



**Child Poverty Reduction
Advisory Council**

Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council Childhood Committee

Meeting 01 – September 11, 2023

Reminders – Administrative Items

- Meetings are being recorded and live streamed

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Welcome

Welcome

- **Committee Co-Chairs** – Remarks
 - Suzanne Miles-Gustave*, NYS Office of Children and Family Services
 - Pete Nabozny*, The Children’s Agenda
 - Dia Bryant*, The Education Trust – New York

- **Committee Members** – Introductions
 - Name, where you are from, and overview of your organization
 - Experience with child poverty, policies related to childhood, what interests you about this Committee

Goals for Childhood Committee Meeting

- Review procedural / organizational matters
- Recap of evidence-based research discussed by CPRAC
- Begin discussion of childhood policy reform options
- Outline next steps, goals

CPRAC

Childhood Committee

Procedure and Organization

Recap – Child Poverty Reduction Act

- Declares poverty is a problem and a policy priority in NYS
- Creates the Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council (CPRAC)
 - Sets out broad structure of Council, including statutory appointments
- Charges CPRAC with:
 - studying child poverty in NYS,
 - developing recommendations for reducing child poverty by 50% over 10 years
 - measuring and reporting on progress towards that goal

Recap – CPRAC

- **17 statutory members**
- Agreed on need for additional expertise, and greater experiential, geographic, and demographic diversity
- Additional members serve as “advisory experts” - not as voting members
- Advisory experts will participate in CPRAC mission via committee structure

Committees – Procedure and Organization

- **Childhood Committee is one of five subject-area committees**
 1. Tax Policy, 2. Public Benefits, 3. Housing, 4. Employment/Wages, 5. Childhood
- Committees convene after CPRAC statutory members meet for orientation on each subject
- As of the CPRAC meeting on August 10, which covered Public Benefits and Childhood, orientations have been provided on all subjects and all committees have convened or scheduled their first meetings
- Based on these orientations, evidence-based research, and comprehensive data analyses, committees will help develop specific recommendations in each policy area
- Each committee able to determine their form and function as a group, including schedule

Childhood Committee – Organizational Goals

- **Governing policies and procedures:**
 - Open Meetings Law
 - Videoconferencing Policy
 - Committee convene independently of the larger body
- **Organizational questions to resolve:**
 - Recommendations due to larger CPRAC group when?*
 - In Person/Virtual/Hybrid
 - Cadence of Meetings, Length of Meetings
 - Adding agenda items
- **CPRAC goal:**
 - Issue progress report by end of 2023
 - Recommendations TBD based on progress with subject-area committees, ongoing data modeling, and more

Recap

Childhood

Recap – CPRAC work to date

- **In meetings of CPRAC statutory members, we've explored each key policy area**
 - To orient members, we presented research on anti-poverty proposals in each topic area
 - We also heard from Council members with lived experience in each topic area
 - For each topic area, we began discussing reform options to reduce child poverty
- **Through this process, our goal as a group has been to:**
 - Learn from leading scholars in the field
 - Learn from New Yorkers who've interacted with relevant policies
 - Establish shared foundation of facts: context, data, evidence, opportunities
- **CPRAC discussed Childhood on August 10 – with a focus on child care:**
 - Committee will build on facts established in CPRAC's orientation/exploration of these policies

