



Schuyler Center's Next Look at the NYS 2019-20 Budget As It Intersects With Our Policy Priorities

Schuyler Center's *Next Look* is our assessment of the Assembly and Senate one-house budget bills as they compare to the Executive budget and Schuyler Center's priorities. As we noted in our *First Look*, the Executive Budget was largely disappointing in its failure to include any bold proposals to provide the tens of thousands of families experiencing poverty or near poverty a pathway into economic security. Missing were significant investments in services proven to improve family economic security, strengthen families, and prevent child welfare involvement, like quality, affordable child care, evidence-based home visitation, family strengthening programs, and working family tax credits.

The Assembly and Senate one-house bills pay far more attention to meeting the needs of New York children and families, accepting, and building upon the few new investments to services for children and families contained in the Executive Budget. Among the most important proposals is the Assembly and Senate's united support of the Executive's proposal to create the new Family First Transition Fund to support counties' efforts to recruit and support foster and kinship families. The Assembly and Senate also support the Executive's investment of \$26 million to help maintain the child care subsidy reimbursement rates at the current level when the new market rate is set, and add an additional \$20 million to expand child care subsidies. Finally, both houses accept the Executive proposal to increase funding for pre-K by \$15 million, and propose new funding to quicken the pace toward achieving the goal of universal. And, the Assembly proposes, *for the first time ever*, transportation aid for pre-K students.

New York has been underfunding services for low-income families and children for a decade. The modest increases proposed by the Legislature represent the absolute minimum amounts strained systems serving our children and families need to meet rising costs. We urge New York lawmakers to pass a final budget that prioritizes New York children and families.



CHILD WELFARE AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

Preventive, Protective, Independent Living, Adoption, and Aftercare Services

What's in the Executive Budget

The **Executive** proposes an appropriation – level with previous years funding – of \$635 million for preventive, protective, independent living, adoption, and aftercare services, but again this year, reduces the State share to 62% from 65% (as is written in statute).

The budget would also flat fund \$12 million for the Community Optional Preventive Services (COPS) program, continuing to limit that funding to counties that were funded when the COPS program was cut in 2008.

Assembly Response

The **Assembly** does not add the approximately \$30 million it would cost to restore child welfare preventive services to 65% State share.

Senate Response

The **Senate** does not add the approximately \$30 million it would cost to restore child welfare preventive services to 65% State share.

Background

Localities use the open-ended preventive funding stream to pay child protective services along with services to prevent children from entering, or re-entering, foster care. While State reimbursement to counties is written into statute at 65%, it has been reduced to 62% through the budget every year since 2008.

The State should expand its investment in primary prevention. A more strategic approach to prevention would be to make services available further upstream, before there is any documented risk of entry into foster care. The Schuyler Center urges the State to re-assume the 65% State share, setting aside the 3% restoration to be used for targeted, community-based primary prevention services to prevent child abuse and neglect, and strengthen families.

Family First Transition Fund

What's in the Executive Budget

The **Executive** proposes investing new federal adoption de-linking funds to create a Family First Transition Fund that would support counties' efforts around recruiting and supporting foster and kinship families in preparation for implementation of the new Family First Prevention Services Act.

Assembly Response

The **Assembly** accepts the Executive's proposal, including in its budget explicit language stating that at least \$3 million of federal adoption de-linking funds are to be directed to this new fund.

Senate Response

The **Senate** accepts the Executive's proposal.

Background

The Family First Prevention Services Act, which passed Congress in early 2018, fundamentally changes the approach to child welfare financing. Under the law, new requirements will be in place around the use of federal funding to support children in group home settings. The law aims to encourage states to place more children with foster families, including relatives. States will also be allowed to use some federal foster care dollars to fund evidence-based preventive services. The Schuyler Center urges the State to support the Transition Fund with a clean funding line, using State General Funds, to ensure the fund does not compete with or draw funding away from post-adoption supports that we know are critical to children and families.

Foster Care Block Grant

What's in the Executive Budget

The **Executive** does not propose restoration of the \$62 million cut to the Foster Care Block Grant included in the 2017-18 Enacted Budget, instead proposes maintaining last year's funding of the Block Grant of \$383.5 million.

