



**Child Poverty Reduction
Advisory Council**

Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council (CPRAC)

Meeting 10 – August 7, 2024

Reminders – Administrative Items

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

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- Poverty Reduction Data for Packages of Proposals, Priorities Based on Data
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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 10

- **Recap** – where we left off after Meeting 9
- **Review** – modeling data from Urban Institute on *cumulative effect of packages* of proposals
- **Discuss** – develop priorities/rankings of packages based on data
- **Review** – key findings from Public Benefits Survey
- **Discuss** – opportunities for reform related to access/availability of benefits based on findings
- **Schedule** – Meeting 11, 12, 13

Recap

Meeting 9

Recap – Meeting 9

- Reviewed CPRAC charge and work to date
 - **To study poverty**, reviewed key research on key topics
 - **To develop recommendations**, created key topic committees, convened focused discussion, identified specific proposals, obtained data on proposals, developed data-based priorities, created packages of proposals
 - **To measure and report on progress** reducing poverty, working with the Urban Institute to estimate effects of recently-enacted policies and potential proposals

Recap – Measuring NYS Progress

- Urban Institute estimates that policies from recent budgets (SFY22-23 and 23-24) are estimated to reduce child poverty by up to 7.6%, compared to baseline
- CPRAC's proposed recommendations must reduce child poverty in New York by approximately 50%
 - In developing recommendations, must consider reforms to ESCC, housing subsidies, and more, and effects of poverty/proposals by race/ethnicity

Recap – CPRAC Committee Progress

- ✓ Develop specific proposals for reform or new policies that would help achieve reduce child poverty in New York
 - ✓ Discuss policy ideas and identify specific proposals
 - ✓ Obtain data on the relative child poverty-reduction effects
 - ✓ Use data to prioritize proposals for potential recommendation
 - ✓ Relay committee's priorities to CPRAC statutory members, who will consider priorities in the development of policy packages that combine different proposals together

Recap – Developing Packages of Proposals

- ✓ Created 5 different potential combinations of proposals that appear to achieve ~50% child poverty reduction, informed by:
 - Poverty reduction effect by age, race, geography
 - Change in household resources, overall estimated cost
 - Priority rankings of proposals identified by Committees
- ✓ Urban Institute modeled combinations to account for interactions between proposals and provide unified, cumulative data on effects of selected proposals together

Recap – 2024

Target Month	Goal*
March, April, May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Tax Policy Committee reconvenes to review data, develop priorities/rankings based on data ✓ Public Benefits Committee reconvenes to review data, develop priorities/rankings based on data ✓ Housing Committee reconvenes to review data, develop priorities/rankings based on data ✓ Formal public hearing in NYC, on accessibility and availability of public benefits
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Committees report data-based priorities/rankings back to statutory members ✓ Statutory members develop initial policy packages for modeling ✓ Request rough cost estimate from State Agencies of proposals included in packages
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ UI assesses cumulative effects of policy packages ✓ State Agency partners prepare rough cost estimates of selected proposals
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory members review data on policy packages and cost estimates, identify initial recommendations
September 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review draft summary report on initial recommendations via virtual meeting on September 19
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize draft summary report on initial recommendations • Draft progress report
November 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and vote to issue final summary report on initial recommendations • Review draft progress
December 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and vote to issue final progress report

Review and Discuss

Package Data, Priorities

Modeling Overview – Contents

- **Urban Institute’s modeling data includes:**
 - Poverty reduction data for initial proposals identified to date
 - Effects on individuals by poverty level, age, location, race
 - Effects on families by poverty level, composition, location
 - Estimated change in household resources
 - Estimated effect on utilization and cost of existing programs
 - Estimated overall cost of proposed credit or benefit

Modeling Overview – Workbooks

- **Workbooks provided by Urban Institute each include several different tables where data is broken down along these lines:**

0. Policies Overview: comparative view of all proposed policies and key metrics

1. SPM Summary: highlights of proposed policies poverty reduction effects

2. Poverty_Individuals...: poverty reduction effects by individuals by income level, age, and location

3. Individuals_Race: poverty reduction effects by individuals by income level, age, and race

4. Poverty_Families...: poverty reduction effects by families by income level, family composition, and location

5. Household Resources: number of households that experience resource changes, including average net resource change

7. Program Summary: includes estimated effect of proposed policies on costs of existing programs

8. Costs: summary of estimated cost

Modeling Overview – Context

- Microsimulation model is based on multiple sources of data, including administrative data provided by the State and publicly-available statistical and survey data
- Cost estimates reflect how much would be spent on the benefit if implemented – administrative costs not included
- Different take-up assumptions by policy area, proposal type
- Data does not yet include “employment effects” – will be assessed once proposals are selected for packages
- All numbers are estimates and must remain rounded

Individual Proposals Included in Packages

- Individual proposals included in five packages

Proposal #	Proposal Description	Child Poverty Reduction Ages 0-17 (%)	Estimated Additional Cost (\$M)
CTC 2	Children with ITIN fully eligible	0.0%	\$7
CTC 4	Max CTC amount \$500 for children 6+, \$1000 for children 6-, fully refundable	-9.7%	\$937
CTC 5	Max CTC amount \$1500 for children 0-17, fully refundable	-23.2%	\$3,228
CTC 6	Max CTC amount \$1500 for children 6+, \$2000 for children 6-, fully refundable	-25.5%	\$3,722
PA 1	Removing the Assets Test for Family Assistance (FA) and Safety Net Assistance (SNA)	0.0%	\$6
PA 2	Removing FA-SNA Durational Sanctions in Areas Using That Policy	0.0%	\$3
PA 3	Applying the Same Earned Income Disregards for FA-SNA Applicants as for Recipients	-2.9%	\$309
PA 4	Increasing the Basic Allowances for FA-SNA by 50%	-8.1%	\$1,123
PA 5	Increasing the Basic Allowances for FA-SNA by 100%	-18.1%	\$2,085
SFB 2	Creating a State Food Benefit for Families With Children, With Full Eligibility for All Noncitizens	-1.6%	\$141
HV 2	HCVP-Type Voucher for Unsubsidized Income-Eligible Households (<50% AMI), No Noncitizen Restrictions	-15.7%	\$3,272
RC 4	Renters Credit Covering 100 Percent of Rent Burden (Using 108% FMR), Capped at 30 Percent of FMR	-25.2%	\$7,789

