



NEW YORK CHILD DEFENDER MOVEMENT

APRIL 2023

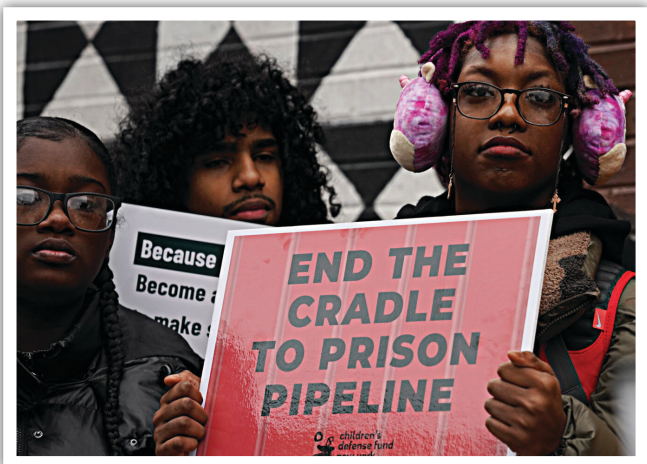


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MESSAGE FROM CDF-NY'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I just marked my one-and-a-half-year anniversary at the helm of Children's Defense Fund-New York (CDF-NY), and I could not be prouder of the work that the New York team has accomplished during such a challenging time for marginalized children, young people, families, and their communities. The children, families, and communities we serve are those who have been hardest hit by COVID-19. Their needs have increased tremendously. As New York wrestles with how to ensure a just, equitable recovery for those most in need while contending with formidable oppositional forces — who want to not just maintain the status quo but push us backwards legislatively — our need to have greater capacity and resources to do this work and meet this historic moment has become even more important. CDF-NY's work is more critical, and we need your support now more than ever!

In 2023, we launched the *CDF-NY Whole Child, Whole Community Movement*, because we know that to have thriving children, youth, and families requires having thriving communities. To have thriving communities requires holistic support to meet the *full* needs of all marginalized children, youth, young adults, and families in their respective communities. As you read this report, you will have an opportunity to learn about *our holistic approach* to addressing the *full* needs of the child *and* his/her/their community encompassing the areas of economic mobility, health equity, youth justice, child welfare, education justice in the form of CDF Freedom Schools, and youth leadership and development.

In 2022, CDF-NY celebrated 30 years of CDF's presence and advocacy in the state of New York. To celebrate, we held our first gala since the pandemic, the Standing Up for Children Gala. This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the CDF Freedom Schools® and CDF's 50th Anniversary. Nationally, as we witness tremendous attacks on Black history, children of color, and LGBTQ+ children in a deeply divided political climate that puts politics before the needs of children, young people, and families in need, these 2023 CDF anniversary milestones are timely reminders to us that we are the hope, light, and change in these dark times. As CDF has done for 50 years, we will – against all odds but with a faith that “we are the ones we are waiting

for” - continue to be an independent voice for marginalized children, youth and young people who are fighting for their rights to grow up with full access and opportunities to thrive and have joy. The fight has never been easy, but it has always been worth it and possible. The testament that we are still here 50 years later confirms that change is ever possible.

I look forward to continuing to build the **New York Child Defender Movement** with the CDF-NY Team and each of you.

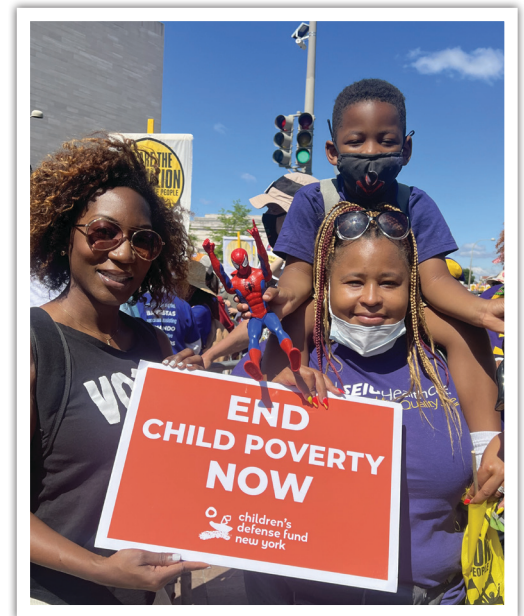


Kercena A. Dozier, Esq.
Executive Director

POLICY UPDATE: ECONOMIC MOBILITY

The problem of racial and economic injustice in New York:

- New York was recently classified as having among the highest structural racism and income inequality indexes in the United States.
- **Nearly 800,000 children in New York live in poverty**, meaning that one in five Black and Latinx children are more than twice as likely as white children to live in poverty.
- **In Manhattan, Black and Latinx children are 10 to 13 times more likely to live in poverty than white children, and Asian children are 5 times more likely to live in poverty than white children.**
- 95% of families with children living in NYC shelters are Black or Hispanic.
- Gun violence - which is a public health and economic justice issue - is often concentrated in high poverty zip codes in communities of color. This is evident in Rochester, which carries the second highest child poverty rate in the nation among cities with at least 100,000 people, and other counties throughout New York State.
- **New York's 15th Congressional District, located in the Bronx, carries the highest child poverty rate of any of our nation's congressional districts.**
- **Syracuse carries the highest child poverty rate in the nation** among cities with at least 100,000 people (48.4 percent), with **Rochester (48.2%) ranking second and Buffalo (42.3%) ranking sixth in the nation** of large U.S. cities with the highest child poverty rates.



The Solution: We work to create a New York where we fully invest in our communities, particularly marginalized communities of color, in order that no child lives in poverty, racial justice and equity is realized, and all children have the resources and opportunities they need to thrive, flourish, and reach their full potential. We believe that we must tear down the systemic and institutional racism and discrimination embedded in our institutions and our policies to fully realize this dream.

- In 2022, CDF-NY **participated in national efforts to advocate for a permanent expansion of the federal Child Tax Credit.** The 2021 expansion of the federal tax credit **reached 61.2 million children across more than 36 million households and kept 3.7 million children out of poverty.** In November 2021, we mobilized New York faith-based and child advocacy partners in a [sign-on letter](#) to Majority Leader Schumer and members of the New York Congressional Delegation, urging them to make the expanded Child Tax Credit permanent, fully inclusive of all immigrant children and fully refundable. In December 2021, we led in issuing a [press release](#) - that included statements from impacted young advocates and fellow child advocacy and anti-poverty organizations - urging the Senate to pass the Build Back Better Act so that New York families could continue receiving monthly payments. In April 2022, we spoke at a New York City Press Conference alongside Representative Ritchie Torres about the urgency of reinstating monthly Child Tax Credit payments.

POLICY UPDATE: ECONOMIC MOBILITY

- Throughout the year, CDF-NY **engaged in extensive outreach efforts to ensure that all New York families eligible to receive the expanded Child Tax Credit** could receive the entire benefit they were entitled to receive. Through our partnership with the Educational Alliance, we presented at virtual Town Halls where we provided families and service providers with information about claiming the Child Tax Credit. We also partnered with a tax preparer to host virtual office hours where families could receive additional information about the Child Tax Credit. Additionally, we created and circulated to our partners a variety of digital resources for families in English and [Spanish](#), including [outreach fliers](#), [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and social media assets.
- In March 2022, we joined impacted parents, child care providers, faith leaders, civil rights and antipoverty organizations as well as state elected officials for an [End Child Poverty Rally in the Bronx](#) that we co-led in planning. Strengthening the Empire State Child Credit was one of our three main policy priorities at this event, along with enacting **universal child care and guaranteeing health insurance for all babies during the first three years of life as well as for new mothers**. Expanding the number of families eligible for child care subsidies and increasing the pay of child care workers, of which 15% live below the poverty line, **would lift 84,000 New Yorkers from poverty, allow 76,000 single parents or secondary earners to re-enter the workforce, increase incomes for 1.2 million families, and reduce the child poverty rate for babies and toddlers by 12%**. Making the Empire child credit available to families with babies/toddlers (age 0-3 years) and raising the credit amount for young children (age 0-3) to \$1,000 per year; increasing the credit amount for currently covered older children (4 to 16) to \$500 per year; and making the full credit available to the lowest-income families **would move nearly 30,000 children in New York State out of poverty**.
- We successfully advocated with partner organizations for New York State's historic \$7 billion dollar investment in child care. We continue to partner with our allies in advocating for the **expansion of both the Empire State Child Credit and the State Earned Income Tax Credit**.



