



**Child Poverty Reduction  
Advisory Council**

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

Meeting 11 – November 19, 2024

# Reminders – Administrative Items

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

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- Draft report summarizing CPRAC progress and initial recommendations
- Additional findings from Public Benefits Survey

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**Welcome**

# Welcome

- **Assistant Secretary to the Governor for Human Services and Mental Hygiene Alyson Tarek –**  
*CPRAC Co-Chair*
- **Commissioner Barbara Guinn (OTDA) –**  
*CPRAC Co-Chair*

# Goals for Meeting 11

- **Recap** – CPRAC work to date and where we left off after Meeting 10
- **Review** – draft report summarizing CPRAC progress, initial recommendations
- **Discuss** – feedback on draft report
- **Review** – additional findings from Public Benefits Survey effort
- **Discuss** – questions on additional findings

# Recap

## *CPRAC Progress*

# Recap – CPRAC Progress, 2023

- In 2023, held orientations for statutory members and established Committees for focused discussion on ways to reduce child poverty
  - Reviewed key research on key topics, with presentations from experts, practitioners, scholars, and more
  - Established committees based on key research and key topics
  - Convened committees for focused discussion of relevant research
  - Brainstormed initial ideas for analysis by Urban Institute
  - Developed specific proposals based on initial ideas



# Recap – CPRAC Progress, 2024

- In 2024, analyzed specific proposals and developed different combinations of proposals to reduce child poverty
  - Obtained data from UI on individual proposals, including impact on child poverty (for all children and children under 4) in New York State and impact by race/ethnicity
  - Committees discussed proposal data and identified priorities
  - Statutory members developed and advanced combinations of proposals for UI to analyze cumulative effect on NYS child poverty
  - Obtained from UI data on combinations of proposals

# Recap – Meeting 10

- Discussed cumulative estimate data on 5 packages of proposals
  - Accounting for combined effects, interactions between proposals
- Identified priorities among packages of proposals based on:
  - Poverty reduction estimate data by age, race, geography
  - Change in household resources, overall estimated cost
  - Priorities and values expressed by CPRAC and its committees
- Agreed to advance top 3 of 5 packages as the initial recommendations from CPRAC to reduce child poverty in New York State by at least 50% by 2031

# Recap – CPRAC Progress, 2024

Target Month	Goal*
March, April, May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ <b>Tax Policy Committee</b> reconvenes to review data, develop priorities/rankings based on data</li><li>✓ <b>Public Benefits Committee</b> reconvenes to review data, develop priorities/rankings based on data</li><li>✓ <b>Housing Committee</b> reconvenes to review data, develop priorities/rankings based on data</li><li>✓ <b>Formal public hearing in NYC</b>, on accessibility and availability of public benefits</li></ul>
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Committees report data-based priorities/rankings back to statutory members</li><li>✓ Statutory members develop initial policy packages for modeling</li><li>✓ Request rough cost estimate from State Agencies of proposals included in packages</li></ul>
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September, October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Draft report summarizing CPRAC progress and initial recommendations</li></ul>
November 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Review draft report summarizing CPRAC progress and initial recommendations</b></li></ul>
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# Recap – NYS Progress Reducing Child Poverty

- Urban Institute estimates that policies enacted by New York State (including in the SFY2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25 budgets) are estimated to reduce child poverty by up to 9.5% compared to baseline
  - Reflects recent Summer EBT and SYEP/YEP investments, as well as expanded paid family leave for prenatal care
- CPRAC's goal: recommend ways to reduce child poverty by 50%
  - Statute requires consideration of reforms to ESCC, housing subsidies, and more, and effects of proposals by race/ethnicity

**Review and Discuss**  
*Draft recommendations report*

# Report – Progress and Initial Recommendations

- Review structure and contents of draft report
  - 4 main sections (each with subsections): Overview, Work to Date, Initial Priority Recommendations from the CPRAC, Appendices
  - Feedback? Suggested edits? Questions?
- Based on this discussion, will update and finalize draft report summarizing CPRAC progress and initial priority recommendations to reduce child poverty in New York by ~50% for issuance when CPRAC convenes in person on December 18