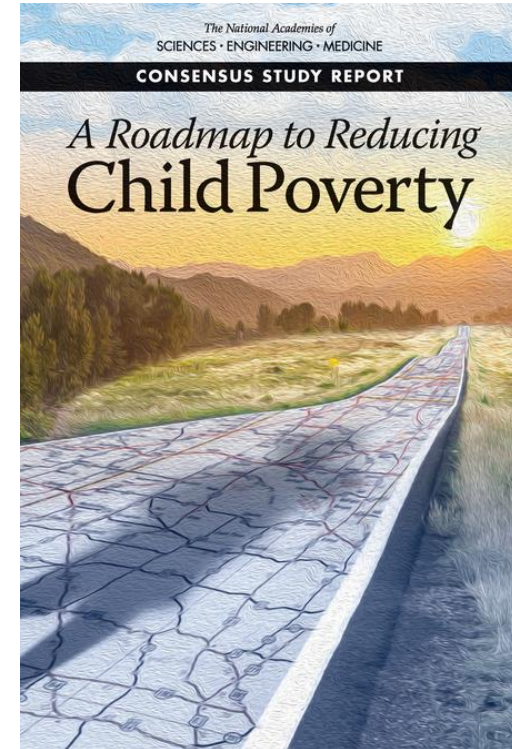
Recap – Poverty in New York

- CPRAC is using Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) as key metric
- As of 2019, 3 million+ New Yorkers (~16% of all New Yorkers) are living in poverty*
 - **745,000 New Yorkers under age 18 (~19% of all New Yorkers <18) live in poverty**
**At or below the 100% Supplemental Poverty Rate, using the ACS-based SPM*
- Based on available public data and internal analyses, rough snapshot of demographic breakdown of child poverty in New York (<100 percent ACS, <18 years old):
 - >18 percent of children in NY are living in poverty or nearly 1 in 5
 - Percent in poverty increases to 25 percent for black New Yorkers, 23 percent for Hispanic New Yorkers
 - Almost 3x as many white children in poverty outside of NYC as in NYC
 - ~60 percent of children in poverty live with at least one employed parent
 - ~60 percent of children in poverty live with only one parent
- Researchers at Urban Institute are developing updated comprehensive poverty data for NYS

Research Recap – National Academy of Sciences “Roadmap” on Child Care

- The NAS analyzed the effects on child poverty of certain child care policies that would better target assistance to the lowest-income households – and both policies were found to reduce child poverty by more than 10%
- Converting an existing federal tax credit for child care expenses to a fully refundable credit would reduce child poverty by more than 14% (see Option #1 below)

Package or Policy	Description	Percent change from 2015 Baseline 100% SPM
Child Care Policy Option #1	Convert the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) to a fully-refundable tax credit and concentrate its benefits on families with the lowest incomes and with children under the age of 5	-14.5%
Child Care Policy Option #2	Guarantee assistance from Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) for all eligible families with incomes below 150 percent of poverty	-10.1%



Recap – Office of Children and Family Services

- In CPRAC's orientation on Childhood, OCFS Acting Commissioner Suzanne Miles-Gustave presented an overview of the child care landscape in New York, including related programs administered by New York State:
 - How and where child care is provided in New York, including efforts to map areas where it is insufficient and build/expand capacity
 - Child care support provided to New Yorkers by the State
 - Summary of recent child care investments and reforms
 - Discussion of challenges and opportunities for reform
 - Looking ahead, including Child Care Availability Task Force

Recap – Office of Children and Family Services

- **OCFS began by discussing what child care looks like in New York State**
 - Millions of child care-aged children in New York State (2.9M under 13 years) with a variety of child care needs
 - Child care in New York is primarily provided by licensed or registered providers, as well as by family, friend, or neighbor care
 - ~ the current capacity 800,000 children in child care, served by ~17,000 licensed/registered providers and ~7,000 enrolled legally-exempt providers
 - NYS provides child care assistance via the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), which covers some or all of the cost of child care for eligible families
 - ~105,000 children received assistance via CCAP in FFY2022
 - State-supervised, locally administered

Recap – Office of Children and Family Services

- **OCFS provided an overview of the Child Care Assistance Program in New York:**
 - NYS supports working and other vulnerable families by alleviating some or all of the regular cost of child care via CCAP
 - Children and families in New York may be eligible for up to 12 months of CCAP, based on household income and circumstances
 - A family of four that is working or engaged in education/job search can earn up to \$99,250.25 per year (85% SMI, effective October 1, 2023) and continue to be eligible for child care assistance
 - CCAP served ~105,000 children through over 17,000 licensed, registered, and enrolled LE providers in FFY2022
 - 59% in NYC, 41% in ROS
 - Average subsidy of \$909 per child per month (as of FFY23Q1)
 - In FFY 2022, of the families eligible (earning below \$83,250 per year for a family of four – 300% SIS, effective August 1, 2022), 31% of children receiving CCAP were in families that also received Public Assistance from OTDA

Recap – Office of Children and Family Services

- **OCFS also discussed the current state of child care accessibility and strategies to increase capacity and enrollment**
 - Child care access varies across New York State, with certain areas underserved or not served at all by licensed or registered child care providers
 - More than 60% of NYS does not have enough child care slots to adequately serve the children in the area who need it – also known as “child care desert”
 - Comprehensive effort underway to map deserts, target investments to those areas in need, and build/expand # of qualified providers
 - Additionally, while child care assistance is available to hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers, only a small portion of eligible New Yorkers receive it due to a history of lack of access
 - To improve access, NYS expanded eligibility and simplified the application and screening process
 - To raise awareness about those access changes and promote the program NYS is implementing a comprehensive outreach and marketing campaign

Recap – Office of Children and Family Services

- **OCFS reviewed recent child care investments and reforms:**
 - Expanded eligibility to reach more families and provide 12-month eligibility
 - Capped CCAP family co-pay contributions at no more than 10% of their annual income to ensure child care remains an affordable part of families' budgets
 - Families participating in CCAP will see co-pay costs limited to 1% of the total family income above the poverty line (statutory changes effective 10/1/2023)
 - Billions of dollars invested to create new child care seats, stabilize child care providers, support the child care workforce, and simplify processes, including through new technology
 - Mobile application for CCAP in development
 - Streamline enrollment for recipients of Public Assistance