POLICY UPDATE: ECONOMIC MOBILITY



- CDF-NY has advocated strongly for the State to convene the **Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council**, established by [the Child Poverty Reduction Act \(S. 2755C / A. 1160C\)](#), and to ensure that the Council centers impacted voices. This critical legislation lays a strong foundation towards ending child poverty in New York. **The Act makes a public commitment of cutting our State’s child poverty rate in half within ten years and establishes a Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council to develop a strategic plan towards achieving this bold goal.** In May 2022, we sent a [letter](#) to Governor Hochul signed by over 30 faith-based organizations across New York State, urging her to empanel the Council with the utmost urgency and to prioritize the appointment of impacted youth as well as clergy leaders serving in impacted communities. **The Advisory Council was convened in 2023 and our Economic Mobility and Health Equity Policy Associate was appointed to the Council by the Governor.** CDF-NY Beat the Odds® Scholar & Youth Advocate Norma Degante, a young person with lived experience who tirelessly advocated for the Child Poverty Reduction Act’s passage and signing, was selected to serve as an Advisory Member on the Tax Committee.

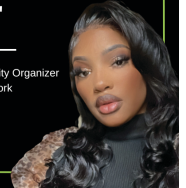
POLICY UPDATE: HEALTH EQUITY

The problem of health disparities in New York:

- **New York ranks number 1 in the nation for childhood lead poisoning.** New York's childhood lead crisis disproportionately impacts children of color and children living in poverty. For example, in Buffalo, children in predominantly Black and Latino neighborhoods are 12x more likely to get lead poisoning than children in white neighborhoods.
- **Black women in New York have maternal mortality rates that are more than 3 times higher than white women.**
- **Suicide is the second leading cause of death among Latina adolescents in New York,** accounting for approximately 23.5 percent of all deaths of Latinas ages 15 to 19 between 2006 and 2015, with the risk of completed suicides among Latina adolescents nearly doubling since 1999.
- **Black youth are at a particularly heightened risk of suicide in our State and are classified as a high-risk suicide population in New York.** New York's data reflects stark national trends. Nationwide, the suicide death rate among Black youth is increasing faster than that of any other racial or ethnic group, with self-reported Black adolescent suicide attempts rising by 73 percent between 1991 and 2017 and injury by suicide attempt growing by 122 percent for Black adolescent boys during this time.
- **Gun violence - which is a public health and economic justice issue - is often concentrated in high poverty zip codes in communities of color.** This is evident in Rochester, which carries the second highest child poverty rate in the nation among cities with at least 100,000 people, and other counties throughout New York State.

"Lead exposure at a young age can ruin our childrens' lives before they can even truly begin. It is vitally important that our New York State elected officials pass legislation that adheres to the needs of our marginalized communities, families and youth."

Enoshia Ruffin | Mother and Community Organizer
with Citizen Action - New York

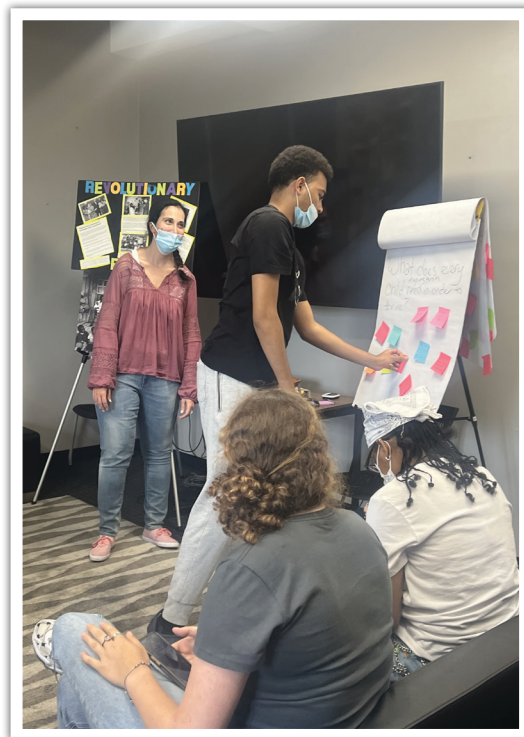


The Solution: We work to ensure marginalized children in New York State have access to health and mental health coverage and care that is comprehensive, affordable, child-appropriate, and easy to get and keep regardless of income, zip code, and place of birth or immigration status.