Cumulative Estimate Data – Package 1

- Package 1

Proposal #	Proposal Description	Child Poverty Reduction Ages 0-17 (%)	Estimated Additional Cost (\$M)
CTC 2	Children with ITIN fully eligible	0.0%	\$ 7
CTC 5	Max CTC amount \$1500 for children 0-17, fully refundable	-23.2%	\$3,228
HV 2	HCVP-Type Voucher for Unsubsidized Income-Eligible Households (<50% AMI), No Noncitizen Restrictions	-15.7%	\$3,272
PA 1	Removing the Assets Test for Family Assistance (FA) and Safety Net Assistance (SNA)	0.0%	\$6
PA 2	Removing FA-SNA Durational Sanctions in Areas Using That Policy	0.0%	\$3
PA 3	Applying the Same Earned Income Disregards for FA-SNA Applicants as for Recipients	-2.9%	\$309
PA 5	Increasing the Basic Allowances for FA-SNA by 100%	-18.1%	\$2,085
SFB 2	Creating a State Food Benefit for Families With Children, With Full Eligibility for All Noncitizens	-1.6%	\$141
Cumulative		-50.5%	\$8,971

Cumulative Estimate Data – Package 2

- Package 2

Proposal #	Proposal Description	Child Poverty Reduction Ages 0-17 (%)	Estimated Additional Cost (\$M)
CTC 2	Children with ITIN fully eligible	0.0%	\$7
CTC 4	Max CTC amount \$500 for children 6+, \$1000 for children 6-, fully refundable	-9.7%	\$937
HV 2	HCVP-Type Voucher for Unsubsidized Income-Eligible Households (<50% AMI), No Noncitizen Restrictions	-15.7%	\$3,272
PA 1	Removing the Assets Test for Family Assistance (FA) and Safety Net Assistance (SNA)	0.0%	\$6
PA 2	Removing FA-SNA Durational Sanctions in Areas Using That Policy	0.0%	\$3
PA 3	Applying the Same Earned Income Disregards for FA-SNA Applicants as for Recipients	-2.9%	\$309
PA 5	Increasing the Basic Allowances for FA-SNA by 100%	-18.1%	\$2,085
SFB 2	Creating a State Food Benefit for Families With Children, With Full Eligibility for All Noncitizens	-1.6%	\$141
Cumulative		-41.0%	\$6,669

Cumulative Estimate Data – Package 3

- Package 3

Proposal #	Proposal Description	Child Poverty Reduction Ages 0-17 (%)	Estimated Additional Cost (\$M)
CTC 2	Children with ITIN fully eligible	0.0%	\$7
CTC 6	Max CTC amount \$1500 for children 6+, \$2000 for children 6-, fully refundable	-25.5%	\$3,722
PA 1	Removing the Assets Test for Family Assistance (FA) and Safety Net Assistance (SNA)	0.0%	\$6
PA 2	Removing FA-SNA Durational Sanctions in Areas Using That Policy	0.0%	\$3
PA 3	Applying the Same Earned Income Disregards for FA-SNA Applicants as for Recipients	-2.9%	\$309
PA 5	Increasing the Basic Allowances for FA-SNA by 100%	-18.1%	\$2,085
SFB 2	Creating a State Food Benefit for Families With Children, With Full Eligibility for All Noncitizens	-1.6%	\$141
Cumulative		-41.1%	\$6,362

Cumulative Estimate Data – Package 4

- Package 4

Proposal #	Proposal Description	Child Poverty Reduction Ages 0-17 (%)	Estimated Additional Cost (\$M)
CTC 2	Children with ITIN fully eligible	0.0%	\$ 7
CTC 6	Max CTC amount \$1500 for children 6+, \$2000 for children 6-, fully refundable	-25.5%	\$3,722
HV 2	HCVP-Type Voucher for Unsubsidized Income-Eligible Households (<50% AMI), No Noncitizen Restrictions	-15.7%	\$3,272
PA 1	Removing the Assets Test for Family Assistance (FA) and Safety Net Assistance (SNA)	0.0%	\$6
PA 2	Removing FA-SNA Durational Sanctions in Areas Using That Policy	0.0%	\$3
PA 3	Applying the Same Earned Income Disregards for FA-SNA Applicants as for Recipients	-2.9%	\$309
PA 4	Increasing the Basic Allowances for FA-SNA by 50%	-8.1%	\$1,123
SFB 2	Creating a State Food Benefit for Families With Children, With Full Eligibility for All Noncitizens	-1.6%	\$141
Cumulative		-46.7%	\$8,462

