Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council Public Benefits Committee

Meeting 02 – April 11, 2024

Reminders – Administrative Items

- Meetings are being recorded and live streamed

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Overview

Overview

- **Committee Co-Chairs**
  Barbara Guinn, NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
  Scott French, NYC Human Resources Administration
  Kathy Connerton, Southern Tier REDC
  Candace Cabral, Community Member and Advocate

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Goals – Public Benefits Committee Meeting

- Recap work to date, including policies identified for modeling
- Review poverty-reduction estimates from Urban Institute
- Determine policy priorities based on poverty-reduction data

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Recap
Public Benefits Committee

Recap – Public Benefits Committee

- **The goals of CPRAC's Public Benefits Committee are to help develop consensus around specific ideas for potential public benefits reform that would help achieve significant reduction in New York's child poverty rate. This includes:**
  - o Discussing and developing specific policy ideas and proposed interventions
  - o Obtaining data on the relative child poverty-reduction effects of those ideas, where possible
  - o Using that data to help prioritize ideas and policies for recommendation
  - o Reporting the committee's recommendations to the statutory members of CPRAC

- **In the first Public Benefits Committee meeting, the Committee:**
  - o Discussed ideas for potential public benefits reform
  - o Developed list of specific Public Assistance, SSI, and food benefit proposals to be modeled by Urban Institute

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Recap – Public Benefits Committee

- **Discussion to date has focused on different aspects of public benefits provision and opportunities for improvement, which have significant poverty-reduction effects**
  - Committee discussed potential reform of public benefits in four key areas:
    - value of benefits (how much),
    - eligibility for benefits (who receives),
    - accessibility of benefits (how they are accessed on the client side), and
    - administration of benefits (how they are implemented on the government side)
  - Identified specific policy proposals related to these areas for Urban Institute to model

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Review and Discuss
Urban Institute data

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Data Modeling – Overview and Status

- **Urban Institute is preparing comprehensive analysis of poverty in NYS and modeling the effects of various policies:**
  - o Baseline ("before," based on 2019 data) – posted online
  - o Effects of recently enacted policies – posted online
  - o Projected impacts of policy proposals (individually and in combination) – received and posted Public Benefits data

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Proposals Modeled – Public Assistance

- **Specific PA proposals identified by the Committee:**
  - Eliminate asset tests
  - Eliminate durational sanctions
  - Apply current recipient income disregard policy to applicants
  - Increase basic allowance by 50% and 100%
  - Increase shelter allowance by 100% and 200%, as well as to 75% of FMR and 108% of FMR
  - Index income eligibility and max benefit levels to different percentages of Federal Poverty guidelines

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Proposals Modeled – SSI/SSP

- **Specific SSI/SSP proposals identified by the Committee:**
  - Increase the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) State Supplement (SSP) amount by 50% and 100%

Proposals Modeled – Food Benefit

- **Specific food benefit proposals identified by the Committee:**
  o Provide food benefit to households with children currently ineligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) due to their citizenship status, equal to the allotment for similarly situated SNAP-eligible households
  o Provide food benefit to current SNAP cases with children where the household includes persons that would be included in the SNAP case except for their citizenship status, equal to difference between the household's SNAP allotment and the amount they would receive if those persons were included

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Modeling Overview – Data Workbooks

0. Policies Overview: comparative view of all proposed policies and key metrics

1. SPM Summary: highlights of proposed policies poverty reduction effects

2. Poverty_Individuals…: poverty reduction effects by individuals by income level, age, and location

3. Individuals_Race: poverty reduction effects by individuals by income level, age, and race

4. Poverty_Families…: poverty reduction effects by families by income level, family composition, and location

5. Household Resources: number of households that experience resource changes, including average net resource change

7. Program Summary: includes estimated effect of proposed policies on costs of existing programs

8. Costs: summary of estimated cost

Modeling Overview – Context

- Microsimulation model is based on multiple sources of data, including administrative data provided by the State and publicly-available statistical and survey data

- Modeling does not assume full take up

- Cost estimates reflect how much would be spent on the benefit if implemented – administrative costs not included

- Data does not yet include "employment effects"

- All numbers are estimates and must remain rounded

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Modeling Overview – Public Assistance Simulations

- **14 PA simulations (1-5)** – see workbooks for more

Sim #	Proposed Policy	Baseline Child Poverty* ("Before")	Estimated Child Poverty ("After")	Child Poverty Reduction Effect (%)	Baseline Cost ($millions)	Additional Annual Cost ($millions)
1	Eliminate Assets Test for FA-SNA	13.1%	13.1%	0.0%	$1,581	$6
2	Removing Durational Sanctions for FA-SNA	13.1%	13.1%	0.0%	$1,581	$3
3	Apply Same Earned Income Disregards for FA-SNA Applicants as for Recipients	13.1%	12.7%	-2.9%	$1,581	$204
4	Increase the Basic Allowances for FA-SNA by 50%	13.1%	12.0%	-8.1%	$1,581	$1,271
5	Increase the Basic Allowances for FA-SNA by 100%	13.1%	10.7%	-18.1%	$1,581	$2,356

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Modeling Overview – Public Assistance Simulations