# 1. CPRAC Overview

- Establish fact-based foundation informed by comprehensive review of latest research, existing evidence, best practices
- Outline the problem, including impact of child poverty on children, their outcomes, and New York State communities
- Recap Child Poverty Reduction Act and CPRAC's statutory charge
- Sub-sections include:
  - CPRA and CPRAC
  - Poverty Context: Research on the Problem and Possible Solutions

## 2. CPRAC Work to Date

- Recap systematic, orderly, thorough process and progress
- Describe step by step how CPRAC developed recommendations
- Updated data on estimated cumulative effects of enacted policies
- Sub-sections include:
  - Subject Matter Orientations
  - Measuring Poverty and Modeling Data
  - Centering Lived Experience
  - Identifying Proposals and Creating Policy Packages
  - Summary of CPRAC Meetings to Date



# 3. Initial Recommendations to Reduce Child Poverty

- Summarize key values, supporting evidence, priority packages
- Sub-sections include:
  - Key Principles Identified by CPRAC
  - Supporting Evidence Gathered and Reviewed by CPRAC
  - Proposals and Packages Based on Key Principles and Evidence
  - Top Recommended Package to Reduce Child Poverty by 50%
  - Alternative Options to Reduce Child Poverty by Nearly 50%
  - Scaling or Phasing Proposals in Over Time
  - Reducing Administrative Burden to Improve Benefit Accessibility
  - Contributing Members and Partners

## 4. Appendices

- Appendices include key explainers and data:
  - What's included in the data
  - What's not in the data
  - How to read the data and interpret findings
  - Definitions of key programs referenced in the report
  - Summaries of proposals developed by CPRAC
  - Figures/data from UI workbooks on proposals and packages

# Additional Notes

- ✓ Based on this discussion, will update and finalize draft report summarizing CPRAC progress and initial priority recommendations to reduce child poverty in New York by ~50% for issuance when CPRAC convenes in person on December 18
  - Also working to obtain rough estimates of administrative costs associated with selected proposals and analyses of potential cost savings over time associated with the selected packages

# **Review and Discuss**

## *Public Input Findings*

# Recap – Opportunities for Public Input

- Goal of survey and hearing: obtain public input from NYers
- Focused on public benefit access, administrative burden
  - Programs covered include: SNAP, PA, SSI
  - April 16 to May 31, 2024 (“Phase 1”) – summarized in reports
  - July 1 to December 31, 2024 (“Phase 2”) – to collect more data
  - English/Spanish versions offered
  - Promoted at CPRAC Public Hearing in April, and via NYS OTDA social media channels, CPRAC member networks, LDSS Commissioners

# Recap – Public Input via Public Hearing

- Example of public hearing prompts:

- *Describe the challenges you faced applying for benefits*
- *What is the hardest part of maintaining your benefits?*
- *Are there certain experiences/processes that you found helpful?*
- *What changes would make it easier for you to access benefits?*
- *What would make the experience simpler and more respectful?*

# Recap – Public Input via Survey

- Example of open-ended survey prompts:

