

Commitment to Reducing Child Poverty by 50% With a Focus on Racial Equity

Nearly one in five New York children lived in poverty in 2019 and the pandemic brought high unemployment statewide, significantly exacerbating child poverty. New York children are more likely to live in poverty than in 32 other states, with 18% experiencing poverty in 2019. In some New York communities the percentage of poor children exceeds 50%. Due to structural and systemic racism, child poverty among New York State children of color has long approached 30%. Research shows that this unacceptable level of child poverty costs New York over \$60 billion a year.

- Poverty affects the social, emotional, and cognitive well-being of developing children and babies. It creates and widens disparities and increases risk of school struggles and child welfare involvement.
- Historical and ongoing structural racism in employment, housing, and education, among other realms, cause children of color to experience poverty at approximately twice the rate of white children.
- The younger the child, the more likely they are to experience poverty. Our youngest children are our poorest New Yorkers.

In my role as a policymaker, I commit to reducing child poverty by 50% by 2030, with a focus on improving racial equity. To that end, for each budget, policy, and legislative proposal, I will ask these questions:

- *Will this policy help lift children out of poverty, including children of color?*
- *Will this policy improve opportunity for children of color or will it further existing inequities?*
- *Will this policy mitigate harms associated with poverty or intensify those harms, especially for children of color?*
- *Will the sum-total of policies I support this year reduce child poverty and improve racial equity?*
- *Is there enough data available to help me answer these questions? If not, what data do I need to be better informed?*

I promise to combat racial inequity and child poverty when reviewing policy and budget proposals and will report about these concerns to my constituents.