation that treats 16- and 17-year olds as adults in the criminal justice system. A comprehensive Raise the Age policy would promote effective interventions and diversion programs that hold youth accountable for their actions while also ensuring pathways to productive citizenship.

Enacted budget provisions: A Raise the Age policy was not addressed in the budget. Advocates will continue to pursue adoption of the Raise the Age policy in the remainder of the 2016 legislative session. \$110M was reauthorized for costs associated for implementation of Raise the Age should it pass during the legislative session.

History:

- *\$110M was authorized for costs associated for implementation of Raise the Age in the 2015-16 NYS budget but the funds were not used because Raise the Age was not enacted.*

ADDITIONAL AREAS OF INTEREST IN THE FY 2017 ENACTED BUDGET:

Runaway and homeless youth: The enacted budget includes \$4.9M for runaway and homeless youth programs, an increase from last year's funding level of \$4.5M.

Community Schools:

School-Community Partnership Competitive Grant Program: As was true in last year's budget, **existing** funding is maintained but no new funding is provided for additional grants. There are currently two cohorts of grantees who will maintain funding through this grant program. The grants to the first cohort of 30 grantees will expire this June. The grants to the second cohort of 32 grantees expire in June 2017.

New funding is available through the Community Schools Aid and Community Schools Operating and Capital Fund. \$100M in new money is allocated for **Community Schools Aid**, which will be distributed through foundation aid. Funds are to support conversion of schools identified as "struggling" to community schools. The Aid is split into 2 streams - \$75M is set aside for the 17 school districts that have schools identified as "struggling" or "persistently struggling" and \$25M is set aside for school districts identified as "high need." The bill language allows that the funds can be used for conversion to community schools or "to support other costs incurred to maximize students' academic achievement." The Rochester City School District will receive \$7.6M.

*The **Community Schools Operating and Capital Fund** is \$75M to be distributed through a competitive grant process for schools identified as "struggling" or "persistently struggling."* \$50M is for operating aid and \$25M is for capital projects undertaken for the conversion to community schools, such as construction or renovation to create public-use spaces or school-based health clinics.

Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative: The enacted budget expands on the Governor's Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative proposal, providing \$25M to create Anti-Poverty Task Forces in the following municipalities: Albany, the Bronx, Buffalo, Elmira, Hempstead, Jamestown, Newburgh, Niagara Falls, Oneonta,

Oswego, Troy, Utica and Watertown. Rochester, Syracuse and Binghamton have existing Anti-Poverty Task Forces and will also receive funds under this Initiative; Rochester will receive \$2.75M.

Youth Development Program: The proposed allocation of \$15.4M is identical to last year's funding amount.

Summer Youth Employment: The enacted budget includes the Governor's proposed funding of \$31M for the Summer Youth Employment program, which is an increase of \$1M over last year's Enacted Budget allocation.

Urban Youth Jobs Program Tax Credit: This program encourages businesses to hire unemployed, disadvantaged youth, ages 16 to 24, living in the cities and towns with the highest poverty and unemployment rates. The annual allocation is increased from \$20 million to \$50 million for hiring years 2016 and 2017.

Extended Learning Time: No funding for the Extended Learning Time Grant Initiative is included in the enacted budget. Grants for this program expire in June 2017.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) is appropriated \$1M, its first year of funding in the NYS budget.

The Extended Day/School Violence program is level funded at \$24.3M.

Increase in minimum wage: The enacted budget sets in motion an increase of the minimum wage in New York State, with implementation that is gradual and varied by region. In Monroe County, the minimum wage will reach \$12.50 per hour in 2020 (starting at \$9.70 per hour effective Dec. 31, 2016 and increasing in \$.70 increments each year through 2020). In New York City and in Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester counties, the minimum wage will gradually increase to reach \$15 per hour by 2019 in NYC and 2021 in the 3 counties.

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Citizen's Committee for Children

Empire State Coalition

NYS Association of Counties

Children's Defense Fund – NY

NYS Catholic Conference