- CDF-NY and partner organizations successfully advocated for the **expansion of Medicaid coverage for up to one-year post-pregnancy for all pregnant individuals – regardless of immigration status** – in the FY2023 State Budget. This expansion was significant because it will likely reduce maternal mortality and improve health outcomes for **11,000 pregnant people** served by Medicaid, particularly immigrant women, who are an especially marginalized population of new mothers.
- CDF-NY successfully advocated for the **elimination of Child Health Plus premiums for households earning below 223 percent of the federal poverty level** and the **improvement of Child Health Plus benefits to include mental health and orthodontia services.** These premiums were associated with an annual loss of health coverage for **nearly 70,000 children.**
- CDF-NY successfully advocated to **increase the eligibility limit for the Essential Plan** from 200 percent to 250 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, **bringing health insurance coverage to an estimated 14,000 uninsured New Yorkers and making health insurance more affordable for 92,000 New Yorkers.**

POLICY UPDATE: HEALTH EQUITY

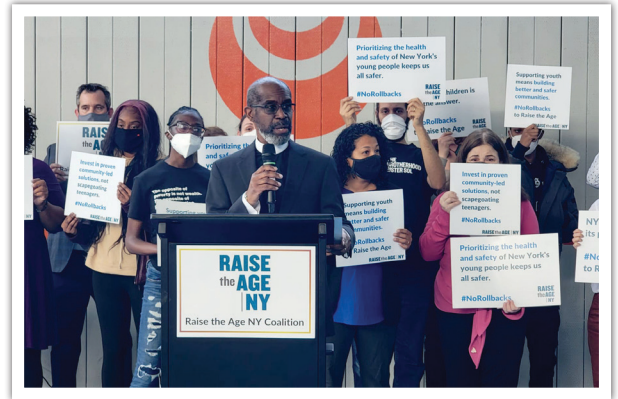
- In 2022, CDF-NY led and **engaged in numerous initiatives to maintain and secure stable funding sources for more mental health and social support services for children and adolescents.** We are a founding and Steering Committee member of the **Coalition for Healthy Students – New York State (CHSNYS)**, which is working to amend New York’s Medicaid State Plan **so that public schools can become approved locations where mental health services can be provided to all Medicaid-enrolled students** – not just to students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) – and so New York can draw down additional federal funding to expand school health services for Medicaid-enrolled children. **In 2022, we succeeded in introducing legislation (S. 8639 / A. 9475) directing the Department of Health to pursue a Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) to expand school Medicaid services.**
- We continue to **advocate to bolster mental health support infrastructure in our schools** by moving New York towards the national recommendation of student support staff ratio of 1:250 and 1:50 for students with intensive needs. We advocate to pass **Mental Health Supports in Schools (S. 1969 / A. 5019)** to ensure all elementary, middle and high schools in our State have a full-time licensed social worker and a full-time licensed psychologist on staff to meet the needs of their students and S. 3408 / A. 1716, which would **establish a Black Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force in New York** to examine mental health practices and improve suicide prevention resources for Black youth ages 5 through 18.
- **CDF-NY is a cofounder of the Lead Free Kids New York (LFFKNY) coalition.** **New York continues to suffer a troubling crisis of childhood lead exposure, with more known cases of elevated child blood lead levels than any other state** and with childhood lead poisoning cases on the rise due to collateral effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. **Childhood lead exposure rates for communities across our state and in New York City are five to six times higher than those in Flint, Michigan at the peak of its water crisis. 28,820 New York children** born in 2019 (12 percent of births) have blood lead levels greater than 2 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL). Lead exposure among New York children born in 2019 is **projected to carry an estimated \$6.4 billion lifetime economic burden.** We are working to build a movement to create a Lead Free Kids New York. In furtherance of that work, in May 2023, we organized a [70-organization sign on letter](#) calling on the state to make bold and critical budget investments towards combatting and ending the racial, environmental and moral crises of childhood lead exposure and poisoning. The letter includes representation from faith-based, child advocacy, social justice, environmental justice, health, civil rights, and education justice organizations.



POLICY UPDATE: YOUTH JUSTICE

The problem of racial and economic injustice in New York's youth justice system:

- Children and young people are being criminalized and subjected to the juvenile justice system and/or the adult criminal justice system. This is particularly true for children and young people who are poor; children of color; children with disabilities; children with mental health and substance abuse challenges; children facing neglect, abuse, and/or violence; children in foster care; and LGBTQ+ children. These children are disproportionately pushed out of schools and pulled into unjust systems through arrests and incarceration, which exacerbates harm and increases the risk of abuse.
- **84% of 16- and 17-year-olds arrested on felony charges are Black and Latinx, despite being only 25% of the adolescent population in New York State.**
- In New York City during 2018, **more than 90% of all elementary school-age children who were arrested were Black or Latinx, and 100% of delinquency petitions filed in court were against children of color.**
- Only 16% of New Yorkers aged 15 to 24 are Black, but **43% of young adults arrested in New York in 2019 were Black. Latinx youth represented 26% of those arrested** but only 22% of the youth population in New York.
- **80% of youth under 18 admitted to youth prisons are Black and Latinx.**
- **Over 90% of youth held on Rikers Island are Black or Latinx.**
- **Over half of emerging adults 18 to 24 who were sentenced to prison in 2018 were Black.** Although 51% of teenagers and young adults in New York are white/non-Latinx, they represented less than 20% of those sentenced to prison in 2018.