Assembly Response

The **Assembly** accepts the Executive proposal.

Senate Response

The **Senate** accepts the Executive proposal.

Background

Counties use the Foster Care Block Grant to pay for foster care and the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (subsidized guardianship) program. A reduced block grant means that counties assume a higher share of spending for their foster care systems.

Prevention and Post-Adoption Services

What's in the Executive Budget

The **Executive** would invest a total of \$10.6 million in adoption assistance savings derived from a higher federal share of adoption assistance, into post-permanency services and services to prevent children from entering foster care. The Executive indicated in budget testimony that \$3 million of that total is to be used to fund the newly established Family First Transition Fund. The approximately \$7.5 million remaining for post-permanency services and services to prevent children from entering foster care is level compared to last year's final budget.

Assembly Response

The **Assembly** accepts and adds explicit language stating that a minimum of \$3 million shall be used to establish the Family First Transition Fund.

Senate Response

The **Senate** accepts the Executive language.

Background

Post-permanency services are available to families after an adoption or guardianship arrangement has been finalized. These services are intended to help support families in permanency and to meet the needs of children and youth who had been in foster care.

Kinship Navigator and Kinship Caregiver Services

What's in the Executive Budget

The **Executive** proposes funding for kinship caregiver services at \$338,750. This is a cut of \$1.9 million from last year's final budget. Last year the Assembly added \$1.9 million.

The **Executive** also proposes \$220,500 in funding for the statewide Kinship Navigator information and referral network. This represents a cut of the \$100,000 the Assembly added to last year's budget.

Assembly Response

The **Assembly** adds \$1.9 million for kinship caregiver services. The Assembly also accepts the \$220,500 in funding for the statewide Kinship Navigator information and referral network proposed by the Executive, and adds an additional \$100,000.

Senate Response

The **Senate** accepts the Executive proposal.

Background

Kinship caregiver programs offer important support and services to people who care for relatives' minor children outside of the formal foster care program. Programs provide information about family members' rights, support to meet children's education and health care needs, and assistance with obtaining benefits.

The Kinship Navigator is a statewide resource and referral network for kinship families, providing information and connections to important resources.

The Schuyler Center urges the State to at least maintain level funding to these important and cost-effective programs, and support a federal kinship navigator project evaluation to prepare for implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act.

Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KinGAP)

What's in the Executive Budget

The **Executive** proposes to continue funding KinGAP within the Foster Care Block Grant, as was done in previous budgets.

Assembly Response

The **Assembly** accepts the Executive proposal.

Senate Response

The **Senate** accepts the Executive proposal.

Background

KinGAP provides relatives in certified foster care settings a permanency option when both adoption and family reunification are ruled out. Many of these families require financial assistance to continue caring for a relative's child in their household; with KinGAP, kinship families can exit the foster care system and continue to receive financial support. KinGAP is an important way to promote permanency for children and youth; the State should fund KinGAP as separate, uncapped, and outside of the Foster Care Block Grant, with no reduction to the Foster Care Block Grant.

Foster Care and Higher Education

What's in the Executive Budget

The **Executive** proposes \$1.5 million in funding for the Foster Youth College Success Initiative (FYSI) to support youth in foster care to pursue higher education to graduation. This represents a \$4.5 million cut compared to last year's final budget, when the Assembly added \$4.5 million to the Governor's proposal, bringing the program to \$6 million.

Without a restoration of \$4.5 million, the program will not be able to support students who may already be participating, and could prevent some from successfully completing their course of study.

Assembly Response

The **Assembly** adds \$4.5 million to the FYSI to restore the funding to last year's level.

Senate Response

The **Senate** adds \$4.5 million to the FYSI to restore funding to last year's level.

Background

The Schuyler Center is a member of the steering committee of the Fostering Success Youth Alliance, which is working to provide a realistic path to higher education for the State's youth in care and urges the State to maintain funding to FYSI.

Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS)

What's in the Executive Budget

The **Executive** proposes changes to the law governing Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS), that is, youth acting out such that their parents or guardians are unable to supervise them, chief among them that PINS youth may no longer be placed in detention. The Executive proposal would also prevent

PINS youth in most cases from being placed in foster care, and would prevent counties from using state preventive funding to provide critical support to these youth and their families, like respite care, counseling and other services.

Assembly and Senate Response

Both the **Assembly** and **Senate** propose to end detention of PINS youth, but seek to ensure that PINS youth can still be placed in foster care when that is deemed the safest option, and for counties to be able to use preventive funds to provide these youth and their families the supports they need. Each proposal is slightly different.

Background

A child under the age of 18 who does not attend school or behaves in a way that is dangerous or out of control, or often disobeys his or her parents, guardians or other authorities, may be found to be a Person in Need of Supervision or “PINS,” by a family court judge. A variety of services can be used to defer PINS petitions from going forward including crisis intervention; mediation; preventive services; family counseling; substance abuse programs; anger management; and other services that a family may request. If services cannot meet the child and family needs to correct the situation, and the PINS court process must be utilized, the Department of Probation is then engaged, and DOP staff meet with the family to discuss the issues, the court process and other options, if appropriate. Among the actions family court may currently take in a PINS matter is to detain the child in a non-secure facility.

Schuyler Center welcome the State’s effort to end detention of PINS youth, but is concerned about some of the other impacts of the proposals under consideration. We urge the State to include in the final budget language that (1) ends the use of non-secure detention for PINS youth; (2) allows family court judges to place PINS youth in foster care when appropriate, both during the pendency of the case or after disposition; (3) allows counties to be reimbursed for all such placement as they are currently; and (4) allows counties to continue to be reimbursed for PINS diversion services as they are currently.



WORKING FAMILY TAX REFORMS

Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit

What’s in the Executive Budget

The **Executive** proposes no changes to New York State’s child and dependent care tax credit.

Assembly Response

The **Assembly** proposes no changes to New York State’s child and dependent care tax credit.

Senate Response

The **Senate** proposes no changes to New York State’s child and dependent care tax credit.

Background

The New York State child and dependent care tax credit is a fully refundable tax credit that is calculated as a percentage of the federal child and dependent care credit. This credit is an important means of enabling working families – particularly middle-income families – to shoulder the high costs of quality child care so parents can work and achieve economic security while their children learn. In 2017-2018, the Enacted Budget increased the tax credit by a very modest amount for families with children in qualifying child care who earn between \$50,000 and \$150,000.

Child Tax Credit

What's in the Executive Budget

The **Executive** does not propose an expansion of the Empire State Child Credit to include children under age four.

Assembly Response

The **Assembly** proposes no changes to the Empire State Child Credit in its budget. However, Assemblymember Jaffee and Senator Montgomery have introduced same-as bills (A.1222/S.4633) to extend the credit to cover children under age four, and double the credit for these young children.

Senate Response

The **Senate** proposes no changes to the Empire State Child Credit in its budget. However, Senator Montgomery and Assemblymember Jaffee have introduced same-as bills (S.4633/A.1222) to extend the credit to cover children under age four, and double the credit for these young children.

Background

New York's Empire State Child Credit provides eligible taxpayers a credit equal to 33% of the federal child tax credit at the levels that existed prior to the passage of the 2018 federal tax overhaul, or \$100 per qualifying child, whichever is greater. The Empire State Child Credit continues to exclude children under age four from eligibility – the very group most severely impacted by poverty, and would most benefit from receiving a credit. The Schuyler Center urges the State to expand the Empire State Child Credit to include children under age four, and make the credit more robust for young children.

Earned Income Tax Credit

What's in the Executive Budget

The **Executive** does not propose an increase or expansion of the state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

Assembly Response

The **Assembly** proposes no changes to the EITC in its budget. However, Assemblymember Bronson has introduced a bill (A.1055) which would extend the state's EITC to include young, childless adults, and Assemblymember Schimminger (A. 3207) has introduced a bill that would strengthen the state's EITC overall, and particularly for families.