- **14 PA simulations (6-9)** – see workbooks for more

Sim #	Proposed Policy	Baseline Child Poverty* ("Before")	Estimated Child Poverty ("After")	Child Poverty Reduction Effect (%)	Baseline Cost ($millions)	Additional Annual Cost ($millions)
6	Increasing the Shelter Allowances for FA-SNA by 100%	13.1%	11.5%	-11.6%	$1,581	$2,330
7	Increasing the Shelter Allowances for FA-SNA by 200%	13.1%	9.5%	-27.3%	$1,581	$5,008
8	Increasing the Shelter Allowances for FA-SNA to 75% of the FMR	13.1%	8.5%	-35.3%	$1,581	$8,583
9	Increasing the Shelter Allowances for FA-SNA to 108% of the FMR	13.1%	7.4%	-43%	$1,581	$14,408

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Modeling Overview – Public Assistance Simulations

- **14 PA simulations (10-14)** – see workbooks for more

Sim #	Proposed Policy	Baseline Child Poverty* ("Before")	Estimated Child Poverty ("After")	Child Poverty Reduction Effect (%)	Baseline Cost ($millions)	Additional Annual Cost ($millions)
10	Max Income Eligibility (Applicants) 50% FPG, Eligibility (Recipients) 100% FPG, Max Benefits 50% FPG for FA-SNA	13.1%	12.5%	-4.0%	$1,581	$1,014
11	Max Income Eligibility (Applicants) 75% FPG, Eligibility (Recipients) 150% FPG, Max Benefits 75% FPG for FA-SNA	13.1%	10.0%	-23.1%	$1,581	$4,152
12	Max Income Eligibility (Applicants) 100% FPG, Eligibility (Recipients) 150% FPG, Max Benefits 100% FPG for FA-SNA	13.1%	7.7%	-41.1%	$1,581	$7,886
13	Max Income Eligibility (Applicants) 100% FPG, Eligibility (Recipients) 200% FPG, Max Benefits 100% FPG for FA-SNA	13.1%	6.9%	-47.1%	$1,581	$8,838
14	Max Income Eligibility (Applicants) 150% FPG, Eligibility (Recipients) 150% FPG, Max Benefits 150% FPG for FA-SNA	13.1%	4.1%	-68.7%	$1,581	$16,232

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Modeling Overview – SSI/SSP Simulations

- **Two SSI/SSP simulations** – see workbooks for more

Sim #	Proposed Policy	Baseline Child Poverty* ("Before")	Estimated Child Poverty ("After")	Child Poverty Reduction Effect (%)	Baseline Cost ($millions)	Additional Annual Cost ($millions)
1	Increasing SSI State Supplements by 50 Percent	13.1%	13.0%	-0.2%	$4,158	$135
2	Increasing SSI State Supplements by 100 Percent	13.1%	13.0%	-0.3%	$4,158	$270

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Modeling Overview – Food Benefit Simulations

- **Two food benefit simulations** – see workbooks for more

Sim #	Proposed Policy	Baseline Child Poverty* ("Before")	Estimated Child Poverty ("After")	Child Poverty Reduction Effect (%)	Baseline Cost ($millions)	Additional Annual Cost ($millions)
1	State Food Benefit for Families With Children, With Full Eligibility for Legal Immigrants	13.1%	13.0%	-0.6%	$0	$59
2	State Food Benefit for Families With Children, With Full Eligibility for All Noncitizens	13.1%	12.9%	-1.6%	$0	$134

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Goal – Develop Data-Based Priorities/Rankings

- Rank Public Benefits proposals in priority order
- Data points to consider:
  - Child poverty reduction effect (ages 0-17, ages 0-4)
  - Effects by race/ethnicity
  - # of households with more resources as a result
  - Estimated cost of proposed benefit

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Looking Ahead
Next Steps

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Next Steps – CPRAC Public Benefits Committee

- **CPRAC Public Benefits Committee will report priorities/rankings to CPRAC statutory members**
  - o Next meeting of statutory members – June 6
  - o Committee co-chairs will report out to the full CPRAC statutory members
  - o All committee members invited to attend
- o Will host formal public hearing on April 29 on this topic in NYC
  - o Will cover/consider "administrative burdens" related to Public Benefits and how they may impact benefit access

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Next Steps – CPRAC Overall

- **Housing Committee to reconvene in May**
- Statutory members will next meet on June 6 to hear from Tax Policy, Public Benefits, and Housing Committees on priority proposals identified based on the data
- Goal: to develop policy packages for additional analysis by Urban Institute in July on cumulative poverty reduction effects, accounting for policy interactions
  - This data will help CPRAC develop initial recommendations to achieve the 50% poverty reduction goal through a combination of different proposals

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Next Steps – 2024

Target Month	Goal*
March, April, May	• ~~Tax Policy Committee reconvenes to review data, develop priorities/rankings based on data~~ • **Public Benefits Committee** reconvenes to review data, develop priorities/rankings based on data • **Housing Committee** reconvenes to review data, develop priorities/rankings based on data • **Formal public hearing in NYC**, on accessibility and availability of public benefits
June	• Committees report data-based priorities/rankings back to statutory members • Statutory members develop initial policy packages for modeling • Request State Agencies prepare rough cost estimates of policies within packages by August
July	• UI assesses cumulative effects of combinations of policies
August	• Statutory members review data on cumulative effects of combinations of policies
September	• **Second formal public hearing**, taking packages with data to the public • **Statutory members finalize initial recommendations** based on data, public input
October	• **Formalize initial recommendations via a report** and vote to issue
November	• Draft progress report
December	• Vote to issue progress report

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Closing

Closing

Questions? Comments? Feedback?

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Thank you!