



Testimony of

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Before the
New York City Council
Finance and Youth Services Committee

Regarding the New York City
Executive Budget for FY10

May 14, 2009

Good afternoon. My name is Ailin Chen and I am the Senior Policy Associate for Education, Juvenile Justice and Youth Services for Committee for Children of New York (CCC). CCC is a 65- year old privately supported, independent, multi-issue child advocacy organization. CCC does not accept or receive public resources nor do we provide direct service or represent a sector or workforce; rather for 65 years we have undertaken public policy research, community education and advocacy activities to ensure New York City's children are healthy, housed, educated and safe. I would like to thank Chairman Weprin, and Chairman Fidler and the members of the Council Finance and Youth Services Committee for this opportunity to testify on the Mayor's Executive Budget for City Fiscal Year 2010.

While we appreciate the severity of the budget crisis and are grateful for the federal stimulus funding, we do not believe that the Executive Budget goes far enough to protect New York City's children from shouldering a disproportionate burden of the economic downturn. During economic downturns, like the unprecedented one we are in the midst of, it is more important than ever that the core services for children and families be protected and supported.

Youth services, child abuse prevention services, child protection, foster care, after school programs, child care, and children's health and mental health services are, and will continue to be, critical to promoting the well-being of children and their families.

To protect children in this budget, CCC urges the City Council and the Mayor to consider additional revenue options, particularly those that are the least regressive. Without much needed revenue, over \$108 million in troublesome reductions to essential services may stand, jeopardizing child safety and threatening child well-being.

While CCC is relieved that the Executive Budget proposes no new child welfare reductions and partially closes the child care budget gap, we remain concerned that budget reductions initially proposed in January, to ACS in particular, still stand. These reductions threaten the ability of community based preventive service agencies to maintain lower caseloads and meet the needs of at-risk families. They also hinder the capacity of foster care agencies to serve children in their care and expedite permanency for these children and their families. And they reduce ACS staff almost 1000.

CCC is also very concerned about proposed budget reductions to child health clinics and school based dental clinics. Notably the structural deficit faced by HHC and created by the State's reduction in Medicaid reimbursement, is not recognized in the Executive Budget but will also result in the elimination of community health clinics that serve children, school based mental health programs and adolescent day treatment programs. In short, basic primary health care services to for the city's children are threatened with elimination.

Finally, we remain concerned that reductions to youth service and after school programs, will result in thousands of children lacking access to needed constructive activities after school and during the summer months.

While NYC must show restraint in its expenditures, it is paramount that the proposed

reductions that would weaken an already fragile social infrastructure, cause unimaginable strain on the neediest children, and jeopardize the safety and well-being of children, be reconsidered. CCC has identified over **\$108 million** in city budget reductions to children and family services that we believe are of great concern. These are detailed in the chart attached to our testimony.

Because the city's fiscal situation is so dire, we urge the City Council and the Mayor to explore all additional revenue options including but not limited to temporarily rescinding property tax exemptions on private colleges and universities, rescinding the property tax exemption on Madison Square Garden, altering pilot property tax agreements on stadiums, and weighing progressive local income tax increases.

Turning specifically to youth services, CCC was relieved to hear that the City plans to use \$18.5 million in federal stimulus dollars to restore \$10.4 million in proposed cuts to the Summer Youth Employment Program and add 8,000 SYEP slots. This will allow the City to provide a total of 51,000¹ jobs in summer 2008. These funds will also enable the City to expand its reach by increasing the age limit from 21 to 24 allowing more youth to gain both valuable work experience and the wages needed to sustain themselves and their families in these difficult times. It should be noted though that these funds are time-limited and the city must make a commitment to continue to fund the SYEP program and slot expansion in the outyears.