Cumulative Estimate Data – Package 5

- Package 5

Proposal #	Proposal Description	Child Poverty Reduction Ages 0-17 (%)	Estimated Additional Cost (\$M)
CTC 2	Children with ITIN fully eligible	0.0%	\$7
CTC 4	Max CTC amount \$500 for children 6+, \$1000 for children 6-, fully refundable	-9.7%	\$937
HV 2	HCVP-Type Voucher for Unsubsidized Income-Eligible Households (<50% AMI), No Noncitizen Restrictions	-15.7%	\$3,272
PA 1	Removing the Assets Test for Family Assistance (FA) and Safety Net Assistance (SNA)	0.0%	\$6
PA 2	Removing FA-SNA Durational Sanctions in Areas Using That Policy	0.0%	\$3
PA 3	Applying the Same Earned Income Disregards for FA-SNA Applicants as for Recipients	-2.9%	\$309
RC 4	Renters Credit Covering 100 Percent of Rent Burden (Using 108% FMR), Capped at 30 Percent of FMR	-25.2%	\$7,789
SFB 2	Creating a State Food Benefit for Families With Children, With Full Eligibility for All Noncitizens	-1.6%	\$141
Cumulative		-37.7%	\$9,929

Cumulative Estimate Data – Package 1-5

- Comparative view of Packages 1 thru 5

Package #	Package Components	Child Poverty Reduction Ages 0-17 (%)	Estimated Additional Cost (\$M)
Package 1	CTC 2, CTC 5, HV 2, PA123, PA 5, SFB 2	-50.5%	\$8,971
Package 2	CTC 2, CTC 4, HV 2, PA123, PA 5, SFB 2	-41.0%	\$6,669
Package 3	CTC 2, CTC 6, PA123, PA 5, SFB 2	-41.1%	\$6,362
Package 4	CTC 2, CTC 6, HV 2, PA123, PA 4, SFB 2	-46.7%	\$8,462
Package 5	CTC 2, CTC 4, HV 2, PA123, RC 4, SFB 2	-37.7%	\$9,929

Goal – Develop Priorities Among Packages

- Develop priorities/rankings among the five combinations of proposals, based on:
 - Poverty reduction effect by age, race, geography
 - Change in household resources, overall estimated cost
 - Priorities identified by Committees
 - Themes and values discussed during CPRAC work
- Based on these rankings, will draft report summarizing initial recommendations for statutory members to review

Values and Themes – Recurring Issues

- Many New Yorkers may not know about available programs
- Current eligibility may exclude New Yorkers who need assistance
- Application processes for programs are often cumbersome
- Existing benefits and credits are often described as insufficient
- Poverty disparities by race/ethnicity related to program access

Values and Themes – Recurring Solutions

- Increase benefit levels to align with modern cost of living
- Adjust eligibility to reach as many needy New Yorkers as possible
- Improve take-up by raising awareness, reducing burdens
- Use program access data to identify areas for improvement
- Explore auto-enrollment capabilities and/or use of technology
- More use of trusted messengers/CBOs to help NYers navigate
- As inclusive as possible, regardless of citizen status

Values and Themes – Committees

- Tax Policy Committee:
 - Raise credit as much as possible, while avoiding creating cliffs
 - Prioritize child credit for families over EITC
- Public Benefits Committee:
 - Raise Public Assistance levels, reform existing features
 - Create inclusive food benefit to reach families w/o SNAP
- Housing Committee:
 - Ensure assistance is provided for rent levels up to 108% FMR
 - Parity with existing programs, but more inclusive

Goal – Develop Priorities Among Packages

- ✓ Develop priorities/rankings among the five combinations of proposals, based on:
 - Poverty reduction effect by age, race, geography
 - Change in household resources, overall estimated cost
 - Priorities identified by Committees
 - Themes and values discussed during CPRAC work
- Based on these rankings, will draft report summarizing initial recommendations for statutory members to review

Cost Estimates – State Agencies

- Statute requires that in making recommendations, CPRAC include the “cost to the State related to the implementation” of proposals
- Requested rough ballpark estimates from State Agency partners:
 - Department of Tax and Finance (DTF)
 - Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)
 - Homes and Community Renewal (HCR)
- Underway, more to follow

***** Intermission *****

Review and Discuss

Survey Findings, Reforms

Recap – Survey Overview

- Goal of survey: obtain public input, learn from NYers
 - Focused on access/availability of key benefits, barriers
 - Programs covered: SNAP, PA, SSI
 - April 16 to May 31, 2024 (“Phase 1”)
 - English/Spanish versions offered
 - Promoted at CPRAC Public Hearing in April, and via NYS OTDA social media channels, CPRAC member networks, LDSS Commissioners

Recap – Survey Excerpt

- Public Benefits Survey sample:
 - *“We would like to ask a few questions about **how these ... programs have worked for you ...***
 - *...The survey should take a **few minutes**, depending on how many benefits you are receiving.*
 - *...Your responses are **voluntary** ...identity will **remain anonymous**.*
 - *Thank you for giving us your feedback.”*

Recap – Survey Excerpt

- Public Benefits Survey sample:

*On a **scale of 1 to 5**, with 1 being “very easy” and 5 being “very hard,” what was it like for you to **fill out the _____ application form?***

