



Child Care Availability Task Force

October 16, 2023

10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**OCFS Human Services Training Center
Rensselaer, NY**

Agenda



AGENDA

- I. Welcome remarks
- II. Presentation by Marnie McDowell and Joseph Nehme, Micron
- III. Presentation by Isaac McGinn, Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council (CPRAC)
- IV. High level updates from workgroup co-chairs
- V. Process review
- VI. Lunch
- VII. Draft recommendation discussion
- VIII. Next steps and closing remarks

Welcome Remarks



Suzanne Miles-Gustave, Esq.
Acting Commissioner,
NYS Office of Children and Family Services



Roberta Reardon
Commissioner,
NYS Department of Labor



**Presentation by
Marnie McDowell and Joseph Nehme
Micron**



**Presentation by
Isaac McGinn
Child Poverty Reduction
Advisory Council (CPRAC)**



**Child Poverty Reduction
Advisory Council**

Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council Overview

October 16, 2023

Recap – Child Poverty Reduction Act

- Declares poverty is a problem and a policy priority in NYS
- Established the Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council (CPRAC)
 - Set out broad structure of Council, including statutory appointments
- Charged CPRAC with:
 - studying child poverty in NYS,
 - developing recommendations for reducing child poverty by 50% over 10 years
 - measuring and reporting on progress towards that goal

Recap – CPRAC

- **17 statutory members, plus more than three dozen advisory experts from across the social services, policy advocacy, and scholarship/research spaces**
- To manage holistic discussion and ensure CPRAC covers key topic areas where research has shown policy reforms would have most immediate and significant effect reducing child poverty, CPRAC created committees based on subject area
 - Advisory experts participate in CPRAC mission via committee structure
- “Childhood” is one of the key subject areas, covered by Childhood Committee
 - 1. Tax Policy, 2. Public Benefits, 3. Housing, 4. Employment/Wages, 5. Childhood

Recap – CPRAC

- So far CPRAC has conducted subject-matter orientations and reviewed research on anti-poverty proposals in each topic area, including:
 - National Academy of Science’s “Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty” (2019)
 - Presentations by Columbia Center on Poverty and Social Policy, Furman Center, Stanford Center of Poverty and Inequality, Economic Policy Institute, Niskanen Center, State agency experts at DOL, OCFS, OTDA, and more
 - Input from Council Members with lived experience of poverty
- Goal of establishing shared foundation of facts (context, data, evidence, opportunities) upon which we will build with policy recommendations

CPRAC – Poverty in NYS

- **Key context on poverty in NYS:**
 - As of 2019, 3 million+ New Yorkers (~16% of all New Yorkers) are living in poverty*, including 745,000 New Yorkers under age 18 (~19% of all New Yorkers <18)
 - Based on available public data and internal analyses, rough snapshot of demographic breakdown of child poverty in New York (<100% ACS, <18 years old):
 - Poverty rate increases to 25% for black New Yorkers, 23% for Hispanic New Yorkers
 - Almost 3x as many white children in poverty outside of NYC as in NYC
 - ~60% of children in poverty live with only one parent

CPRAC – Committees Overview

- For each topic area, CPRAC and its committees are discussing ideas that could reduce child poverty and identifying challenges for further discussion
 - Each reform option and policy iteration will have different poverty-reduction/cost impacts
 - Urban Institute will analyze the relative poverty-reduction effects of different policy ideas:
 - Urban analysis will establish baseline against which we will measure progress (using 2019 as “before”), effects of recent policies on child poverty (i.e. NYS’ progress reducing poverty), and the estimated effects of different policy ideas
 - Committees will review data on the poverty-reduction effects
 - Committees will identify priorities for recommendation based on data

CPRAC – Tax Policy Committee Example

- **Example of key findings shared by CPRAC and CPSP related to poverty and tax policy:**
 - Data shows the expanded Federal Child Tax Credit of 2021 (fully refundable) reduced child poverty in U.S. by 25% after first payment to families (and would reduce by 40% if it reached all eligible families)
 - Key features of this expanded CTC include: fully refundable, \$3,000 per children for children 6-18 years old, and enhanced \$3,600 per child for children 0-5 years
 - Ended after 2021 with no replacement and poverty increased more than 40%
 - Recent reporting indicates poverty in U.S. increased again in 2022, more than doubling vs 2021 (largest single-year increase on record)