Senate Response

The **Senate** proposes no changes to the EITC in its budget.

Background

The EITC is one of the best ways to “make work pay” for low-income families and individuals, and research shows that children of EITC recipients are healthier and do better in school. The state's EITC provides eligible taxpayers with children a refundable credit equal to 30% of the federal child tax credit. Non-custodial parents are also eligible for a credit, along with most childless adults – although this credit is considerably smaller.

One group that is completely excluded from the federal and state EITC are young childless adults ages 18 to 25 at exactly the period in their lives when they are struggling to gain their footing in the workforce and build a nest egg for a future family. The poverty rate for young New York adults is 20%, far exceeding the 14% poverty rate for New York State overall. The Schuyler Center urges the State to increase the state EITC for eligible taxpayers with children and expand the credit to include young childless adults.

Employer Provided Child Care Tax Credit

What's in the Executive Budget

The **Executive** contains a proposal to create a state Employer Provided Child Care Tax Credit.

Assembly Response

The **Assembly** accepts the Executive's proposal.

Senate Response

The **Senate** accepts the Executive's proposal.

Background

The proposed tax credit would match the federal Employer Provided Child Care Tax Credit. While Schuyler Center believes that engaging business in efforts to expand access to quality child care is essential, there is data from other states that have created similar credits, and from the federal credit, showing that employer provided child care tax credits have been underutilized and largely ineffective. In fact, in recent years numerous states have let their employer provided child care credits lapse.



EARLY CHILDHOOD WELL-BEING

Maternal Health

What's in the Executive Budget

The **Executive** includes \$8 million to establish a Maternal Mortality Review Board to conduct a multidisciplinary review of every maternal death and develop recommendations to improve care and management. These funds would also support an advisory council on maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity, consisting of a diverse group of women and communities disproportionately affected by maternal mortality and morbidity in New York; an expansion of Community Health Worker programs in key communities; creation of a new data warehouse to provide real-time data on maternal mortality and morbidity; an expert panel on postpartum care to develop recommendations targeting the time immediately after birth; information and outreach on maternal health issues to communities; and promotion of telehealth for perinatal care, among other strategies.

Assembly Response

The **Assembly** passed a separate Maternal Mortality Review Board bill but accepts the Executive's proposed funding for expanding community health workers, a data warehouse and all the other activities related to maternal mortality and morbidity prevention proposed by the Executive.

Senate Response

The **Senate** passed a separate Maternal Mortality Review Board but accepts the Executive's proposed funding for expanding community health workers, a data warehouse and all the other activities related to maternal mortality and morbidity prevention proposed by the Executive.

Background

Black mothers in New York are four times more likely to die during childbirth than White or Asian mothers. Studies show maternal health is essential to ensure the health of children – and, by extension, the whole family. Still, many mothers, particularly women of color, suffer from lack of access to health care, poor conditions, and poor quality of life.

Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting

What's in the Executive Budget

The **Executive** includes funding for Healthy Families New York at \$26,162,200, an increase of nearly \$3 million over last year to mitigate the impact of minimum wage increases.

The budget proposes \$3 million in funding for the Nurse-Family Partnership program, which represents level funding compared to previous years' funding.

No funding was proposed for Attachment Biobehavioral Catch-up, Parents as Teachers, or the Parent Child Home Program.

Assembly Response

The **Assembly** accepts the \$3 million funding increase for Nurse-Family Partnership from the Executive Budget and adds \$500,000 for the program. The **Assembly** accepts the \$3 million funding increase for Healthy Families New York.

Senate Response

The **Senate** accepts the \$3 million funding increase for Nurse-Family Partnership from the Executive Budget and adds an additional \$3 million for the program. The Senate accepts the \$3 million funding increase for Healthy Families New York.

Background

Maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting is available to a very small number of parents with young children in a few areas around the state (see www.scaany.org for county and state detail regarding home visiting need and capacity). A significantly higher investment is needed for New York to serve all communities with families in need and ensure the best health and developmental outcomes for all mothers, infants, and families.