*1 – **Very Easy***

*2 – **Easy***

*3 – **Moderate***

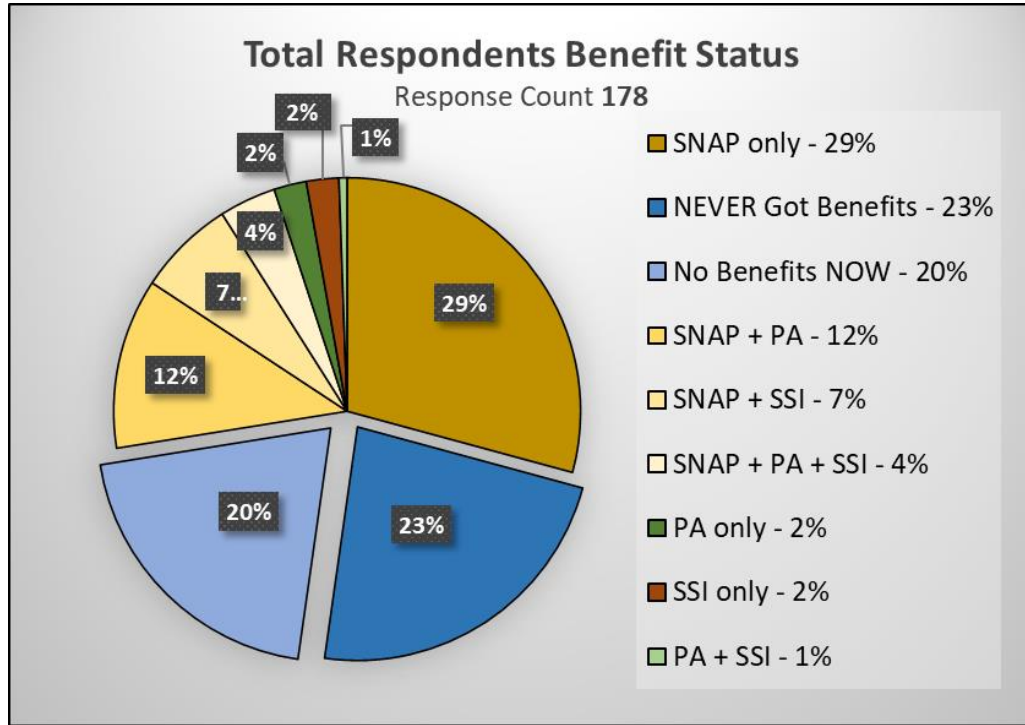
*4 – **Hard***

*5 – **Very Hard***

Recap – Survey Disclaimers

- Interpretation caveats:
 - Small sample size of current recipients (101), compared with total # of households currently receiving SNAP (over 1.7 million) - NOT representative of all recipients
 - Online survey (convenient, anonymous, allows candid feedback)
 - Respondents only those literate & computer-literate
 - Must increase our sample size to reach the broadest mix of people who seek support and qualify for our programs

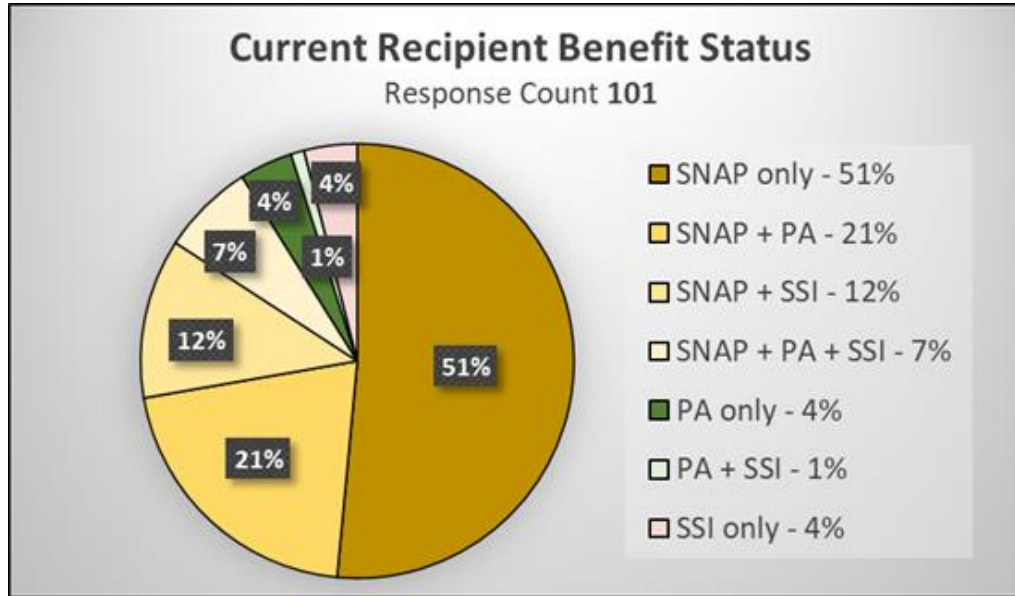
Recap – Survey Responses



Sample Size (overall)

