



## **Budget Priorities for Child Poverty Reduction**

Child poverty has lasting impacts on our children, families, and communities. Columbia University researchers estimate child poverty costs New York \$60 billion+ per year. The Senate and Assembly have put forward budget proposals to invest in low-income families. We urge policymakers to act with intent to ensure these crucial investments to reduce child poverty are included in the SFY 2022-23 Budget.

### **Strengthen New York's Child Tax Credit (CTC) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**

The Assembly budget proposal strengthens the **Empire State Child Tax Credit** to end New York's exclusion of young children (0 to 3) from its child tax credit. It also increases the credit for people with very low incomes, though continuing the credit's current phase-in structure and income minimum which deprives the lowest-income families the full—or in some cases any—credit. We urge adoption of the Assembly proposal and removal of the minimum income requirement and phase-in so the credit reaches NY's lowest income children.

Both houses would increase the **State EITC** from 30% to 37.5% of the federal credit and strengthen the **NYC EITC**. We urge support of these and support the Assembly's doubling the State EITC benefit for low-income individuals with no qualifying children, expanding the credit to include taxpayers with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) and making the credit advanceable, to be paid out throughout the year.

### **Help Families, Children, Workers, and Providers of Care with Systemic Investment in Child Care**

Both houses call for unprecedented **investment in child care** in this year's budget. The Assembly's proposed \$3 billion is the minimum amount it will take to begin to properly support parents and providers, and put our state squarely on the road to a quality, universal child care system that helps drive economic recovery. Specific elements in each one house budget proposal demonstrate the extent to which legislative champions for child care have been listening to those most impacted by the collapse of our child care system during the COVID-19 pandemic. A recent (2022) [poll of NY business leaders](#) reveals more than 75% favor making more people eligible for child care subsidies and a \$45,000 minimum wage for child care providers. A majority say a lack of child care workers is a very or somewhat serious issue for their business.

### **Health Coverage for Moms and Babies**

The Assembly and Senate proposals support the Executive's proposal to extend post-partum **Medicaid health coverage** from 60 days to one year, and importantly, the Assembly removes language excluding undocumented women and prohibits cost-sharing in the Essential Plan for 12 months post-pregnancy.

We urge coverage for all women, regardless of immigration status, in the interest of improving health, access, and care for moms and babies. We further urge a guarantee of continuous health insurance coverage for babies aged 0 to three years.