Additionally, CCC remains concerned about cuts to core youth services. These programs provide thousands of youth city-wide with safe and constructive programming that keeps them engaged in school, connected to their neighborhoods, and away from the juvenile justice system. Research has proven that youth are at greatest risk for delinquency between the hours of 3-6pm² and that **every \$1 invested in youth services, saves \$140 in future criminal justice costs.**³ Therefore, CCC asks the Council to work with the Mayor to restore funding in the following areas:

- A total of \$12 million for Out-of-School Time (OST) programs-
 - \$6.07 million in OST Option II funding for 10,750 after-school slots which would negatively impact smaller non-school based OST programs that reach underserved populations.
 - \$2.86 million to preserve the length of OST elementary and middle school summer programs.
 - \$2.56 million to preserve 2,635 OST Option I slots.
 - \$570,000 to prevent a 10% increase in performance penalty for programs that have difficulty meeting attendance targets.

- A total of \$22 million in City Council Youth Initiative funding that has for many years provided essential support for a wide range of youth services including but not limited to: (Please see attached chart for a full list)

¹ Mayor's Press Release, 5/9/09, available online at: <http://nyc.gov/>.

² Fight Crime Invest in Kids. *New York City's Out-of-School Time Choice: The Prime Time for Crime or Youth Enrichment and Achievement*, 2008. Available online: <http://www.fightcrime.org/reports/NYCAS2pager.pdf>

³ Keeping Track 2008 Edition. Citizens' Committee for Children.

- \$3 million for Beacons which was restored by the Council in FY09 but not included in the CFY10 Executive Budget. These funds are vital to sustaining the comprehensive nature of Beacon services for youth and their families.
- \$4.7⁴ million for Shelter Beds for Runaway and Homeless Youth. The CFY10 Executive Budget proposes a \$1.7 million cut in city tax levy for Shelter Beds. However, the City had anticipated an additional \$3 million in state funding which it was unable to draw down for CFY10. As a result, we urge the Council to work with the City to fully fund the program with a restoration of \$4.7 million in CFY10.
- \$3.8 million for the After-Three program which supports 45 after-school programs serving over 12,000 students in 37 council districts.
- \$5.5 million for Cultural After-School Adventure, which supports partnerships between cultural institutions, libraries, and community-based organizations and provides critical youth development and arts programming.

When the City's FY 2010 Budget is adopted, the Mayor and City Council must make certain that the City is able to address the increased needs of children during this economic crisis.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

⁴ The CFY10 Executive Budget proposes a \$1.7 million cut in city tax levy for Shelter Beds. However, it is important to note that the city had anticipated an additional \$3 million in state funding which it was unable to draw down for CFY10. As a result, we urge the Council to work with the City to fully fund the program with a restoration of \$4.7 million in CFY10.



**PROGRAM AREA AND AGENCY BUDGET ANALYSIS
PROPOSED REDUCTIONS TO VITAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Items in parentheses are negative (i.e. reductions)

**CHILD CARE:
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Program	FY 2010 Preliminary Budget Proposals	FY 2010 Executive Budget Proposals	Failure to Fund City Council Initiative	Total Proposed Increase or Decrease for FY2010
Elimination of 293 Administrative and Child Care Staff	(\$7.6 million)			(\$7.6 million)
Reduction to (in January) and then Elimination of Priority 7 Child Care Vouchers (current families to be offered contracted slots)	(\$7.1 million)	(\$5.7 million)		(\$12.8 million)
Child Care Market Rate		\$25.0 million		\$25.0 million
Elimination of Low Priority (8 and 9) child care vouchers		(\$4.2 million)		(\$4.2 million)
Child Care Market Rate		\$4.2 million		\$4.2 million
Provider's Choice- Family Child Care Supplies			(\$1.2 million)	(\$1.2 million)
Working Parents for a Working New York			(\$300,000)	(300,000)
CEO: Early Childhood Policy and Planning	(\$58,000)			(\$58,000)
Sub-Total	(\$14.7 million)	\$19.3 million	(\$1.5 million)	\$3.1 million

* Items with an asterisk are those items where city funding is being replaced with federal stimulus funds. These city funding reductions are not included in the totals (as only the source of funding is changing.)