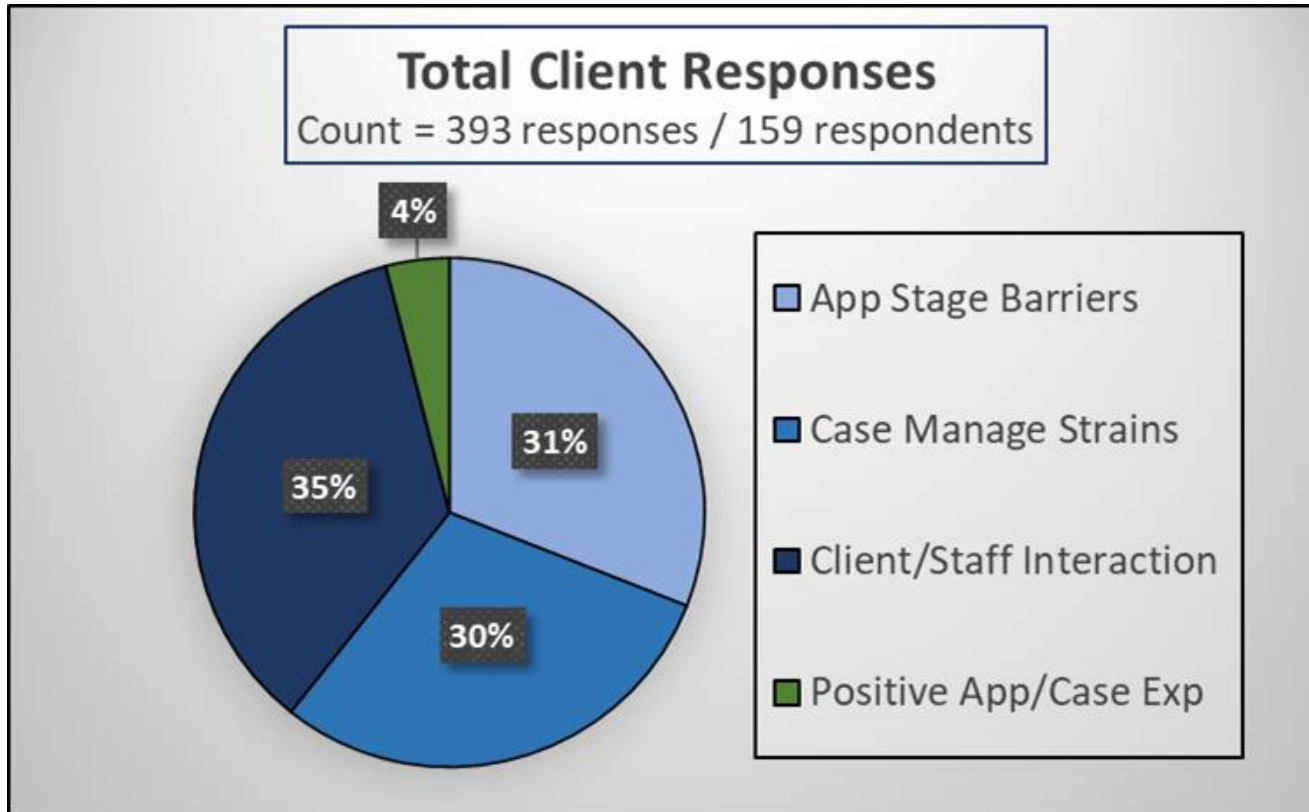
- *“Was there anything else about applying for \_\_\_\_\_ that was a problem, or slowed you down, in getting it done? What changes would make it easier for you? If you learned a close friend was applying for \_\_\_\_\_, what advice would you give them? Any additional comments about the application?”*
- *“What is the hardest part of maintaining your \_\_\_\_\_ benefits? If you learned a close friend was having difficulty managing their \_\_\_\_\_ benefits, what advice would you give them? What changes would make it easier for you? Any additional comments about maintaining \_\_\_\_\_ benefits?”*

# Recap – Survey Disclaimers

- Interpretation caveats:
  - Small sample size (393 qualitative responses from 159 respondents) during Phase 1, compared with total # of households currently receiving SNAP (over 1.7 million) - not representative of all recipients
  - Survey only offered online, hearing only offered in person
  - Also accepted statements submitted via paper, by email
  - Must increase our sample size to reach the broadest mix of people who seek support and qualify for our programs



