



**Child Poverty Reduction  
Advisory Council**

# **Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council (CPRAC)**

Meeting 03 – March 7, 2023

# Reminders – Administrative Items

- Meetings are being recorded and live streamed
- Facilities
- Breaks

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# Welcome



# Welcome

- **Deputy Secretary to the Governor for Human Services and Mental Hygiene Jihoon Kim** – Remarks  
*CPRAC Co-Chair*
- **Commissioner Daniel W. Tietz (OTDA)** – Remarks  
*CPRAC Co-Chair*

# Goals for Meeting 3

- Recap – where we left off after Meeting 2
- Update – committee formation and next steps
- Review – draft report on Proposed Executive Budget and impact on child poverty
- Discuss – In-depth issue: Housing -- research on, literature about, and lived experience
- Engage – full Council in conversation about potential areas for reform
- Schedule – Meetings 4 and 5

# Recap

## *Meeting 2*

# Recap – Organizational Goals

- **Meeting 2:**
  - Adopted:
    - Resolution to Allow Formation of Committees
    - Videoconferencing Policy
  - Reviewed proposed list of additional advisory experts
  - Agreed upon and established:
    - Committee topics & meetings to convene independently of the larger body
    - Cadence of meeting (4-5 convenings of CPRAC statutory members in 2023)
    - CPRAC report to be released by end of 2023
- **Organizational questions to resolve:**
  - Status update – committees; advisory experts
  - Schedule Meetings 4 and 5



# Recap – Overall Process and Substance

- **In our second meeting, we established a model for policy exploration that we plan to replicate for this and future meetings:**
  - Compile latest research on anti-poverty proposals in each topic area
  - Convene experts to brief the group on relevant research, including reform options and projected poverty reduction impacts
  - Hear from Council Members with related lived experience
- **In so doing, we hope to:**
  - Learn from leading scholars in the field
  - Learn from New Yorkers who've interacted with relevant policies
  - Establish shared foundation: context, data, evidence, opportunities

# Recap – Evidence Base: Child Tax Credit

- **In our second meeting, we began exploring key policies that are proven to reduce poverty, starting with Tax Policy – specifically, Child Tax Credits**
- Key research findings and real-world implementation data show that Child Tax Credits can significantly reduce poverty:
  - In 2019, NAS “Roadmap to Reduce Child Poverty” projected that one monthly Child Allowance option would reduce child poverty in New York State by at least 40%
  - In 2021, the expansion of the Federal Child Tax Credit under ARP reduced poverty by 40%+ nationally and generated over \$1B of increased economic activity in New York
  - Research shared by CPSP showed different versions of a CTC have different effects (current ESCC reduces child poverty by 5.5%; increasing to \$1000/child could reduce child poverty by 16%; increasing to \$4200/child could reduce child poverty by 50%, etc) with different benefits for society (\$2.8B investment results in \$17B in benefits to society)

# Recap – Reform Options: Child Tax Credit

- **Columbia University also presented several examples of reform options to consider for New York’s Empire State Child Credit that would help it reach more families in poverty:**
  - Expanding credit to include all children (adding 0-4)
  - Full refundability (reaching lowest-income households)
  - Eliminating phase-in based on wages (ensuring lowest-income households receive full credit)
  - Considering an enhanced credit for youngest children (young child “bonus” for kids under 6)
  - Index value of credit to inflation (prevents erosion over time)
  - Alternative payment models (more regular than once per year)

# Recap – Testimonial: Child Tax Credits

- **Pamela Walcott**
  - Eligible for child tax credit but not aware of it or how to obtain
  - Difficulties applying for, accessing, and maintaining benefits
    - Denied for eligibility for many years
    - Didn't receive benefits until moving out of shelter in 2022, with shelter provider's help
- **Candace Cabral**
  - Received benefits for many years, including public benefits and child tax credit
  - Difficulties applying for, accessing, and maintaining benefits
    - Challenges navigating complex language
    - Hard to gather documentation
  - Trusted and accessible community-based organizations/services helped with credit application process, making it much easier than DSS process

# CPRAC

*Organization and  
procedural matters*

# Committees – Status Update

- Committees formed
  - **Tax Policy**
  - **Public Benefits**
  - **Housing**
  - **Employment**
  - **Early Childhood**
  - **Rules** (comprised of all Statutory members)
- Draft assignments shared with advisory experts and adjusted in response to feedback received
- To convene committees once after initial group exploration on each issue area

# Procedural Matters – Exec Budget Assessment

- Statute requires CPRAC to review the Executive Budget Proposal

*Budget proposal review: No later than ten days after the Governor offers any amendments to the executive budget submission pursuant to article seven of the constitution, the advisory council shall submit to the chairs of the Senate finance committee and the Assembly ways and means committee, a report analyzing the proposals contained within the executive budget submission that are expected by the advisory council to impact the child poverty rate.*