**CHILD WELFARE:
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Program	FY 2010 Preliminary Budget Proposals	FY 2010 Executive Budget Proposals	Failure to Fund City Council Initiative	Total Proposed Increase or Decrease for FY2010
Elimination of 315 Child Welfare Personnel	(\$8.2 million)			(\$8.2 million)
Reorganization of Family Preservation Program (staff reduction of 234 through attrition)	(\$7.3 million)			(\$7.3 million)
November 2008 Budget Modification: Elimination of 127 Child Protective Level I Supervisory vacancies	(\$3.8 million)			(\$3.8 million)
5% Reduction to Administrative Rate for Foster Care Providers	(\$5.7 million)			(\$5.7 million)
Community Partnership Initiative not to be expanded (remain at 11 instead of 15 CPIs)	(\$930,000)			(\$930,000)
Reduce Agency Support Contracts (suspend MSW program, eliminate media campaigns, etc.)	(\$1.8 million)			(\$1.8 million)
Reduction to Foster Parent Supports (10% reduction to providers that have not met performance goals)	(\$909,000)			(\$909,000)
Eliminate Facility Maintenance Expense (turnover facility to private provider)	(\$218,000)			(\$218,000)
CEO: Individual Development Accounts for Foster Youth	\$206,000			\$206,000
Replacing city foster care and adoption funding with federal stimulus funds		(\$19.8 million)*		N/A*
City funds to address state budget reduction for PINS, JDs, Institutional schools, Preventive Services and Adoption Subsidies		\$9.8 million		\$9.8 million
Preventive Service Program Enhancement Funding		(\$9.0 million)		(\$9.0 million)
Child Safety Initiative: Preventive Services Caseload Reduction			(\$3.7 million)	(\$3.7 million)
Child Advocacy Centers			(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)
Family Justice Centers			(\$200,000)	(\$200,000)
CONNECT Domestic Violence program			(\$600,000)	(\$600,000)
Sub-Total	(\$28.7 million)	\$800,000	(\$5.0 million)	(\$32.9 million)

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**CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH:
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
AND HEALTH AND HOSPITALS CORPORATION**

Program	FY 2010 Preliminary Budget Proposals	FY 2010 Executive Budget Proposals	Failure to Fund City Council Initiative	Total Proposed Increase or Decrease for FY2010
Elimination of dental clinics for children (November 2008 Budget Modification- \$2.5 million)				(\$2.5 million)
Child Health Clinics	(\$960,000)	(\$111,000)	(\$5.0 million)	(\$6.1 million)
Mental Hygiene-Community based and other non-HHC providers	(\$1.1 million)			(1.1 million)
Reduction of HHC MR/DD Services in CBOs (non-HHC)		(\$544,000)		(\$544,000)
HHC Mental Hygiene Services	(\$869,000)			(\$869,000)
Reduction of HHC MR/DD Clinic Services		(\$558,000)		(\$558,000)
DOHMH Staff Reductions	(\$1.3 million)	(\$1.5 million)		(\$2.8 million)
CEO: Expand Access to Healthy Foods	\$182,000			\$182,000
Obesity Prevention Initiatives			(\$3.0 million)	(\$3.0 million)
Mental Health Treatment for Children Under Five			(\$1.6 million)	(\$1.6 million)
Autism Awareness Initiative			(\$1.6 million)	(\$1.6 million)
CEO: School Based Health and Reproductive Health Centers	\$1.4 million			\$1.4 million
Infant Mortality Initiative			(\$3.5 million)	(\$3.5 million)
Asthma Control Initiative			(\$545,000)	(\$545,000)
Podiatric Screening			(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)
Diagnostic and Treatment Center Funding	(\$473,000)			(\$473,000)
Primary Care Capacity Initiative	(\$2.7 million)	(\$2.0 million)		(\$4.7 million)
Supplemental School Health Services	(\$754,000)			(\$754,000)
Sub-Total	(\$6.6 million)	(\$4.7 million)	(\$15.7 million)	(\$27.0 million)

