

## Schuyler Center Source

January 12, 2017

### Looking Forward

There are many reasons to be optimistic as we look ahead to the 2017-2018 legislative session. Poverty rates are down. The economy is steadily, if slowly, improving. We are riding on the heels of historic wins for New York families and children from last session, including the passage of Paid Family Leave and an increasing minimum wage. New York State continues to lead the nation in innovative strategies seeking better health and lower costs in health care, particularly for low-income and disabled individuals, many of them children. Among the many promising steps the State took to improve health care delivery and outcomes was its convening, during the last quarter of 2016, of a subcommittee and clinical advisory group charged with developing recommendations about value-based payment for children co-chaired by our President and CEO, Kate Breslin.

### New York Is One of the Most Unequal States in the U.S.

The top 1% takes home 31.0% of all the income in New York.



Source: Economic Policy Institute

However, we begin this year with many still left behind. Almost a quarter of all New York children live in poverty; among Latino and African American New York children, the number living in poverty exceeds one-third. Income inequality in NYS is the worst in the nation. In 2013, the top 1 percent earned 45 times more than the bottom 99 percent in New York. In Manhattan, the top 1 percent earned 116 times that of the

99%. While the minimum wage hike will raise many families out of poverty in the coming years, many will be knocked back down by the high cost of child care. Eighty-three percent of New York families who are eligible for child care subsidies (that is, families with income less than 200% of the poverty level) do not receive subsidies because of inadequate funds. This means it is commonplace in NY for a family of three making \$40,320 (200% of FPL) or less to have to come up with \$10,000 a year (or more) per child for full-time child care. Further, New York is home to more than 200,000 unauthorized immigrants who reside with US-citizen children. Many of these



### Healthcare Questions?

Interested in following federal action on health coverage and implications for states? For research to resources on Medicaid, CHP and the ACA, bookmark these sites:

[Say Ahhh! A Health Policy Blog](#) by Georgetown Center for Children and Families

[Medicaid Matters NY](#)

[Families USA](#)

[Health Care for All New York \(HCFANY\)](#)

children may face abrupt, lengthy, and in some cases, permanent separation for their parents in the coming years should the incoming presidential administration make good on its promise to dramatically increase deportations.

Our [2017-18 policy priorities](#) place an emphasis on supporting and strengthening families through investments in child care and tax credits that benefit low-income working families, along with initiatives such as home visiting, behavioral health services, and programs and policies that support families and children in the child welfare system. The Governor's January press and talking points included a child care tax break for middle income families; it's a start and we look forward to what's next. At a time when the future of federal funding and programs are uncertain, our work in New York State will be more important than ever. We will look to the Governor and the legislature to demonstrate their commitment – through funding and policy – to children, families and communities, particularly those who are disenfranchised or living in poverty.

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## Announcing a New Partnership



Dear friends,

The Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy is extremely pleased to announce a new strategic partnership with the [Center for Children's Initiatives](#). Our organizations share a history of commitment to critical issues affecting families and children. Our new affiliation will build on both organizations' expertise, passion, and strong alliances throughout New York State. We will continue to promote policies that address the needs of all New York's children and families, with a focus on policies and investments that reflect sound research.

The Schuyler Center and CCI began our work together with the passage of Pre-K legislation in the 1990s and it continues today, as we seek and create ways to improve and expand early childhood development opportunities in New York State. We will continue to collect hard data, collaborate strategically, and make a solid case to policymakers for prioritizing children and families and intervening early and effectively to build a healthier more robust New York.

We look forward to our continued partnership, with each other and with you, to support New York's children and families.

Sincerely,

Kate Breslin  
President & CEO

## Schuyler Center, CCI, and other partners release report urging lawmakers to make child care and pre-K top priority in 2017 budget.

The Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy, along with the Alliance for Quality Education, the Center for Children’s Initiatives, and Citizen Action of New York have released a new report laying out a plan for New York State to make significant investments in child care and Pre-K in the 2017 Executive Budget.



