

Child Poverty

Bringing Hope and Equity to New York's Children

October 2022

The Need

Children growing up in poverty face lifelong consequences to their health, education and quality of life. No child should have to worry about their next meal or where they will sleep in one of the wealthiest nations.

\$27,750

Federal poverty level for a family of 4



2 out of 10 New York children live in poverty



5 out of 10 Rochester children live in poverty

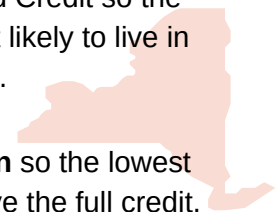
The Solution

We already know what works. Safety net programs and tax credits have proven effective at giving children the stability they need to thrive. We need to expand them so all children in poverty have access to basic supports.

1 Make the federal Child Tax Credit **fully refundable** so the poorest families receive the full credit.



2 Include children ages **birth - 3 years** in the Empire State Child Credit so the children who are most likely to live in poverty are supported.



3 Eliminate the **phase-in** so the lowest income families receive the full credit.

4 Make **taxpayers with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number eligible** for the New York Earned Income Tax credit so children are supported without exception.

EQUITY

"There's a difference between the cost of living and the cost of surviving."

-- Danielle, a Rochester mom, mental health counselor and doula

Why the Solution Matters



Chronic, toxic stress during pregnancy can alter a child's early brain development and affect later learning and health.



Food insecurity is associated with poor health, delays in physical development, lower reading and math scores, greater physical and mental health problems, and higher incidence of emotional and behavioral problems.



Poverty increases child welfare concerns with the majority of protective services cases being due to neglect, which is often unintentional and related to families' challenges in meeting their child's basic needs due to financial hardship.



Poverty contributes to educational disparities with children who live in poverty being less ready for school than their peers and less likely to graduate from high school or attend college.

90%

of Monroe County parents

**Support providing tax credits
to families with young children**

**We have the resources and capacity to
eliminate child poverty. All we need is the will.**