Child Care

What's in the Executive Budget

The **Executive** includes \$26 million (\$17 million State, \$9 million federal) to raise child care subsidy reimbursement levels (the amount paid to child care providers). This amount is far below what the State projects it will cost to hold reimbursement rates statewide to the 69th percentile of the new market rate - which is set to be released in April 2019. The budget also includes a new investment of more than \$2 million to expand the Infant-Toddler Resource Network, which provides critical training and supports to providers serving our youngest New Yorkers, and flat funding at \$5 million for QUALITYstarsNY, the state's quality rating and improvement system. Finally, the Governor proposes in the State of the State Book to require the state's Regional Economic Development Councils to prioritize child care in their 2019 plans, launch a child care worker scholarship, and create a common application for child care assistance. These modest investments and policy proposals are important, but do nothing to expand access to quality care to the thousands of families currently unable to access child care assistance. At best, they may keep some providers in business for another quarter or year, maintaining the same or similar capacity.

Assembly Response

The **Assembly** adds \$20 million to expand child care subsidies to additional low-income families and accepts the Executive's proposal to invest \$26 million to raise subsidy reimbursement levels, and more than \$2 million to expand the Infant-Toddler Resource Network.

Senate Response

The **Senate** adds \$20 million to expand child care subsidies to additional low-income families and accepts the Executive's proposal to invest \$26 million to raise subsidy reimbursement levels, and more than \$2 million to expand the Infant-Toddler Resource Network.

Background

Currently, the State provides child care subsidies for fewer than 20% of New York families eligible for child care assistance.

Last year, New York took an important step in convening a Child Care Availability Task Force. While we believe this task force can play a critical role in significantly expanding quality, affordable child care, it only began its work in December 2018 – a month after the first report of the task force was due.

The Executive, Assembly and Senate's unified proposal to invest \$26 million to raise subsidy reimbursement levels is critically important because the rate of subsidy reimbursement in New York State is currently set at the 69th percentile of the 2015 market rate, considerably less than the federally recommended rate of the 75th percentile of the market rate – considered the minimum rate necessary to support quality child care. The Executive is expected to release the latest (2018) market rate survey in April, at which time, without significant new investment, the subsidy reimbursement rate will undoubtedly drop far lower than the current 69th percentile. While the 2018 market rate survey data has not yet been released, it is our understanding that the proposed investment of \$26 million is less than a third of the funds needed to hold the subsidy reimbursement rate at the 69th percentile of the 2018 market rate across state.

Schuyler Center urges the State to make a substantial investment in child care this year to keep child care providers' doors open, parents working, and children learning.

Pre-Kindergarten

What's in the Executive Budget

The **Executive** proposes to add \$15 million in new funding for 3- and 4-year-olds, and keeps the program open to all districts. The budget also proposes explicit language encouraging applications that include students of all learning and physical abilities. The budget continues all other current pre-K funding streams for FY 2019-20, as long as districts continue to serve the same number of children

Assembly Response

The **Assembly** accepts the Executive proposal and adds \$15 million in new funding for 3- and 4-year-olds. In addition, and for the first time ever, the Assembly proposes adding transportation aid for pre-K. The Assembly maintains all current funding, and extends the Statewide Universal Full-Day Pre-K program, which funds NYC's Pre-K for All program and full-day pre-K in 52 other districts, for five years.

Senate Response

The **Senate** accepts the Executive proposal, adds \$5 million for pre-K expansion, maintains all current funding and also extends the Statewide Universal Full-Day Pre-K program for five years.

Background

More than 80,000 4-year-olds outside New York City do not have access to full-day pre-K. The Executive proposal is a modest step forward, while the Assembly's budget would double the size of the pre-K expansion in 2019-20 to \$30 million. This expansion would still fall short of the unmet need, but would move the State more rapidly toward meeting its promise to make pre-K truly universal. The Assembly's proposal to add aid for transportation for pre-K represents a critical step forward in broadening access to early childhood education and pre-K. Without transportation, many children cannot attend a pre-K program, and without aid for transportation, many districts could not afford to provide it.