CPRAC – Tax Policy Committee Example

- As a result, based on presentations by CPSP and more, the CPRAC Tax Policy Committee is now discussing the following ideas for potential tax policy reforms:
 - ~~Expanding credit to include all children (adding 0-4)~~
 - Eliminate phase-in based on wages (so lowest-income NYers receive full credit)
 - Increase amount of the credit per child (and consider enhanced credit for youngest children, such as under 6 years old)
 - Index value of credit to inflation (prevents erosion over time)
 - Make credit more accessible (especially to non-filers)

CPRAC – Childhood Committee Example

- **Similarly, in our first Childhood Committee meeting, we:**
 - Recapped contents of CPRAC’s Childhood orientation
 - Reviewed research and literature on evidence-based policies
 - Reviewed related first-hand experience of Council members
 - Began discussing child care reforms underway at the State level and goals for continuing to improve service delivery

CPRAC – Childhood Committee Example

- **The Childhood Committee discussed:**
 - Reforms underway at the State level, including...
 - CCAP eligibility changes to reach more New York families
 - Capping child care co-pays especially for lowest-income families
 - Using technology to make child care more accessible
 - Goals moving forward, including...
 - Continuing to reduce burdens/barriers
 - Reaching more eligible households most in need

CPRAC – Modeling on Childcare

- To inform any recommendations CPRAC may make related to child care, the Urban Institute is conducting microsimulation modeling and will assess the effects of increasing child care assistance utilization on child poverty:
 - Increase child care utilization in 20% increments from 15% to 75% of currently eligible households
 - Increase child care utilization in 20% increments from 15% to 75% of all households with child care-aged children participating in or searching for work, or engaged in education or training activities, limiting household out-of-pocket child care costs to 7% household income
 - Edits? Other ideas, actions, and/or policies it might be helpful for Urban Institute to model?

CPRAC – Lived Experience Overview

- **As part of this process, CPRAC is also working to center and incorporate the perspectives of New Yorkers with lived experience of poverty**
 - While the projected impacts of programs like these are very important, we also need to hear directly from New Yorkers that have experienced poverty and utilized related programs, especially to learn where programs may not reach all eligible families
 - In addition to designing anti-poverty programs more effectively, must ensure that eligible families know that help is available – and know how to apply and enroll
 - Recommendations must incorporate the perspectives of Council members, including New Yorkers with lived experience

CPRAC – Lived Experience of Child care

- CPRAC statutory members who've lived in poverty provided testimonials about their experiences with the Child Care Assistance Program
 - Pamela Walcott (New York City):
 - Has not received CCAP
 - Paid out of pocket, and received early childhood education via public school system
 - Candace Cabral (Rochester):
 - Has received and still receives CCAP
 - Application process took too long (provider was willing to care before payment was received), but CCAP has enabled her to get child care that meets her needs

CPRAC – Next Steps

- **Next steps include:**
 - CPRAC statutory members will issue progress report
 - Recapping Council’s work to date
 - Overview of research presented and evidence-based solutions discussed
 - Status update on the work of each committee and the direction CPRAC is moving overall
 - Committees will continue to meet to discuss and develop consensus in each policy area
 - Will reconvene to review data from Urban Institute and develop priorities
 - Committee will report consensus priorities back to CPRAC statutory members
 - Statutory members will review committees’ consensus and develop recommendations

Closing

Questions? Comments? Feedback?

Thank you!

Welcome and Review of Processes



Guiding Agreements

- Be fully present.
- Be self-responsible for change.
- Listen, listen, listen and respond.
- Experiment with new behaviors.
- Be open-minded.
- Be crisp and say what is core.
- Be soft on people and hard on barriers to understanding.
- Honor confidentiality.

Courtesy of Kaleel Jamison Consulting Group



The Three P's

Purpose:

To move from workgroup to taskforce recommendations.

Process:

- Reread recommendations.
- Prepare to share feedback.
- Fist to 5 voting method.

Payoff:

- End the day with the task force recommendations.
- Writing team volunteers will begin finalizing report.
- Report will be sent to task force for final review.
- Final task force in-person meeting - December 11, 2023.

Workgroup Updates

Workforce Workgroup

**Co-Chairs: Tara Gardner, Day Care Council of New York,
and Beth Starks, Chautauqua Lake Child Care Center &
Jamestown Community College**



Universal Child Care Workgroup

Jenn O'Connor, The Education Trust- New York



Sustainability Workgroup

**Co-Chairs: Meredith Chimento, Early Care & Learning Council
and Liz Wolkomir, NYC Administration for Children's Services**

Lunch