

Brief overview of the impact on children and youth in the FY 2013-2014 New York State Enacted Budget

Child care subsidies:

The total appropriation for child care subsidies is \$910 million. This is \$3 million more than last year and \$9 million more than the Governor's proposal, yet it is \$89 million less than what was sought by The Children's Agenda, The Children's Agenda's Interfaith Collaborative, and many advocates across the state.

While we hoped for a return to 2010 funding levels, we recognize that the Governor and Legislature took steps to protect these funds in a difficult budget year. Because these subsidies provide crucial support to working families and to children in need of safe, stimulating care settings, we will continue to seek more resources to increase the number of subsidized slots.

This issue is particularly important in Monroe County where the number of subsidies has dropped 50% since 2001. Without assistance, parents whose incomes place them at or near the federal poverty level either leave the workforce or continue working unable to afford the cost of high-quality child care - the kind of care that research has shown will produce a larger pay-off in the long run, with fewer tax dollars needed for public assistance, special education, and many other services.

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP):

The Nurse-Family Partnership program was allocated \$2 million in NEW money for FY 13-14 and also received a reappropriation of \$2.5 million in carryover unspent funds from last year. We applaud the Legislature for adding \$2 million after the Governor zeroed out NFP in his Executive Budget. These funds provide evidence-based home visitation services to young first-time mothers, and they represent a smart investment of state dollars.

Other home visiting programs:

The Healthy Families New York program is level-funded at \$23.3 million; funding for Department of Health's 'Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies' program was cut by 6% to \$1.85 million. Community Optional Preventive Services (COPS) was level-funded at \$12 million.

Education reform:

Some of the recommendations of Governor Cuomo's Education Reform Commission were approved by the Legislature, and will be made available through a competitive grant process. The budget includes funds for:

- a) Full-day or half-day Pre-K for higher need children in lower wealth districts - \$25 million;
- b) grants of \$500,000 per school for the creation of "community schools" that provide integrated social, health, after-school programs, and other services - \$15 million;
- c) extended learning time (lengthening the school day or the school year by at least 25%, with the state covering the cost of the expanded learning time; eligible applicants are school districts or school districts joining with community partners) - \$20 million;
- d) rewarding high-performing teachers with \$15,000 in annual stipends for four years, starting with math and science teachers - \$ 11 million; and
- e) additional investment in Early College High School programs - \$4 million.

School aid:

Aid to schools is up \$1 billion from last year; in Rochester, the city school district will get \$484.6 million, \$3.5 million more than Cuomo's original proposal, and a \$24.6 million increase, or 5.3 percent more, than this year; Monroe County districts saw their aid increase nearly \$45 million over last year, to a total of about \$957 million, including about \$121 million in building aid.

Early Intervention:

The Governor proposed substantive changes to the Early Intervention (EI) program, which provides services to meet the needs of infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. The proposed regulatory restrictions for providers would have limited access to services. The Senate and Assembly both rejected the changes, and the final budget contains no changes to regulation, administration or funding for EI.

After-school programs:

High-quality after-school programs have demonstrated their value in supporting students' academic and social-emotional development, as well as preventing youth from engaging in high-risk behaviors. The budget maintains but does not increase the investment in the Advantage After School Program, funding it at \$17.75 million. This represents level funding from FY 2012-13, with \$17.255 funded through OCFS and \$500,000 coming from TANF.

Youth services:

A new Youth Development Program was created by combining the Youth Development and Delinquency Program (YDDP) with the Special Delinquency Prevention program (SDPP). The new program begins Jan. 1, 2014, After that point, only counties and NYC will be able to receive Youth Development funding (no more town Youth Bureaus). Funding remained at least year's levels except the Legislature added \$1.3 million to be spent by Dec. 2013 to aid in transition.

Runaway and Homeless Youth is level-funded at \$2.36 M.

Summer Youth Employment is level-funded with \$25 million in TANF dollars.

Extended School Day/School Violence Prevention (ESD/SVP) is level-funded at \$24.3 million.

Other allocations affecting children and families:

- The minimum wage will increase to \$9/hour gradually over the next 3 years (\$8/hour by the end of 2013, \$8.75/hour by the end of 2014, and \$9/hour by the end of 2015), with subsidies to businesses that employ teenagers.
- Higher income taxes on millionaires are extended and families with children with annual incomes between \$40,000 and \$300,000 will receive \$350 rebate checks in 2014.
- The Governor's "Pay for Success" program, a new way of financing government services similar to Social Impact Bonds, was allocated \$30 million as a Contingency Reserve for use April 1, 2013-March 31, 2015.
- The budget includes level funding for the Primary Mental Health Project (\$894,000).