

# NEW YORK NEWS CONNECTION

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### STUDY: STATE LOSING A BILLION A YEAR IN FEDERAL AID

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New York, NY - A study being released today by the Children's Defense Fund of New York finds the state is losing over a billion dollars a year in federal tax credits and food stamp benefits. Comments from Children's Defense Fund spokeswoman Carolyn Kresky.

Suggested Script: A report out today from the Children's Defense Fund of New York finds the state is losing out on some big federal dollars. Spokeswoman Carolyn Kresky says that's what a county by county study finds.

Actuality Cut 47%%ID%% (:20) "New York State is losing over a billion dollars in federal benefits and tax credit, because eligible families, working families, are not applying. And they're not applying because, in some cases, they don't know they're eligible. In some cases, because the forms are way too complicated. It takes hours and hours to fill them out."

Suggested Tag: Kresky says the survey finds half of New Yorkers eligible for food stamps aren't getting them, and two thirds of uninsured children aren't signed up for federal health insurance. Also, hundreds of thousands of people who qualify for the "earned income tax credit" don't claim it.

Second Cut Intro: Kresky says the impact on families not taking advantage of their rights is enormous.

Actuality Cut 48%%ID%% (:19) "The children are not getting the preventive health care that they need, because they're not covered by health insurance. Food stamps can help put nutritious food on the table. The earned income tax credit can put an extra, in some cases, five thousand dollars, into the pockets of poor and working families, money that is critically needed."

Suggested Tag: Kresky says there are hundreds of thousands of working families in New York who are eligible for various programs and services, but aren't signed up. And that not only affects them, it impacts their communities and the state's economy.

Third Cut Intro: Kresky says there are steps the state can take to make sure residents make use of the various programs and services.

Actuality Cut 49%%ID%% (:23) "We can educate the families about the availability of these tax and benefit supports. We can simplify the application and filing procedure, so there's not so much duplication. We can invest in convenient community-based enrollment opportunities. And, we can also integrate the program eligibility procedures, so people don't have to fill out the same form over and over again."

Note to Editors: The study, including a county breakdown, is online at [www.cdfny.org/workingfamilies.pdf](http://www.cdfny.org/workingfamilies.pdf). Kresky is at 212-697-2323 ext. 102. A news conference to release the study, featuring Marian Wright Edelman, president, Children's Defense Fund, is at 10:30 this morning, CitiCorp Center, 153 East 53d, Manhattan.