Early Intervention

What's in the Executive Budget

The **Executive** proposes a \$4.4 million (\$3.6 million Medicaid and \$800,000 non-Medicaid) increase over last year's funding to increase reimbursement rates by five percent, paid to three categories of Early Intervention providers: licensed physical therapists, occupational therapists and speech-language pathologists. The Governor's stated intent is to improve access to care and expand service delivery.

Assembly Response

The **Assembly** accepts the Executive's proposal and adds funding to extend a 5% increase in reimbursement rates to all EI providers. The Assembly also proposes requiring private health insurance companies to contribute \$16 million to help pay for EI. This "covered lives" proposal would also eliminate the need to submit individual claims.

Senate Response

The **Senate** accepts the Governor's proposal to increase rates for certain providers. The **Senate** proposes requiring private health insurance companies to contribute \$16 million to help pay for EI. This "covered lives" proposal would also eliminate the need to submit individual claims.

Background

The Early Intervention program provides therapeutic and support services to eligible infants and toddlers, under the age of three, who qualify due to disabilities or developmental delays. Data show that one in four children did not receive mandated Early Intervention services within the required time frame. Low provider payment rates, including cuts implemented in 2010 and 2011 have been cited as a reason that providers have ceased to provide services in several areas in the state. Commercial insurance often denies coverage for EI services, so recent proposals have sought to find ways to make providers whole for claims denied by commercial insurance. Estimates suggest the actual amount private insurance companies should be paying for EI services is close to \$45 million.

Afterschool Programs

What's in the Executive Budget

The **Executive** proposes to reduce funding for Advantage After School by \$5 million as compared to last year's final budget. Last year the Legislature added an additional \$5 million to the program, bringing the full investment to \$22.3 million. The budget also proposes to invest \$10.7 million to support the minimum wage increase.

The Executive also proposes to increase investment by \$10 million in the Empire State After-School program – with \$2 million reserved for school districts and community-based organizations located in high-risk areas in Nassau or Suffolk County. The other \$8 million is targeted to applicants in school districts with high rates of student homelessness and communities vulnerable to gang activity. With the addition of these new funds, total investment in the program will rise to \$55 million. These funds will allow an additional 6,250 students to engage in afterschool programs.

Assembly Response

The **Assembly** restores the \$5 million for the Advantage After School program. The Assembly also accepts the Executive proposal for an additional \$10 million for the Empire State After-School program.

Senate Response

The **Senate** accepts the Executive proposal for \$2 million for the Empire State After-School programs reserved for high-risk areas in Nassau or Suffolk County but does not include other funding.

Background

High-quality afterschool programs have been shown to help close the achievement gap for low-income children and enable families to achieve economic stability.

Juvenile Justice

What's in the Executive Budget

The **Executive** proposes \$200 million for services and expenses related to raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction. Based upon language included in the statute, it is unlikely that New York City will be eligible to receive any of the funding.

The **Executive** fails to restore \$41.4 million in funding to the Close to Home juvenile justice program, cut in last year's Enacted Budget.

Assembly Response

The **Assembly** accepts the Executive proposal to invest \$200 million for Raise the Age implementation. The Assembly adds funding for Close to Home (100% reimbursement), but only for older youth entering Close to Home pursuant to Raise the Age implementation (meaning 16-year-olds now, and 17-year-olds as of October 1, 2019) as adjudicated juvenile delinquents requiring placement.

Senate Response

The **Senate** accepts the Executive proposal to invest \$200 million for Raise the Age implementation. The Senate does not restore any funding for Close to Home.

Background

In 2017, New York State passed legislation to raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction. The legislation, which is being phased in over 2018 and 2019, moved misdemeanors to Family Court, and created a new Youth Part of the criminal court for felonies, with the presumption that non-violent felonies will be moved down to Family Court, unless the district attorney files a motion within 30 days showing "extraordinary circumstances" that the case should remain in the Youth Part. Family Court judges will also preside over the Youth Part of the criminal court. As part of the legislation, youth will be provided with rehabilitative services.