- **178 overall responses**
 - 23% NEVER got benefits
 - 20% no benefits NOW

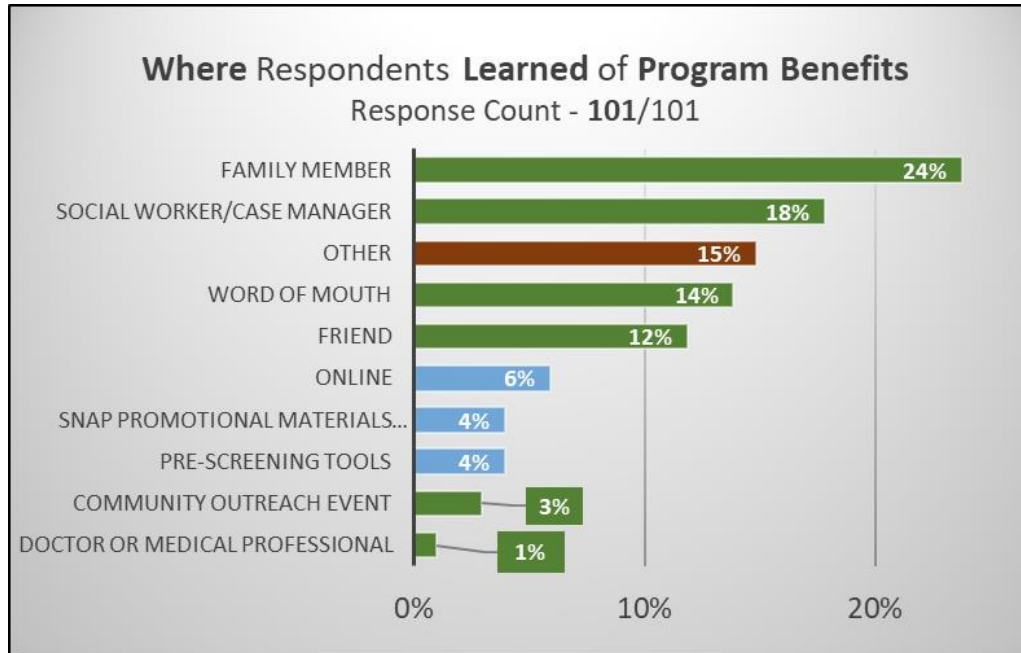
Recap – Survey Responses



Sample Size (current recipients)

- **101 program recipients**
 - majority SNAP related
 - most who receive SNAP also receive PA & SSI

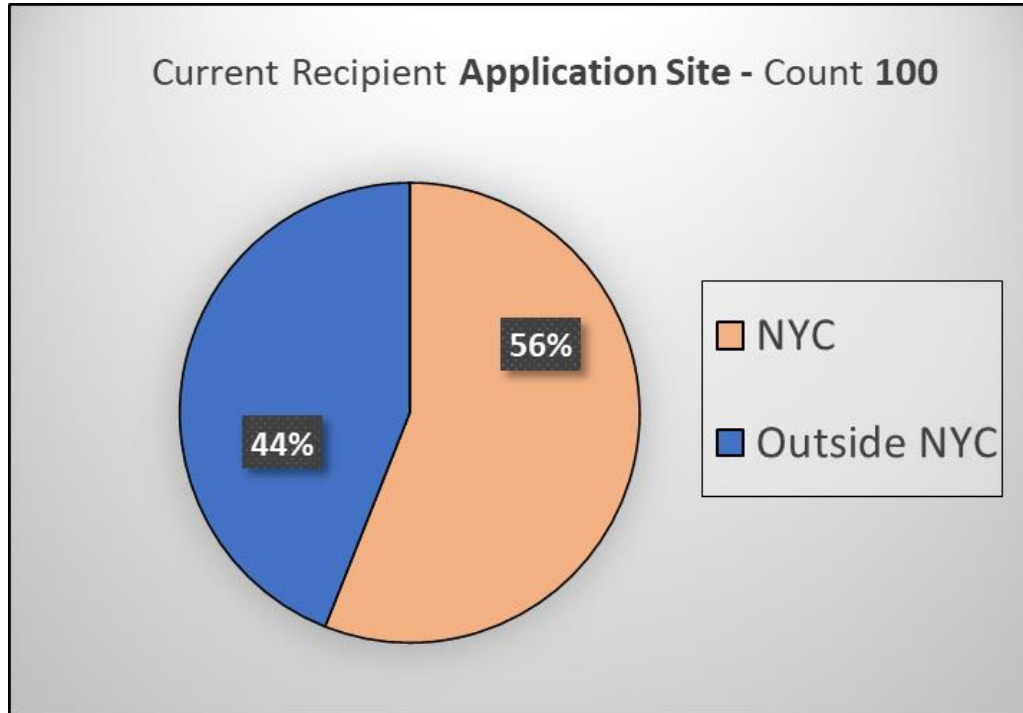
Key Findings – Applying for Public Benefits



Program Awareness

- 68% “interpersonal networks”
- 14% NYS resources
- 15 %other

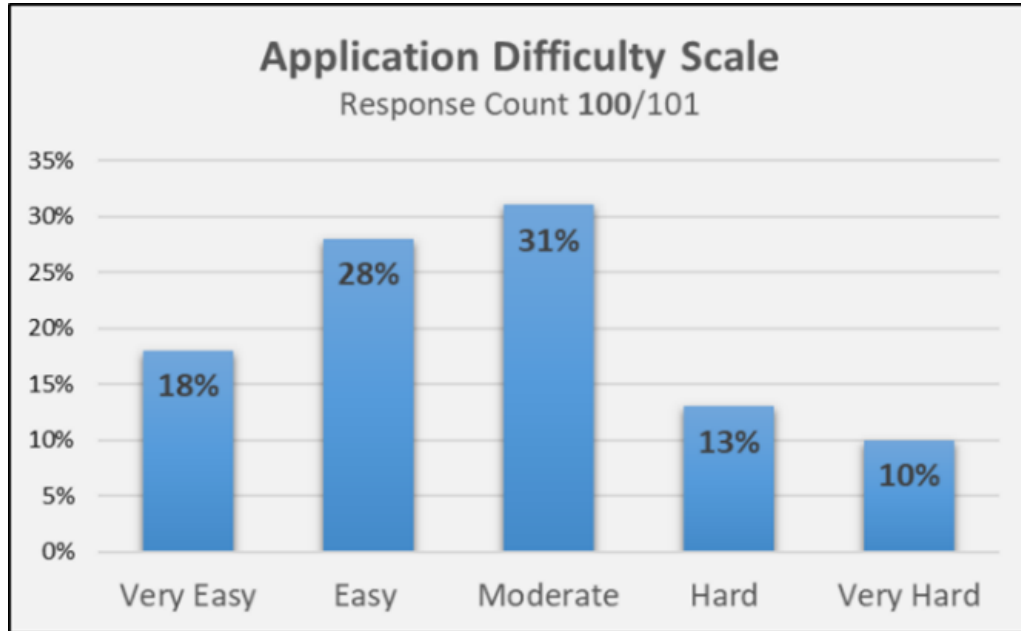
Key Findings – Applying for Public Benefits



