

National Update

New York's Governor Urges Federal Stimulus

Governor David A. Paterson joined with Governors from other states to send a letter to President-elect Obama and Vice President-elect Biden on December 29, 2008. The letter asked the President-elect to enact a stimulus package for the states. The letter asks for any economic recovery package to be considered by Congress to include:

- \$500 billion in aid to states and working families, including \$250 billion for countercyclical programs such as Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentages (FMAP), unemployment insurance, food stamps, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and child care; and \$250 billion for flexible education block grants to states.
- \$300 billion for infrastructure investments, including funds for “ready-to-go” projects to rehabilitate and construct our transportation, water, schools, housing, broadband, and health information technology infrastructure, creating thousands of jobs in the near-term, and supporting economic development, public health and safety for decades to come; and funds for longer-term projects, which have transformative regional impacts, create green jobs, and support national goals for energy efficiency, environmental conservation and smart growth.

Congress Works for SCHIP Reauthorization

Washington sources say that the House plans to vote on an SCHIP expansion similar to a bill that President Bush vetoed in 2007 before President-elect Obama takes office. The House will consider the legislation as a stand-alone bill, rather than as part of an economic stimulus package. The legislation will include an increase in the federal cigarette tax to fund the SCHIP expansion, although the cost of the bill remains undetermined. The Senate might also consider a stand alone SCHIP bill within the next few weeks.

Children's Leadership Council

A new children's coalition launched its efforts at the national level on December 18th with a campaign, *Invest in Children, Strengthen America*. The Children's Leadership Council, or CLC, will work much the same way at the federal level as New York CAN operates in New York State by providing a strong, unified voice for children. Many of the members of the CLC have state organizations who are members of CAN.

The CLC will work in five investment areas for children and youth including:

- 1) Prevention, early intervention and treatment for vulnerable children
- 2) Youth development

- 3) Children's health
- 4) Early care and education
- 5) Economic support for children and families.

The CLC is an exciting new development that complements and supports our work on behalf of children in New York State. View the full membership list and policy agenda at their [website](#).