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NYS Medicaid Budget Harms Children and Families

A Statement from Ben Anderson, Director of Poverty and Health Policy

“The New York State Medicaid budget is irresponsible, and harms children and families. The budget contains draconian cuts that target programs and providers that serve children, and others that will result in job losses or lost wages for families. These cuts will make it harder for children and families to obtain the care they need. The cuts also fail to deliver economic relief to families that are already hurting financially. Given that Medicaid is one of the best tools states have to fight poverty and economic downturns, the move is especially shortsighted and will certainly cost New York in the long run.”

“Children’s Defense Fund-New York is particularly troubled that the budget leaves the Medicaid global cap in place and makes it worse by allowing the Department of Health to target cuts precisely where funding may be needed most. By leaving the global cap in place, we limit Medicaid’s ability to respond to demographic shifts, economic downturns and future epidemics. We very well could be back in Albany next year having this same conversation.”

“As for the indigent care pool, a rebalancing of these funds has been needed for too long. Instead of rebalancing the funds, the budget simply cuts funds from hospitals that do not need it without any reallocation to true safety net hospitals. Accordingly, the budget is extremely harmful for communities of color and low-income neighborhoods, whose residents often lack access to primary care and depend on safety net hospitals.”