Geographic Findings

- Phase 1 focused on region (NYC compared to ROS)
- Phase 2 also collecting district-level data

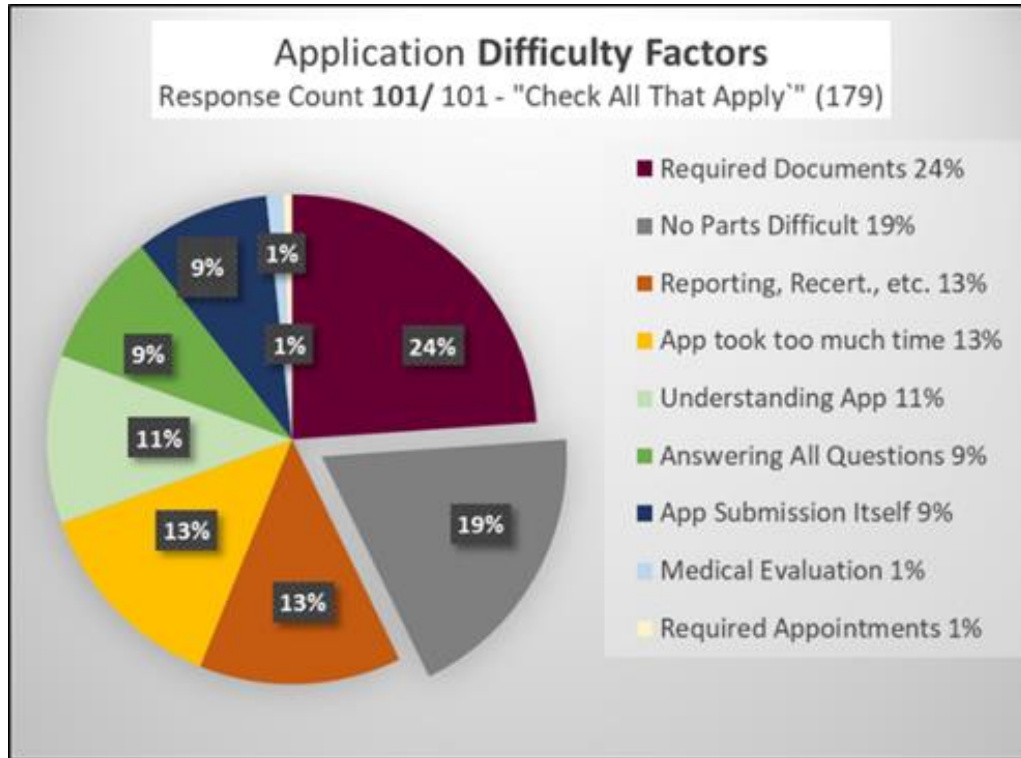
Key Findings – Applying for Public Benefits



Difficulty of Application*

- 46% “very easy” or “easy”
- 23% “hard” or “very hard”
- *Reminder: respondents had a computer literacy advantage

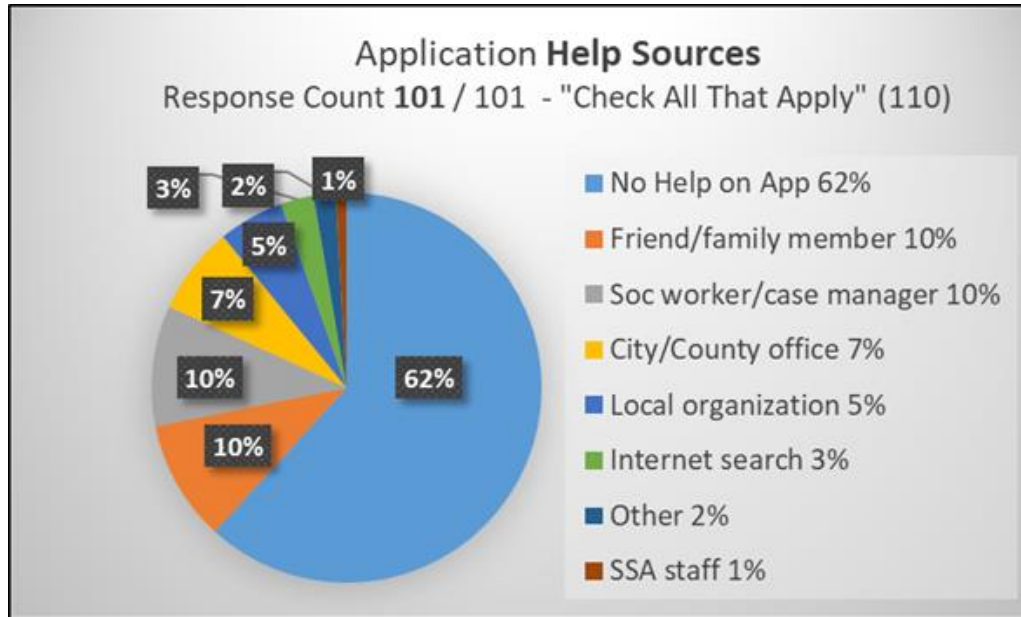
Key Findings – Applying for Public Benefits



Difficulty of Application

- **19%** had “no difficulty”
- **24%** indicated “Required Documents” difficult (most selected factor)
- Other factors varied, relatively evenly spread