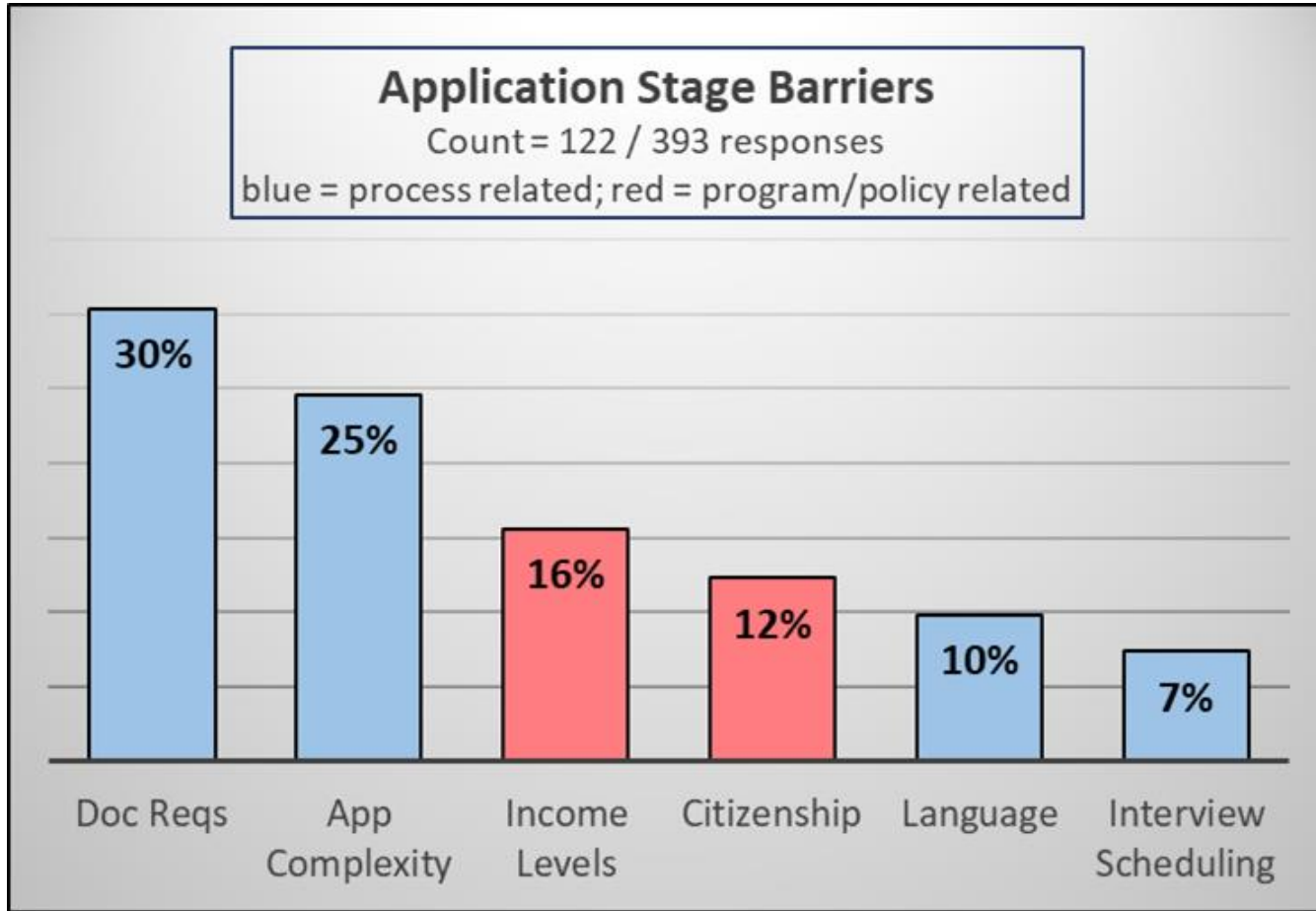
# Key Findings – Open-Ended Responses



## Sample Size (overall)

- **Of the 159 respondents recorded during Phase 1, a total of 393 statements were tracked and categorized**
  - 122 (31%) focused on application stage,
  - 117 (30%) focused on case management stage,
  - 139 (35%) focused on direct client/staff interactions

