



**Child Poverty Reduction
Advisory Council**

Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council (CPRAC)

Meeting 02 – January 12, 2023

Reminders – Administrative Items

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

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(Center on Poverty & Social Policy at Columbia University)
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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 2

- Recap – where we left off after Meeting 1
- Determine – ideal organizational plan: subcommittees, additional members
- Discuss – research on, literature about, and lived experience of certain anti-poverty programs
- Engage – full Council in conversation about potential areas for reform
- Plan – cadence of ongoing full CPRAC meetings

Recap

Meeting 1 and Next Steps

Recap – Organizational Goals

- **Meeting 1:**
 - Adopted By Laws and Code of Conduct to govern CRPAC
 - Discussed growing the Council moving forward to ensure broad expertise
 - Agreed on the goal of developing a regular meeting schedule and structure
- **Organizational questions to resolve:**
 - Bring on additional (advisory) members
 - Establish committees
 - Set regular meeting cadence

Recap – Process and Substance Goals

- **In our first meeting, we established goals for the Council:**
 - Short-term: Discussion of initial evidence-based policy ideas
 - Advance discussion of specific policies for reducing poverty in NYS
 - Develop consensus around initial poverty-reduction ideas to explore more deeply
 - Medium-term: Comprehensive research and data analysis
 - Review data framework that Urban Institute (UI) will model
 - Begin receiving and discussing data from UI this spring
 - Anticipate receiving data over the course of 2023
 - Long-term: Recommendations for reducing poverty by half
 - Based on our discussions and data we receive from UI, to make recommendations
 - Goal: to issue report by end of 2023

Recap – Evidence Base

- In our first meeting, we discussed findings from the National Academy of Science’s “Roadmap to Reduce Child Poverty”
- These findings showed the following policies reduce poverty:
 - Earned Income Tax Credits
 - Child Credits
 - Housing assistance
 - Food assistance
 - Helping non-citizens make ends meet

Recap – Initial Ideas

- In our first meeting, we proposed reviewing several policies as wait on the Urban Institute's comprehensive research and broader data analysis
- To review:
 1. Expand the Empire State Child Credit
Example: increase value of credit for certain households, expand to children under 4
 2. Increase the Earned Income Tax Credit
Example: increase by 10% from 30 to 40% of Federal credit
 3. Expand housing assistance
Example: increase the shelter allowance
 4. Provide more food assistance
Example: create a State-funded food benefit for households ineligible for SNAP
- UI will model the impact of these policy changes in their research

CPRAC

Organization moving forward

Organization – Additional Members

- *Goal: to increase experiential, geographic, demographic diversity*
- Recommend additional members serve as “advisory members” - not as voting members
- Will enable them to provide expertise while preserving statutory members as voting core
- Proposed expectations of advisory members:
 - To participate via committee structure
 - Attend meetings of CPRAC statutory members as needed (i.e. to present recommendations from committees to the core Council for consideration)
- Have developed an initial list of names for discussion – all interested in joining us

Organization – Committee Structure

- To manage larger group, we recommend:
 - Committee structure – propose 5 committees based on subject matter
 - Statutory members to co-chair committees
 - 10-15 members per committee
 - Committees to meet independent of CPRAC meetings
- To delve deeper into highlighted poverty issues, we recommend the following committees:
 - **Tax Policy**
 - **Public Benefits**
 - **Housing**
 - **Employment**
 - **Early Childhood**
 - **Rules** (comprised of all Statutory members)

Organization – Resolution and Policy to Adopt

- Resolution: Formalize the authority to create official CPRAC committees and subcommittees, and adopt the proposed Remote Participation Policy
- If no questions, the Council will vote on...

1. Resolution to Allow Formation of Committees and Subcommittees, and Adopt the Remote Participation Policy

***** Intermission *****

Deeper Dive

Child Tax Credit discussion

Deeper Dive – Initial Ideas

- To recap, these are the initial ideas we floated for more focused discussion/consideration at the end of Meeting 1:
 1. Expand the Empire State Child Credit (ESCC)
Example: increase value of credit for certain households, expand to children under 4
 2. Increase the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
Example: increase by 10% from 30 to 40% of Federal credit
 3. Expand housing assistance
Example: increase the shelter allowance
 4. Provide more food assistance
Example: create a State-funded food benefit for households ineligible for SNAP

Deeper Dive – Initial Ideas

- Today's focus:
 - Child Tax Credits – New York's Empire State Child Credit (ESCC), incl. strengths and gaps
 - Hear from our Council members with lived experience about their interactions with these programs/policies
- Group discussion and Q&A