**JUVENILE JUSTICE:
DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE**

Program	FY 2010 Preliminary Budget Proposals	FY 2010 Executive Budget Proposals	Failure to Fund City Council Initiative	Total Proposed Increase or Decrease for FY2010
Discharge Planning / Program Services for Youth in Facilities			(\$640,000)	(\$640,000)
Decrease in Dental Services	(\$71,000)			(\$71,000)
Eliminating the DJJ Discharge Planning Unit	(\$513,000)			(\$513,000)
Sub-Total	(\$584,000)	\$0	(\$640,000)	(\$1.2 million)

* Items with an asterisk are those items where city funding is being replaced with federal stimulus funds. These city funding reductions are not included in the totals (as only the source of funding is changing.)

**YOUTH SERVICES:
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Program	FY 2010 Preliminary Budget Proposals	FY 2010 Executive Budget Proposals	Failure to Fund City Council Initiative	Total Proposed Increase or Decrease for FY2010
Reduce SYEP work week by 1 day (November 2008 Budget Modification)- (\$1.8 million)				(\$1.8 million)
Reduction in SYEP summer job slots	(\$2.0 million)	(\$6.6 million)		(\$8.6 million)
Beacon opening fees			(\$3.0 million)	(\$3.0 million)
Elimination of OST Option II	(\$6.0 million)			(\$6.0 million)
Reduction in OST Option I slots	(\$2.56 million)			(\$2.56 million)
Reduction in OST Summer Program	(\$2.9 million)			(\$2.9 million)
Increase in OST Low Performance Penalty	(\$570,000)			(\$570,000)
Shelter Beds for At-Risk Runaway and Homeless LGBTQ Youth			(\$1.7 million)	(\$1.7 million)
Institute for Student Achievement			(\$1.4 million)	(\$1.4 million)
Street Outreach/Neighborhood Youth Alliance			(\$1.0 million)	(\$1.0 million)
The After-Three Program			(\$3.8 million)	(\$3.8 million)
YMCA Virtual Y Program			(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)
Sports and Arts Foundation			(\$1.2 million)	(\$1.2 million)
Helping Involve Parents in Schools Project (HIP)			(\$4.3 million)	(\$4.3 million)
Cultural After School Adventure (CASA)			(\$5.5 million)	(\$5.5 million)
CEO: Youth Programs	\$14.3 million			\$14.3 million
Transfer of Social Services Funding from NYCHA	\$12.3 million			\$12.3 million
WIA Federal funds (generating \$4.2 million in city savings)		\$32.3 million federal funds*		N/A*
Sub-Total	\$12.57 million	(\$6.6 million)	(\$22.4 million)	(\$16.4 million)

* Items with an asterisk are those items where city funding is being replaced with federal stimulus funds. These city funding reductions are not included in the totals (as only the source of funding is changing.)

**FAMILY HOMELESSNESS:
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELESS SERVICES**

Program	FY 2010 Preliminary Budget Proposals	FY 2010 Executive Budget Proposals	Failure to Fund City Council Initiative	Total Proposed Increase or Decrease for FY2010
HomeBase Homelessness Prevention Program	(\$5.1 million)*	(\$1.8 million)*		N/A*
Eliminate Recreation Staff from Shelter Contracts	(\$2.4 million)	.		(\$2.4 million)
Elimination of direct social service staff in commercial hotels housing homeless families	(\$1.1 million)			(\$1.1 million)
Rate reduction to family hotels	(\$575,000)			(\$575,000)
Eliminate Homecare Kits for Families	(\$354,000)			(\$354,000)
Eliminate Clothing Bank Contract	(\$221,000)			(\$221,000)
Family capacity re-estimate		\$24.7 million		\$24.7 million
Citywide Homeless Prevention Fund			(\$250,000)	(\$250,000)
Sub-Total	(\$4.65 million)	\$24.7 million	(\$250,000)	\$19.8 million

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES:
HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION**