The Solution: We work to reduce children and young people's contact with the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems and to ensure more humane and rehabilitative prevention and treatment for all children and young people who come in contact with these systems, especially children of color who historically have been over-criminalized and over-represented in school discipline, arrests, prosecutions, and detention. To stop the criminalization of children and young people and ensure justice for all youth, we:

- In 2021, CDF-NY, in coalition, successfully lobbied and advocated to **end the arrest and prosecution of nearly all children under the age of 12** in New York State, **keeping the youngest children in the state out of the juvenile legal system. Instead, children and their families are connected to community-based supports.** The law went into effect late last year in 2022. Across New York, police arrested over 800 elementary school aged children aged 12 and younger during 2018. Among these, more than 100 children arrested were first, second or third graders (aged 7 to 9). **This law will prevent hundreds of elementary school aged children aged 7 to 11 from facing arrest and court processing across New York State each year. It also makes New York one of only 3 states in the U.S. to divert children under 12 from the juvenile justice system.**

POLICY UPDATE: YOUTH JUSTICE

- In 2022, through CDF-NY's lobbying and advocacy with partners, New York State legislators reached a budgetary agreement **preserving the protections of the Raise the Age law**, which “raised the age” of criminal responsibility. The legislation gives most 16- and 17-year-olds access to Family Court rather than treating them as adults and **has helped to decarcerate thousands of adolescents**. We are **steadfastly advocating for the State to fully fund Raise the Age implementation through meeting its \$800 million dollar commitment**.
- CDF-NY is currently co-leading a coalition with young people across the state to pass the **Youth Justice & Opportunities Act (YJ&O)** and the **Right 2 Remain Silent bills**. YJ&O would expand up-front record sealing (known as Youthful Offender adjudication) and limit incarceration for youth through age 25. The reform could **impact tens of thousands of young people statewide, a majority of whom are Black and Latinx**. In addition to the sealing provisions the bill is a mode of sentencing reform, targeting the deepest end of the youth criminal legal system where racial disparity is even more striking than in arrest or convictions. By passing YJ&O, **New York has the chance to lead the nation by protecting the futures of young people up through age 25, enhancing community well-being, and providing adolescents and emerging adults the opportunity to move forward in their lives without the barrier of a criminal conviction**. The Right 2 Remain Silent Bill would require that a child or adolescent under 18 first consult with counsel before any police questioning can take place. **Right 2 Remain Silent is about making the Constitutional rights of children a reality**.
- **We passed legislation to permit people convicted of crimes as adolescents to return to court and have a second chance at record sealing 5 years following their conviction, which gives thousands of people across the state the ability to move on from youthful mistakes and avoid the life-long barriers to employment, education and housing that are a consequence of criminal records**.
- We have successfully advocated for funding and expansion of **Close to Home**, the City's effort to better serve youth previously placed in upstate facilities in communities within the five boroughs through a network of community-based organizations.
- **We supported the successful closure of two state-operated youth prisons (placement facilities), reducing the state's youth justice footprint. Reducing beds is an essential path toward decarcerating youth and keeping more youth in communities**. This strategy is crucial to advancing state-wide racial equity, as 80% of youth under 18 admitted to these youth-operated facilities are Black and Latinx.



POLICY UPDATE: CHILD WELFARE

The problem of racial and economic injustice in New York’s child welfare system:

- Neglect, often a proxy for the consequences of **poverty, is the most common driver of child welfare involvement** and, too often, families are broken apart for reasons that could have been prevented if they were supported to overcome poverty, mental illness, and substance use.
- There are **over 16,000 children in foster care in New York. Over half of these children are Black or Latinx.**
- Similarly, **about 40,000 families with over 80,000 children** have contact with the child welfare system, often as a result of a Child Protective Services (CPS) investigation and/or a referral for preventive services that are intended to support family stability and prevent the need for child removal. **Over 70% of those children were Black or Latinx.**