Close to Home is a juvenile justice reform initiative implemented in New York City and designed to keep youth close to their families and community. Under Close to Home, young people receive therapeutic services at small group homes, where they are close to resources that can support their successful transition back into their communities.



PREPARING FOR THE 2020 CENSUS

Counting Children in the 2020 Census

What's in the Executive Budget

The **Executive** proposes no funding to support efforts to ensure a full census count in 2020, including of young children.

Assembly Response

The **Assembly** adds \$40 million for services and expenses necessary to ensure all New Yorkers are counted and for "community-based outreach" to assist in reducing the undercount in 2020 federal census.

Senate Response

The **Senate** adds \$40 million for services and expenses necessary for “community outreach” to assist in reducing the undercount in the 2020 federal census.

Background

Every year, more than \$53 billion in federal funds is allocated to New York and localities based on Census data either directly or through Census population estimates or surveys that in turn rely on the Decennial Census. This includes \$6.7 billion for programs that benefit children, such as Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (Child Health Plus), education grants, Head Start, foster care and child care assistance.

In the 2010 Census, New York experienced a significant undercount, including among young children who, for many reasons, are historically undercounted in the Census. Another undercount in 2020 could lead to a significant cut in programs that New York children and families rely upon. It could also lead to a loss of representation for New Yorkers in Congress and beyond, and distorted, inaccurate data. And, the impacts of an undercount would haunt us for a decade. Schuyler Center urges the State to invest at least \$40 million this year to enable trusted community-based organizations to engage New Yorkers across the state to ensure as full and fair a count as possible.



PUBLIC HEALTH, HEALTH COVERAGE, ACCESS AND CARE

Health Coverage

What’s in the Executive Budget

The **Executive** does not include any funding to expand health insurance coverage to New Yorkers not eligible for existing coverage or who find coverage unaffordable. The Executive includes provisions to codify the NY State of Health Marketplace to protect existing coverage options and establishes a Marketplace Advisory Committee. The **Executive** also proposes creating a Commission on universal access to coverage to develop options for achieving universal access to high-quality, affordable health care in New York.

Assembly Response

The **Assembly** does not include any funding to expand health insurance coverage. The Assembly accepts the Executive provisions to codify the NY State of Health Marketplace, protect existing coverage options and establish a Marketplace Advisory Committee. The Assembly rejects the Executive’s proposed Commission on universal access to coverage.

Senate Response

The **Senate** does not include any funding to expand health insurance coverage. The Senate accepts the Executive’s provisions to codify the NY State of Health Marketplace, protect existing coverage options and establish a Marketplace Advisory Committee. The Senate rejects the Executive’s proposed Commission on universal access to coverage.

Background

Efforts at the federal level to destabilize the health insurance market created under the Affordable Care Act have begun to cause an erosion of coverage throughout the country and, even in New York, recent data indicates that coverage for children under age 5 has begun to slip. Protecting existing coverage is essential, but New York should also create opportunities for populations not currently enrolled to have access to health insurance options.

Lead Poisoning Prevention

What's in the Executive Budget

The **Executive** includes language that reduces the threshold for medical intervention for elevated blood lead levels from 10 micrograms per deciliter to 5 micrograms per deciliter. The proposal also contains a number of provisions for new standards requiring residential housing to be maintained as lead free. The budget summary indicates that the State will make an investment of \$28.6 million for childhood lead poisoning and prevention, however this funding appears to be the funds proposed to be cut from NYC's General Public Health Work reimbursement (see below).

Assembly Response

The **Assembly** removes the lead section from their budget language.

Senate Response

The **Senate** keeps the lead section but modifies it to require the Commissioner of Health to lower blood lead levels within six months of the issuance of federal guidance and require annual water supply statement with information on lead pipes, testing of drinking water in child care facilities, and testing of potable water in parks. Additional money is added to assist in inspections and remediation of lead.

Background

Lead poisoning is preventable. In the United States, the major source of lead is exposure to lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust found in older buildings. There is no safe level of lead and the CDC recommends public health interventions for blood lead levels greater than 5 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood. With the Legislature's rejection of the cut to NYC's General Public Health Works, there would need to be a different source of funding for this initiative. County governments have indicated they support lead poisoning prevention and remediation, but need resources to undertake the work.

