



2018 PRIORITY PEDIATRIC POLICY, BUDGET & PRACTICE ISSUES

New York State American Academy of Pediatrics (NYS AAP)
A Coalition of AAP NY Chapters 1, 2 & 3

WORKING TO SUPPORT AND ENHANCE CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Some Basic Facts:

- There are 19,750,000 people living in New York State
- 4,180,559 New Yorkers are under the age of 18. They make up more than 20% of our total population.
- 1 in 5 New Yorkers is a child 18 or younger.
- 696,276 New York children are under the age of 3.
- 22% of all New York children live at or below the poverty level.
- 24% of New York Children under 6 live at or below poverty.
- 65% of children living in poverty have at least 1 working parent
- 1 in 5 Children Experience Food Insecurity

FACT:

Our youngest New Yorkers are the poorest New Yorkers.

State Budget and Policy Priorities

Despite an earlier suggested \$4.4 billion state budget deficit, the recent resolution of several key federal health budget items has reduced the pressure on New York's own budget providing the state with an unanticipated \$4 billion in federal support. The funding of DSH payments, support for community health centers, support for Maternal & Child Home Visiting Program, a 10-year commitment to CHIP, and support for several other key federal health programs provides an opportunity for us to push New York to do even better for its children.

Even before the recent federal action, New York's policy & budget proposals have presented a firm and positive stand in support of many programs and policies important to children's health and well-being, including some environmental protections, nutritional programs, children's primary care, and protections and support for immigrant children and families.

There are, however, several areas of deep concern:

- The proposed Temporary Reduction in payment for Patient Centered Primary Care. We will work to reverse this senseless cut and restore full funding to a program. We believe (and we thought NYS did as well), that PCMH incentive payments are imperative to the success of many of the state's health care reform initiatives. There are less harmful ways to achieve a \$10 million cut to a multi-billion dollar program.
- The proposed cuts and impending chaos in Children's Mental Health Services...Invest \$15 million now to at least preserve the services we have to these very seriously emotionally disturbed children.
- The current NYS Action Lead Blood Level is 10mg/l. CDC has 5mg/l as acceptable and the courts are about to ask the CDC to move it down to 3.5mg/l. We demand that NYS move to at least 5mg/l with a commitment to move down to 3.5mg/l and provide the resources to act. We know there is NO SAFE LEVEL OF LEAD.



Areas of Deep Concern

(continued)

- Inadequate investments in infant and child care
- Lack of funding for NYC's implementation of Raise the Age and Close to Home Programs for youth in the juvenile justice system
- Ineffective and complex procedures added to Early Intervention
- No push from the Executive for Tobacco 21 legislation

Our goal will be to work with the legislature to get many of these egregious cuts restored and inactions pushed forward.

The First 1,000 Days

This year, in contrast to some of the cuts listed, the Governor is proposing and supporting 10 specific recommendations for programs focusing on the first 1,000 days of a child's life. The First 1,000 Days recommendations are the result of a focused process by multiple stakeholders to propose new targeted initiatives to support the healthy social, intellectual, physical and emotional development of infants and toddlers during their first 1,000 days. Many pediatricians were involved in the development and prioritizing of the recommendations.

The New York State AAP has adopted the First 1,000 Days Top Ten Recommendations as the core of our advocacy efforts this year. The First 1,000 Days Top Ten Recommendations include:

- Braided Funding for Early Childhood Mental Health Consultations

- Statewide Home Visiting
- Creation of a Preventive Pediatric Clinical Advisory Group
- Expand CenteringPregnancy
- Promote Early Literacy through Local Strategies
- Require Managed Care Plans to have a Kids Quality Agenda
- Develop & Implement a New York State Developmental Inventory Upon Kindergarten Entry
- Pilot and Evaluate Peer Family Navigators in Multiple Settings
- Support Parent/Caregiver Diagnosis as Eligibility Criteria for Dyadic Therapy
- Develop a Data System Development for Cross-Sector Referrals

Although the state has only committed \$1 million in the first year to begin implementation, there are many initiatives that can be moved forward with some small additions to existing funding streams. Others are low cost and others will take a while to design and implement. There is a commitment to multi-year funding for the Top Ten. Our advocacy can help make these services for the children and families we serve real.