The Solution: At CDF-NY, we believe marginalized children in New York should have a safe start in a permanent nurturing family and community with access to services that help strengthen families and avoid crises. CDF-NY is working to expand programs that provide resources and services families need to remain strong and stable to help prevent crises that often lead to child maltreatment and involvement with the child welfare system; help ensure children in foster care receive quality care and are connected to caring permanent birth, kin, or adoptive families; promote racial justice within the child welfare system; develop a quality child welfare workforce; and increase accountability. To strengthen families and keep New York children and young people safe, including those who are transitioning out of foster care:



- **We kicked-off our Transition Age Youth project in May 2022 with a full cohort of Youth Action Organizers and Researchers (16 youth, aged 18-25 with lived expertise in the child welfare system) and a new Project Manager (also with lived expertise).** The project is titled [YouthNPower: Transforming Care](#). Our Youth Action Organizers and Researchers were trained on the child welfare system, political history, movement building and advocacy, and have been integrated into City and State advocacy on our child welfare priorities. **We launched the first direct cash transfer pilot designed by transition age youth for youth aging out of foster care in April 2023, for 100 youth receiving \$1000 per month for 12-months.** This work is being accompanied by participatory action research led by our youth action research team and researchers from the CUNY Public Science Project. We are looking forward to engaging these voices in City and Statewide advocacy over the next two years.

POLICY UPDATE: CHILD WELFARE



- Beginning last fall, we helped to organize and shape a proposal to establish a flexible new fund for community investment outside of the child welfare system, known as the **Child and Family Wellbeing Fund**. The Fund would support children's growth and development by investing resources in communities that have experienced generations of divestment and have been targeted for government intervention through the child protective services (CPS) / child welfare system. **The Fund would: support the density of local nonprofits by investing in small groups that are usually locked out of government funding; center community expertise in resource decisions; build long-term community capacity; and reduce the likelihood of family involvement in the child protective system. The bill was introduced in 2023, and we are actively advocating for its passage.**
- In 2022, we were successful in advocating for the **re-authorization of the preventive services statute that has contributed to deep reductions in child removals over the last 10 years.**
- During the post-budget session in 2022, we were able to make some significant progress, passing a bill in the Senate to increase the **child welfare housing subsidy** from \$300 to \$725 and establish a cost of living adjustment (in partnership with the CHAMPS-NY campaign and Fostering Youth Success Alliance), but in the Assembly we were not able to pass a same-as bill. **This bill was reintroduced in 2023, and we are actively advocating for its passage.**

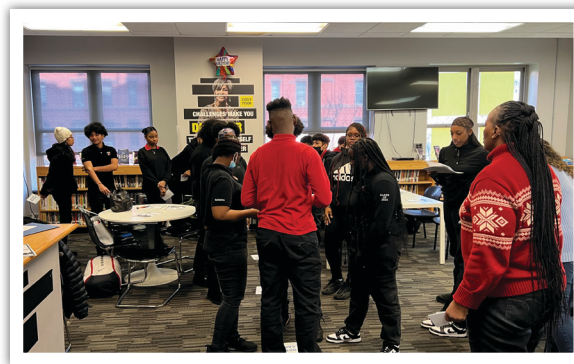
MOVEMENT BUILDING UPDATE: YOUTH LEADERSHIP & ADVOCACY

CDF-NY's Youth Leadership & Advocacy Program is focused on the following pillars:

- **Political and Civic Leadership Development:** Providing leadership development and political and civic education workshops and trainings for young people.
- **Organizing Training:** Training young people in organizing, including outreach, identifying and researching issues, developing and implementing campaigns.
- **Safe space for dialogue:** Holding and facilitating safe spaces for young people to engage in critical dialogue towards examining issues of oppression that exist within their communities.
- **Culturally relevant curriculum:** Developing and providing culturally relevant curriculum that moves young people from awareness to action, resulting in them becoming peer leaders, movement builders, organizers, and advocates.

In 2022, we started a partnership with Thurgood Marshall Academy, where students were trained in CDF's *Cradle to Prison Pipeline* curriculum. After receiving the training, the students were mobilized to advocate on behalf of youth justice reform at a rally and press conference which took place just blocks away from where their school is located in the Harlem community.

We will continue to build partnerships with other schools and youth-focused organizations and ministries through movement-building strategies aimed at building youth awareness, advocacy, and power.



MOVEMENT BUILDING UPDATE: CDF FREEDOM SCHOOL® VISITS

The [CDF Freedom Schools® program](#) provides summer and after-school enrichment through a research-based and multicultural program model that supports K-12 scholars and their families through five essential components: high quality academic and character-building enrichment; parent and family involvement; civic engagement and social action; intergenerational servant leadership development; and nutrition, health and mental health.