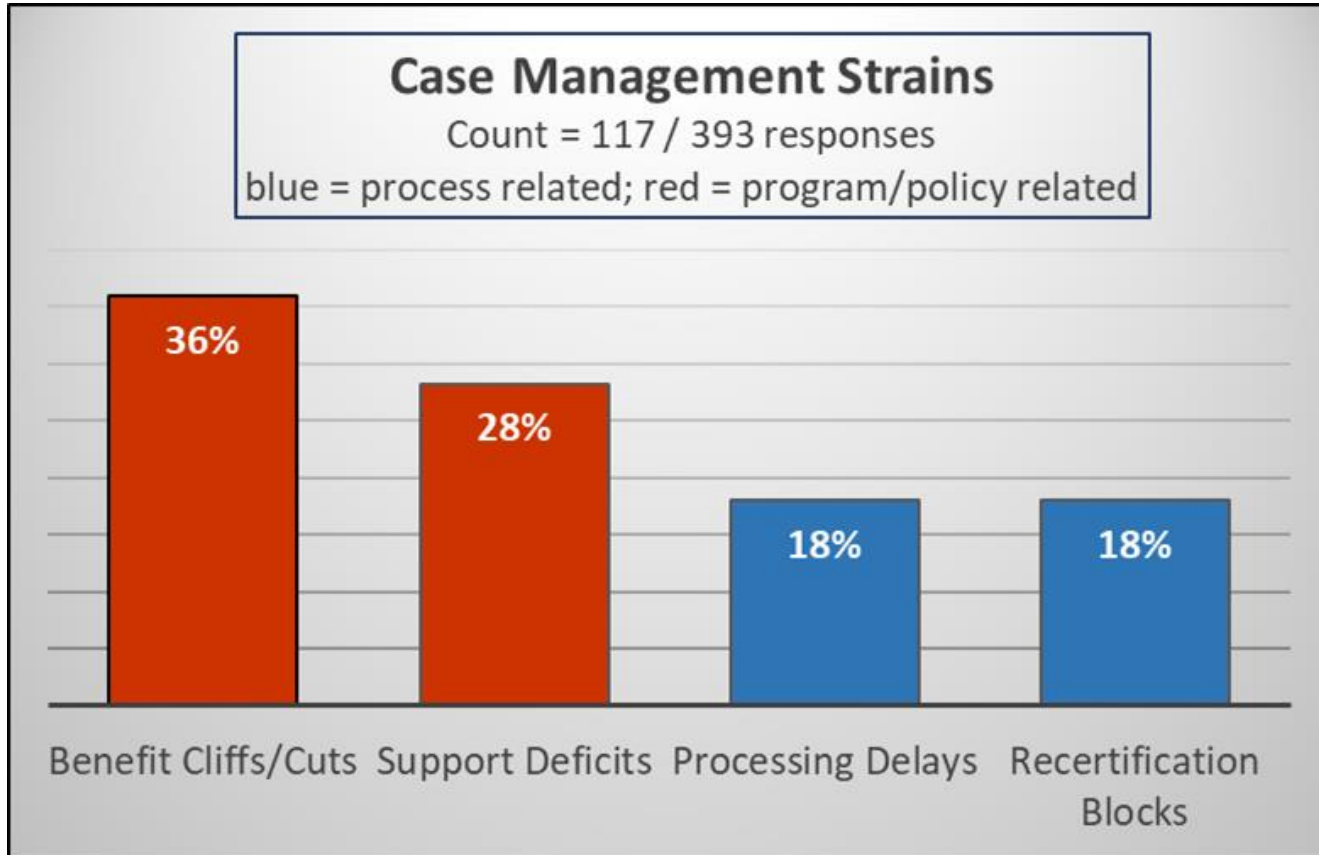
# Key Findings – Application Stage Barriers



## Application Stage Barriers

- **Of the 122 responses that focused on application stage barriers:**
  - 28% identified applicant eligibility criteria (income, citizenship)
  - 72% identified process-related administrative burdens (documentation, complexity, language, scheduling)

