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## **NYS Budget Embraces Some Reforms But Fails to Invest In Child and Family Well-Being**

A Statement from the  
Children's Defense Fund – New York

April 2, 2020. “The Children’s Defense Fund-New York applauds the leadership in Albany for important reforms in youth justice and child welfare, but we are deeply disappointed with the failure to invest in services and support for vulnerable children and families through New York’s child welfare and healthcare systems at this time of great uncertainty and challenge for our communities.”

“The budget legislation puts an end to placing adolescents in facilities operated by the adult Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, and transfers these teenagers to age-appropriate settings where they cannot be subjected to solitary confinement. It also includes \$250 million to support local implementation of Raise the Age reforms. Importantly, new legislation makes essential changes to the state system for child welfare investigations, better balancing child safety with protections for parents that will help address barriers to employment, especially for parents of color. This is one of the most progressive pieces of child welfare legislation in a generation.”

“But, the budget undermines child and family well-being by reducing state funding for child welfare, and fails to meet its commitment under statute to fully invest in community-based services that help hold families together and prevent children from entering the foster care system.”

“The New York State Medicaid Budget is irresponsible, and harms children and families. The budget contains draconian cuts that target programs and providers that serve children, and others that will result in job losses or lost wages for families. These cuts will make it harder for children and families to obtain the care they need. The cuts also fail to deliver economic relief to families that are already hurting financially. Given that Medicaid is one of the best tools states have to fight poverty and economic downturns, the move is especially shortsighted and will certainly cost New York in the long run.”