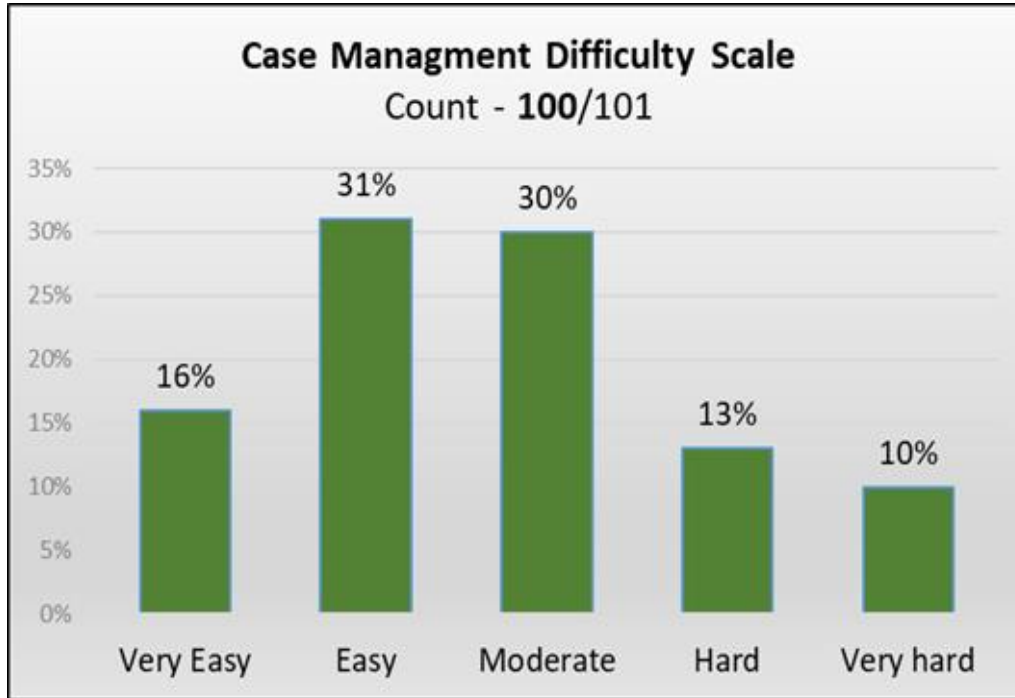
Key Findings – Applying for Public Benefits



(Where) Did You Get Help?

- **62% “did not get help” on their application**
- Other sources varied and somewhat evenly spread

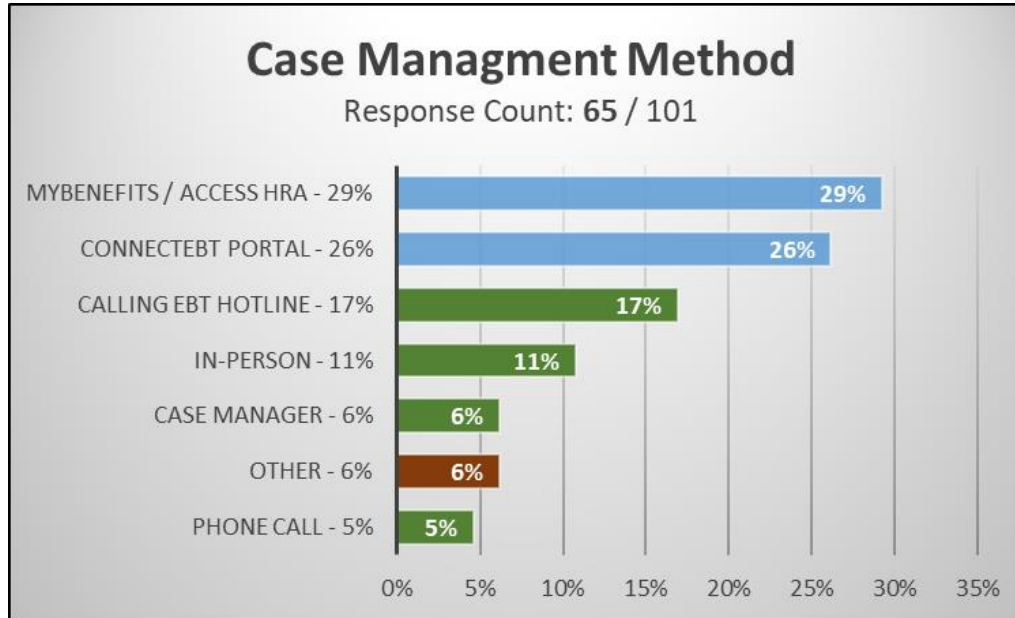
Key Findings – Managing Public Benefits



Difficulty Managing Cases

- 47% “very easy” or “easy”
- 30% moderately difficult
- 23% “hard” or “very hard”