During Summer 2022, there were seven *CDF Freedom Schools* operating in New York State:

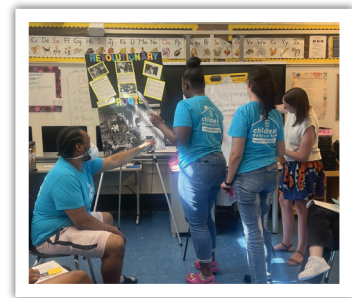
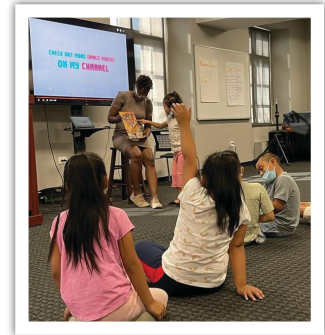
1. Cameron Community Ministries
2. Crossroads Juvenile Center
3. Horizon Juvenile Center
4. Partnership with Children's P.S. 165 Site
5. Partnership with Children's P.S. 248 Site
6. Red Hook Initiative
7. The Riverside Church in the City of NY

Through the *CDF Freedom School* program, CDF-NY staff connected with over 200 youth in NYC and Rochester.

CDF-NY staff utilized those connecting moments to learn from Freedom School Scholars, Servant Leader Interns and Executive Directors about the concerns, challenges, struggles and needs of marginalized children, young people, families and communities in our state.

Key to our ongoing policy advocacy is our relationship with New York's *CDF Freedom Schools* sites. This past summer, we chose to go deeper and build on those relationships through more localized outreach and listening sessions designed to further align our policy advocacy more closely with the communities we work with, and who are most directly impacted by the systems causing them harm on a daily basis. **That work influenced our 2023 policy agenda.**

In the aftermath of the white supremacist's mass shooting at a grocery store in Buffalo in May 2022, CDF-NY was on the ground in Buffalo. While there, we grieved and strategized with the Black community in Buffalo, NY about the needs of traumatized children living in one of the poorest, most segregated cities in the nation. Buffalo ranks sixth in the nation for carrying the highest child poverty rate among cities with at least 100,000 people (42.3 percent). While there, we heard from the community that they would like to have a *CDF Freedom School* in their community. CDF-NY is committed to working in partnership with the Buffalo community to make that happen in Summer 2023.

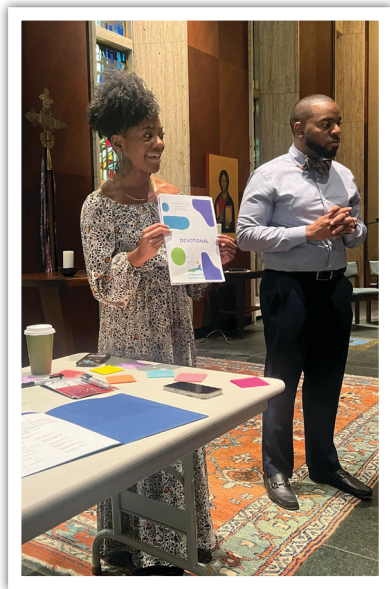


MOVEMENT BUILDING UPDATE: FAITH-BASED PARTNERSHIPS

As a moral voice for children, CDF has a historic relationship with the faith community and has traditionally operated at the grassroots level.

We partner with faith-based partners in the following ways:

- Sign-On to **Advocacy Letters** to Elected Officials
- Participate in **Rallies + Press Conferences**
- Serve as **CDF Freedom School® Sponsors/Hosts**
- Host CDF **Children's Sabbaths**
- Serve as **speaker/panelist** in our virtual and in-person advocacy events
- Author/co-author **Op-eds**



CDF-NY'S 2022 STAND UP FOR CHILDREN GALA

On November 1, 2022, CDF-NY hosted our first gala since the pandemic.

Our [CDF-NY 2022 Stand Up For Children Gala](#) celebrated 30 years of the Children's Defense Fund being present and active in the state of New York.

In 1992, CDF embarked on its first New York-specific justice project, a children's health care project. Due to its success, in 1995 CDF opened up its New York office. CDF-NY has become a recognized authority in the endeavor to protect children and strengthen families throughout New York City and State. CDF-NY's policy areas have expanded beyond health equity to also include: child welfare, youth justice, education justice, economic mobility, and youth leadership and advocacy development.

Over 200 CDF-NY supporters were present to join us in celebrating our Marian Wright Edelman honorees, co-founder and partner of The Monarchs Collective **Debra Lee**, and **Robin Hood** and our Children's Defense Award honorees, **Amanda Gorman**, the youngest inaugural poet in U.S. history, and **Detavio Samuels**, CEO of Revolt.