Public Health Funding

What's in the Executive Budget

The **Executive** reduces reimbursement for the General Public Health Work (GPHW) program for New York City from 36% to 20% for non-emergency expenses above the base rate. The total reduction is \$27 million in fiscal year 2020 and \$54 million when fully annualized.

Assembly Response

The **Assembly** rejects the reduction in GPHW funding for NYC.

Senate Response

The **Senate** rejects the reduction in GPHW funding for NYC.

Background

Public health programs maintain the health of populations and provide important services, such as maternal and child health programs, teen pregnancy prevention, tobacco control and disease prevention.

Adult Homes

What's in the Executive Budget

The **Executive** includes \$10 million for supportive housing opportunities and supports for individuals with mental illness transitioning out of adult homes.

Assembly Response

The **Assembly** accepts the funding proposed by the Executive.

Senate Response

The **Senate** accepts the funding proposed by the Executive. The Senate adds \$5 million to increase the amount of Supplemental Security Income funding that goes to adult home operators, without increasing the amount of Supplemental Security Income for adult home residents. The \$5 million increase represents one quarter of the budget year, so annualized would equal approximately \$20 million.

Background

Following a class action lawsuit, up to 4,500 adult home residents with mental illness were promised an opportunity to move out of institutional settings into independent community apartments, with the ongoing supports they need to successfully transition from institutional to community living.

Should New York State consider increasing the SSI/SSP payment going to adult home operators, the State should also increase the portion for residents. In addition, the State should ensure that increases for adult home operators are required to be spent on improving conditions. In New York City's 20 large "transitional" adult homes, operators spend less than \$3.20 *per resident, per day* on food. Low-income adult home residents on SSI/SSP receive \$204 as a personal needs allowance per month, the equivalent of about \$6.80 per day. This amount has not gone up in ten years.

Consumer Assistance

What's in the Executive Budget

The **Executive Budget** includes \$2.5 million for Community Health Advocates (CHA). This is a decrease from the \$3.9 million that was included in last year's final budget.

Assembly Response

The **Assembly** adds an additional \$1.9 million.

Senate Response

The **Senate** adds an additional \$600,000.

Background

CHA programs help New Yorkers get and use health insurance. These essential programs provide assistance to New Yorkers as they enroll in and begin to use health insurance, thereby ensuring that insurance coverage translates into use of medical care, including preventive services. The Schuyler Center urges the State to increase funding of CHA to \$8 million.

Population Health Improvement Program

What's in the Executive Budget

The **Executive** eliminates funding for the Population Health Improvement Program (PHIP), for a savings of \$7.75 million.

Assembly Response

The **Assembly** rejects the Executive proposal and restores the funding.

Senate Response

The **Senate** rejects the Executive proposal and restores the funding.

Background

A component of New York's health system reform, the PHIP promotes the "Triple Aim" of better care, lower health care costs, and better health outcomes by contracting with entities in each region of the state. The contracted PHIP agencies in each region bring together a variety of stakeholders that impact, or are impacted by, health and health care issues and establish neutral forums for identifying, sharing, disseminating and helping implement best practices and strategies to promote population health and reduce health care disparities in their respective regions.

Health Workforce Data

What's in the Executive Budget

The **Executive** proposal includes nothing about health workforce data.

Assembly Response

The **Assembly** includes nothing about health workforce data.

Senate Response

The **Senate** includes a significant expansion of health workforce data to inform and improve health planning and access

Background

This policy would collect and make available data about the state's health professionals to inform workforce planning. It would require health professionals, except physicians, to complete a brief survey as part of their triennial re-registration process. Reportable information would include demographics, education and practice characteristics. It would apply to some 40+ categories of licensed health professions. As the State aims to lower health care costs and improve outcomes, reliable workforce data can facilitate better assessments of the adequacy of workforce supply in relation to demand both now and in the future. The information, in de-identified, aggregate form, would be available publicly.