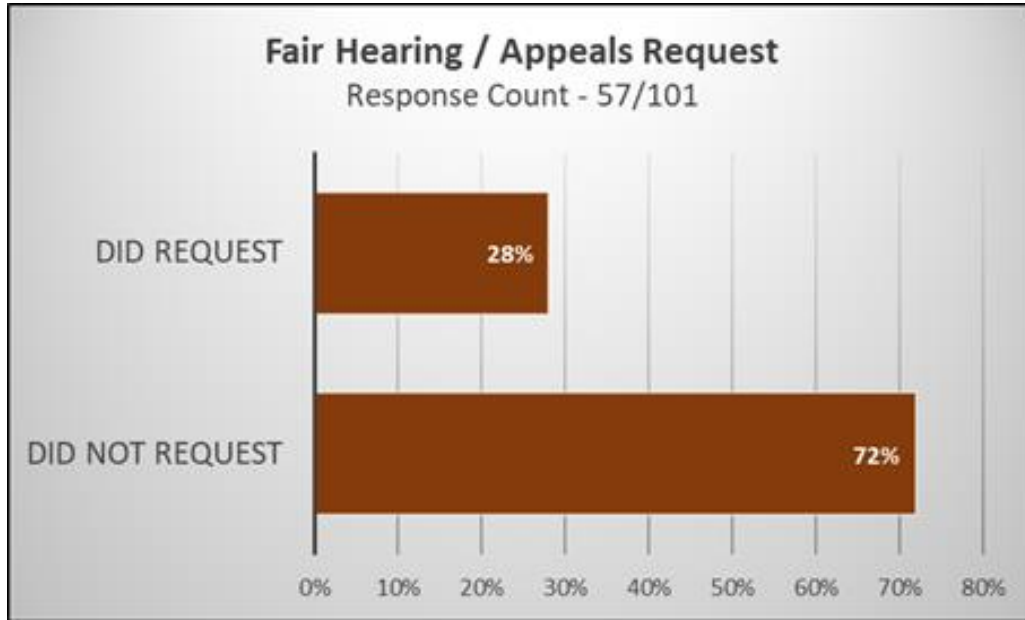
Key Findings – Managing Public Benefits



Managing Cases

- **39% “interpersonal networks”**
- **55% “online”**
- **6% other**

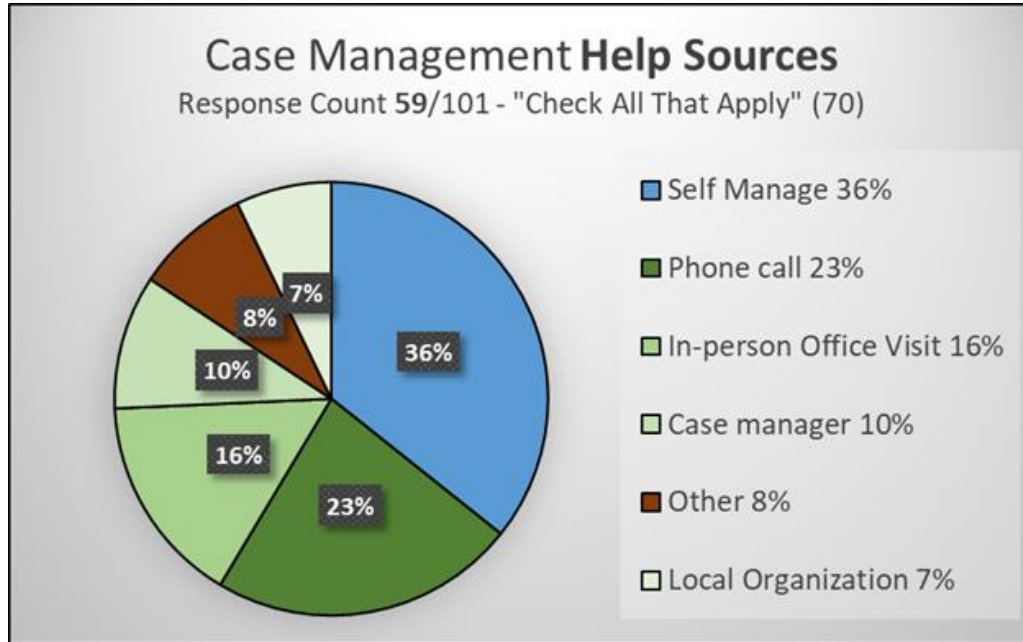
Key Findings – Managing Public Benefits



Challenging Cases

- **28% DID** make request
- **72% did NOT** make request
- Caution: response count may indicate discomfort, lack of time, distraction, with answering this question

Key Findings – Managing Public Benefits



(Where) Did You Get Help?

- **36% “self manage”**
- **56% “interpersonal networks”**
 - 23% phone calls
 - 16% in-person office visits
 - 10% case managers
 - 7% local organizations

Key Findings – Summary

- Helpful for gaining insight into firsthand experiences
- Takeaways from Phase 1 respondents:
 - Made good use of online tools applying for/managing public benefits, but many needed assistance
 - Many rely on “interpersonal networks” (verbal interaction) to learn about, apply for, or manage benefits
 - Documentation and time required cited as key hurdles
- Additional surveys needed (increase sample size)

Discussion – Key Findings, Opportunities

- Develop initial recommendations related to accessibility and availability of public benefits based on:
 - Key findings from public benefit survey
 - First-hand experience and testimonials
 - Ongoing CPRAC discussions, themes, etc.
- Thoughts? Feedback? Suggestions?

Discussion – Survey Next Steps

- Survey next steps:
 - Qualitative responses – review, analyze, summarize responses received through testimonials, open-ended survey questions, oral statements at public hearing, emailed statements, and more
 - Phase 2 – obtain more data details via additional responses, including quantitative and qualitative

Looking Ahead

Next Steps

Next Steps – August and September

- **Coming weeks** (drafting period):
 - Will write first draft summary of initial recommendations
- **September 19** (CPRAC members meet virtually):
 - Review draft summary of initial recommendations
- **October** (drafting period):
 - Finalize draft summary of initial recommendations
 - Write draft progress report
- **November 19** (CPRAC members meet in person):
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Next Steps – 2024

- Additional notes:
 - Also working to obtain analyses of potential cost savings over time associated with the five packages developed
 - Will also be obtaining estimate data on the potential poverty reduction effects of proposals in recent SFY2024-25 budget, as part of CPRAC's charge to monitor State progress
 - Will aim to issue another progress report this year, recapping this year's CPRAC process and outcomes

Next Steps – 2024

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Closing



Closing

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

Thank you!

