



SECURING EVERY CHILD'S BIRTHRIGHT®
h e a l t h y • h o u s e d • e d u c a t e d • s a f e

Securing Every Child's Birthright[®] is Citizens' Committee for Children of New York's campaign to promote economic, housing, and developmental security for all New York City children. We are championing large-scale initiatives as the best way to solve chronic problems affecting children. The *Securing Every Child's Birthright*[®] campaign seeks to eliminate barriers, create opportunities and make it possible for children to grow into adulthood ready to meet the demands of society and fully engage in the 21st century economy. By calling upon policymakers to go beyond short-term fixes and instead create structural reforms, we can secure every child's birthright to be healthy, housed, educated and safe.



RECENT VICTORIES

The *Securing Every Child's Birthright*[®] campaign has already achieved several significant victories for New York City's children:

- We convinced the Mayor and City Council to allocate \$55 million a year for a New York City Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) – bringing the total possible value of the city, state, and federal EITC to \$6,000 per low-income wage earner, benefiting over 800,000 households.
- We won the expansion of the city's Newborn Home Visiting Program, which now sends a health professional into the homes of 9,500 first-time parents to provide health, medical and child safety information, developmental screenings, and environmental reviews.
- We advocated for and won a New York City Child Care Tax Credit, which will enable 50,000 low-income working families to receive a tax refund to offset the high cost of child care.
- We secured an additional \$61 million to support the expansion of Universal Pre-Kindergarten in New York City.

WE STILL HAVE MUCH TO DO.

The *Securing Every Child's Birthright*[®] campaign has three primary objectives — economic security, housing security, and developmental security.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Create Financial Stability for All Children

Children face overwhelming barriers to success when they grow up poor. The effects of poverty on children are linked to long-term economic instability, homelessness, hunger, poor health, and limited educational achievement. The *Securing Every Child's Birthright*[®] campaign seeks long-term economic stability for families through initiatives that build assets and supplement wages.

- Birthright Trust Fund – create an investment account for every child at birth to begin accumulating assets that can be used at age 18 for college, housing, or starting a business.
- Tax Relief – increase the value and expand the reach of the Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) for working families with children.
- Child Care Tax Credit – establish a NYC Child Care Tax Credit and make the federal credit fully refundable to offset child care costs for working families.
- Financial Literacy – provide educational opportunities to expand families' capacity to obtain, use, protect and build finances and assets.

HOUSING SECURITY

Promote Housing Affordability and Stability for All Children

High rents threaten child well-being by pushing too many families into poorly maintained, overpriced and overcrowded apartments, creating unstable living conditions for their children. The growing disparity between housing costs and income is also forcing parents to make difficult choices between paying rent or buying food, clothing, child care or medical care. The *Securing Every Child's Birthright*[®] campaign promotes affordable housing development and preservation and the creation of housing assistance for working families struggling to make ends meet.

- Affordable Housing Trust Fund – identify and dedicate a recurring revenue source in the NYS budget to support the development and preservation of affordable housing and augment NYC's Housing Trust Fund with additional and recurring revenue to increase the number of affordable housing units built by the fund.
- Housing Subsidies – create a time-limited rent subsidy for low-income working families.
- Renter Tax Credit – create a refundable tax credit to help offset the burden of increased property taxes and energy costs being passed on to renters.

DEVELOPMENTAL SECURITY

Help All Children Grow Up Healthy

Young children have much to gain from public investments early in life. Quality healthcare and early education programs translate into better academic achievement and higher incomes when children become adults. Yet many families do not have access to what they need for their children to prevent illnesses, detect developmental problems or prepare for school. The *Securing Every Child's Birthright*[®] campaign supports government investment in young children to ensure that they receive a strong foundation for learning, good health and success.

- Universal Newborn Home Visits – expand NYC's current program so that every newborn is visited by a health professional who provides new parents with information on infant health, child safety and developmental screenings and conducts environmental reviews.
- Expand Infant-Toddler Child Care – create child care opportunities for children ages 0-3.
- Universal Pre-Kindergarten – provide every three-year old with a half-day and every four-year old with a full-day early education program.
- Healthy Affordable Food – increase access to healthy affordable food in underserved communities.

Developing innovative solutions to complex problems affecting children has been at the heart of Citizens' Committee for Children's work for six decades. Despite modest improvements, too many children still face daily conditions that challenge healthy development and limit their future economic opportunities.

GET INVOLVED. Please sign up by: Mailing to CITIZENS' COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN OF NEW YORK, INC., 105 E. 22nd Street, New York, NY 10010 or logging onto www.cccnewyork.org and clicking on the CCC e-mail list icon.

Yes, I would like to be more involved in CCC's *Securing Every Child's Birthright*[®] campaign. Please put me on your contact list.

Name _____

Address _____ Apt.# _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

I am interested in the following issues, courses, or lectures (*check all that apply*)

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birthright Trust Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care | <input type="checkbox"/> YouthAction NYC Course |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care Tax Credit | <input type="checkbox"/> Universal Pre-Kindergarten | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Leadership Course |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable Housing Trust Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy Affordable Food | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy Briefings and Lectures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renter's Tax Credit | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Issues Affecting Children | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Universal Newborn Home Visiting | | <input type="checkbox"/> Making a Contribution |