Presenters included: Rev. Michael A. Walrond, Jr., Senior Pastor, First Corinthian Baptist Church; LaTanya Richardson Jackson, actress, producer, director and philanthropist; Donna Lawrence, CDF-NY's first Executive Director; and CDF-NY's current Executive Director Kercena A. Dozier.

Hon. Eric H. Holder, Jr. served as Hon. Chair. Hon. Co-Chairs were Tonya Lewis Lee and Spike Lee, Marva Smalls and Ali Wentworth, and George Stephanopoulos.

During our pledge moment, we raised close to \$100,000.

In total, we raised over \$350,000.

The children, families, and communities we serve are those who have been hardest hit by COVID-19. Their needs have increased tremendously. As New York wrestles with how to ensure a just, equitable recovery for those most in need while contending with formidable oppositional forces — who want to not just maintain the status quo but push us backwards legislatively — our need to have greater capacity and resources to do this work and meet this historic moment has become even more important. CDF-NY's work is more critical! **To learn more about the challenges facing marginalized children, young people, families, and their communities, view our [CDF-NY 2022 Standing Up For Children Gala Video](#).** As you will see, we have much work to do in our state to make it a place of justice, equity, opportunity, freedom and joy for our children and young people.



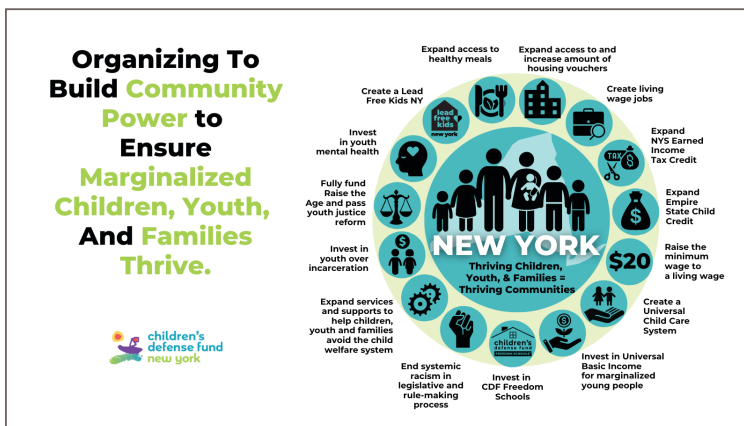
WHAT'S NEW AT CDF-NY!

In 2022, we released [*Our New York Children's Budget: A Community Vision for Prioritizing Our Children*](#) publication!

In 2023, we launched the [*CDF-NY Whole Child, Whole Community Budget & Legislative Priorities Movement!*](#)

We launched the **CDF-NY Whole Child, Whole Community Movement**, because we know that our children do not live on an island unto themselves. They are impacted by not just their family's individual circumstances but also by the conditions of their communities, the circumstances of their neighbors, and by racist, unjust, and inequitable systems. For example, this is why communities experiencing high rates of gun violence are often communities of color in high poverty neighborhoods that are disproportionately impacted by homelessness, childhood lead poisoning, untreated mental illness, contact with the child welfare system, contact with the youth justice system, hunger, and poverty wages. To have thriving children, youth, and families requires having thriving communities. To have thriving communities requires holistic funding to meet the full needs of all marginalized children, youth, young adults, and families in their respective communities.

In 2023, we launched the [*New York Child Defender*](#) monthly E-Newsletter!



- Join and Stay Connected to the New York Child Defender Movement
- Subscribe to receive CDF-NY's monthly E-Newsletter the *New York Child Defender* and for policy updates and action alerts.

<https://cdfny.org/newsletter/>

children's defense fund new york

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE NEW YORK CHILD DEFENDER MOVEMENT!

The program work of CDF-NY highlighted here was sponsored in 2022 by the following foundations:

- Community Catalyst
- Community Foundation of Central NY Foundation
- Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo Foundation
- Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties Foundation
- Hilton N. Conrad Foundation
- New York Health Foundation
- Partnership for America's Children
- Redlich Horwitz Foundation
- Robin Hood Foundation
- Trinity Wall Street Foundation
- Tow Foundation

The work of CDF-NY would also not be possible without the generous donations of our individual and corporate **donors**.

We look forward to working with the following **new foundation funders** this year:

- Brooklyn Community Foundation
- Grantmakers for Girls of Color
- The Pinkerton Foundation



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