Program	FY 2010 Preliminary Budget Proposals	FY 2010 Executive Budget Proposals	Failure to Fund City Council Initiative	Total Proposed Increase or Decrease for FY2010
Nutrition for Adults and Families Living with HIV/AIDS	(\$491,000)			(\$491,000)
Food Stamps at Farmer's Markets			(\$270,000)	(\$270,000)
CEO: Employment Services for Non-Custodial Parents	\$380,000			\$380,000
CEO: Enhanced Employment Services	\$111,000			\$111,000
FFFS Funding Adjustment (City funds to accommodate state reduction)		\$61.3 million		\$61.3 million
WeCARE Contract Reduction		(\$2.0 million)		(\$2.0 million)
Emergency Food Programs			(\$2.1 million)	(\$2.1 million)
Sub-Total	\$0	\$59.3 million	(\$2.4 million)	\$56.9 million

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**HOUSING:
HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Program	FY 2010 Preliminary Budget Proposals	FY 2010 Executive Budget Proposals	Failure to Fund City Council Initiative	Total Proposed Increase or Decrease for FY2010
City-Task Force on Housing Court			(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)
Anti-Eviction Legal Services			(\$2.3 million)	(\$2.3 million)
CEO: Family Self-Sufficiency Program	\$2.1 million	(\$40,000)		\$2.06 million
Community Based Consultants			(830,000)	(830,000)
NYC Neighborhoods		\$2.0 million		\$2.0 million
Sub-Total	\$2.1 million	\$1.96 million	(\$3.6 million)	\$460,000

**EDUCATION:
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Program	FY 2010 Preliminary Budget Proposals	FY 2010 Executive Budget Proposals	Failure to Fund City Council Initiative	Total Proposed Increase or Decrease for FY2010
Reduce 1,440 Pedagogical Employees in Schools (through attrition)	(\$91.2 million)			(\$91.2 million)
Estimated Headcount Reduction from Anticipated State Cut at time of Preliminary Budget (13,930 positions)	(only if state cut implemented)	\$951.6 million** (federal funds)		N/A*
Playgrounds		\$2.0 million		\$2.0 million
Special Education pre-kindergarten		\$316,000		\$316,000
CEO: Early Childhood Policy and Planning	(\$72,000)			(\$72,000)
Universal Pre-kindergarten (full day in ACS programs)			(\$2.6 million)	(\$2.6 million)
Teacher's Choice (supplies for schools)			(\$13.0 million)	(\$13.0 million)
Urban Advantage			(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)
Dropout Prevention and Intervention			(\$2.0 million)	(\$2.0 million)
Sub-Total	(\$91.2 million)	\$2.3 million	(\$18.1 million)	(\$107.1 million)

**Federal Funds, including Title I, IDEA, and AHRA stimulus funds ameliorate the state budget reduction and prevent the layoffs of almost 14,000 teachers.

* Items with an asterisk are those items where city funding is being replaced with federal stimulus funds. These city funding reductions are not included in the totals (as only the source of funding is changing.)

**LEGAL SERVICES:
MISCELLANEOUS**

PROGRAM	FY 2010 Preliminary Budget Proposals	FY 2010 Executive Budget Proposals	Failure to Fund City Council Initiative	Total Proposed Increase or Decrease for FY2010
UI/SSI Legal Assistance			(\$1.3 million)	(\$1.3 million)
Legal Services for Working Poor			(\$1.0 million)	(\$1.0 million)
Citywide City Legal Services			(\$1.5 million)	(\$1.5 million)
MFY Legal Services			(\$100,000)	(\$100,000)
Legal Services for NYC (LSNY)			(\$300,000)	(\$300,000)
Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT)			(\$300,000)	(\$300,000)
Sub-Total			(\$4.5 million)	(\$4.5 million)

TOTALS

PROGAM	FY 2010 Preliminary Budget Proposals	FY 2010 Executive Budget Proposals	Failure to Fund City Council Initiative	Total Proposed Increase or Decrease for FY2010
ALL VITAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES	(\$131.76 million)	\$97.1 million	(\$74.1 million)	(\$108.8 million)

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