Erie County
Child Poverty in New York

Pre-pandemic data indicates that one in five children in New York — nearly 792,000 children — live in poverty,¹ with our 15th Congressional district holding the nation's highest child poverty rate. Impoverished children suffer worse health outcomes in many indicators, including increased incidence of infant mortality, low birth weight, asthma, elevated blood lead levels and obesity. Children who grow up poor are also more likely to become incarcerated, experience parental incarceration and become poor adults. *Child poverty in New York is an urgent crisis, costing our State approximately $55,102,000,000 every year.*

Child Poverty in Erie County ²

- **38,811** children live in poverty in Erie County.
  - 21 percent of children in the county live below the poverty line, as compared to New York State's overall child poverty rate of 20 percent.

Racial Disparities in Erie County

- **35 percent** of children in Erie County are children of color. ³ Children of color are disproportionately poor in Erie County:
  - 45 percent of Black children are poor. ⁴
  - 42 percent of Hispanic or Latino children are poor. ⁵
  - 10 percent of White children are poor. ⁶
  - 37 percent of Asian children are poor. ⁷
  - Black and Hispanic children in Erie County are **four to five times** more likely to be poor than white children. ⁸

Cost of Child Poverty in Erie County

- The annual cost of child poverty in the United States is estimated to be
$1.03 trillion, or around $69,581 per child. ix The cost of child poverty includes:

○ Increased health costs
○ Reduced earnings
○ Increased costs associated with homelessness
○ Increased costs associated with child welfare
○ Increased criminal justice costs

● Assuming that the per child cost of child poverty in Erie County is comparable to the per child cost of child poverty in the United States, CDF-NY estimates that the annual cost of child poverty in Erie County is around $2,701,000,000. x

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ix U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables. Table B17020: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Age.