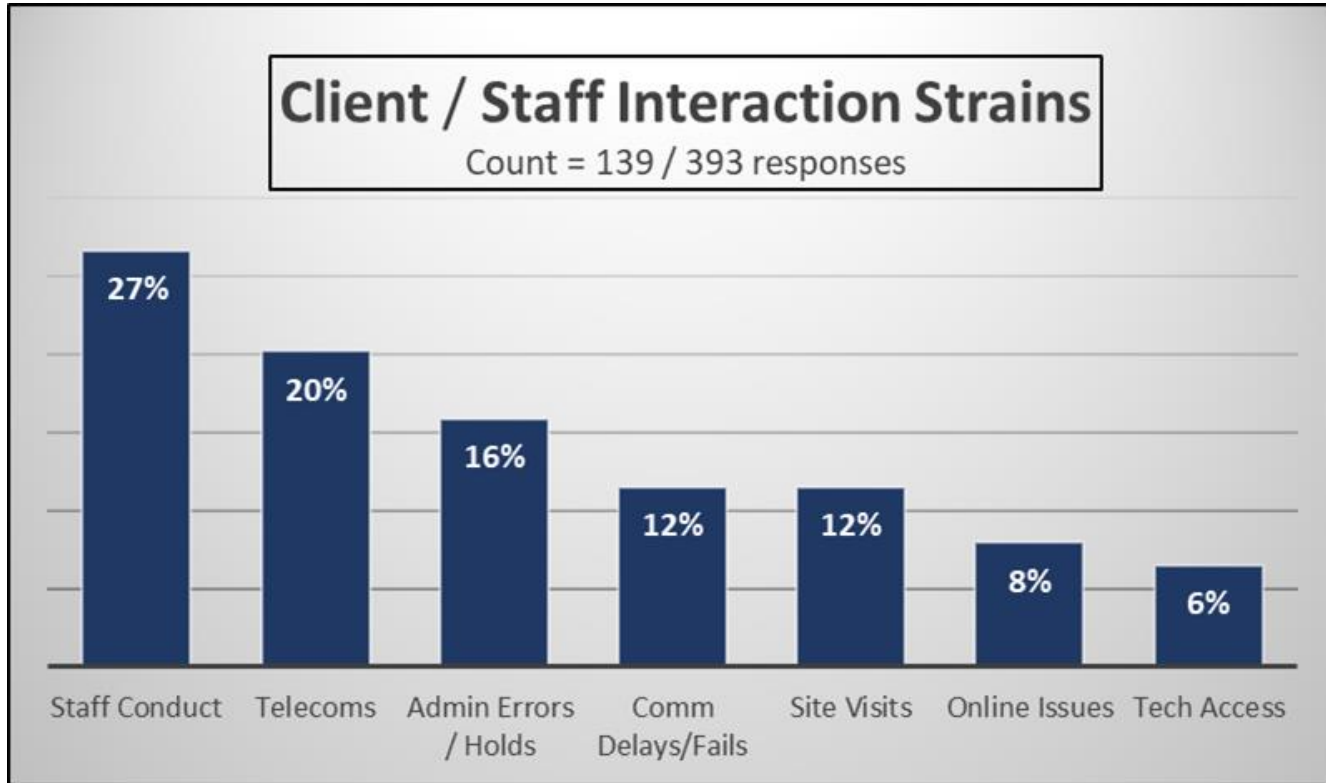
# Key Findings – Case Management Strains



## Case Management Strains

- **Of the 117 responses that focused on case management strains:**
  - 64% discussed program or policy features (value, recipient eligibility)
  - 36% identified process-related administrative burdens (delays, disruption, confusion, recertification)

# Key Findings – Direct Interactions



## Client/Staff Interaction

- The 139 responses that focused on clients' direct interactions with government raised issues related to:
  - Staff conduct
  - Communications
  - Administrative errors
  - Site visits
  - Tech functionality/access

# Summary – Open-Ended Responses

- Helpful for gaining insight into firsthand experiences
- Takeaways from Phase 1 qualitative responses:
  - Reported structural strain (ie., application process barriers and case management burdens) and stress factors related to direct interaction with government staff
- Align with key quantitative findings from survey
- Supporting evidence for reforming policies, reducing burden
- Additional responses to be gathered via Phase 2

# Looking Ahead

## *Next Steps*

# Next Steps – 2024

- ✓ **November 19** (CPRAC members meet in person):
  - Review draft report on progress and initial recommendations
  - Following this meeting, OTDA will evaluate and work to incorporate CPRAC members' feedback and comments on the draft report to provide a 'final' report for consideration
- **December 18** (CPRAC members meet in person)
  - Vote to issue consensus report

# Next Steps – 2024

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**Closing**

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**Thank you!**



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