We urge you to talk with your legislator about putting in another \$2 million this year, to get this Agenda moving forward now.

Child Care

In addition, as we look at what children need in the First 1,000 Days, **we are calling for additional funding to increase capacity, quality and affordability of infant and child care.** If we are serious about improving the early developmental trajectories of all of our youngest New Yorkers, then high quality infant and child care must

accompany all the programmatic and service enhancements we support.

We urge the Governor to fill last year's \$7 million funding gap for subsidies and make additional investments to help low-income families afford quality child care and support the educators who teach our youngest children.

Pre-K

The Governor's plan to add \$15 million for pre-K for 3 and 4-year-olds in the State Budget is far too modest. More than 81,000 4-year-olds outside of NYC lack full-day pre-K. As pediatricians, we know the research shows that children without access to high-quality early education will start out up to two years behind their peers, and stay behind right through high school. Universal access to high quality Pre-K for 3 and 4-year-olds is imperative if we really are serious about a commitment to support the best possible First 1,000 Days. The budget must make a more serious financial commitment to high quality accessible infant and child care for families who so desperately need developmentally appropriate care for their children while they work.

Afterschool

The Empire State After-School Program (ESAP) was funded at \$35 million last year. We are pleased to see that an additional \$10 million is proposed to serve more students with afterschool programs in this year's budget. We urge the Governor to open up the next round of grants to serve additional high-need school districts and communities that were not previously eligible.

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Afterschool *(continued)*

We also urge the Administration to amend the budget language and allow nonprofit community-based organizations to apply directly for funds, rather than limiting eligibility to school districts.

Raise the Age (\$200 million)

We are concerned about inadequate budget support for the implementation of the Raise the Age legislation we helped pass last year. New York City and every county from Erie to Suffolk needs financial help to pay for the positive changes that Raise the Age promised. More than \$200 million needs to be infused into the system to attain the goals set out in the legislation.

Children's Mental Health System Needs Vital Support Now (\$15 million)

The Children's Mental Health Service system was challenged by underfunding and an inability to serve many children in need of services for several years. In an effort to address this long-standing problem, a stakeholder work group was created several years ago. The work group has been focused on solving this problem with some new and different approaches. The work group thought the state was ready to implement the improvements and the significant changes to the system. And without warning the state changed course and unilaterally decided to delay the changes for at least two years.

The system is in chaos. It needs \$15 million for grants to agencies this year to keep them whole and to provide services to children with the most severe mental health challenges.

The NYS AAP also supports:

- State Support for NYS undocumented children and families, and for DACA kids, including passing the NYS Dream Act
- Funding to Address Food Security across New York
- State Solutions to Environmental Issues, including addressing toxic chemicals in children's products, raising tobacco purchase age to 21, further limiting access to cigarettes, assuring water purity, and removing lead from children's environments at home, in school, child care and in the community. We support taxing e-cigarette fluids.
- Strengthening Children's Mental Health services in Primary Care. The state needs to work with pediatric primary care to create and support a consistent, high quality approach and payment formula to build children's mental health capacity in pediatric primary care.
- Advocating for more State Support to Address Increasing Child Poverty. In NYS, our youngest children are the very poorest New Yorkers. And as we know, poverty is directly related to Toxic Stress.
- New Initiatives in Telehealth for underserved areas and areas with little access to pediatric specialists

- New State Initiatives to address old and burdensome regulations, such as an opportunity to address Standing Orders for Healthy Newborns
- Advanced Primary Care in Pediatrics/Value Based Payment Systems Implementation in Commercial Insurance and in Medicaid, and the resources to make these new formulae work for patients, pediatricians, insurers and the government.
- Practice Transformation at all levels with the support to not only make it possible, but also sustainable over time.

In some cases, our solutions are budgetary - finding the resources to directly address and ameliorate the problem. In other instances, the solution is legislative or regulatory. And in others, a policy shift by state and local governments or agencies is required.

But in all instances, our goal is to improve the health and well-being of all children in New York State and to strengthen pediatrics.