The report, *Too Many Children Still Waiting: Make Quality Early Learning a Priority in 2017 Budget*, calls upon New York lawmakers to make good on their pledge to provide universal Pre-K to all New York 4-year olds. At present, that promise has only been realized in New York City; in the rest of the state, 81% of 4-year olds still do not have access to Pre-K. The report also urges real investment in child care to avert a crisis facing New York’s working families: at present, 83% of families living below 200% of poverty are not receiving child care subsidies due to inadequate investment. This leaves families of three making less than \$40,000 to shoulder child care costs that can exceed \$10,000 a year for one child on their own.

Read the report [here](#).

Read early news coverage of the report [here](#).

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## Checking Up on Value-Based Payment for Children



The Value-Based Payment for Children Subcommittee and Clinical Advisory Group (CAG) is charged with developing recommendations and measures as the State Department of Health moves forward with value-based payment. The Subcommittee and CAG includes pediatricians, pediatric behavioral health experts, community-based organizations, data analysts, consumer representation, several State agencies (OCFS, OMH, Education, DOH), and child and family advocates. In the coming weeks, the group will develop recommendations regarding how the State should undertake value-based payment for children and what measures are most appropriate. At the December meeting, there was consensus around an organizing framework of developmental stages, considering what outcomes we want and expect to see at each developmental stage. Together with Medicaid Director Jason Helgeson, the Albany Promise’s Juliette Price presented to the group about a pilot collaboration among several stakeholders led by NYS Medicaid and the Albany Promise, called All Albany Kids Ready! They discussed the concept of a “true north” measure – a guiding measure at each developmental stage that is the best indicator of a child’s overall health and well-being. In the case of the Albany project, kindergarten readiness is the “true north” measure, with developmental screening and referral a key component. For the purpose of the project, pediatricians and health plans are and will be invested in ensuring that all children are screened, families referred and connected to appropriate services, and that children are as ready as they can be to

start school. The work around VBP for children is exciting, innovative, critical, and tough. And New York is leading the way.

Click [here](#) to read the VBP for children paper commissioned by the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy together with the United Hospital Fund and written by Bailit Health.

Click [here](#) for Kate Breslin's article, *Opportunities to improve children's health by focusing on value*, which appears in the Winter 2017 issue of Behavioral Health News, available at [www.mhnews.org](http://www.mhnews.org).

Find Juliette Price's presentation [here](#).

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## In Case You Missed It:



The Schuyler Center's December **Policy Forum** featured speakers from New York, Massachusetts and Baltimore, and included youth and parents impacted by the child welfare system. Read about our sold-out forum [here](#).



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## News from Our Partners

Good news for babies in New York State! As of January 1, 2017, Child Health Plus (CHP) coverage for newborns is retroactive to the first of the month of the date of birth. The New York State Department of Health sent a letter to CHP health plans in December 2016. See this blog from the **Georgetown Center on Children and Families** for more information: <http://ccf.georgetown.edu/2016/01/11/a-gift-for-new-york-new-parents-for-the-new-year/>

**Health Care for All New York** will host its Annual Winter Meeting on Monday, January 23 in Albany. The meeting's key note speaker will be David Sandman, President and CEO of the New York State Health Foundation. For more information and to register [click here](#).

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U.S. Census Bureau. 2010-2014 ACS 5-Year Estimates. Table B17001: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age.

*Kids Count Data Center*. Children in Poverty by Age Group: New York. <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/5650-children-in-poverty-by-age-group?loc=34&loc2=2#detailed/2/34/false/573,869,36,868,867/17,18,36/12263,12264>.

Sommeiller, Estelle, Mark Price and Ellis Wazeter. (2016, June). Income inequality in the U.S. by state, metropolitan area, and county. Washington, DC: *Economic Policy Institute*. <http://www.epi.org/publication/income-inequality-in-the-us/>

Holcomb, Betty. (2017, January). Too Many Children Still Waiting. Albany, New York: *Alliance for Quality Education, Center for Children's Initiatives, Citizen Action, Public Policy and Education Fund of New*

York, and the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy. [http://www.scaany.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Too\\_Many\\_Children\\_Still\\_Waiting-RKRC\\_Report\\_2017.pdf](http://www.scaany.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Too_Many_Children_Still_Waiting-RKRC_Report_2017.pdf)

Migration Policy Institute. Profile of the Unauthorized Population: New York. <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/unauthorized-immigrant-population/state/NY>

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