- **Received the CPRAC members' feedback this past week**
  - Discussion
  - Next steps on finalizing the report and issuing to the Senate Finance Committee and Assembly Ways and Means Committee

# In-Depth Review

## *Housing*



# In-Depth Review – Housing

- Today's focus:
  - Housing – presentations on the following four areas:
    1. Affordability
    2. Housing voucher reform options
    3. Renters' Credit
    4. Public Assistance grant shelter allowance
  - Hear from our Council members with lived experience about their interactions with these programs/policies
- Group discussion and Q&A

# In-Depth Review – Housing

- To recap, among the initial ideas we floated to discuss at the end of Meeting 1:
  1. Expand housing assistance  
*Example: increase the shelter allowance*
- Looked to NAS' *Roadmap to Reduce Child Poverty*, which found that the housing assistance policy options they considered had the second biggest poverty-reduction impacts of any evidence-based policies examined
  - Option 1: Reaching 50% of eligible families with housing vouchers reduced child poverty by more than 15%
  - Option 2: Reaching 70% of eligible families with housing vouchers reduced child poverty by more than 25%
- It is also based on the acute affordability crisis across New York State

# In-Depth Review – Housing

- Affordability crisis is well known and widely felt by all who live in New York
  - Governor Hochul is confronting this head-on with the NYS Housing Compact
  - OTDA hears every day from the New Yorkers we serve
  - We are on the front lines of responding to the impacts, symptoms, and outcomes of the affordability crisis, assisting those facing housing instability, experiencing homelessness, and more

# Presentation – Depth of the Affordability Crisis

- **Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy**
  - based on the work of Ingrid Gould Ellen
    - History, driving factors, and data on New York’s housing crunch
    - Impacts of existing programs/policies
- Q & A to follow

# Presentation – Housing Choice Voucher Program

- **The Center on Poverty & Social Policy at Columbia University**
  - based on the work of Sophie Collyer
    - Potential reforms to the program
    - Poverty-reduction impacts of reform
- Q & A to follow

**\*\*\* Intermission \*\*\***

# In-Depth Review

## *Housing*

# Presentation – Renters' Credits

- **Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality**
  - based on the work of Sara Kimberlin
    - Exploring tax credit for renters
    - Poverty-reduction impacts of renters credit
- Q & A to follow



# Presentation – PA Grant Shelter Allowance

- **OTDA's Division of Employment and Income Support Programs**
  - Shelter allowance provided as part of Public Assistance grant
- Q & A to follow

# Discussion – Housing

- We have heard a lot today about the housing affordability crisis in New York and interventions to address it and support low-income rent-burdened New Yorkers living in poverty
  - Stanford and Columbia University shared researching showing how various interventions could achieve different poverty reductions. For example:
    - **HCVP expansion** to all eligible New Yorkers: estimated 48% reduction in child poverty
    - **Renters Credit** for rent-burdened households: estimated 23% reduction in poverty
- Focusing on these proposals:
  - What policy characteristics stand out as models for New York to consider?
  - Additional ideas for reforming or more effectively targeting these proposals, or existing rental assistance programs?
  - Specific strategic iterations you want to see?

# In-Depth Review

*Lived experience discussion*

# In-Depth Review – Lived Experience

- Must incorporate the perspectives of New Yorkers with lived experience
  - Council Members Candace Cabral and Pamela Walcott have provided testimonials about their challenges with housing instability, homelessness, and existing housing assistance programs
  - We will review and discuss their experiences with them
  - Q&A to follow

# Discussion – Lived Experience

- Key takeaways from listening to their first-hand experiences
- Based on their testimonials, as well as your experiences helping New Yorkers facing these types of challenges, what specifics should we focus on learning, discussing, and addressing more?
  - Specific barriers to focus on?
  - Positive features of these programs and policies to build upon?
  - Best practices from successful programs that we can use to address areas of challenge?

# Next Steps

*Meeting 4 and 5*

# Next Steps – Looking Ahead at 2023

- **Meetings 4 and 5:** Continue policy topic orientations – to consider:
  - Employment/Wages
  - Public Benefits
  - Childhood
- **Committees**
  - Tax Policy Committee – tentatively scheduled for early April
  - Housing Committee – targeting for early June
- **Spring/Summer:** Urban Institute to begin providing data
- **Fall/Winter:** Develop proposed policy ideas and issue report/recommendations

# Next Steps – Meetings in 2023

- **Agree to set tentative, approximately-quarterly schedule, such as:**
  1. Today - March 7
  2. May 4?
  3. August 10?
  4. September 21, 26 or 28?
  5. October 24 or 26 or November 7 or 9?



# Meeting 4 – May     , 2023

- **Explore** – continue our deep dive
  - More tax policy: Earned Income Tax Credit
  - Employment/wages
  
- **Discuss** –
  - Enacted Budget
  - Poverty-related policies passed during Legislative session to date
  
- **Data review** – preliminary Urban Institute findings

# Closing

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## Questions? Comments? Feedback?

**Thank you!**