Recap – Office of Children and Family Services

- **OCFS summarized existing challenges and areas for improvement:**
 - Take-up too low - only 10% of eligible families currently receiving child care assistance due to lack of access and previous restrictions on available funding
 - Governor Hochul confronting take-up issue head-on
 - Investing historic levels of funding for CCAP and expanding eligibility
 - Advertising and marketing underway to raise awareness, increase enrollment
 - Reimagined Child Care Availability Task Force to develop new strategies
 - Child Care Availability Task Force charges include:
 - Advising the state on a phased-in rollout of universal child care
 - Making recommendations to address the child care workforce crisis

Recap – Lived Experience

- While the projected impacts of programs like these are very important, we also need to hear directly from New Yorkers that have experienced poverty and utilized related 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
- Recommendations must incorporate the perspectives of our Council members and other New Yorkers with lived experience

Recap – Lived Experience

- **CPRAC statutory members who've lived in poverty provided testimonials about their experiences with the Child Care Assistance Program**
- Pamela Walcott (New York City):
 - Has not received CCAPd
 - When child was very young, paid out of pocket for private day care
 - Since child became school-aged, has received early childhood education via public schools system in NYC
- Candace Cabral (Rochester):
 - Has received and still receives CCAP
 - Application process took too long and needed child care assistance before the application was processed, which forces providers to deny the application because it hasn't been processed or take on burden/risk of providing care without getting paid while the application processes
 - Once received, CCAP has enabled her to get child care that meets her needs

Recap – Ongoing Analyses, Data Needs

- **Renowned researchers at Urban Institute who helped develop NAS “Roadmap” are conducting a comprehensive analysis of poverty in NYS, including microsimulation modeling**
 - Analyzing baseline (“before”), where NYS is now (as of the Enacted 2023/24 Budget), and the projected impacts of several different policies (individually and in combination)
 - Shared UI’s comprehensive 2019 baseline analysis in June
 - Shared UI’s preliminary analysis of recently enacted policies (from 2022/23 and 2023/24 Budgets)
 - Will begin to receive data on policy simulations in the coming months
- **Other data needs**

Recap – Modeling Increased Take-Up

- As part of their comprehensive analysis of poverty in NYS and microsimulation modelling, Urban Institute will assess the effects of increasing child care assistance utilization on child poverty:
 - Increase child care utilization in 20% increments from 15% to 75% of *currently eligible* households
 - Increase child care utilization in 20% increments from 15% to 75% of *all households* with child care-aged children participating in or searching for work, or engaged in education or training activities, limiting household out-of-pocket child care costs to 7% of household income.

Discussion

Childhood

Child Care: Reforms Underway at State Level

- **As recapped, NYS is reforming child care through recent historic investments:**
 - CCAP Eligibility changes to reach more New York families
 - Expanded to include more families – up to 85% State Median Income (SIS)
 - Expedited for families receiving Public Assistance
 - Capping child care co-pays especially for lowest-income families
 - Starting in October 2023, families receiving CCAP will have co-pays limited to 1% of the total family income above the poverty line
 - Using technology to make child care more accessible

Child Care: Potential Changes at Federal Level

- There are several potential changes to child care policy under consideration at the Federal level as well, which would affect provision of care in NYS, including:
 - Lower families' child care costs
 - Increase families' child care options
 - Improve child care provider payment rates and practices
 - Make enrollment easier and faster
 - <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/outreach-material/nprm-ccdf-regulations-45-cfr-part-98>

Child Care: Considerations for Further Reform

- As recapped, there are additional reforms to consider that would build on the State's recent historic investments and further improve service delivery, reduce child poverty, and address ongoing racial disparities:
 - Need to address child care deserts with new seats, new providers, and more
 - Ways to incentivize new providers of all types, including licensed exempt, to join program
 - Must do more to address difficulties with access of the CCAP to effectively connect eligible families to available assistance and increase take-up
 - Reducing burdens/barriers?
 - Increased outreach?
 - Ensuring assistance reaches households most in need (lowest income, etc.)?

Looking Ahead

Next Steps



Next Steps – Future Discussions

- **Other Childhood policies to discuss:**
 - Are there other childhood policies or policy research we should be considering?

Next Steps – Looking Ahead

- **Next Childhood Committee meeting?**
- **Target date for developing recommendations?**
 - 2023 goal: CPRAC to issue progress report
 - 2024 goal: CPRAC committees to develop initial subject-area recommendations

Closing

Closing

- **Committee Co-Chairs** – Remarks
Suzanne Miles-Gustave, NYS Office of Children and Family Services
Pete Nabozny, The Children's Agenda
Dia Bryant, The Education Trust – New York

Questions? Comments? Feedback?

Thank you!