Deeper Dive – Child Tax Credits

- In 2019 - NAS “Roadmap to Reduce Child Poverty”
 - Finding: Child Tax Credits have the most significant impact of all the anti-poverty policies they considered in their research
- In 2021 - expansion of the Federal Child Tax Credit
 - Provided a real-world demonstration of anti-poverty policies in action across the country
 - Reduced poverty by > 40%
 - Poverty increased by > 40% when expansion ended

Deeper Dive – Child Tax Credits

- The Center on Poverty & Social Policy at Columbia University will walk us through the CTC's history, literature, and research/results
- The following presentation is the work of Columbia University (not a New York State analysis), by:
 - Christopher Wimer
 - Irwin Garfinkel
 - Sophie Collyer
 - Anastasia Koutavas
- Q & A to follow

Discussion – Empire State Child Credit

- **We have heard a lot today about the Child Tax Credit and ways to reform it**
 - Research shows that Child Tax Credits could reduce poverty by 50% or more
 - Different iterations have varying impacts
- **Focusing on the Child Tax Credit:**
 - Are there specific changes you want to consider on the ESCC?
 - Additional ideas for reforming or targeting ESCC?
 - Specific strategic iterations you want to see?

Deeper Dive

Lived experience discussion

Deeper Dive – Lived Experience

- While the projected impacts of programs like these are very important, need to hear directly from households that have utilized the programs
- Often gaps between models that assume 100% uptake (and its associated impact), versus real-world implementation where programs may not reach all eligible families
- In addition to designing anti-poverty programs more effectively (via expansions, increases, etc.), must ensure that eligible families know that help is available - and know how to apply and enroll

Deeper Dive – Lived Experience

- Necessary to incorporate the perspectives of our Council members with lived experience
 - We will review their survey responses with them and compare their experiences receiving public benefits with their experiences participating in programs like the ESCC
 - Q& A and discussion to follow
- Let's hear directly from Candace and Pamela on their experiences learning about, applying for, and participating in these programs...
 - What about these processes was the most difficult for you?
 - Can you talk about the positive impact the programs had on your life?
 - If you could change something to make program easier/better for families, what would you change?

Discussion – Lived Experience

- Key takeaways from listening to their first-hand experiences
- Based on their testimonials, as well as the experiences of CBOs that have familiarity with these processes, 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

Timeline & Goals for 2023

Next Steps – 2023 Overview

- **Organizational structure and expansion:**
 - Bring on advisory members
 - Create committee meeting structure and convene smaller, focused committee discussions
- **Discuss data** from comprehensive modeling analysis by Urban Institute
- **Advocate** as necessary for anti-poverty policies during session
- **Assess** anti-poverty policies included in the **Executive Budget**
 - Issue report on Executive Budget's impact on rate of child poverty in New York
- **Develop** proposed policy ideas to achieve poverty reduction goal
- **Issue annual report**, incl. recommendations - Goal: release around 1st anniversary of CPRAC (Fall)

Next Steps – Research in 2023

- **As we have discussed, the Urban Institute will be conducting research for us, similar to their work with the National Academy**
- UI's research will include areas specified by statute, and we anticipate building on and adjusting this work to reflect our discussions
- As we receive data, we will review and bring to subsequent CPRAC meetings for discussion
- As we have reviewed, it is likely that no single policy will achieve our poverty-reduction goal, so we will consider which different combinations of these policies (policy “packages”) could

Next Steps – Meetings in 2023

- **Agree to set tentative, approximately-quarterly schedule, such as:**
 1. Feb 28 or Mar 2?
 2. May 3 or 4?
 3. Midsummer (Late July/early August)?
 4. September 21, 26 or 28?
 5. October 24 or 26 or November 7 or 9?

Third Meeting – February/March XX, 2023

- **Explore** – continue our deep dive
 - More tax policy: Earned Income Tax Credit
 - Begin housing policy discussion: shelter allowance and more
 - Plus: employment/wages, food policy, early childhood programs
- **Review** – additional feedback/ideas re: modeling framework, CTC policy, and lived experience
- **Discuss** – new ideas for consideration, poverty-related policies raised during Legislative session
- **Analyze** – Executive Budget impact on child poverty and finalize report

Closing

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- **Deputy Secretary to the Governor
for Human Services and Mental Hygiene Jihoon Kim** – Remarks
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Questions? Comments? Feedback?

Thank you!