



Culminating 20 Years of Advocacy with Recommendations for Meaningful Change in Child Welfare

Differentiate poverty-related neglect from child maltreatment.

- Fully implement Family Assessment Response in all counties and all poverty-related neglect cases.
- Re-allocate funds spent on investigating poverty-related neglect to support children and family in need of services.

Remove educational neglect as an allegation type.

- Work with State and local education officials to create alternative methods to support children in staying engaged with schools without making a child welfare report.
- Reinvest funds spent on investigating educational neglect to address the gap in tools and technology for families to stay connected to schools and keep children learning.

Increase preventive services and community-based supports for families in need.

- Improve the coordination of housing, disability services, educational services, and mental health services, among others, to holistically help and re-invest in families.
- Utilize the full range of funding under the federal Family First Prevention Services Act.
- Trust localities with flexible funding to determine how to best help families.

Reduce racial inequities in the child welfare system through policy and practice innovations.

- Continue to implement kin-first firewall policies and blind removals.
- Recruit and retain professional workers that are representative of the families served.
- Identify and address implicit biases in child welfare decision-making processes.

Support efforts to purposefully address and eliminate child poverty.

- Enact the Child Poverty Reduction Act (S.9012/A.11063) to establish a child poverty reduction advisory council—with the goal of reducing child poverty in New York by 50% in ten years.
- Work with federal elected officials to increase federal funding to help disadvantaged families.

To access the 2020 Annual Report, visit: <http://www.citizenreviewpanelsny.org/annual-report>

About the NYS Citizen Review Panels for Child Protective Services

The Panels are authorized by both state and federal law to examine the policies, procedures, and practices of the state and local social services districts, and where appropriate, the outcome of specific cases. Each panel is comprised of up to 13 volunteer members appointed by the Governor or NYS Legislature. For more information, visit www.citizenreviewpanelsny.org/ or contact The Panels at www.citizenreviewpanelsny.org/contact-us/.