



**Child Poverty Reduction  
Advisory Council**

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

Meeting 08 – February 28, 2024

# Reminders – Administrative Items

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

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# Welcome

# Welcome

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

# Goals for Meeting 8

- **Recap** – where we left off after Meeting 7
- **Review** – draft report on proposed Executive Budget and impact on child poverty
- **Update** – modeling data and committee next steps
- **Overview** – orientation on key topics (Medicaid; Administrative Burden)
- **Discuss** – open conversation about potential areas for reform
- **Schedule** – tentative calendar for 2024

# Recap

## *Meeting 7*

# Recap – Meeting 7

- Reviewed data from Urban Institute (UI) on enacted policies
- Finalized and voted to issue 2023 CPRAC Progress Report
- Looked ahead to CPRAC’s next steps in 2024, including:
  - Assessing individual policy proposals
  - Developing policy “packages” combining proposals
  - Actions required to issue initial recommendations
  - Tentative areas of focus based on UI research



# Recap – NYS Progress Reducing Poverty

- UI estimated the potential effects at full implementation/utilization of enacted policies from SFY22-23 and 23-24 Budgets on child poverty in NY, compared to 2019 baseline
- According to UI, recently-enacted policies reduce child poverty
- Estimated poverty reduction effect at full implementation, without employment effects:
  - Child-poverty-related permanent policies in FY23 and FY24 Budgets: 7.6% reduction
  - One-time/temporary expansion/supplement of EITC: 2.1% reduction on its own
  - One-time/temporary expansion/supplement of ESCC: 2.3% reduction on its own
  - Permanent policies together with temporary policies: estimated cumulative 12.4% reduction
- Estimated poverty reduction effect, with employment effects:
  - Underway
- To achieve 50% reduction, CPRAC recommendations must reduce child poverty by another 43%, at minimum

# Organization

*Procedural matters and  
status updates*

# Procedural Matters – Exec Budget Assessment

- Statute requires CPRAC to review the proposed Executive Budget:

*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.*

- All have had the opportunity to review this year's draft report on the Executive Budget proposal, including providing feedback, which has been incorporated
- **With no further questions, the Council will now vote to issue the...**  
*CPRAC Annual Report on the 2024/2025 Executive Budget Proposal*

# Procedural Matters – Status Updates

- Urban Institute modeling of proposed policies is underway
  - Tax data coming soon
  - Public benefits data coming next
  - Housing data to follow
- Will reconvene committees to review UI data
- Identifying venues for first “formal public hearing”
  - To schedule in April in NYC
  - Goal: to receive input from public

# Procedural Matters – Draft Calendar

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 State Agencies prepare rough cost estimates of policies within packages by August</li> </ul>
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UI assesses cumulative effects of combinations of policies</li> </ul>
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statutory members review data on cumulative effects of combinations of policies</li> </ul>
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Second formal public hearing</b>, taking packages with data to the public</li> <li>• <b>Statutory members finalize initial recommendations</b> based on data, public input</li> </ul>
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Formalize initial recommendations via a report</b> and vote to issue</li> </ul>
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft progress report</li> </ul>
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vote to issue progress report</li> </ul>

# In-Depth Review

## *Medicaid*

# In-Depth Review – Medicaid

- Medicaid is a key policy/program serving low-income New Yorkers
- CPRAC members have discussed the importance of Medicaid to addressing poverty
- CPRAC members with lived experience utilizing Medicaid have discussed the benefits of the program for them and their families, as well as their individual challenges with the program
- Governor Hochul recently announced a range of reforms and proposals related to Medicaid that will expand the program and target low-income households with additional support

# Presentation – Medicaid

- **New York State Department of Health / Office of Health Insurance Program** to present
  - Orientation
  - Key facts and trends
  - Overview of recent reforms and advances
  
- Q & A to follow



# In-Depth Review – Medicaid

- **Key takeaways:**
  - New York's Medicaid coverage rate is very high – high enrollment rates
  - Enrollment has increased since 2019 – over 2 million children enrolled
  - Benefits include: screening, treatment, perinatal care, drug coverage, and more
  - Significant reforms underway (NYHER) and planned (continuous eligibility)
    - Enable use of Medicaid \$ for more health-related social needs services
    - To address health equity goals, implementing new policies and reforms

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

# In-Depth Review

## *Administrative Burden*

# In-Depth Review – Administrative Burden

- Across all topics discussed to date, common thread has emerged: need for accessibility and availability
  - *These challenges are also known as “administrative burdens”*
- Administrative burdens exist across all policies and programs
- CPRAC members with lived experience of poverty and participation in anti-poverty programs cite a range of burdens faced

# Presentation – Administrative Burden

- **Georgetown University** – *based on the work of Dr Pamela Heard*
  - Defining and understanding administrative burden
  - Identifying administrative burdens within different programs
  - Relationship between administrative burden and poverty
- Q & A to follow

# In-Depth Review – Administrative Burden

- **Key takeaways:**
  - Administrative burdens exist across all anti-poverty policies and programs
  - Burdens take different forms – i.e. awareness and compliance challenges
  - Burdens are often hidden from broader public and overlooked in policy design
  - Burdens can have big impacts – preventing programs from having intended effect
  - Alleviating burdens may have significant poverty reduction effects
  - Strategically addressing burdens should be an intentional goal and focus

# Discussion

*Lived experience and  
opportunities for reform*

# Discussion – Lived Experience

- Must incorporate the perspectives of New Yorkers with lived experience
  - Council Members Pamela Walcott and Candace Cabral have provided testimonials about their experiences with programs, including public benefits (PA, SNAP), tax credits, housing assistance, Medicaid, and more
  - In each of their testimonials, for each program, they cited administrative burdens
  - Burdens included: onerous application requirements, complex paperwork, inaccessible enrollment centers, communication issues, difficulty navigating systems, awareness of certain programs, challenges maintaining and using programs once enrolled



# Discussion – Opportunities for Reform

- Key takeaways from orientations and their first-hand experiences
- Based on their testimonials, your experiences helping New Yorkers facing these types of challenges, and today's presentations, are there specifics should we focus on learning, discussing, and addressing more?
  - Specific barriers
  - Positive features of these programs and policies to build upon
  - Best practices from successful programs that we can use to address challenges

# Looking Ahead

*Initial recommendations in 2024*

# Looking Ahead

- **Will reconvene committees in coming months**
  - Tax, Public Benefits, Housing
- Statutory members will next meet to hear from each of these committees on the data reviewed and priority proposals identified
- Formal public hearing this spring will consider accessibility and availability of public benefits
- Goal: to develop policy packages by summer for additional analysis by Urban Institute on cumulative poverty reduction

# Initial Areas of Focus

- **Based on the work of CPRAC to date, including committee discussions and evidence reviewed on the important effect of various policies on child poverty:**
  - Enhancement of the Empire State Child Credit is a key tool to achieve the goals of the Council
  - Additionally, recommendations are expected to address housing affordability for low-income families
- Committees will work over the coming months to develop specific recommendations, based on data CPRAC receives

# Closing

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

**Thank you!**

